

## MINUTES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, October 6, 2021 10:00 a.m.**

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Groat, Robusto, Johnson, Lasher, Chatfield and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli and Tourism Director Christine Worth.

Minutes from the September 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Committee meetings were approved as written.

Tourism's monthly activities report was included with the agenda. The report included a list of meetings and events attended by Mrs. Worth and updates on the Apple Tasting Tour, County Bicentennial, Holiday Brochure and Matching Funds Grant. The report also included a list of activities the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator participated in during September. The Apple Tasting Tour app has a few changes from last year; next year will be the event's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mrs. Worth encouraged Supervisors to take the quiz on the Apple Tasting app, as a similar application maybe used for the County's Bi-Centennial event. Channel 13 will be in the County this week promoting the Apple Tasting Tour. The County's Bi-Centennial kick-off was held and two-year County calendars presented. A travel writer came through the County in August and their article already appeared in a magazine. The article highlighted many locations throughout the County that would be interesting for people to visit and had many positive comments about the County in general. The travel writer expressed interest in returning to Wayne County.

Mr. House noted the intent to have a marine sanctuary museum located in one of the lakeshore communities. Sodus Point is being suggested as a spot for a museum in coordination with the existing lighthouse there. He will keep the Committee updated.

Mrs. Worth presented a transmittal request authorization to designate herself as the County's Tourism Promotion Agent. Approved 5-0.

The following transmittals were presented for the Economic Development/Planning Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a five-year renewal lease with Ontario Midland Railroad Corporation for continued operation on County owned railroad lines. The financial benefit of railroad transportation was noted. This lease agreement has been in place since 1981. Ontario Midland Railroad is the only approved railroad to operate on County lines. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a renewal trail license agreement with Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation for County use of their property between the Villages of Wolcott and Red Creek as a multi-use trail. Mr. Pincelli discussed the issue with the County's Public Works Superintendent. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to approve selection of a broadband partner and enter into negotiations. This action is being requested as the next step in filling in the gaps in accessible broadband service across the County. A Countywide broadband study was completed in 2018 to identify gaps in coverage. At the time of the study, there were approximately 6,800 unserved households in the County. Some towns in the County had less than 50% coverage. A committee was formed to discuss what steps are necessary to close the gap in internet coverage. Numerous meetings were held with technology companies, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and network solutions providers to explore options and discuss technology and the County's priorities.

An RFP was issued in July of this year to solicit solutions and identify a partner in the County's efforts to close the gap in coverage. The board band committee considered but decided against options that would involve the County owning or operating a dark fiber network. Given potential funding sources and other considerations, the committee agreed the best service would be offered through fiber to the home solutions only, as opposed to fixed wireless solutions.

Mr. Pincelli prepared a power point presentation for the group to review the process and discuss the committee's recommendation. Charter Communications (Spectrum) and Wraithtek Inc. (Buffalo IT Services) were the only two qualified proposals received. The committee met with each service provider to review their proposal and discuss specifics.

The initial proposal from Charter Communications has a County cost of just over \$10 million; the proposal from Wraithtek Inc. cost \$13.8 million. Both proposals would close the gap and make broadband internet service available to every home in Wayne County. After review, discussion, and scoring from each broadband committee member, the committee recommended Charter Communications as the County's partner for this initiative. If approved, County representatives will work with Charter Communications to refine the project details, negotiate specific terms, and collaborate to access all available funding sources. A final proposal will then be brought before the entire Board for review and vote. Mr. Pincelli said he would like to have the final proposal ready for the Board in the first quarter of 2022. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Miller noted Charter Communications (Spectrum) is a very large business and there is not a lot of competition in this area. He requested the entire Board hear the presentation that was made today; as this project, if approved, would have a multi-million dollar price tag. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed a Committee of the Whole Meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the County's Broadband Project and the Distribution of County Sales Tax.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.