

MINUTES

PLANNING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Friday, January 4, 2019 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Pagano, Groat, Miller, Robusto, Crane, Jacobs and LeRoy, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Officer Ken Blake, Tourism Director Christine Worth and Economic Development/Planning Department Representatives Ora Rothfuss and Jamie Corteville.

Minutes from the December 7th Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was presented. A list of meetings and events attended by Mrs. Worth was included in the report. The Office is preparing for a survey from Apple Tasting Tour participants and collecting comments from businesses for their opinion of this year's event. The 2019 Hill Cumorah Pageant will be held on July 12th-13th and 16th-20th; the final pageant will be held in 2020. The dates of the 2020 Pageant have yet to be finalized. The Tourism Office was awarded \$76,536 in Matching Funds from the State. The Visitors Guide have been distributed. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues to update the fishing website. A list of events the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator attended was included in the report.

Mrs. Pagano noted the billboards for opioid abuse and local treatment are much like the County's promotional billboards with the County's logo on them. Mrs. Worth stated opioid billboards are not part of Economic Development's plan; however, do look similar. Mr. House noted the need to publicize public service announcements; however, there should be a way to do it without negatively advertising Wayne County. Mr. Miller questioned if these billboards are even getting across the message they were designed to, as the most visible information on the sign is the County's logo. It was agreed this issue would be reviewed with the County's Mental Health Director.

An out of state travel request was presented for the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator and Tourism Director to attend the Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Exposition from February 21st-24th in Springfield, Massachusetts. There is no County cost for this tradeshow, as the cost is covered by the Lake Ontario Sports Show Fishing Council. Approved.

It is anticipated Economic Development/Planning Director, Brian Pincelli, will be back at work next week.

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

--Authorization to submit an application to the Environmental Protection Agency 2019 Brownfield Assessment Program requesting \$300,000 for developing inventories of Brownfields, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting site assessments and developing clean-up and reuse plans related to Brownfield sites. Mr. Rothfuss reviewed the work that could be done with these grant funds. Mrs. Crane stated the Town of Huron has a Brownfield and questioned if there is a program that would assist with getting the property back on the tax rolls. She has a report that was issued for Phase II on the site. She noted the property is not owned by the Town, questioning the value of cleaning it up. If the County's Land Bank could assist with this project was questioned. Approved 5-0.

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--Authorization to appoint Luke DeFisher, Michael Frederes and Susie Jacobs to the Agricultural Development Board. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Blake reviewed with members changes in the County's approach of funding Industrial Development Agency (IDA) labor costs. He also provided an update on funding to support the Industrial Development Program. The County provides funding for labor expenses, marketing, business retention and expansion, special studies and projects, and the Industrial Development Program. Prior to 2014, the County provided the IDA with quarterly distributions intended for the purposes of funding IDA labor costs. Starting in 2014, the IDA Executive Director was taken off the IDA payroll, and paid through County payroll as a County employee of the Planning Department with the title of Deputy Director of Economic Development. The intent was to have all IDA positions transition to the County payroll starting with the Executive Director, and as the remaining IDA staff left IDA employment, staff replacements would be hired by the County's Planning Department. The County continued to provide the IDA with quarterly distributions for labor costs, though billed the IDA for 50% of the cost of the Deputy Director of Economic Development, plus 50% of the Director of Economic Development and Planning who would provide County oversight of IDA efforts. The IDA used the County labor funding to pay the salaries and benefits of the remaining staff that were still on the IDA payroll. During 2018, the last employee being paid directly by the IDA retired. Starting in 2019 with all IDA/Planning Department staff on the County payroll, the Planning Department salaries and benefits are being allocated on a percentage basis to either the Planning Department or to the IDA. Since all staff who are working on IDA efforts are being paid directly by the County, no further distributions to the IDA for labor costs are needed.

The IDA developed an application and guidelines for administration of an Industrial Development Program (Resolution No. 390-13). The program will provide one third of the cost of public infrastructure up to a maximum of \$100,000, to be matched by two-thirds from local state, federal or private funds. The Wayne County Board of Supervisors established a County Industrial Development Site Fund to be used as a tool to encourage the extension of public infrastructure so that industry can expand and grow in Wayne County. Any unspent appropriations falls to the County Unassigned Fund Balance at the end of the year, and are re-appropriated by resolution at the beginning of the following year. In addition to re-appropriating the previous year balance of the Industrial Development Site Fund, since 2015 any previous year unused balance of special studies and projects appropriations have also been appropriated to the Industrial Development Site Fund with the intent of growing the Site Fund to a ceiling limit of \$1 million.

Mr. Rothfuss said the Office continues with its efforts to utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) by the end of March. Funds have to be used for CDBG program objectives.

Mr. LeRoy commented on the efforts Mrs. Corteville has made to get businesses with IDA/EDC loans to pay what they owe. Mrs. Corteville informed Supervisors she sent letters to all Town Clerks and Town Supervisors regarding tax exemption impacts from both IDA-billed and non-IDA billed PILOTs (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) they have in their communities, along with any information she has on these PILOTs. She requested they contact her if they should have any additional questions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m.