

## MINUTES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 3, 2019 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Pagano, Groat, Miller, Robusto, Chatfield and Jacobs, County Administrator Rick House, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Elizabeth Claypoole and Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli.

Minutes from the June 5<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was reviewed. It included a list of meetings and events Mrs. Worth and staff attended since the last meeting. The Office is finalizing the Apple Tasting Tour brochure and looking into radio ads for the event. The Erie Canal Bike Tour will pass through Wayne County on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The Office is reprinting the biking, fishing and birding brochures along with Chimney Bluffs Rack Cards. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues to post weekly fishing updates. He attended the Trail Works dedication in Wallington, met with NOAA about the Lake Ontario Water Sanctuary and met with DEC about promoting the Lake Ontario fishery.

Mrs. Worth attended a resiliency meeting with the Governor regarding Lake Ontario water levels. Her schedule will not allow her to attend all future meeting; but she will attend those she can. Mr. Pincelli said he would also be attending the meetings.

Ms. Claypoole updated Supervisors on Extension activities. Camp Beechwood will be hosting the annual youth camp next week for children age 5 to 12. She invited Committee members to stop out to the camp between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. any day. Additional information on Camp Beechwood can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/4HCampBeechwood/> She also reported the Lake Ontario Fruit Team is working with area farmers on the installation of hail netting to protect fruit from severe summer storms. Hail nets stretch across acres of high density orchards. A short video on hail netting at can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poAR92H0peA>

A Farm Food Safety Program is in place to help area farmer develop good agricultural practices. The program ensures farms are creating an environment to promote safe food grown for the consumer. This is a voluntary program.

Supervisors were made aware that Black Cutworm are posing an economic threat to many agricultural plant species. There are limited chemicals that can be used to fight against this bug and Extension is working with area growers to figure out how to keep the bug out of their crops.

Ms. Claypoole said growers are eligible for insurance on their field crops if they had a delay in planting due to weather.

Mr. Groat questioned if much farmland in the County is being used or considered for solar projects. Mr. Pincelli said some land is suitable for solar projects, some is not.

Mr. Pincelli presented a transmittal requesting authorization to submit a \$200,000 Community Block Grant Microenterprise application. If received, funds would be utilized for start-up businesses. Approved 5-0.

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The Committee was updated on ongoing activities in the Planning/Economic Development Office. The Taste of Wayne County is scheduled in Newark on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Future of Food event will be held at DeFisher Farms in Williamson on September 26<sup>th</sup>; this is a statewide attraction for the agricultural community. A Start-Up Business Pitch Competition is being held November 20<sup>th</sup> at the BOCES Conference Center Business. Business plans will be accepted prior, reviewed and vetted prior to a winning plan being announced at the event. The Annual Real Estate Breakfast is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> with developers and real estate brokers; the County's Land Bank Director will also attend.

A consultant has been hired to prepare a strategic plan for the Ontario Midland Railroad. The Planning Department received funding from the Genesee Regional Transportation Counsel to have a corridor safety study performed; this will be worked on later in the summer. The EPA application for funding to perform Phase I and Phase II studies was not funded; however, a Brownfield property inventory grant application did receive funding through last year's CFA and will get underway this year. Mr. Pincelli will re-submit EPA application in the next funding cycle.

Governor Cuomo announced there will be \$300 million available to address Lake Ontario water level issues if they are related to economic projects. Projects must be submitted for this funding opportunity by Labor Day. Mr. Pincelli noted most solutions to local lake flooding problems will require engineering solutions.

The Office has outlined a Solid Waste Management Plan for the County. If the County does not develop a Plan the State can stop Wayne County from shipping their garbage outside of its borders. If a consultant is needed to finalize the Plan was questioned. The value of recycling has dropped substantially. The Planning Department received requests for countywide e-waste and/or hazardous waste collection programs. Supervisors were informed the State passed legislation outlawing the construction of incinerators.

Supervisor Chatfield left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

The Industrial Development Agency will pay the annual membership for the Edge Factor Community Hub which offers videos of 20 career opportunities in Wayne County. Access will be free to all who access the platform using an IP address in Wayne County.

Why PILOT programs are made available for solar projects was discussed. Mr. Pincelli noted every taxing jurisdiction can negotiate a PILOT; however, the County's IDA took the lead on negotiation of a PILOT for solar projects for taxing jurisdictions as a service to them.

Proposed State Legislation regarding the payment of prevailing wage on IDA projects did not pass this session; Mr. Pincelli said this action would be harmful to IDAs if it did pass.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The next meeting of the Planning/Economic Development Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.