

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Pagano, Groat, Miller, Robusto and LeRoy, County Administrator Rick House, Tourism Director Christine Worth and Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli.

Minutes from the July 3rd Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was distributed, it contained a list of events and meetings attended by Mrs. Worth. The television ad for the Wayne County Fair was finalized, the Apple Tasting website, poster and ads have been updated and the Department budget finalized. Staff is updating the Calendar of Events on their webpage, the fall brochure has been printed and mailing of the Holiday program will take place later this month. Mrs. Worth is preparing for the 2020 I Love NY Grant. She is in the process of meeting with graphic designers regarding the upcoming Visitor's Guide. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues with fishing updates and involvement with local fishing and hunting events.

The Governor is allowing free fishing on lakes that were flooded this fall; this is encouraging people to fish that may have not done so in the past.

Mrs. Worth made the Committee aware of a call she received from a resident regarding his displeasure with the Tourism webpage and Office location. He also made contact with Mr. Pincelli regarding these issues. Mrs. Worth said efforts are underway to improve the Tourism webpage; however, consideration of relocating the Office will not occur as the Office's main goal is to promote tourism in the County, not to serve as an information center. Mr. Groat said the relocation of the Tourism Office was discussed many years ago.

Mrs. Worth noted she would not be available for the Committee budget meeting scheduled for September 13th and requested permission to present her budget at the next Committee meeting. Supervisors agreed this could be done.

Mr. Pincelli informed Supervisors of an opportunity given to the County to participate in State authorized PACE financing. This financing, offered through the Energy Corporation to commercial properties, is a means of financing energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy or clean energy improvements. Mr. Robusto said he has a large business in his Town that is wanting to utilize this financing to proceed with a project. Mr. Pincelli noted an enforcement lien is placed against any property the financing is used on and that lien stays with the property even if it should go through tax foreclosure. Mr. Robusto said he see challenges with the program; however, does not believe they will affect the County or municipalities. Mr. Pincelli said these financing opportunities cannot be offered in the County unless the Board passes a local law authorizing this action. Mr. Spickerman said he would like to have additional information presented to the Committee prior to a decision being made. Mr. Pincelli said a representative of PACE would be asked to come to the September Committee meeting.

Mr. Pincelli said he has spoken to the County Attorney about having a photo contest with winning photos used on billboards around the County. Mr. House noted any artwork appearing on County billboards needs to be vetted by the Committee first.

The Economic Development/Planning Department submitted two Consolidated Funding Applications; the first for a housing stock study to better understand what is available and what is needed in the County, the second for business loans that would be matched by Economic Development funds. The announcement of grant funding will occur in December.

Mr. Pincelli said the Office has been very busy. The County's Broadband Committee is very active at this time, holding discussion with potential partners to create solutions for gaps in internet coverage. The Landbank has been very active; the new Director is doing a very good job. Some properties, determined unredeemable, will be demolished before year's end. Local Government Training is scheduled for October 1st and the Real Estate Breakfast at Greystone on September 18th. The Governor has funded a READi—resilience on lakeshores program; applications for funding must be turned in by Labor Day.

Deputy Executive Director of Economic Development/Planning, Sherry Handel, submitted her resignation. She has held this County position for a little over one year.

Mr. Groat informed members there would be an open house in the Town of Galen on August 21st regarding a large solar project being pursued on property in Galen and Rose.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday September 4th at 10:00 a.m.