

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

August 25, 2009

2:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Morris Sorbello, Chairman; Legislators Doug Malone, Shawn Doyle, Jack Beckwith

EXCUSED: Legislator Art Ospelt, Legislator Lou LeClair

ABSENT: Legislator Art Gearsbeck

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Sorbello.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 11th and July 28th meetings were approved upon motion by Legislator Doyle, seconded by Legislator Beckwith with all in favor.

BID/RFP REPORT

Discussion took place regarding Bid 28-09 Senior Nutrition site. Fred Maxon, Purchasing Director explained that most of the first round of bidding was rejected as too costly. The kitchen part of the package has been removed completely as that is an OCO purchase. The plumbing, roofing, flooring, site, and internal build finishing is being re-bid. Legislator Doyle stated that he is sad to see the site leave Pulaski. He stated his concern over spending a lot of county dollars. Dave Turner stated that there are no County dollars. Common sense changes have been made to the project. Legislator Santore stated that OCO runs the kitchen and we are only a pass through for dollars.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

This resolution will approve establishment of the accounts necessary to accept and disperse a \$75,000 CDBG grant. It will also authorize the Chairman of the Legislature to execute the documents related to the grant. This grant will assist three small businesses. It is anticipated that they will create 14 new jobs. Motion to approve by Legislator Malone, seconded by Legislator Doyle with all in favor. Legislator Proud added that the Mayor of Mexico is grateful and asked that he thank Dave Turner and his department for their efforts for the community.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR TOURISM PROMOTION FOR THE COUNTY OF OSWEGO

This resolution is an annual one which allows the department to apply for matching funds. Motion to approve by Legislator Malone, seconded by Legislator Beckwith with all in favor.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Dave Turner stated that there was a story in the Oswego County Business Magazine that discussed fishing in the county. He shared a copy of the article with the members and a copy is attached to these minutes.

The second item is a press release by I Love NY. Kelly Jordal from the Tourism Office recently went to Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal for State promotion that was held there. People from all over the State were in attendance. It was a select group of individuals, by invitation only. Travel Agents, etc. getting the word out on NYS. The Canadian Market is by far our biggest market. (A copy of the article is attached)

Monthly Report on Tourism Website. A copy of the report is attached.

Dave Turner stated that the DEC report regarding fishing will be out shortly. When asked if there were any complaints regarding increased fees, Dave stated that most people said it is ok as long as the stocking program continues.

LAKE LEVELS

County Administrator Phil Church received a letter from the International Joint Commissioner in response to a letter he sent them concerning Lake Ontario Water Levels. They are still trying to put a working group together to work on this issue. Phil stated that he will send a copy of this letter to every individual who contacted him with complaints.

COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

A proposed draft, put together by Legislator Doyle, was made available to the members. Changes made were discussed and Legislator Doyle suggested moving it on to the Government committee. Legislature Chairman Leemann agreed. Phil Church stated that this may be able to stay right within this committee. Legislator Proud stated that he was uncomfortable voting on it at this time as he has not had a chance to review it. Legislator Doyle stated that it has been available since June. Legislator Leemann stated that by setting up a Planning Board the County would review large projects. Legislator Malone stated that this is nothing more than more government involvement and red tape. After lengthy discussion it was decided to put this off another month so that both Caucuses' could review it. However an additional point was added that a review would be triggered if there is a SEQR. Motion to add by Legislator Doyle, seconded by Legislator Beckwith with all in favor except Legislator Malone who voted no. A copy of the Proposed Oswego County Board is made a part of these minutes. Dave Turner advised that the County Planning Board will be for advice only.

BION

Chairman Sorbello notified the members that the EMC has not yet come back with a report on the BION situation. Therefore the Chairman stated we will hold off any further discussions until a report is made available.

WEED HARVESTING

John De Hollander reported there is no money for weed harvesting. He noted that they did spend approx. \$20,000 on treatment and they are obligated to pay the bill. He stated that he did get a phone call from a representative from Assemblyman Barclay's office informing his that money will be forthcoming. John stated that next month he will give a 15 minute presentation on Forestry Management Plan.

Steve Cronk discussed reforestation land. He stated that there is a lot of reforestation land, especially in Happy Valley. His club membership is up 16% over last year. Mr. Cronk pointed out that ATV Riders are definitely helping out the economy. He said it is important to update and add to the trails. Some of the trails are being used by outlaw riders, as they are called. He would like to get these trails insured.

Chairman Leemann suggested that Steve Cronk work with John DeHollander to examine the areas and determine where he wants to go. The committee further suggested that Mr. Cronk walk the land with a forester to see if there would be any damage and then return to the committee with the information that is gathered.

ADJOURN

There being no further business a motion was made by Legislator Doyle, seconded by Legislator Malone to adjourn. All in favor.

3:00 P.M.