

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 25, 2007  
6:30 p.m.  
Conf. Rm. E, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Legislative Office Building, Oswego, NY

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**1. Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Legs. D. Chalifoux, Chairman, J. Proud, V. Chair, F. Beardsley, C. Brewer, P. Natoli, P. Vasho, J. Beckwith.

**GUESTS:** Mike Treadwell, Jerney Bomgren, Legs. M. Potter, S. Doyle, B. Leeman, A. Gearsbeck.

**STAFF:** Phil Church, Dave Turner, Fred Maxon, Mary Ellen Barbeau

Approval of the August 28, 2007 meeting minutes. Motion by Leg. Brewer with second by Leg. Vasho to accept the August 28, 2007 EDP meeting minutes as written. All were in favor.

**2. Resolution Authorizing Professional Services Agreement with the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board**

Chairman Chalifoux explained this resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board for the collection of data for the census of 2010. Resolution moved by Leg. Proud, second by Leg. Vasho. All in favor.

**3. Resolution Providing for Tourism Promotion for the County of Oswego County**

Chairman Chalifoux stated this resolution is an annual resolution designating the Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning as the county Tourism Promotion Agency and authorizes the agency to apply for participation in the Tourism Matching Funds Program. Resolution moved by Leg. Beardsley, second by Leg. Proud. All in favor.

**4. Resolution Acknowledging Certified Training Entities for Planning Purposes Under New York State Law**

Chairman Chalifoux asked if this law had recently changed. Dave Turner explained that the law was changed last year and went into effect this year. There is no county planning board per say. The planning director, Dave Turner, and Marty Wiess function as the planning board. Approval of this resolution will allow them to receive four hours of training and comply with NYS law. Resolution moved by Leg. Vasho, second by Leg. Proud. Leg. Proud said he feels this is a great idea and that anything that improves consistency on the county level in the planning area will be to our benefit and help individual communities. Mr. Turner commented that there were two training sessions

recently – one in Pulaski and one in Phoenix Representatives from planning and zoning boards from all over the county attended. All in favor.

#### **5. Resolution Authorizing the Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning to Enter into a Contract with the Oswego Housing Development Council, Inc.**

Chairman Chalifoux explained this resolution is to enter into a contract with the Oswego Housing Development Council to utilize the RESTORE program. Mr. Turner said that our time period to utilize RESTORE funds was nearing its end and there were projects that the Oswego Housing Development Council were working on. Neither they nor we had enough to finish the projects. By combining the two we could finish the projects and close out our grant. We often work along with the OHDC but because this involved a transfer of funds, it requires the resolution. Moved by Leg. Beardsley, second by Leg. Vasho. Chairman Chalifoux commented that it will help 14 elderly people. Leg. Beardsley said he has seen this program in operation and it is a good program. All in favor.

#### **6. Operation Oswego County**

- Mike Treadwell explained that there is a HUD revolving loan involving the Tavern on the Lock Restaurant. Don and Sue Ryan have acquired the former Locke Restaurant property. They are adding a significant outside seating area to the restaurant with some property they are acquiring from the City of Fulton. It is a \$424,000 project with the IDA Loan being \$99,000. They will have a 10 year second mortgage on the property. Fulton CDA contributing \$35,000 to the project with a Facade Grant of \$15,000. It will create about 20 jobs. All in favor.
- SBA 504 Program is a lending program that Operation Oswego County works with in cooperation with the SBA. Operation Oswego County is one of ten Certified Development Companies in NYS and one of two in central NY. They have the ability to finance up to 40% of fixed assets of an eligible project. During the past 12 months they have funded nine projects dispersed all over the county. Projects were \$4.5 million; the piece OOC funded was \$1.5 million. During same fiscal year there were eight projects approved for financing that we have not closed on yet. These represent another \$3.7 million in investment, another million in SBA 504 financing and 87 additional jobs. All total in the past year this represents \$8.2 million in projects and \$2.5 million in 504 financing and a total of 147 jobs.

#### **7. Promotion and Tourism Updates**

- a. Dave Turner reminded everyone that the deadline for submitting event entries for the Winter Calendar of Events is this week. Promotion and Tourism does a winter and a summer calendar each year. Any organizations or not-for-profits that have events planned for November 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 can submit their information.
- b. Mr. Turner informed the committee that he has submitted two requests to the Vacancy Review Committee. One to fill the vacancy in the Tourism Office left by Carol Box's passing and a temporary position in the Housing Office due to an

employee's leave of absence. The position in Housing is funded through DHCR and HUD and not much cost to the county and the position in Tourism will be a savings due to the office restructuring he has done.

## **8. EDIF Requests**

Chairman Chalifoux presented the list of requests for EDIF. Total requests were \$19,633, plus two open-ended requests. The remaining balance in the fund is \$37,024.07. Phil Church commented as a point of information that all but one request was made to EDIF. The Tug Hill Commission request was not made to EDIF – it was a request made a couple of months ago and the county did not have a venue to respond to it from any account. It is a project that EDIF was originally set up for and he and Dave Turner felt it could be requested from EDIF. The Commission was not aware of any funding limitations set by the ED & P Committee when setting the amount of their request. Dave said it is to fund a study from the US Geological Service. There is a large amount of money that comes in but there needed to be a local match. The Commission went to all the affected areas and then divided the total among them and it came out to \$3,333 for each participating area. Leg. Potter commented that the Tug Hill Commission has been working on the aquifer for many years. Chairman Chalifoux asked how the committee wanted to handle the two over the limit requests. Leg. Beardsley felt that the limit, set in a previous meeting, should be adhered to.

Leg. Potter explained the request from the Defiance Fire Company which is an open request. They provide emergency services to four wheelers in their area. Through fundraisers, they have between \$6,000-\$7,000; they need between \$13,000-\$15,000. He would like to request \$1,000.

The Tug Hill Commission request was brought up again. Phil Church explained that the request was not directed toward EDIF because they did not know that it existed. If the \$2,500 limit is adhered to, it may be problematic for the Commission as the \$3,333 is the match from each county. Leg. Beardsley made a motion to hold to the \$2,500 limit with an exception for Item 3 (Tug Hill Commission request) and Item 12 (Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce request) due to extenuating circumstances. Leg. Vasho second. Leg. Proud said he felt very uncomfortable with this process and that another agency should review the requests. Leg. Natoli abstained; motion passed.

**1. People for the Revitalization of Pulaski (PROP), \$2,500.** Leg. Doyle spoke about the revitalization of Pulaski. He explained that there was a problem with the bonding costs for a grant for \$200,000 to revitalize the upper sections of the buildings on the east side of Main Street with a focus to the river. Dave Turner explained that the Mayor of Pulaski and Margaret Weigelt contacted the Planning Department regarding the grant. The village needed to be bonded and is not. He sent them to Leg. Doyle and without the money to be bonded, they will lose the grant. Leg. Vasho moved to accept the resolution; Leg. Proud second. All in favor.

**2. Oswego Valley ATV Club, open request.** Leg. Beckwith moved the motion; Leg. Beardsley second. Leg. Beckwith introduced Jerney Bomgren, Vice-President of the club and commented that the club has over 300 members and they are doing an excellent job. They are requesting the money for advertising, particularly signage. Mr. Bomgren said they were hoping to have signage at the four corners in Hannibal with an indication on the sign that the club was supported by Oswego County. The group has pig roasts, spaghetti dinners, chicken barbeques but are hoping to sponsor a rodeo next year. They have 15 miles of trail in the Hannibal area and are hoping to expand that into Cayuga County. Chairman Chalifoux asked how much money they are asking for. Leg. Beckwith responded \$1,200. All in favor of \$1,200.

**3. Tug Hill Commission, \$3,333.** Leg. Beckwith moved the motion; Leg. Proud second. All in favor.

**4. Fulton Public Library, \$2,500.** Leg. Vasho moved the motion; Leg. Brewer second. All in favor.

**5. Square Valley Trailblazers, \$1,000.** Leg. Beardsley moved the motion explaining that the club would use the money for signage. Leg. Beckwith second. All in favor.

**6. Defiance Fire Company, open request.** Leg. Vasho moved the motion; Leg. Brewer second. Leg. Gearsbeck commented that he thought this fund was to be directed toward tourism. It was discussed that the rules and parameters should be better determined for next year. Dave Turner explained that when this money was first discussed, it was after he brought back a request from the Tourism Advisory Committee to establish a fund for tourism from bed tax dollars to promote tourism initiatives and events. The discussion moved to this EDIF money already established that was originally used to help jump start small economic development projects. There was much flexibility in the way this fund was used so there may be some confusion about this fund and the separate fund requested by Tourism Advisory. All in favor.

**7. Fort Brewerton/Greater Oneida Lake Chamber of Commerce, \$1,500.** Leg. Beardsley moved the motion explaining that each year for July 4, the chamber sponsors fireworks attended by well over 10,000 people. Leg. Beckwith second. All in favor.

8. Pulaski-Boylston Snowmobile Club, \$1,000.

9. Redfield Snowmobile Club, \$1,000.

10. Kasoag Trailblazers Club, \$1,000.

Leg. Vasho made a motion to combine requests 8, 9, and 10 into one. All in favor of passing the three resolutions.

**11. Oswego Railroad Museum, \$2,300.** Leg. Natoli explained that the group participates in the Fulton Christmas Show which brings in 1500 to 2000 people for a two-

day show and does presentations for school groups, Springside and various groups. The Museum has a historical layout of the county with a great deal of memorabilia. Dave Turner said they were looking for a place to set up the museum and looked at the Armory and the Ponzi building at the fort, neither of which is handicap accessible. They are located in the old Flexo Wire building on West First St. Leg. Natoli said they now have a place open year around for school groups and visitors. Leg. Beckwith moved the motion; Leg. Vasho second. All in favor.

**12. Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, \$3,500.** Leg. Vasho moved the motion; Leg. Beardsley second. All in favor.

Phil Church explained that \$37,024.07 is showing as a balance in the fund but two previous awards have not been cashed. The balance prior to this list of awards is \$35,100. Leg. Proud explained that he is very uncomfortable with this process. If one request does not go through, it might hurt a person's chance for re-election. An outside group should review the requests and then make their recommendations to the Economic Development and Planning Committee. This comes as close to cronyism as he wants to get. Leg. Beardsley asked what had been done along these lines for organizations in the towns in the last 10 years other than for the fishing industry. Leg. Proud said he does not have any problems with the projects, only the process. Chairman Chalifoux said he takes exception to it being called cronyism. Leg. Proud said he didn't call it that; this is as close to that as he has been involved. Chairman Chalifoux said that he feels that everyone in the room was there to represent the best interest of the people. Leg. Proud said everyone is entitled to their opinion and he only wanted to be honest with the group.

Leg. Vasho made a motion to adjourn; Leg. Beardsley second. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.