

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 23, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Conf. Rm. E, 4th Floor, Legislative Office Building, Oswego, NY

1. Roll Call: Chairman Chalifoux called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: Leg. F. Beardsley

GUESTS: Leg. Brown, Mike Treadwell, Leg. Gearsbeck

STAFF: Phil Church, Dave Turner, Fred Maxon and Deb Wise

Approval of September 25, 2007 minutes.

The meeting minutes of September 25, 2007 were approved with a motion by Leg. Brewer second by Leg. Proud. All were in favor.

2. Planning

a. *Budget Amendment - LiDAR*

Chairman Chalifoux stated to the committee so everyone knows we have used up all of the money in the EDIF funds.

Dave Turner stated that the committee has heard him talk about LiDAR mapping in the past. Mr. Turner stated that this is a unique opportunity to purchase this data, at below market prices, this opportunity expires soon. To acquire the mapping of the entire County it would be \$135,520. Mr. Turner stated that we have been able to acquire or get a commitment of funds thus far for a total of \$95,792 from Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA), another \$18,000 from Operation Oswego County (OOC) and \$5,000 from Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNYRPDB), both of these agencies have an interest, as the data acquisition will be a valuable tool for economic development purposes. Mr. Turner stated that the total of acquired or committed funds is \$118,792. We have also submitted a grant application to the Great Lakes Consortium (GLC), we are asking for another \$10,000, the awards were supposed to be announced in October and to date we haven't heard anything. If we receive the funding this will put our total funding to \$128,792, which only leaves a gap of \$6,728 to map the whole county. Mr. Turner also stated that he is asking in this budget modification to use some of the department budget that hasn't been used, to offset this cost. I would also like to ask in the event that the \$10,000 doesn't come from GLC, I would like to anticipate taking that out of the department budget also. So that is a total of \$16,728 from the county and that would be the only funding from the county for this opportunity. Mr. Turner asked the committee if they would consider advancing the funds, the funds from FL-LOWPA typically come around May, when they come through the funds would be put into the general fund. If all the funding does come through then we are only asking the county for the \$6,728 for a \$135,000 project. Mr. Turner stated that this is what this budget modification is all about is moving funds that are available. Motion by Leg. Proud second by Leg. Beckwith of supporting the funding by the County. Leg. Proud asked what would be the total amount that we would be responsible for if this funding doesn't come through? Mr. Turner stated that it would be \$50,920. Mr. Turner stated that the only funding really in question is the Great Lakes Consortium amount of \$10,000, we have a history with the other funding. Chairman Chalifoux asked for a vote in support of this budget modification, five of the legislators were in favor, and one legislator abstained.

b. *Contract Amendment – LiDAR*

Chairman Chalifoux brought up the next agenda item, the contract amendment for the LiDAR mapping. Mr. Turner stated that is to propose this resolution, the authorization to enter into an amendment in the original contract amount with Pictometry International Corp., the original contract was for the available funding that we had at that time, this resolution would authorize these new funds to be allocated towards the new project. Chairman Chalifoux asked for a motion to accept this resolution, motion by Leg. Beckwith, second by Leg. Proud to accept this resolution for an amendment to original contract with Pictometry International, Corp. All were in favor.

c. *Comprehensive Plan Update*

Dave Turner stated that staff is working on updating the County Comprehensive Plan this year, the parts being updated are the infrastructure, transportation and community services we have those ready to go, but given the December meeting of the Legislature will be a public hearing for the budget, anticipate a lot of discussion about this, we have elected not to enact the update in calendar year 2007. So, next month I will be asking about a public hearing for February meeting of the Legislature, so that we can update those sections of the plan. Then next year we will be updating three or four more sections of the comprehensive plan, because the plan is so involved, it is difficult to update the whole thing all at once. Staff will work on parts of the plan every year until it is all updated.

3.Promotion and Tourism

a. *New Initiatives*

1. *Motor Coach*

Mr. Turner stated that staff and some of our partners have been attending workshops and seminars around the state. We are starting to undertake new techniques and prepare to undertake some new initiatives, things to avoid and things to produce. Last week there was a seminar in Watertown about motor coach operators and how to reach them and how to get them into the community. Mr. Turner went on to say that there was also a segment on international visitors and what those tourists might be interested in or attracted to and the different ways to package tours that interest them and what to avoid. Mr. Turner also stated that hopefully now that we are fully staffed we will really be picking up on some of those activities. There was a tourism forum at Blue Mountain Lake museum put on by Hamilton County. Mr. Turner explained that this was an interactive session between private and public sector on what works and what doesn't. Mr. Turner stated we were able to pick up some valuable information from those folks, Jan Clerkin and some county chambers attended. We are hoping to replicate this seminar here for an event next year.

2. *State Support*

Mr. Turner stated that he went to a state tourism meeting last week and briefly met with the chairman for the State Tourism Committee for the NYS Senate, talked about our success here with the filming of the show for the Outdoor Channel and explained to her the way that the state incentives are set up, we weren't able to access those tax credits or anything else to try and entice people in, we had to rely on contributions from the private sector. She was very interested and she suggested that when we meet again she would like to work on amending that part of New York State Law, to allow for tourism television outdoor programming. Mr. Turner stated that when people see a program like this on television, then they are more apt to want to visit the area that they have seen.

b. Promotional Materials

1. Trail Map

Mr. Turner stated as he had told the committee previously there was very little cost to making these Hiking Trails brochure. For your interest they were highly praised by New York State, I Love NY staff. They were asked how they developed this. There was very little cost to making these, the mapping capability was done in the Planning Dept. and the graphic capabilities in the Tourism office and the printing was the only part that cost anything. Mr. Turner stated that half of the printing of these was funds from NYS Tourism Matching Funds program. Legislator Gearsbeck asked Mr. Turner about the county maps that are so outdated. Mr. Turner stated that his staff and others from the chambers recently met with a mapping company. Leg. Gearsbeck stated that there are new roads in the county that aren't shown on the county map. Mr. Turner stated, we are pursuing working on getting new maps, with no cost to the county. Mr. Turner explained we work with the company to provide information of where they might go to get sponsors for the map. Mr. Turner stated that this will be a brand new map, which will be updated every two years. There will be businesses advertising on the new map also. Leg. Brown stated that years ago, there were new roads put in and they were promised that they would be on the map and they aren't. Mr. Turner stated that the county has 968 sq. miles, it is difficult to track everything that has changed, also there may not be room on the map for every road. Mr. Turner stated that they will try to do what is possible with the technology that we have.

2. Fishing and Hunting

Chairman Chalifoux stated that the next item that he wanted to review for the County, the Chairman thought that we should vote on this resolution from the NYS DEC proposed regulation restricting body gripping traps on land. Leg. Beckwith stated that he would be glad to speak about this. We just got finished with a lawsuit in the Town of Hannibal that was brought about by the beaver problem. Leg. Beckwith stated that if they are really serious about this problem, they really can't trap within 100 ft. of the county trail, but this will not relieve the problem. Leg. Beckwith stated that they really do need to trap within 100 ft. of the trails, but this resolution is totally contradicting the 100 ft. rule. Leg. Beckwith stated that he totally supports this and he thinks that it should go to the floor of the legislature. Mr. Turner stated that the sportsmen's club is the one that brought it to the county's attention. The legislature will not meet until after the window closes for this. It was thought that this committee could vote on this and then the chairman or the county administrator could write a letter with their recommendation to this problem. Leg. Beckwith stated that this is the problem that trapping would have to be done on public and county land. Leg. Natoli stated first of all the resolution states, that proposed emergency regulation changes be made and they are saying to use a 5" Conabear trap. Leg. Proud asked do we want big traps of up to 5.5" to be sitting up in the woods. Leg. Natoli stated that he used to trap, a conabear trap is going to take any one of our arms off. A conabear isn't to be used on dry land, they don't really work that well, they should be used in the water. There was much more discussion. Leg. Brown reiterated that they are asking for a letter from the County. Phil Church stated that Leg. Natoli is looking at the description not the resolution. Leg. Natoli stated that we are looking at safety issues. Mr. Turner stated that these proposed changes that don't meet that much opposition, they are concerned about the swamps, wetland areas. It just states within 100 feet of any trail, it doesn't state whether it is in water or on dry land. More discussion ensued. Mr. Church stated that we are relying on third party interpretation of this. Motion by Leg. Beckwith with a second by Leg. Vasho to write a letter stating our concerns about this proposed change. Roll call: Beckwith - yes, Vasho - yes, Brewer - yes, Natoli - no, Proud - yes, Chalifoux - yes. The vote was in favor of writing a letter to the NYS DEC with 5 votes for and 1 vote against.

Chairman Chalifoux stated that Dave Turner had a couple of things that he wanted to bring to your attention before we start talking the budget. Dave Turner stated that economic impact analysis for the Lake Ontario Derby that is held every year, was recently released. 35.7% of activity and expenditures were in Oswego County. Impact of the 2007 derby adding everything together with lodging, meals and everything else was just a little over \$3million in that fishing derby. Mr. Turner stated that just shows what impact sportfishing has on the economy. Finally, we just received notification from NYS about the matching funds awards, we have received about \$7,000 more than last year, which is an increase of about 11%.

4. Budget Review

a. Planning

Chairman Chalifoux stated we will now look at the Planning budget review. Phil Church stated that there were a couple of changes to this budget after the publication. Mr. Church stated on page 117 under promotion and tourism under 5110 (salaries and wages) one of the positions has been reclassified. The administrative secretary position has been eliminated and replaced with a public information officer. This is a difference in salary of about \$3, 624. The correction to the budget was motioned by Leg. Vasho second by Leg. Beckwith. All were in favor. Mr. Church also stated on page 118 under 5465 , (other payments Pro-Am), I have lined that out. Motion by Leg. Vasho with a second from Leg. Natoli for making this change to the budget for 2008. All were in favor. Chairman Chalifoux asked if there was any discussion on the planning budget? Dave Turner stated that there a couple of little changes, the significant reduction in revenue for next year, we have been getting reimbursements from the brownfield program grants, which is about to expire. We are reapplying for more money, but this is our most significant reduction in revenue for next year. Payments from NY Chocolate are down due to an over estimate, with the loans. Mr. Turner also stated that for whatever reason, revenue from loans to NY Chocolate were over estimated, this year there will be actual numbers, which also shows a decrease in revenue as well. Expenditures are also reduced. This is due to several things, reduction in staff in the promotion and tourism department and other things that the county administrator would like cut back such as postage and phones in our budget. Mr. Turner stated that we do have a new number for the state matching funds if you'd like to change that number on pg. 118 line 43715 request was for \$80,000 true 50/50 match the county contribution could match the state, which is \$77,798. Leg. Proud commented that this gives you a little flexibility that you wouldn't have otherwise. Mr. Turner stated that there are certain things that the state doesn't match.

b. Promotion and Tourism

Dave Turner stated that we didn't do these by individual departments, but over all we have proposed a \$100,000 savings in the 2008 compared to the 2007 budget. Most of this came from the Promotion and Tourism office due to a vacant position and a change in job title and some other things will be making their budget go down. Mr. Turner stated that the 2008 budget is lower than 2007. There will be no special projects for 2008.

5. Adjournment

Chairman Chalifoux adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion by Leg. Vasho second by Leg. Proud to adjourn and go into Executive Session.