

Economic Development Committee Minutes

February 6, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Richardson, Peck, Veitch, Connelly, Grattidge and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Jason Kemper, Planning Director; Blue Neils, Cooperative Extension; George Hodgson, Environmental Management; Press.

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Chairman Daly announced the appointment of Mr. Richardson as committee Vice Chairman.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the December 6, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Hodgson said there is an area in the Town of Northumberland, on Pettis Road, specifically the, McKowan Lot, with a pond on the property that was built in approximately 1960. Recently the dam went out and washed out the pond. The pond, normally stocked with trout, was a local fishing spot and recreational area used by the public, measuring approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre.

Mr. Hodgson asked the committee for some guidance in this matter. Ms. Daly asked Mr. Hodgson what his opinion was of the pond at this time.

Mr. Hodgson said that the pond was a local resource and in the spring would be stocked with several hundred trout. This has been an area where dumping has been a problem by area people.

Mr. Hodgson said that the Public Works Department has done maintenance in the area in the past, and upon speaking to Mr. Ritchey liability concerns are always an issue.

Mr. Peck said that this is a great resource in a remote area where only some people know where it is, as it is not heavily advertised. Cost is of concern with regard to redoing the dam at this time. If the county had to undertake a project like this, it would have to be built to specific specifications and federal regulations. This is something that we need to evaluate and think about, he said.

Mr. Hodgson said that this pond was the only pond that the county stocks, however, the Town of Wilton stock Scout Pond in conjunction with the stocking program. Most stocking occurs in streams and the Great Sacandaga Lake.

Mr. Hodgson said Scout Pond straddles the Wilton town line, and he would have Mr. Ritchey talk to Mr. Johnson with regard to using Scout Pond as a substitute.

Mr. Kemper said there were 540 people in attendance at the Planning Conference, of those 30 to 40 were from out of the county. The conference continues to grow and it is becoming more and more difficult to continue at not cost to the county. This year \$16,000 was received in sponsorships and the registration fee was \$40/person. If the conference continues to expand, the county may need to contribute between \$3,000 - \$5,000 to help cover the costs for both the morning and afternoon breaks. We are probably doing the biggest and best conference in the State, he said.

Ms. Daly said the goal and focus of the conference continues to be to educate the people who are now involved in making decisions and serving on various boards.

Mr. Kemper said three grants were received last year that will need to be rolled into 2008 for completion. The first grant was from the State Education Department for \$28,000. There was a study done in each department to see what their GIS needs were, along with a conceptual system design and implementation plan developed at not cost to the county. Another State Education grant has been submitted for \$73,000 for the implementation of a new GIS server and improvements to the website.

The second grant was a member item received from Senator Bruno through the New York Economic Development Agency, used to purchase a large format platter, GIS workstation, GPS system, projector, and screen. Approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 was used to improve the Internet site. Thus far \$15,500 has been spent, with no money received from the State as of yet. Mr. Kemper requested that \$19,562 be rolled over for 2008.

The third grant is a Farmland Viability Grant. Farm tours were taken in Washington and Rensselaer counties with \$4,360 spent. Mr. Kemper said \$2,739 would need to be rolled over into 2008.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Richardson to re-appropriate \$50,301 in expenses and revenues for grant programs operated by the Planning Department as follows: Legislative grant for GIS equipment purchases \$19,562; GIS needs assessment \$28,000; Farmland viability activities funded under various sources of State Aid \$2,739. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said during last year's audit it was said that there should be a formal contract between the County and the IDA. In order to cover expenses, which include photocopying, telephones, and staff time, the IDA pays the county \$22,500. After speaking to Mr. Wickerham, he stated he would like to see the contract go to two years with the ability to review the amount on an annual basis.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch to authorize the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga County IDA to provide administrative services at an annual cost of \$22,500 for the period beginning 1/1/08 and ending 12/31/09, subject to review of the annual cost. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper gave a brief overview of the Zim Smith Trail for the benefit of all new committee members as follows: The county initially submitted a grant, under a Federal Transportation Improvement Grant, to construct the Zim Smith Trail from Coons Crossing to Oak Street. In 2007, the project moved forward from Round Lake to Coons Crossing. The original contract with Greenman Pedersen was approved for \$190,000 for the design and bid of the trail, with the engineering and trail to be completed in approximately 12 to 18 months. It has not been approximately three years now, and there are additional costs that have been incurred. Bids will have to be obtained again along with the signing of all documents and inspections. Greenman Pedersen is requesting additional funds for the additional services, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 to complete the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Connelly to authorize an amendment to the agreement with Greenman-Pederson, Inc. to perform additional engineering services to complete the Zim Smith Trail not included in the original contract, at cost not to exceed \$90,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Neils said the Board of Supervisors has to create a resolution, whereby, the contract is drawn up by the County Attorney to establish the relationship between Cornell Cooperative Extension and the County for the Stormwater Management Grant that has been received.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension, for the provision of services required by NYS DEC Water Quality Contract, to implement the Saratoga County Intermunicipal Stormwater Management Program, at a cost of \$344,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch to re-appropriate \$258,000 in expenses and revenues to fund the County Intermunicipal Stormwater Management Program. Unanimous.

Mr. Neils distributed copies of Local Law 19 to all committee members for their review. He requested a resolution to introduce the local law that would prohibit illicit discharges, activities and connections to the County Separate Storm Sewer System.

A motion was made by Mr. Connelly, seconded by Mr. Richardson, to introduce a proposed local law prohibiting illicit discharges, activities and connections to the County of Saratoga Separator Storm Sewer System and setting March 12, 2008 at 4:50 in the County Board Room as the date, time and place for the hearing. Unanimous.

Mr. Neils said initially there was an idea to create a step by step policy so that any agency or department head could read it if they were going to engage in or sponsor a construction project, and understand what their responsibilities were. The policy will cover any construction activities that the county engages in, that disturb more than one acre of land.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Peck to establish a Stormwater Management Policy to provide minimum controls for construction activities engaged in by Saratoga County on new facilities, roads, or other capital improvements that will disturb one or more acres of land. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Peck the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom