

Economic Development Committee
April 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Art Johnson; Supervisors Anita Daly, Jack Lawler, Paul Lent, Tom Richardson, Tom Wood, Alan Grattidge, Peter Martin, Ed Kinowski; County Administrator Spencer Hellwig; County Attorney Steve Dorsey; Planning Director Jason Kemper; WIA Director Lisa Scaccia; Marty Vanags, Alyssa McClenning, Judy Soukup - Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership; Ed Snyder and Sara Finkbeiner - Greenman Pedersen Reps; Press.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. He thanked Marty Vanags for hosting the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Lent the minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Kemper introduced Mr. Snyder and Ms. Finkbeiner from Greenman Pedersen who presented a power presentation updating the committee on the Zim Smith Trail. Mr. Snyder updated the Committee on what has been done, what is currently being done and what will be done in the future. There are three phases of this project that have been completed to date with the fourth one being worked on now from Halfmoon to the City of Mechanicville. The future build out will be from Ballston Spa to SPAC. Mr. Snyder spoke about the options currently being worked on for the fourth phase. To provide a visual for the project, Mr. Snyder had a drone fly over and record the section of trail being worked on which he showed the Committee. They are in discussions with the Fairways of Halfmoon, CP Rail and Pan Am for property for continuation of the trail system. He provided a timeline for this section of the project.

Mr. Kemper spoke on the preliminary budget for this phase of the project. Currently there is approximately \$1.37M in the Capital Account for this project. The project is listed on the Draft Tip which is Federal funding for \$2.016M. The projected budget for this phase is about \$1.6M so the project is about \$300,000 short. The figures are subject to change as they go through the process. Mr. Kemper said they are actively pursuing additional funding and options for the construction of the trail such as asphalt versus crushed stone and retaining walls. Mr. Lawler asked for clarification on easements and funding for them. Mr. Kemper said funding was included from 2011 for the purchase of easements. Mr. Lawler asked for clarification for the Federal funding. Mr. Kemper said the County went for the maximum allowed. Mr. Richardson said this was a percentage of the funding available.

Mr. Kemper said the first items for a resolution are agreements with NYSDOT and CP Rail. Last November a letter was sent to DOT indicating the County would be interested in taking a financial stake in the rail crossing. If the County secures Federal funding then the County will be responsible for only the pedestrian portion of the upgrades at the rail crossing. Those are estimated at a cost not to exceed \$80,000. **On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Daly authorization was unanimously given to enter into an agreement with CP Rail to fund the pedestrian portion of the safety upgrades at the rail crossing at a cost not to exceed \$80,000. Funding is available in the Zim Smith Capital Account.**

Mr. Kemper said the next item is the purchase of property from Pan Am Southern LLC. for 13.13 acres of land. **On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lawler authorization was unanimously given to enter into an agreement with Pan Am Southern LLC for the purchase of 13.13 acres of land at a cost of \$45,000. Funding is available in the Zim Smith Capital Account.**

Mr. Richardson distributed a fact sheet on the Historic Hudson & Hoosic Rivers Partnership and provided an update/history on the Partnership. He also gave an update on the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center and said they are hoping for the concrete to go in the ground this year and have the Visitors Center open by spring of 2017. Mr. Wood provided information on the Visitors Center, the design of the center and what it will contain. All the towns and villages in the Hudson & Hoosic Rivers corridor are members of the Partnership and the completion of the Center will be a positive step forward. Mr. Johnson said the County's role in this will be to provide the timber for the construction of the center. Mr. Kemper said he has been working with the Partnership and the Timber Frame Guild to come up with a solid timber estimate. The parcel being looked at now is on the Town of Northumberland/Wilton town line. It is a parcel that BOCES currently works with the County on. Mr. Kemper said he believes this parcel will provide enough timber for the whole project. Mr. Kemper said the County's Forester will manage the marking, harvesting and transporting of the timber associated with this project.

On a motion by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Wood authorization was unanimously given to enter into an agreement with Saratoga Land Management for the marking, harvesting and transporting of County timber for the Gateway Visitor Center and into an agreement with the Historic Hudson & Hoosic Rivers Partnership authorizing the donation of such County timber for the Visitor Center and providing for the reimbursement to the County of the County's costs incurred in marketing, harvesting and transporting said timber.

Mr. Kemper said in order to meet the timber projections for 2016 a 126 acre parcel in the Town of Northumberland will be harvested. He thanked John Warnt, Purchasing Director for his work on this bid. He said about a week before the bids were due he received several calls about a market for very small timber that was being missed. Mr. Warnt made the change to the bid and requested a lump sum bid. As a result there was a 25% return on the timber bid. Mr. Kemper proposes the parcel be cut all at once instead of making this a two year project. **On a motion by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Lent authorization was unanimously given to enter into a revenue agreement with G and T Enterprises, the highest bidder, at \$126,774.75 to harvest this parcel once and authorizing an amendment to the budget.**

Mr. Johnson introduced Marty Vanags, President of the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership. Mr. Vanags welcomed and thanked the Committee for holding their meeting at the Prosperity Partnership's offices. He introduced the staff of the Partnership. Mr. Vanags gave a report about their activities as well as providing a glimpse into the future. He said he is a member of Consultant Connects and gave an update on the events he's attended and ones he will be attending. He spoke about the BusinessFirstSaratoga Partnership that was created between the Partnership with the Saratoga Chamber and the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County. This is a comprehensive business retention and expansion program. Mr. Vanags spoke of a project called Next Wave Center at Global Foundries/Luther Forest Technology Campus and of communications and marketing plan.

Mr. Lawler commended Mr. Vanags on his work with the two Chambers of Commerce to develop the BusinessFirstSaratoga Partnership and spoke of the importance of this partnership.

Mr. Kinowski said the Partnership has gone a long way since it was started a year ago. He complimented the team for coming great strides.

Mr. Johnson said there is a resolution proclaiming May 8 – 14, 2016 as Economic Development Week in Saratoga County. **On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lent unanimous approval was given to proclaim May 8 – 14, 2016 as Economic Development Week in Saratoga County.**

On a motion by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned to go into executive session for contract discussions.

On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lent the meeting returned to open session. There was no action.

On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lawler, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Wright
Clerk of the Board