

Economic Development Committee Minutes
November 2, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Art Johnson; Supervisors Vince DeLucia, Paul Lent, Tom Richardson, Jon Schopf and Tom Wood; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Jason Kemper, Planning; Lisa Scaccia, Employment & Training; Annamaria Bellantoni, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce; Rich Ferguson, Saratoga County IDA; Shelby Schneider, Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership.

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

On a motion made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the October 5, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lent to designate the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County's tourism promotion agency and authorizing the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to apply for an "I Love New York" grant for 2017. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson said that this is an annual approval. Mrs. Bellantoni said that the grant application requires each county to name their tourism promotion agency. Last year they received approximately \$68,000. They always apply for the maximum amount which is 5% of total grant funding.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the issuance of certain obligations by Saratoga County Resource Corporation to finance a certain project for the Saratoga Hospital. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson said that last week the Capital Resource Corporation approved a refinancing project application for Saratoga Hospital. The resolution has been passed by the CRC and now requires approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Kemper said that the Land Preservation Committee met earlier that day and approved three applications they received for open space funding. The awards were granted to the Towns of Clifton Park, Galway and Wilton. \$50,000 to the Town of Clifton Park, \$23,405 to the Town of Galway and \$32,144 to the Town of Wilton.

Mr. Kemper said that save the dates for the planning conference in January have been sent out. The conference will take place on January 25, 2017. CLE credits will be offered for attorneys. They are also looking at CLE credits for engineers.

Mr. Kemper gave an update on the Zim Smith Trail. They received \$4.94 million in federal funding which will fund the project from Coons Crossing to the City of Mechanicville. County Capital funds are currently being used to keep the project moving. The federal funds will be available in Spring of 2018. DOT approval was granted for the closing on the Pan Am property.

RK Hite is actively seeking the additional right of way. At this point in time, they are 70% complete on design and hope to be at 100% by the end of the year. Mr. Richardson commended Mr. Kemper and his department on a job well done.

Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Ferguson, CEO of the Saratoga County IDA. Mr. Ferguson has been the CEO since May 2015 and took over from Larry Benton. Mr. Ferguson distributed a report on the activities of the IDA over the past year and a half. In 2015 the IDA approved 7 projects for a total economic investment in Saratoga County of \$2.45 billion of which one large project for GLOBALFOUNDRIES was \$2.364 billion. 719 full time jobs created, 4,281 full time jobs retained, salaries ranged from \$20,000 to \$200,000 with a total annual payroll of \$287,225,259.

For 2016 5 projects were approved with a total economic investment of \$25.7 million, 232 full time jobs created and 215 full time jobs retained, salary range between \$30,000 and \$200,000 with a total annual payroll paid \$22,465,215.

In addition to the approved applications, the agency funded \$1.525 million to the Saratoga County Water Authority's treatment plant, they allocated \$130,000 of financial assistance to the Gateway Regional Visitors Center in Schuylerville and allocated \$40,000 to the Saratoga Springs Geyser Road Signalization project.

Mr. Ferguson said that twice a year the agency sends out Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) bills to its project companies. In February 2015 they billed \$78,948 in County and Town taxes, in October 2015 they billed \$14,378,340 in school payments and in September 2016 they have issued \$13,605,433 in school billings.

A motion was made by Mr. Delucia, seconded by Mr. Wood to authorize acceptance of \$50,000 in additional State Aid for services associated with the employment needs of individuals with disabilities and amending the job training fund budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.

Mrs. Scaccia said in 2014 the County accepted the initial funding amount of \$640,000 for the three year project. There has been a higher demand for training during the past few months and the State has approved additional funds towards these services.

Mrs. Schneider reminded the Committee that the Saratoga Prosperity Summit will take place on Thursday, November 10 from 8am to 1pm. Speakers include Congressman Tonko and Hugh Johnson. Mrs. Schneider gave a brief update on recent events at the SCPP.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Legislative Clerk