

Economic Development Committee Minutes
December 7, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Art Johnson; Supervisors Vince DeLucia, Paul Lent, Jon Schopf, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Mo Wright; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Andrew Jarosh, County Treasurer; Wes Carr, Youth Bureau; Anita Daly, Capital Resource Corporation; Marty Vanags, Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership; Mike Relyea, Patty Rowledge, Kara Haraden, Mark Smachlo, Adirondack Aquatic Center.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. DeLucia the minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Johnson introduced Mike Relyea. Mr. Relyea is a volunteer and Board member with the Adirondack Aquatic Center, a nonprofit organization. Mr. Relyea was accompanied by Patty Rowledge, Kara Haraden and Mark Smachlo. Mr. Relyea distributed a handout and gave an overview of the status of a potential aquatic complex to be built in Malta, NY. Currently there are 52 pools in the area, 7 of which are community pools and most are 25 yard pools. The proposed facility will house an Olympic size pool, warm water instruction pool, aquatic therapy pool, diving well, multi-purpose dry space and seating for 1,200 spectators. The Board of Directors of the Adirondack Aquatic Center has studied other aquatic centers with similar facilities to gain a better understanding of the potential economic impact on the capital region. The Greensboro Aquatic Center in North Carolina opened in 2011. It attracted 36 meets, drawing 120,000 people to their region and generating over \$41 million for the local economy in their first year. The proposed facility will have the capacity to host regional meets, synchronized swim meets, master swim meets, YMCA Championships and Collegiate meets as well as water polo. Once built, the Adirondack aquatic center will be the premier facility for competitive aquatic sports in the Northeast.

The Adirondack Aquatic Center has the support of the Town of Malta and spot zoning on a parcel of land off Exit 12 has been approved. Mr. DeLucia said that the former and current board members in the Town of Malta have passed resolutions in support of the facility.

Ms. Rowledge said that a lot of the big events will not conflict with track season in Saratoga Springs. The preliminary estimate of the cost to build the facility is just over \$30M and is projected to be completed and operational by 2020.

Mrs. Daly gave an update on the Saratoga County Capital Resource Corporation. Mrs. Daly said that the CRC has been a strong economic tool for the county since it was formed in November 2012. They were initially funded by a \$5,000 grant from the IDA however there was such a demand for services that they closed on their first project before any bills were due and the grant was not taken. Mrs. Daly said that the CRC has been self-sufficient from day 1. The CRC's mission is to promote community and economic development by retaining and creating jobs for both profit and non-profit entities. The Corporation has provided more than \$80M in tax exempt financing and there are two additional projects pending for over \$60M.

The Corporation has a new board member, Dr. Anne Franti. The corporation currently has one paid staff person, \$265,000 in assets and \$0 debt. The Corporation meets quarterly and shares an office with the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership.

Mr. Vanags distributed a hand out and gave a brief update on the Prosperity Partnership. He said that in January they will provide a year-end report to the committee.

The SCPP is currently working with 26 active clients, 10 of which are local or BRE projects and 16 are attraction projects or clients. Mr. Vanags offered to visit the office of any board member that would like more insight on their business attraction efforts.

The SCPP continue to keep their schedule of visiting two companies a week. They are working closely with the Workforce Investment Board, local education and training organizations to come up with solutions for the lack of qualified, skilled workforce.

Mr. Vanags said that they will be presenting their marketing plan for the IDA to the entire IDA board on December 12, 2016. The SCPP is currently developing a new website for the Partnership in collaboration with the IDA, LFTC and the CRC. The SCPP has been chosen to host the ASMC Welcome to Saratoga Reception when the Semi-conductor association comes to the region in May. The event will take place at the Canfield Casino. The Saratoga County Prosperity Summit took place on November 10 at the City Center and was a very successful event.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Committee on their hard work in 2016.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Legislative Clerk