

Economic Development Committee Minutes  
June 7, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tim Szczepaniak; Supervisors Vince DeLucia, Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Jack Lawler, Dick Lucia, Tom Richardson and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Lisa Scaccia, WIOA; Shelby Schneider, Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership; Press.

Chairman Szczepaniak called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Mr. Szczepaniak announced that he would need to leave the meeting at 4:30pm due to two major family commitments and will turn the meeting over to Vice Chair Art Johnson at that time.

**On a motion made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the March 8, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to authorize a transfer from the County's Trail reserve Fund in the amount of \$11,250 to provide for a trails grant to the Town of Stillwater. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said that the trails reserve fund was set up in 2015 for any funds remaining in the local assistance line at the end of each year for unfinished projects. Mr. Kemper said that this authorization will move the funds from the reserve fund back to the local assistance line to enable reimbursement to the Town of Stillwater for their project.

Mr. Kemper gave a power point presentation on the status of the Zim Smith Trail Southern Extension.

**Progress:**

Coons Crossing Road to City of Mechanicville. The right of way is underway and they have had discussions with all of the landowners along the corridor and preliminary acquisition maps are being finalized.

The planning department has been working with the Mechanicville School district who is working on a capital project to construct a new bus facility and entrance to their facilities. A small piece of the school district property will be used toward the trail project allowing a parking lot, pedestrian access from Elizabeth Street and a shortcut to and from the school.

Mr. Kemper said that he will come back to the board at a later date for any land purchases needed.

Mr. Kemper said that Coons Crossing is currently a crossing with no pedestrian facilities, the County has already contributed funds towards improvements at this crossing and the final hearing will take place on June 8.

Mr. Kemper said that the Town of Halfmoon and the Saratoga County Water Authority are working on a pump station to extend the water line. The planning department has coordinated with the Town of Halfmoon and the Authority and they are planning to create another parking lot, pocket park and bathroom facilities. The Town of Halfmoon would maintain this new area.

**Trail Extension:**

Due to an amendment in project limits the following projects will be included in the trail extension.

Eastline Road - improved pedestrian crossing.

Round Lake Parking lot – pave parking lot and address drainage issues.

Round Lake to Coons Crossing – pave 3.5 miles of stone dust trail.

Coons Crossing - pave parking lot.

Floud Property Trailhead (Town of Halfmoon and Water Authority) – Create parking and bathroom.

School Bus Trailhead – Create parking at bottom of proposed school bus garage driveway.

**Project Funding:**

TIP Amount – 80% Federal, 20% State       \$4.94M

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grant       \$500,000

(50/50 match \$250K OPRHP, \$250K County Funds)

County Contribution Approximately \$800K (including OPRHP grant match, rough estimate at this time, no additional county funds required)

**Schedule:**

Amend engineering and design contract – June 2017

Conduct public information meeting – Summer 2017

Begin right of way acquisition process – underway

Acquire all right of way – Fall 2017

Engineering and permitting – Underway

Construction – Winter 2018

Mr. Kemper thanked Mike Valentine in his office, Mike is also the County Representative to CDTC and has worked hard to find funding for the trail.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to approve the following two items:**

**Authorize an amendment to the agreement with GPI in the amount of \$95,000 for additional engineering services associated with improvements to the Zim Smith Trail.**

**Authorize the Chairman to sign any and all restrictive covenants by the State as part of any State or army Corps of Engineers approvals related to improvements to the Zim Smith Trail.**

**Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said that as a result of the additional work they were able to complete, an expansion to the Greenman Pedersen agreement is necessary. \$77,384 of the costs are for sub-consultant fees for the additional right of way and survey that will be required. The agreement will be funded by the Zim Smith Trail Capital Account.

The deed covenant covers approximately .12 acres that historic resources have been located in. As a result, the design of the trail has been amended and the trail moved away from this area. NYSHPO is requiring that a permanent restriction be put on any excavating in this area. Mr.

Kemper has checked with the Sewer District and Water Authority and they have no intention of any future improvements in this particular area.

Mr. Szczepaniak commended Mr. Kemper and Mr. Valentine for all of the work they have done on the Zim Smith Trail project. He said that this will probably be one of the greatest trail systems in the State of New York once completed. Mr. Szczepaniak suggested that the information be shared with Gramercy Communications to share the improvements with the public. Mr. Kemper said that the support and commitment of the board of supervisors was a major leverage point in securing the funding. Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Kemper and Mr. Valentine on their work and said that the trail is not only great for the county but is a big boost for the City of Mechanicville.

Mr. DeLucia said that he would like to see additional tourism efforts aimed towards historic areas in Saratoga County. Mr. Lawler suggested that the Chamber of Commerce be invited to present their advertising program for the summer to the Committee.

Mr. Szczepaniak turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Art Johnson as previously mentioned.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to accept \$197,893 for the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program and amending the budget in relation thereto. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Scaccia said that the funding provides employment opportunities to youth throughout Saratoga County. The youth enrolled in this program must meet certain criteria for family income. If the family is receiving SNAP or TANF types of benefits, the youth qualify. There are currently approximately 45 work sites established throughout the county. The increase in funding is due to the raise in minimum wage. Youth that have good attendance, no unexcused absences and good work performance will get \$1 per hour raise halfway through the summer.

**A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to authorize application for and acceptance of Federal Funds for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program for the 2017-2018 program year. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Scaccia said that the total grant funds total \$1,639,645 and Saratoga County is required by law to distribute Warren County and Washington County EOC their share of the funds. Saratoga County's available share of the funds is \$677,741.41 which is a \$52,358.93 decrease from last year. Mrs. Scaccia said that the economy is currently strong in Saratoga County and unemployment rates are low however their services are needed for business due to the worker shortage. Mrs. Scaccia said that they are working with GLOBALFOUNDRIES to provide in house training. They are also working on a project in collaboration with the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership and Metrix Learning.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. DeLucia, to approve the Workforce Development Board Budget for program year 2016-2017 for \$97,500 and authorizing agreements with Warren and Washington Counties to fund WDB services. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Scaccia said that the Workforce Development Board is comprised of business leaders, economic development specialists, chamber leaders and other service providers. The Workforce Development Board has two staff and their job is to oversee the Board and to oversee the services that the career center is providing.

**A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Richardson, to authorize a contract with J. J. Young, LLC to provide administrative services for the Workforce Development Board. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Scaccia said that under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Counties are prohibited from providing administrative services and they must be contracted out. The fee of \$7,750 has been the same since 2011.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, to authorize the Chair to sign the Local Workforce Development Area Service Delivery Memorandum of Understanding. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Scaccia said that then Congress passed the workplace innovation and opportunity act in 2014, the idea behind it was that they wanted all of the different agencies to start working better together in order to provide services to people who need them. Some of the agencies providing employment services include, Office for the Aging, Department of Social Services, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Commission for the Blind and TANF. Mrs. Scaccia said that the purpose of the document is to elaborate on all of the services the departments and agencies are providing and making sure that they are making referrals in an appropriate manner that is easiest for the customers served.

Mrs. Schneider distributed a press release announcing an advisory council created to advance the Next Wave Center project. The Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President of GLOBALFOUNDRIES, Dr. Gary Patton has agreed to chair the 17 member council. The Council will work with Saratoga Prosperity Partnership to attract the right type of clients and understand what the right market opportunities are.

Mrs. Schneider distributed a handout and gave a brief update on the activities of the Prosperity Partnership.

SCPP staff submitted two cooperative business recruitment grants to National Grid. One for a feasibility study for Area 3 in the Town of Halfmoon, the second is for a semiconductor attraction campaign which will help cover the costs for staff to attend the GSA Silicon Summit and Semicon West in San Francisco.

The Saratoga Partnership held a welcome to Saratoga reception for SEMI ASMC on May 17. It was a very successful event with over 320 attendees. Applied Materials was the main sponsor.

Mr. Vanags and Mrs. Schneider recently attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Farm Viability Conference in May. The Partnership is also moving forward with the development of the Saratoga County Economic Index. Staff are enlisting the support and endorsement of local leaders from a variety of industries to serve on a Saratoga Partnership Economic Advisory Council. The council will

advise the partnership on data sources and best practices for economic index development. A draft index is scheduled for public presentation mid-September 2017.

Mrs. Schneider said that CFA Process for the Capital Regional Economic Development Council is coming up and they are looking at identifying projects.

**On a motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board