

MINUTES

Approved 3/13/08

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 14, 2008 3:00 P.M. SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: M. Robertson, Chair; M. Sigler; C. Chock; P. Mackesey; F. Proto (arrived at 3:07 p.m.)

Staff: C. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature; D. Bradac, Employment and Training; M. Armstrong, Area Development; J. Mattick, Workforce Development; J. Kippola, Administration; E. Marx, Planning and Public Works Commissioner; J. Jurkowich, Deputy Planning Commissioner

Guests: Ithaca High School Students – Government Class

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

The following items were to the agenda:

- Appointment – Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
- Written Report from Tompkins County Area Development (information only)

Workforce Development

Employer Survey Results and Workforce Strategy

These two items are being deferred to another meeting. More information is being gathered following the presentation that was held on February 11th concerning a draft workforce study being done relating to topics such as educated workforce, in-commuters, under-employed people, and the need for jobs at the lower skilled level. Ms. Robertson suggested that a presentation also be given to the full Legislature. A brief discussion followed concerning an analysis of diversity information and adding those statistics to the presentation. Ms. Armstrong commented that children are the most diverse group and said she would make information concerning the minority population available to Committee members.

Mr. Proto arrived at this time.

Budget Adjustment

Ms. Mattick reported that this one-time funding of \$163,798 is incentive monies and is part of a plan as distributed to Committee members and approved by the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL). The plan includes 12 different projects to be undertaken over the next year. This money is available from the federal Workforce Investment Act for programs exceeding performance and it is to be used by December 31, 2008.

Ms. Robertson said she had a conversation with Ms. Mattick concerning the addition of “green collar jobs” and suggested that it be added to the plan. Ms. Mattick commented that the Plan was approved as presented to the Committee but can be amended through a process. Ms. Chock said she had the same opinion as Ms. Robertson about the “green collar jobs”. Ms. Chock commended staff for a job well done in exceeding program performance.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following budget adjustment to the full Legislature for approval:

Revenue Acct	Title	Amt	Approp Acct	Title(s)
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6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 20,000	6290.54412	Travel/Training
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 8,000	6290.54442	Professional Services
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 10,000	6290.54330	Printing
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 19,500	6290.52206	Computer Equipment
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 5,000	6290.52230	Computer Software
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 3,000	6290.54470	Building Upgrades
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 4,000	6290.52214	Office Furnishings
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 72,298	6290.54400	Program Expense
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 22,000	6290.54333	Education and Promotion

Explanation: Career Development Facilitator Training for Staff; Web hosting of the Business Portal created for Tompkins County by Chmura Economics and Analytics; Creation and distribution of the Workforce Strategy; Computer and printer upgrades for the One-Stop Center; Prove-it Software to provide customer assessments; Glass partition will be installed in the One-Stop Center computer lab to provide increased privacy between the lab and the resource room; Reception area furniture will be replaced to create a more professional environment; Targeted customized training for machining skills, short term prevocational and occupational skills training, diversity/inclusive environment training for businesses, and literacy project to increase literacy among youth; Marketing and website upgrades.

Funding Concerns

Ms. Mattick reported that the Omnibus Appropriations bill passed in late 2007 included a rescission to the already appropriated funds for the last three years from the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the amount of \$250 million (the system allows a three-year window for spending the money). She explained briefly the reasons for this action and said the State Department of Budget put a hold on the funding in 2007 until the new Governor was in office. There was a six-month period this money was held before Request for Proposals were released.

Of that rescission, New York State's share is approximately \$36 million which is 70 percent of their funding not spent. The funding is therefore recaptured by the federal government. The State will have to bear the cost of a substantial proportion of that amount. It is being estimated that Local Workforce Investment Boards across the State will have to absorb \$6-8 million of the State's amount.

Ms. Mattick said at this time, the full impact of this is unknown, but she is being told not to discontinue what is currently being done in terms of spending. She commented that the funds for 2005 and 2006 have been spent and in the fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, more than half of the funds have already been spent locally. She hopes to have more information on the local impact by the end of March.

Discussions to correct this action are being held with Federal and State representatives through the State and National Associations.

Ms. Chock asked for the record if the County in receiving the letters of obligation authorizes the money to be spent and questioned whether a legal opinion is necessary. She also asked the size of the budget for this year and the last three years. Ms. Mattick said a letter of obligation for 2007 was received. At this time, she briefly provided an overview of the formula funding and how it is disbursed.

It was suggested and the Committee agreed that this issue should be raised at the meeting with Senator Schumer's staff person tomorrow. Ms. Mattick agreed to prepare a written summary to be presented. Ms. Robertson also recommended if appropriate that a resolution be prepared for the March 4th Legislature meeting stating the County's position.

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

Resolution – Public Hearing

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval. Mr. Marx noted that in addition to the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board looking at the parcels in Agricultural District No. 2 they will also go through the Planning Advisory Board prior to going to the Legislature.

RESOLUTION NO. 21 - SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CONTINUATION AND REVISIONS TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 2 (WEST SIDE OF CAYUGA LAKE)

WHEREAS, under New York State Agricultural District Law, it is required that agricultural districts must be renewed every eight years, allowing landowners to apply to become a part of or to exempt all or part of their lands from the district, and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature is the lead agency that must approve the formation of and changes in agricultural districts, and

WHEREAS, the County is required by law to conduct a public hearing for this review and approval, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the public hearing on the continuation of and revisions to Agricultural District No. 2, located within the Towns of Danby, Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, and Ulysses, be held at the County Legislature meeting scheduled for March 18, 2008,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is authorized to place proper notice of this public hearing in the official newspaper of the County.

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Chair's Announcements

Ms. Robertson announced there are conferences being held in the next couple of months regarding Mainstreet Economic Development. If committee members are interested, she has more information.

She also reported on Article X bills being introduced relating to streamlining the siting review and approval process for major electric generating facilities including wind farms. She has written information available if Committee members are interested.

Planning Department

Work Plan

Mr. Marx provided an overview of the Department's work plan for 2008 distributed with the Committee agenda and highlighted the goals, objectives and measures of success.

Ms. Chock asked why the Strategic Tourism Planning Board was not included in the list of advisory boards in the goals section and believes having an overall planner maybe useful. Mr. Marx said the Planning Department is not the support department for that particular advisory board. In the past, staff has offered some assistance and will continue to do so if appropriate. Ms. Kippola said the Planning Department assisted in preparing the five-year strategic plan and said there are other opportunities for collaboration. *Ms. Robertson said one of the topics she would like to discuss this year is the structure of the strategic tourism program including the grant approval process.*

Ms. Chock stated for the record that she would like to see some of the tourism funds used for planning support.

Biggs Site Property

Mr. Marx said discussions need to begin concerning the future of the property around Biggs B. The County owns approximately 37 acres and will likely be considered surplus property. He does not recommend the building remain vacant for a long period of time or be part of the County's maintenance responsibility.

This area will be looked at as a potential nodal development area. The capital plan also assumes revenue from this property and that the County would dispose of the property. The County's land policy will need to be followed including the Government Operations Committee having a specific role as well as the Planning Department. Mr. Marx said there needs to be a discussion on the expectations and direction for proceeding including what committees wish to be involved.

Following discussion, most committee members expressed their support for the County to take its time and evaluate and review options. Mr. Sigler agreed with not leaving the Biggs building vacant for a long period of time. Further discussion followed concerning next steps and possible visioning meetings and the Committee directed Mr. Marx to have a broad discussion with municipal officials to discuss approaches.

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the minutes of December 10 and 18, 2007, as submitted.

Executive Session

It was MOVED Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted voice vote, to hold an executive session to discuss real estate negotiations. An executive session was held at 4:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 4:47 p.m.

Planning Department (continued)

Housing Affordability/Trust Funds

Mr. Marx spoke about a group of housing professionals and Cornell real estate agents who met to discuss the implementation of the housing strategy in particular how Cornell University's \$10 million commitment will fit into that. Cornell is interested in participating in the three items listed in the work program: housing affordability fund, housing trust, and employer assistance program. Discussions are underway concerning the structure of the trust funds and developing a cooperative administrative framework. Each of the entities (County, City, and Cornell) involved will maintain their own funds. Eventually there will be a review board or committee to evaluate proposals and match the most highly ranked proposals with the appropriate funding source.

In response to Ms. Mackesey, Mr. Marx said Cornell is developing a program to assist employees with purchasing housing. Ms. Mackesey also asked that all players be brought to the table including the Town of Ithaca. Mr. Marx said the Town of Ithaca has been actively involved and as this moves forward all municipalities will be involved. Mr. Marx said they are also looking at other models in the State.

A brief discussion followed concerning the criteria and governance of the board and that more information will be available when the structures are in place. It was noted that Paul Mazzarelli of Ithaca

Neighborhood Housing prepared a report outlining principles of how the community could use the \$10 million that Committee members maybe interested in receiving.

Committee Administration

Appointments

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Proto, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following appointments to the full Legislature for approval:

Soil and Water Conservation District

Daniel J. Carey – Farm Bureau representative; term expires December 31, 2010

Greg Stevenson – Legislator; term expires December 31, 2008

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

Daniel D. Konowalow – Farmer representative; term expires December 31, 2011

Resolution – Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Appointments

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval. Ms. Robertson noted the IDA governance committee will be looking at the structure of the IDA this year. *Mr. Proto requested that he begin receiving the IDA minutes.*

RESOLUTION NO. 27 - APPOINTMENTS TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

WHEREAS, Section 856 of the General Municipal Law authorized that the Tompkins County Legislature designate the members of Industrial Development Agency by resolution, now therefore be it RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the following members be appointed to the Industrial Development Agency to serve at the pleasure of the Legislature, effective immediately:

Kathy Luz Herrera - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (City representative)

Michael Koplinka-Loehr - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (Rural representative)

Mike Hattery - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (Rural representative)

Martha Robertson - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (Rural representative)

Jeff Furman - At-large member

Dan Cogan - At-large member

Larry Baum - Tompkins County Area Development Board of Directors representative

RESOLVED, further, That Martha Robertson serve as the Chair of the Industrial Development Agency,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature is authorized and directed to file with the Secretary of State a Certificate of Appointment.

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Liaison Assignments

The liaison assignments as presented to the Committee were accepted.

Committee Calendar

Ms. Robertson distributed copies of the draft calendar for Committee members to add items they wish to have the Committee consider this year. *Ms. Robertson said she would distribute the 2007 Committee goals.*

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.