

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PLANNING COMMITTEE

July 25, 2011

PRESENT:

**Richard Keaveney, Chairman
Jeffrey Braley
Arthur Bassin
Margaret Robertson
Arthur Baer
Robin Andrews**

NOTIFIED:

**Edward Nabozny -notified
Patrick Grattan - notified**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Becky Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk
Ronald Caponera
Kenneth Flood
Ann Cooper
Todd Erling
Patrice Perry**

Public: 3

Press: 1

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:01P.M.

Tourism – A. Cooper

Website Performance -

Statistics from April 1st to July 10th 2011 are in. There is major marketing going on with the website. There was a 34% increase in hits from the previous year. Page views were up 38%.

At the November meeting she will have a more in depth review for the Committee.

The correlation between revenues and statistics should be looked into.

Discussion ensued on Star Reporting and what kind of incentive we can give to ensure those who do not consistently report, contribute their information.

Upcoming Major Events:

July 30th – First Annual Friends of the Farmer event. It will take place at the Copake Country Club. There will be tastings, music, family activities, and the fee is economical. At the end of the evening the event Taste of the Hudson Valley will take place. Proceeds, if any, will go to a scholarship that will benefit the son or daughter of a farmer, looking to pursue farming in college. This is taking the place of Columbia County Bounty. More information is available on the Tourism website.

August 12th -14th is the first annual Hudson Music Festival. It will be partnering with the Hudson Black Arts and Cultural Festival. This will take place in the city of Hudson. There is more information on the website. This is a free event.

September 10th - 3rd Annual Taste of Hudson.

A. Cooper announced that she believes all of these events can grow and become something of importance to the County. These are three events the Tourism Department is very closely monitoring. There was discussion on the Falcon Ridge Festival. A. Baer said it went very well.

Transportation – K. Flood

Coordination with MAS and DSS:

K. Flood attended a meeting with Paul Mossman and MAS, who is the coordinator of Medicaid transportation for the State. He has asked MAS to ensure Medicaid clients first choice is public transportation. Ken told them to come up with a plan as to how to achieve this by the end of the week. Medicaid clients will not be charged to get on the bus. He explained how the bus system will work. Discussion ensued. It was mentioned that tracking reports will eventually be provided

Extension of Contract for Bus Operation:

The Contract with Cossackie Transport will terminate December 31st. K. Flood would need to do a RFP to award the contract. Due to the lack of response to RFPs for this is previous years, and the fact that we can extend the Contract with Cossackie Transport for a year or two at the same rate, upon same terms and conditions, K. Flood recommends extending the current contract for one year. This will give them a year of data with MAS to work with next year and bring in further competition. He will wait to do a resolution and present at a later committee date. A. Baer would like a report card on Cossackie Transport so the committee can see how the company is doing.

Agriculture: T. Erling

Farmland Protection Plan Update -

Handout was given. Noted that cost of production in the County is higher than the cost of goods sold. This is 100% correlated to milk prices. The size of farms has changed significantly, as farms have become much smaller. Chairman Keaveney asked if we can find statistics on leasing land vs. owning. T. Erling responded that some of this can come from the Agriculture Assessment, and was also a direct question in the survey they gave. The Agriculture Board has asked T. Erling to work with the Columbia Land Conservancy and Cooperative Extension to do a presentation at the fair this year. The National Association of Counties wrote an article on what Counties can do to support agriculture. Four very specific angles they highlight are:

Food Policy Council

Farm to school

Infrastructure Development

Agriculture Conservation easements.

He will email this to the supervisors.

A. Baer asked if T. Erling could provide a copy of the chart on the last page of the handout excluding dairy.

It was mentioned that horse numbers were significant in the report. It dropped down and came right back up in 2007.

T. Erling then announced the Farmland Protection Board is right on track with their matrix. We will have to pass a resolution in January, and the Farmland Protection Board will have to do the same.

Mobile Slaughter Houses were briefly discussed.

Economic Development – K. Flood

Flanders' Job Fair Results:

Interviews took place July 11 and 12th. They were very pleased with the number and quality of people. They plan to offer around 20 jobs and there were 30 people that interviewed at these particular interviews.

The Job Fair at the college went very well. There was a bus, signs went out. 439 new people filed applications. This is in addition to the 200 already filed. Flanders immediately needs 150 employees. By October 2012 they will need around 180 employees, and they believe it will eventually go up to 200-300 employees. They did work with DSS. A. Baer would like to know how many unemployed people applied for jobs. It was questioned if this information could be obtained from Flanders.

Resolution Request - Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to execute a final application on behalf of Columbia County with the Office of Community Renewal for a grant. This is a block grant. The resolution was amended to state at the maximum amount of \$350,000.00.

Resolution Request – Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to execute a grant agreement with CEDC and to take all necessary actions to secure funds from the HTFC (OCR) to assist HVC, LLC. Noted that the money will stay with the County and injections will go to CEDC. Public hearings will be held the first and second week of August regarding this at 401 State Street. Motion to approve both resolutions as amended by A. Bassin, seconded by M. Roberts, motion carried.

Refer to Finance.

K. Flood gave a Briefing on Governor Cuomo's Economic Development Regional Councils

<http://governor.ny.gov/press/072011consolidatedfundingapplication%20>

A hand out was passed around. He will need to build coalitions with other counties. A meeting will take place at the end of this week and they are looking for big media projects. M. Robertson requested that K. Flood keep a woman in her town who owns cows (Regional Dairy Center) in mind for this.

K. Flood announced that they are moving forward with the Greenport Hotel. He had been delayed per the removal of asbestos.

Ground Water Resource Mapping or CLC's GIS Initiative – K. Flood and P. Perry

Last month the Columbia Land Conservancy gave a presentation requesting the County apply for the Greenway Grant Application for GIS reading abilities. P. Perry have a brief history of this.

At this time they have come across Ground Water Resource Mapping which includes rural water maps. They need to make a decision to go with CLC's GIS Initiative OR Ground Water Resource Mapping. It was requested that EMC should be brought in on the decision. K. Flood would like to apply for money to allow them to do the water resource mapping, and at the same time have Real Property, Planning, and MIS, coordinate a plan to implement a true GIS system, beneficial to not only towns. After discussion A. Bassin made a motion to apply for a greenway grant to support CLC's GIS initiative, seconded by A. Baer, motion carried. Refer to the MIS committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

The Committee decided that the ground water resource mapping grant should still stay on the agenda, and be looked into further.

Conference Objective Form: 73rd Annual New York Planning Federation (NYPF) Planning and Zoning, Albany, NY 10/10/2011-10/11/2011. 8 people attending at a total cost of \$1,245.00. They were not able to attend last year. Motion to approve by M. Robertson, seconded by R. Andrews, motion carried.

2012 Budget –

Budget was submitted Friday. He cut .4 by 22% as he did not have personnel to cut. The CEDC Board requested an increase. There are some increases in the Mass Transportation budget due to the expected relocation of DSS. They are running low below budget. The bottom line from 2011 to 2012 is flat.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:51 P.M. by A. Baer, seconded by A. Bassin, motion carried.

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