

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 6:00 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Odell, Chagnon, Starks, Himelein, O'Connell

Others: Tampio, Dennison, McCoy, McCord, D. Conroe, P. Stage

Chairman Odell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (12/13/17)

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Chagnon

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointments & Re-Appointment – Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board

Chairman Odell: Any questions from the committee? This is housekeeping to keep everyone in line. George replacing Vince, Don replacing Kevin and Jay staying on board. Any comments, questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Re-Appointments - Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board

Chairman Odell: Any questions or comments?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Extension of Lease Agreement for Department of Planning & Economic Development at the BWB Center

Mr. McCord: This is a standard resolution that we put in every year because the IDA is a public authority and therefore under the law we have to put together a contract with them which

requires a resolution. So the amount has not changed since 2004. The only thing that has changed is the square footage since our move over to the BWB building which still calculates for us, our payment, lower than what the standard County rate is which is \$9.00 a square foot.

Chairman Odell: Any questions for Mr. McCord? Don, you're right, I looked back to see the same rates we had approved in our resolutions 127-16 and 21-17 of last year so well done. IT appears this nice facility is working well for you. Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Agreement with County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency for Attraction and Development of Tourism Related Businesses

Mr. McCord: This is a contract we put together with the IDA. We funded in the amount of \$50,000 which is for the marketing component and the development of new attractions and events related to tourism. The funds from this go to help support the efforts of Michelle Turner, our Vice President of marketing who has been working on the LECOM event as well as Gran Fondo and the development of other new events here in Chautauqua County to attract tourism dollars to County.

Legislator Starks: I did want to ask a question. Don, could you just define new? So do they just get it once for new events? Do you just support them the first year out?

Mr. McCord: Actually this is a contract where we're in our, I believe, third year.

Legislator Starks: Right, of the marketing of such things when you are calling them a new event like for the third, fourth year, are you still helping LECOM from this funding?

Mr. McCord: This particular funding is for the person within our –

Legislator Starks: Oh, so it's for a position?

Mr. McCord: Yes, it's for a position that is associated with seeking out new events and assisting them in helping them market the County.

Legislator Starks: So it's for a position.

Mr. McCord: Right, not the event.

Legislator Starks: When I was listening, I heard it going towards the event.

Legislator Chagnon: So were there new events in 2017?

Mr. McCord: There were not. It's a lot of the – time allotment has been spent making sure the LECOM event has gotten off the ground and to reduce the amount that we have had to support it through the 3% occupancy tax regarding sales and marketing.

Legislator Chagnon: Following up on Christine's excellent question, do we anticipate new events in 2018?

Mr. McCord: I can say that I would hope so but we really don't have any specific ones slated that are already targeted to begin.

Legislator Starks: So part of the resolution does describe existing tourism related.

Legislator Chagnon: But in 2017 there were no new events and we know of no anticipated new events in 2018 so is that a concern or are we comfortable with just continuing to support the events that –

Legislator Starks: So I guess it's defining new of a new context.

Mr. McCord: I know that we are always looking out for that and the closest to a new event would be the Porter Cup which is going to be associated with the LECOM event. It won't be part of the LECOM week, it will be a separate week but I know this position, Michelle Turner, our Vice President, will be in Buffalo tomorrow night to kick off the Porter Cup event which will be a whole another junior golf event that happens for a week after the LECOM. I don't necessarily (*inaudible*) because it's all golf to me. I don't necessarily think of that as a new event but I guess that technically a new event.

Chairman Odell: The amount if concurrent with our budget amount, Mr. Vice Chair, correct?

Legislator Chagnon: Yes.

Chairman Odell: Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Agreement with County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency for Industrial Development and Promotion

Mr. McCord: This is our standard resolution, I guess, because once again, the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency for the last two years has been at a \$145,000. Prior to that they had been at \$125,000 since approximately 2004. So this amount that is being proposed this year is the same as last year. I know that there was some concern because the resolution we submitted last year in January, to put together a contract, was \$125,000. The purpose behind that was last year we had asked for the additional \$20,000 on top of that for the Kraft Beverage grant which was unsuccessful. Our commitment to the committee was if it was unsuccessful we're going to return those funds to the general fund which we did. And a similar

situation will occur here. The primary funds will be contracted with the Chautauqua County IDA and the \$125,000 for the standard services that they have provided regards to business assistance and industry assistance, insight evaluation, which is what occurs under this specific contract and the \$20,000 we will be coming back to talk to you hopefully in February or March although I see that we've already committed a few presentations in February, about an economic development strategy.

Chairman Odell: Any questions?

Legislator Chagnon: Mr. Chairman, you and I spoke about my confusion with this \$20,000 yesterday and Don helped clarify that for me today that last year the budget for 2017 actually was \$145,000 but the resolution was for \$125,000 and that is what the contract was made for and that is what was expended, the \$125,000. So everything is in order.

Chairman Odell: As it should be, thank you for clarifying that. That question did come up. Any other questions for Don on this resolution?

Legislator Himelein: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get kind of a list of ongoing projects? I don't know if there is a list out there or not or if everybody knows that list, but I would appreciate that Don.

Mr. McCord: We would be glad to provide you with a list of the projects that we can that aren't confidential.

Legislator Himelein: O.k.. I understand that there are some.

Chairman Odell: Anything else under this resolution for Don?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Agreement with County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency for the Business Assistance Program

Mr. McCord: This particular resolution is approximately \$59,155 and this is a differentservice than what is provided under the previous resolution. The previous resolution deals with promotion, site development and so on. This is very specific to keeping a data base of existing sites and properties within Chautauqua County which is posted through Statebook(?) and others, so businesses that are seeking locations can see that and find that. It also pays in part for a business permit center which is handled through the Small Business Development Center over at JCC to assist local businesses and industries with getting through the permitting process. They provide us a quarterly report of how many businesses they have assisted and in what municipalities they were located in.

Chairman Odell: A lot of additional details as well. Very good. Any questions on this resolution? And the appropriate funds naturally we have in the appropriations for the 2018 budget?

Legislator Chagnon: Correct.

Chairman Odell: All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Agreement with Small Business Development Center at Jamestown Community College

Mr. McCord: This particular resolution is directly with the Small Business Development Center. You will notice the amount of \$34,653 has remained standard for a very long time. This is specifically to assist small businesses. It's the one on one counseling, it's the creation of business plans, it's the training components for the social media and other programs that they put on throughout the year to help people that are entrepreneurs in small businesses here in Chautauqua County.

Chairman Odell: Any questions for Don on this one? Do you have any idea of what percentage of the Small Development Business Center this actually encompasses?

Mr. McCord: No, off the top of my head, I don't Mark. I did look that up at one point because I wanted to see what their overall budget was and what percentage we were providing overall in the way of funding because some of it does come from the Federal government. It's probably been a year and a half, two years, since I've looked at that number so I'm reluctant to give the percentage.

Chairman Odell: And the numbers match that has been appropriated?

Legislator Chagnon: Yes sir.

Chairman Odell: Very good. Any other questions?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Odell: Don, one more thing, this is just a bit of housekeeping and Dave this kind of goes along the line of what you were asking for before and this would be very helpful for us as a Committee especially going forward but I would like to see maybe a post-mortem of the 2017 fiscal now that that has come to pass. To come up with an upcoming discussion next month or March, whenever you can pull this together. I know that you have a lot on your plate too but what we are looking for more specifically is an explanation of what some of the budget might be utilized for specifically in the departments of promotion of industry, community contracts, (*inaudible*) planning. A bit of minutia that we can delve into and really focus on (*cross talk*).

Mr. McCord: Do you want to target for February or March?

Legislator Starks: How about before (*inaudible*).

Chairman Odell: I think March would probably be sufficient. We're already seeing February already being booked up which is good.

Mr. McCord: We'd be glad to do that. That's not a problem.

Chairman Odell: It would be helpful especially with Kevin being new on the Committee and all of us just to be good to (*inaudible-cross talk*) budget time where does this go and what's happened.

Mr. McCord: Yeah, that's o.k. So if we happen to hit the date like the February meeting or if there is a lot in March and I know that people are already thinking about presenting to you in March although they may not approach you yet, so when we get to that point it will probably be a long meeting.

Chairman Odell: Thank you very much.

Legislator Chagnon: Is there anything that you can update us on with the situation with the SAMS Club departure and outcome?

Mr. McCord: I would say that there isn't a great deal at the moment to be updated on the SAMS Club situation. A large number of employees are only part time who work there and we view it as a very unfortunate thing although much like the employees, we had no prior knowledge of this coming and this is a decision like many past decisions that has occurred at the corporate level outside the local level. We do understand that the owner of the property is Wal-Mart so we really don't know what their process is with developing this. We're hoping that - it's a beautiful building, a beautiful location, high volume, that perhaps another retail may have an interest in that. But then on the other hand our concern is that the ownership of the property and how they would feel about another retail outlet (*inaudible*). It's about all we have at this time although we have already reached out to a few folks. It's just that we're still in the process.

Chairman Odell: Thank you Don. O.k., now onto discussions.

Discussion – Chautauqua Lake Association – Doug Conroe

Other

Chairman Odell: Anything else?

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Chagnon to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (7:07 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Kathy K. Tampio, Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Legislature