

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

**May 20, 2020, 6:00 pm, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
And Live Streamed for Public Viewing**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Odell, Starks, Harmon, Ward, Muldowney

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, DeAngelo, Chagnon, McCord, Geise

Chairman Odell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (4/16/20)

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Harmon.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Odell: Anyone to speak to the privilege of the floor tonight?

Clerk Tampio: Yes, I received one communication by email this afternoon that I can read for you at this time. This is from Gerrit Cain of Falconer-Frewsburg Road in Jamestown, New York.

*“Planning and Economic Development Committee Members,
The petition before you was started on 4/21/20 in response to growing concerns of a wide range of citizens and users of our county lakes and waterways in regards to the trend of increasing herbicide applications. While we recognize that herbicide treatment is a potential tool for managing excessive weed growth in certain situations, the funding and facilitation by local and county government has led to overuse and imprudent scale of application. There is also the issue of whether limited public funds should be used given the uncertainty of long term ecosystem, aquatic and human health impacts of large scale treatments. This same petition is being shared with municipal bodies in the county. Additionally, information is being gathered in terms of funding sources, facilitation, permitting, application, and monitoring of herbicide treatments going forward. This information will likely be compiled and shared through multiple sources to further educate user groups and public at large. Thank you for your time.”*

Chairman Odell: Thank you. I believe that has been distributed to members of the Legislature. If you would be kind enough to forward a copy of that communication to the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Alliance as well, just for their situational awareness. Before we get into resolutions, I'm really so pleased that we are beginning to see light at the end of this long, and arduous, tunnel with the Phase I reopening commencing. I would like to personally thank Senator Borrello and Assemblyman Goodell for their staunch leadership during this pandemic, and pro-actively proposing a very sound plan that would allow for a safe, and responsible, phased reopening of our NY Economy. I would also like to highlight some of the work going on behind the scenes here in our world of Planning and Economic Development during the past few months of this pandemic.

During that fateful week of March 16th, we saw the Governor begin the shut-down process which changed dramatically on a daily basis until the 100% closure of all non-essential business was mandated by executive order on March 20th. Our County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency board met and unanimously passed an emergency resolution to offer a Working Capital Loan Program for our local businesses to help meet short term shortfalls. A low interest rate and streamlined application process were a few attributes that were appreciated by our business community that needed it. We were extremely fortunate to be able to use a portion of the AI Tech revolving loan fund for this purpose and thanks to the IDA for that. Word of this spread to other counties throughout the state who also emulated similar programs on their own. We are seeing great collaboration throughout all sectors.

Some of the Business success stories that we've seen out there that we've seen the press releases on include:

Trinity Biotech – Making Critical Test kit components.

SKF collaboration with the Resource Center partnering for face masks to keep the workers safe.

Jamestown Plastic and Jamestown Container partnering for the face shield production and packaging.

All this is happening at lightning speed and this is great.

We partnered with JCC and developed a PPE Grant Program to provide matching funds to employers to help provide PPE Equipment for each of their employees, and JCC is providing individualized workplace assessments to again help ensure safe, and responsible, reopenings.

We are grateful to have had matching financial support from the Carnahan Jackson Foundation, the Gebby Foundation, the NCCF, D&F Rotary. We also appreciate the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for providing financial and technical assistance to our non-profit entities.

Through the CCPEG we are holding weekly COVID-19 Economic Resilience Meetings to keep all sectors abreast of changes and provide direction for stakeholders in the public, private, and institutional sectors

We are also grateful for the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce's leadership as well, for keeping us, its members, and the public informed and engaged through their weekly

teleconferences and for helping to develop the vital reopening templates for our various business sectors to utilize in order to reopen.

Lastly I would like to recognize our Chairman of the Legislature, Pierre Chagnon and A&C Chairman, Chuck Nazzaro for representing our legislative body in budget review meetings which are happening twice weekly to monitor budget shortfalls due to Covid-19. We are in for some serious challenges going forward and we are grateful for their leadership.

There has been a lot going on behind the scenes and what I've discussed here is just the tip of the iceberg, but thought it would be important to communicate. I also want to recognize County Executive Wendel, Health and Human Services Commissioner Schuyler, which I'm sure the other committees have already done. If anyone on the call, or viewing this has a question pertaining to the reopening, I encourage you to contact me, or our IDA CEO Mark Geise for direction. Let's move into resolutions.

Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointment – Chautauqua County Planning Board

Chairman Odell: The Planning Board does a lot of work behind the scenes and this is what helps guide us going forward with capital projects and (*inaudible*) and it acts as a great sounding board for us and we're looking at the appointment of Kristy Kathman from Jamestown, New York. She works at the Jamestown Renaissance Corp. and is a member of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic (*inaudible*.) She has a good resume and a good background. I think she'll make a great addition to the board. Any questions? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Odell: I think at this point we will squeeze in the late resolution before we move onto the motion.

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2020 Budget Appropriations and Revenues Due to COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Year-to-Date Financial Impacts

Mrs. Dennison: I'll share my screen and go over the current version. This resolution is the resolution that the COVID finance team has been working on and it is the summation of all of the requests of department heads to trim their budget in light of expected revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19. As you are aware, you got the memorandum from the County Executive and he asked all department heads to cut their local share by 15-20%. We did receive responses from all department heads and all of those responses were reviewed by the COVID Finance team. Some of them we are not proposing to implement at this time and this would be the ones that we think are feasible to implement as soon as possible and a lot of these are already in progress. These changes represent about 6% reduction in local share, but it does trim the local share for the County by about \$4 million. That \$4 million, we are proposing to offset those local share reductions with a reduction in the sales tax revenue because we are projecting sales tax to be short of budget between \$4-8million. This is the first amendment and we expect there will be others.

(Inaudible) is the implementation of the voluntary furlough. We did not include any cost savings with that at this time because the responses to the request for furlough are just coming in. Employees were asked to respond by today. At this time we don't know what those savings are. We will propose another amendment to further reduce local share once we know what the savings from the furlough program is.

That's kind of the overall mission behind the resolution and now I'll go through each category and give you some high points and then I'd be happy to answer any specific questions. We do have a small reduction in the use of fund balance *(inaudible)* reserve for capital. The department of Public Facilities proposed reducing the complete streets program by \$21,456. So, that project was originally funded from the capital reserve, so since we're proposing to spend less on that endeavor the savings go back to the capital reserve.

Next, we have increases in appropriations. There is some surprise expressed that we are increasing appropriations at a time when our objective is to reduce the local share. These increases come out of the departments that are looking at their full year picture and factored in *(inaudible)* they expect to happen before they project how much they can save. Most of these increases are due to unbudgeted increase in wages associated with the new CSEA 6300 contracts since the contract was ratified after the budget was prepared. The budget does not include the effects of the wage increases nor does it include the anticipated savings in health insurance costs. So, like I said, some departments factored that into their proposed budget picture.

The next and largest section is decrease in appropriations. As you can see these *(inaudible)* almost every department. There are lots of different programs being reduced. In Public Facilities on Monday we did pass an amendment to the Jamestown Airport. I misinterpreted Mr. Almeter's reduction in overtime and I used too much of a reduction, so we scaled that back a little bit. One thing I would like to note for this particular committee is the reduction in 6420.TOUR because in addition to trying to implement a reduction in sales tax we also recognized that occupancy taxes will be far below budget this year. This resolution also includes a reduction in the occupancy tax revenues and the programs associated with them. So, here's the first one of \$210,000 reduction in the tourism program funded by the occupancy tax. The second half of the occupancy tax reduction is here in the 8020-watershed category- \$242,000 in projects funded by the 2% occupancy reserve. I also want to draw your attention to the inter-fund transfers. A lot of these savings are in the road and road machinery funds, so in order to affect the sales tax reduction- how that works is the money saved in the D and the DM funds- that reduction in expenses is offset by a reduction in revenue by the general fund. So, there is less expense in the general fund because we're sending less money to the D and the DM funds. That's why those large inter-fund transfer changes are included.

You'll see at the bottom is the second amendment. The Sheriff is proposing to purchase almost no cars in 2020 and I realized late today that we have to reduce his capital expenditures and his capital revenue. In 2020 – the vehicles that he does not purchase reduce his operating budget in 2020 by 25% of that purchase and that reduction was already included but originally we failed to include the reduction in the capital account, so this change will mean that he does not have money to buy new vehicles. The total would change to reflect this addition.

We had a couple of bright spots on the revenue side due to the CARES Act and also due to the changes in the operations of the airports with the FBO. We are expecting some additional revenue at both Jamestown and Dunkirk Airports.

The final category are decreases to revenue. The main items are these two items here which show the decrease in the sales tax of just over \$4 million. You will also see here in the

(*inaudible*) property tax hotel room occupancy tax the reduction in occupancy tax revenue of over \$440,000- over 20%. You'll also see a decrease in the inter-fund transfer revenues in the D and the DM funds and that's the effect of less money coming from the A fund. The final line that is highlighted was amended in Public Safety today. It goes with the increase here, so the Sheriff has less capital revenue and less capital expenditures. Those are the high points and I'd be happy to answer any specific questions.

Chairman Odell: Thank you very much for that well explained presentation. It's appreciated and I'm glad to see some bright spots. Questions from the committee?

Legislator Starks: Do we need to amend the resolution in regards to the amount related to the cars for the Sheriff's Department or has that already been done in another committee?

Mrs. Dennison: That was already done in Public Safety, so you do not need to do it.

Legislator Starks: Thank you.

Chairman Odell: Good question. Anything else? We talked to our department heads under our department (*inaudible*) and they have done what has been asked of them, so we really can't ask anymore. I appreciate everything that you and the budget team has done. All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Motion - Request for New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board Reporting

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. This motion springs from a regional collaboration of county legislators to try and get more transparency and opportunity for input into this advisory board that the Governor has formed to direct the re-opening of the economy of the state. I'm sure we're all painfully aware of the struggles that we've had in this region to begin opening up our economy and this is a very influential advisory board that we just want to seek their transparency and awareness and opportunity for public and local input if it's appropriate. This effort was led by the Erie County Legislature and I'm proud to stand with them in seeking this motion to go to the Governor's office as well as our state representatives to try and gain that additional transparency, openness and opportunity for input.

Legislator Starks: Thank you Pierre.

Chairman Odell: Yes, thank you very much. Asking for transparency is not too much. We will pass this along to the full legislature for next week's meeting for voting and approval. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

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

Unanimously Carried (6:27 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Kathy K. Tampio, Clerk/Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk