

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

**August 19, 2020, 6:00 pm, Virtual Meeting via Zoom
And Live Streamed for Public Viewing**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

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

Others: Tampio, Ames, Dennison, McCord, McCoy, Chagnon

Chairman Odell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (7/15/20)

MOVED by Legislator Harmon, SECONDED by Legislator Muldowney.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Odell: Madam Clerk, do we have anything submitted for privilege of the floor, this evening?

Clerk Tampio: No, we have not received any communications for privilege of the floor.

Chairman Odell: Thank you very much.

Proposed Resolution – Environmental Assessment of Projects for 2021 2% Occupancy Tax
Projects

Mr. McCoy: This is a follow-up, if you will, to previous resolution where the Legislature approved to be able to do the environmental review process for these projects. That's been completed. They are all being typed as unlisted actions under the SEQRA law of New York State and as such, they have been given a negative declaration indicating they have no significant adverse environmental impact.

Chairman Odell: You can see that in the attachments along with each of the individual forms. You see the accumulative declaration here. Thank you very much Steve and Madam Clerk for the detail for this year's round. Again, this is the tentative round. It's going to be based on occupancy tax revenues actually generated and received to budget for about what, a quarter a million dollars per year, Dave, on average? So, that's what we're going forward with. The

numbers will tell as the year goes on. Thank you very much for that. To the committee, any questions, comments or concerns?

Legislator Starks: No thank you.

Legislator Muldowney: No.

Legislator Ward: All set.

Chairman Odell: (*Inaudible*) the eight projects, they are all diverse and I'm actually glad to see a couple of projects going into some of our smaller lakes, like Bear Lake. That was good to see but of these, I know in the ranking, the ranking is done by the panel, but I mean, your personal assessment, what do you think is probably the most impactful, the type of projects aren't we seeing that is going to (*inaudible*) as payback and benefit?

Mr. McCoy: I think they are all very good projects. Particularly excited about the Lake Friendly Lawn Care. I think that reaches out to, what I would call the little lakes. Bear Lake, Cassadaga Lake, and I think those folks out there, the development that they have seen around their lakes have been very good example. When we look at Chautauqua Lake, it's clearly developed, a lot of hard shoreline and (*inaudible*) for Chautauqua Lake. Work at Findley Lake, again, very intently developed, a lot of hard shorelines. It's a very small and shallow lake and it's really impacted strongly by algae blooms. It doesn't get the attention because they don't let (*inaudible*) done here in other lakes. Cassadaga Lake which isn't (*inaudible*) that don't have a lot of hard shoreline, there are areas that are undeveloped. They have some expansive wet lands around there that helped improve water quality. They (*inaudible*) much better in a warm summertime when the algae blooms are tougher on other lakes. I think for stakeholders, particularly the property owners, have an opportunity to understand the impacts of what they do. If they have a lawn service come in that puts (*inaudible*) and phosphorus and maybe insecticides, or other herbicides on their property on a regular basis (*inaudible*) in to the lake, causes impacts. Or if they chose to bag and haul away their (*inaudible*) and leaves, a good way to do it. There have been times when people have actually raked that stuff out into the lake which is kind of funny. I remember going to a seminar held by the New York State Federation of Lakes up in Lake Morain(?) about 4 years ago. They (*inaudible*) us a collection of some of the most passionate people in New York State about the health of their lakes and I looked out across the lake and there is a guy who's raking yards and yards of leaves right out into the lake they are just floating away. It was kind of like the poster child for what not to do. So, I think this is a good project. I really hope that we'll be able to fund it in 2021.

Chairman Odell: Good, and that is number two on the list and I appreciate the insight and personal narrative Dave.

Mr. McCoy: The other one on the list is the Village of Lakewood. It's great that they are doing what they are doing. If not for Chautauqua Lake, what would the Village of Lakewood be? So, it's good that they are stepping up to the plate and doing these storm water related projects. A very good thing. Good model for the other Chautauqua Lake communities.

Chairman Odell: As we are just getting the approve of the Environmental Quality Review process here during this legislative cycle and I see Chairman Chagnon is on the call today and will ask the question. The best of your knowledge, none of these projects have been started, correct?

Mr. McCoy: I'm sorry, could you repeat the question? You broke up a little bit.

Chairman Odell: Yes, sorry about that. I see that we have the negative declarations and at this point in the legislative cycle, we're just going through the Environmental Quality Review Act detail, I see Chairman Chagnon is on today's meeting as well, so I'm just going to ask the question just to ensure that none of these projects have been already started yet to the best of your knowledge?

Mr. McCoy: None have to my knowledge.

Chairman Odell: Very good, just have to ask the question, thank you Dave. With that, any other questions from the committee?

Legislator Starks: No thank you. Thank you for your great explanation.

Chairman Odell: So, (*inaudible*) further ado, any questions or comments?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Chairman Odell: I have a few things, but I'll defer over the committee first. Chris, Tom, Kevin, Bill?

Legislator Starks: I have no other "Other".

Legislator Ward. I do have one "other" and you can tell me if this is not the appropriate time but I have been in conversation with Andrew Nixon as well as County Executive Wendel about some recognition for folks, for businesses in Chautauqua County who are leading the way with regard to safety guidelines. Safety guidelines that have been put forth both by New York State and – I'm sorry, the COVID safety guidelines that have been put forth by New York State and for Chautauqua County. We have come up with a plan, we've gotten some nominations and I will be sending a request to bring these commendations in front of the Legislature next week.

Chairman Odell: That's appropriate Bill. Very good.

Legislator Ward: I believe that it will serve as incentive for other folks who might be either following the guidelines or maybe need to get up to speed. We're really excited about it.

Chairman Odell: Give recognition where it's due and give someone some sight and emulate. So it's good points Bill, thank you for that. From the assignments from last month,

anyone on the committee have feedback yet or able to touch base with any agencies that they were assigned to, to touch base over the budget.

Legislator Starks: I still need contact information from the libraries.

Legislator Muldowney: I have not but I will at the next meeting.

Legislator Harmon: Same here.

Chairman Odell: O.k., thanks guys. We'll make sure of that for next month. The prioritization of budgetary items. We did some (*inaudible*) last week and (*inaudible*) that too. Chairman Chagnon forward to County Executive for his review and disposition so that's been sent up stream.

Some other good notes, Bill, I see you are on the call today, we had the final presentation of the Chautauqua County Economic Development Strategy Plan by Camoin Associates at 3:00 this afternoon and that was great. (*Inaudible*) call whose on the committee, Chris for sure, back then, our PED committee helped form this partnership for economic growth back at the beginning of the funding, the study back in, I think it was 2018 so as you recall, it started out with the Phase I data gathering and then into the Phase II for the formation of the work groups and mission statements and each of them have been completed and (*inaudible*) many thanks to the Chautauqua Regional Development Corporation, the IDA, the Ralph Wilson Foundation, Gebbie Foundation, and of course, our fellow colleagues in the Legislature for funding the study. The next steps that are coming up will be obviously the continuation since you build the collaboration among the various parties within the partnership for economic growth with an emphasis on focus on market recruiting people and businesses which we have done. So, go to CHQpartnership.com, all the details are there including brochure that we helped fund last year. Even with the COVID crisis here, (*inaudible*) long term funding channels and continue to advance the priority projects regardless. At the end of the day, of course, monitor progress. We can't quantify what hasn't been measured so make sure we're measuring that on the back ends. So it was a good meeting, good wrap-up. Bill, I saw you on it. Hopefully you learned something from it.

Legislator Ward: That's the other thing. I've said this before, as a new Legislator, not only is it amazing to see what kind of talent you have assembled, we all have assembled, but also the ability through things like that to get folks like me on board and believe me, if I can get on board, the public can. You guys are astounding with regard to that kind of presentation.

Chairman Odell: It's just, at this point Bill, we're at the point where we start shaking the tambourine a little bit. As a master musician, you would know that more than anyone. Now is a good time.

Legislator Ward: Well, base players should know it too.

Chairman Odell: The foundations are in place and that's good, focusing, driving forward and thanks again, especially to Mark Geise at IDA and our Deputy County Executive for economic development for kind of leading that course. Did a fine job for that.

Last big piece of news, this again goes back to our PED committee from some work that began in 2017, regarding NYSERDA clean energy communities certification or qualification that we received last year. The President of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will be here in Chautauqua County next Wednesday morning to a little unveiling of some of our electric vehicles that we got to add to the fleet at the DPF, 9:30 next Wednesday. So stay tuned and again, thanks to our colleagues in the Legislature for the support. Back then, I wasn't even chair, Senator Borrello was humbly in this position that I hold today. He was our PED Chair and thank him very much for the support and guidance and not getting that lost too. Don McCord on the call and everything at the Planning Department, and collaboration with Planning, DPF and the County Executive's office has brought this to fruition. So looking forward to hosting them next week. It's actually on a Legislature day so we'll have a busy day going into next Wednesday. That's all I've got on the soapbox. Chris, do you have any others?

Legislator Starks: I have no other "other". I love saying that.

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

Unanimously Carried (6:15 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Sr. Stenographer