



MINUTES
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 14, 2019, Chambers – 5:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: By Hon. Paul Pinckney, Chairman at 5:35 P.M.

MEMBERS: Legislators Keith Batman, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Charlie Ripley (Vice Chair), and Ben Vitale

EXCUSED: Legislator Andrew Dennison, Patrick Mahunik

OTHERS: Legislators Christopher Petrus, Joseph DeForest, Elane Daly, Timothy Lattimore, Michael Didio (6 p.m.), Ryan Foley, County Attorney Christopher Palermo, Lloyd Hoskins, Director Assigned Council/Youth Bureau, Doug Kierst, Director Soil and Water District, Tracy Verrier, Director Cayuga Economic Development Agency (CEDA), Catherine Moran, Interim Executive Director Cornell Cooperative, Ron Kuck, Temporary Agriculture Program Educator Ann Kubarek, Employment and Training Director, Denise Spingler, Cayuga County 9-1-1 Administrator, Sheriff Brian Schenck, Detective Lt. Frederick Cornelius, Jay DeWispelaere, Probation Director, Stephen Lynch, Director, Suzanne Gauthier, Administrative Assistant, Planning and Economic Development, Trish Kerr, Ed Darrow

MINUTES TO APPROVE: Charlie Ripley motioned to approve the minutes of July 10, 2019, 2nd by Aileen McNabb-Coleman. All members present voted in favor, passed.

APPOINTMENTS:

Cayuga-Cortland Workforce Development Board:

Carla DeShaw, 213 N. Main St., Canastota, NY 13032, term – 7-1-19 to 6-30-22 (Re-appt.)
Scott Reilly, 101 Columbus St., Auburn, NY 13021, term – 8-1-19 to 12-31-22 (New appt.)

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency

Gary Clark, 14942 West Bay Rd., Sterling, NY 13156, Term – 8-27-19- until the Bay Betterment Assoc. submits a new nomination (New appt.)
Lauren Ryan, 5 Lake Vista Drive, Skaneateles, NY 13152, Term – 8-27-19 – until the Skaneateles Lake Assoc. submits a new nomination (New appt.)

Motioned by Charlie Ripley to approve the appointments and present to the Legislature for approval, 2nd by Aileen McNabb-Coleman. No discussion. All in favor, passed.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES FOR COMMITTEE:

Karen Kuhl (Tourism)

- As the CCCVB is the corporation designated by the Cayuga County Legislature to develop and implement a comprehensive tourism promotion and marketing plan for the County and New York State requires that an agency be designated by resolution of the Cayuga County Legislature for the specific purpose of making application to and receiving grants from New York State grant programs, a resolution is required annually to include with the CCCVB's application for tourism matching funds and any other tourism grants that might be made available by NYS.

Doug Kierst (Soil & Water Conservation District)

- Seventy-Five years ago, the Cayuga County Board of Supervisors had determined that conservation of soil resources and control and prevention of soil erosion are problems of public concern in the county. It was further determined that there was need, in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, for the creation of a soil conservation district in Cayuga County. Therefore, through Resolution No. 60 passed by the Cayuga County Board of Supervisors on August 08, 1944, the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District was established.
- **Additional Updates**
 - Grant funding announcements: CAFO Waster Storage grant \$373,000 grant support with total project costs of \$500,000, Climate Resilient Program - Soil and Health \$227,000, Covers and Flares – grant awards for three farms totaling over \$1M
 - Staff had submitted seven CFA applications plus five through the Ag- Non-point Source Program.
 - Harvester has finished on Cayuga Lake, went to Fair Haven, then to Otter Lake and moved onto Lake Cuomo and will move to Owasco Lake. Harvester will go back to Otter Lake to remove the excess weeds. Chair Pinckney inquired as to where as the weeds deposited. The intake is taken to local farms.
 - Tim Lattimore inquired about the possibility of adding settlement ponds at Sucker, Dutch Hollow and Van Ness Brooks to be able to manage some of the runoff. Doug reported Owasco Flats project is on public land; if looking

for similar projects it would be necessary to take private land out of production. Staff is currently creating shelving along a portion of the banks along Van Ness Brook to create a floodplain bench. As the area floods, the bench will slow down the runoff and erosion into the lake.

Catherine Moran (Cornell Cooperative Extension)

- Executive Director search continues, the strategic planning process is complete and the Master Gardener hotline is open through September.
- The nutritionist has been working with the youth in the Booker T. Washington Summer Program growing and harvesting vegetables, with the Cayuga County Health Network's diabetes support program, at a summer feeding site in Port Byron, with parents and toddlers at the Seymour Library and at the Auburn and Aurora Farmers' markets.
- The Agriculture Educator has been working on various issues throughout the county including Dairy Acceleration/Advancement Program, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP), Cornell Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) and livestock transportation and hauling. He has ongoing contacts with the public, including texts, e-mails, phone calls and mailings of the "Ag Alert!"
- 4-H held graduation for the completion of the Dog Obedience Class. A horse show to qualify for the State Fair was held on July 21. Shows at the 4-H Youth Fair at the Cayuga County Fair included Dog Obedience, a Dairy show, a Rabbit and Cavy show, and a Poultry show. In addition, 4-H youth participated in the Open Beef and Open Goat shows at the County Fair. Arts & Crafts projects were evaluated prior to the County Fair and were displayed throughout the Fair. 65 of these projects will go on to the State Fair, as well as a large number of 4-H participants in the animal shows.
- **Additional Updates – Ron Kuck**
 - The Cayuga County Fair was just completed with the assistance from the 4-H Educators; and the turnout was larger than 2018. Forty-three youth showed cattle on during the fair and qualified those to go onto the State Fair.
 - Increased amount of calls regarding insects and field diseases.
 - Continue working with Soil and Water Conservation District with Nutrient Management issues
 - Cornell has hired a Human Resource Educator to navigate the farmers on the new farm wage laws.
 - Ag census for Cayuga County shows 41% of land in the County is in agricultural production - \$287M

Tracy Verrier (CEDA)

- Work plan Metrics snapshot:
 - Existing businesses met with: 58 (2019 goal=90)
 - Growth opportunities identified: 13 (2019 goal=12)
 - Attraction leads identified: 10 – 8 still active, plus 4 active from previous (2019 goal= 12 new)
 - Entrepreneurs met with: 46 – 6 new businesses opened (2019 goal= 75 and 15 respectively)
- General Economic Demographics snapshot:
 - Unemployment remains low, dropping to 3.6% in June.
 - Labor force participation in June (35,900) was down from 2018 (36,500).
 - Employers are struggling to fill open positions, likely in part because of low unemployment paired with a smaller labor force.
- Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul announced the project funded through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) on July 30 at Auburn Public Theater. Thirteen projects will receive approximately \$9.7m. These projects will also contribute approximately \$16m in matching funds for the projects. The following projects received funding:
 - Creation of a West End Arts Campus, building a more cohesive site between the Cayuga Museum and Schweinfurth
 - Construction of a Shared Services Public Safety Building on Seminary Street
 - Turn vacant State Street lot into an Urban Public Plaza
 - Renovate vacant building on Chapel Street into a club house and recovery center for Nick's Ride 4 Friends
 - Rehabilitate the Barn and Carriage House at Seward House Museum
 - Establish a downtown Culinary Arts facility for Cayuga Community College
 - Renovations at Auburn Public Theater to establish a café, black box theater, and event space
 - Renovate vacant building on East Hill into six apartments and a retail space
 - Establish a small project grant fund to identify and fund additional, although smaller, projects
 - Renovate additional space in Health Central to provide new services in a downtown location
 - Install public art throughout downtown Auburn
 - Renovation and restore Willard Memorial Chapel
 - Redevelop the Rudolph Building at 99 Genesee Street into a mixed-use

- **Additional Updates**

- DRI announcement - \$9.7 M in grant funds and \$16M in matching funds. A small project grant fund project will bring an additional \$600,000 for smaller business projects. This fund will be available to assist with gap and bridge financing for their projects.
- AIDA – Prison City Beverages project incentives were approved, CCDC is working on a renewable gas project, and the CCIDA will be authorizing additional preliminary engineering for the Aurelius sewer line to be able to secure additional funding.
- CEDA micro loan fund was closed with Goblin Market of Weedsport for assistance with new equipment.
- Working with local educational partners with discussions on internships and expanding a skills certification assessment series into Cayuga County.

Legislator DeForest inquired about what type of business projects would be eligible from the new \$600,000 fund. Tracy explained the fund will be utilized for small projects for equipment, gap financing, etc. Legislator Lattimore asked about the timeline for the distribution of CFA funds for the projects. Tracy stated that as a reimbursement program, the CFA grant funds may not be available until two to three years out after the expenditures. Lattimore also inquired about the public safety building project and the County's role. The project is still in the development stage and all partners will be in discussions to determine their future needs for the building. Legislator Didio inquired on the creation of the new West End development group. Tracy stated the group is trying to leverage what is happening Downtown and what can be done to assist the businesses on the City's west end.

Steve Lynch (Planning & Economic Development)

- A Planner Recently hired in January of 2019 has resigned from the position, leaving a critical vacancy in the department that must be filled. An authorizing resolution has been placed on this month's Planning Committee agenda.
- The Planning Director has taken the lead on the recently announced NYS Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative grant funding program ("REDI") established by the Governor to provide up to \$300MM in state grant funds to support communities and businesses along the south shore of Lake Ontario that have been impacted by the 2019 flooding events.
 - The grants will support municipal and business infrastructure projects that will address flood resiliency at the waterfront and expand economic development and business expansion.
 - Counties along the Lake Ontario shoreline are required to prepare project reports and funding requests for submission to a state commission established specifically for this program. Cayuga County has been paired with Oswego County and tasked with preparing a joint plan.
 - Deadline for project submission is August 2nd and the department has been working closely with elected leadership in Fair Haven and Sterling, along with the stakeholder businesses to organize the project and prepare the report. A copy of the report will be provided to the legislature when finalized and submitted.
 - The Cayuga and Oswego County Project Reports will be reviewed by a local Planning Committee established by the State with representation by Cayuga County and Oswego stakeholders and elected officials. Their role will be to review and prioritize the projects and assemble the joint project report for submission to the Governor's REDI Commission for funding consideration. Currently there are only three (3) Cayuga County individuals seated on the local Planning Committee (Chair of the Legislature, Planning Director and Tourism Director) and there are approximately six (6) individuals representing Oswego County. Requests have been made to address this oversight.
- Emerson Park Capital Project cited above will begin construction in mid-August with County in-kind work, followed by contractor staging and execution in September-November.
- A number of the NYSERDA funded Clean Energy Community grant projects are moving forward:
 - The County has two (2) new hybrid-electric vehicles (100% grant funded);
 - A new dual port charging stations has been installed at the COB and the Village of Union Springs;
 - The Department is finalizing the professional services contract for the CCPUSA Strategic and Operational Plan and will be kicking off the project this fall; and
 - Scope of Work for lighting upgrades at the County Jail has been approved and is ready to bid (Buildings & Grounds will be responsible for soliciting bids and managing the contractor while Planning administers the grant and payments).
- Planning staff submitted six (6) competitive grant applications for our communities and/or county projects.
- **The Director continues to provide Administrative & Oversight Responsibilities for the Cayuga County Emergency Management Office – EMO, now moving into the 7th month.**

- **Additional Updates**

- Steve Lynch gave an additional update on the NYS Resilience and Economic Development Initiative for the communities and the businesses along the south shore of Lake Ontario.
- The vendor contract to support the CCPUSA Strategic and Operations Plan development is under way and the initial meeting with the vendor and the CCPUSA board will be held on September 10, 2019. At this meeting will be looking to identify the key stakeholders for participation in the plan. The board would like to get a few Legislators and key economic development and large energy users to bring their perspectives to the plan. The CCPUSA board will be looking for the plan to provide guidance on the types of projects to be engaged in, what the organizational needs would be to accomplish these goals, and a set a budget.

Legislator Lattimore inquired about Governor's REDI plan and whether any funds are available to assist the local government with water quality upgrades- bank stabilization, pumping stations, etc. Steve explained the bulk of the plan will be used for commercial and municipal infrastructure. On the municipal side for example, the plan is looking to address upgrades to the grinder pumps around Fair Haven Bay. The Governor also has over \$2B set aside for wastewater and water projects in the State Revolving Loan fund.

RESOLUTIONS:

PLANNING:

8-19-PL-1 Authorization to fill a vacant Planner position on or after August 16, 2019 due to a resignation of a Planner in August 2019.

Keith Batman motioned to approve and move resolution 8-19-PL-1, 2nd by Ben Vitale. No discussion. All members present voted in favor, passed.

8-19-PL-2 Designating the Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau ("CCCVB") as the Cayuga County Tourism Promotion Agency ("CCTPA") for New York State grant funding for the 2020 State program Year and designating the Program Project Director

Keith Batman motioned to approve and move resolution 8-19-PL-2, 2nd by Aileen McNabb-Coleman. No discussion. All members present voted in favor, passed.

8-19-PL3 **(Also goes to Public Works Committee)** Authorizing Cayuga County to award contract for construction of improvements to Emerson Park Deauville Island using grant funds awarded by the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation

Keith Batman motioned to approve and move resolution 8-19-PL-3, 2nd by Ben Vitale. No discussion. All members present voted in favor, passed.

8-19-PL-4 Fixing Day and Notice of a Public Hearing on a Local Law Establishing a Sustainable Energy Loan Program (Open C-PACE) in the County of Cayuga and repealing Local Law No.: 4 of 2018

Keith Batman motioned to approve and move resolution 8-19-PL-4, 2nd by Charlie Ripley. No discussion. All members present voted in favor, passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Aileen McNabb-Coleman motioned to go into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person at 6:20 p.m., 2nd by Charlie Ripley. All members present voted in favor, passed.

Aileen McNabb-Coleman motioned to come out of executive session at 6:28 p.m., 2nd by Charlie Ripley. All members present voted in favor, passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 5:30 PM

Charlie Ripley motioned to adjourn the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting at 6:28 p.m., 2nd by Keith Batman. All members present voted in favor of the motion, passed.

Next Planning and Economic Development Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., at the Cayuga County Office Building, Sixth Floor County Chambers, 160 Genesee Street, Auburn, New York 13021