

**Planning, Economic Development,
Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 @ 11:00 AM
Chambers**

MINUTES

**11:00 Call Meeting to Order
AM**

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Shwartz at 11:03 am.

Attendee: Eve Ann Shwartz, Ronda Winn, Joe Wicks, John Pinard, Ellen Bowe, Cindy Palmer, Dana Krueger, Kaytlynn Lynch, Sam Field, Kyle Reger, Dave Jones, Candy Morgan, Jamie Kowalczyk, Joclyn Gavitt, Ryan Coe, Larkin Podsiedlik, Maryellen Sheehan, Scott Ingmire, Mark Scimone, Emily Burns.

Attendees via Zoom: Peggy LeClair, Melissa Felton.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of March Minutes

Motion by Kyle Reger to Approve. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

Department and Agency Reports

1. Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy reports positive news although the year didn't start out the best reports show that after 1st quarter for 2024 overall we came in at about \$50,000 ahead of last year that equates to about a half percent. Since the County started adding 1% back in 2005 until now, this year's 1st quarter is the highest 1st quarter collections ever. Mark says the state budget was estimated at 4-5%.

2. Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan is not available to meet today therefore Cindy briefed the committee on his behalf. April 30th was the final day for tax payments to be paid so the department is very busy wrapping that up. They are currently trying to digest the law changes with regard to foreclosures. Although they are just reviewing the process it needs to be done in a hurry because there are a lot of expected changes coming in the near future. Eve Ann asked if the auction will be put off a month or two to allow more time for processing these upcoming changes, Cindy says at this point they just do not know yet. Cindy did say that the annual schedules are done in such a manner that postponing the auction a month can throw off the remain years schedules. NYSAC Finance School has a training at Turning Stone

next week on this foreclosure topic that Ryan will be attending with hopes of gaining some insight.

3. Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

1. Job fair; not well attended; we had 3 people attend!
2. Tronser: Spoke with Bob and he advised, they are going to work share program in our assembly department. Three employees will be part of the program. He gave them Ellen's contact for a couple of questions that they have....he thought she would be able to point them in the right direction. At this time, he does not know how long they will have to do the work share in this department. He hopes to see orders pickup soon.
3. Met with Marquardt Switches Employees yesterday; first few; mainly the professional employees; HR, Engineers
 - a. They were also holding a job fair held by CPS Employment for the hiring of temporary workers. So they are laying off permanent staff and hiring temporary staff.
4. We will be at Tuesdays in the Park again this year.
5. Our Carpentry Training Program began on 04.22.2024! We had 7 people apply: one was above the training level, so he will be brought in as an apprentice; no training required. The other 6 begin their training on Monday. We provided gas cards, work boots, jeans and EZ-passes for those in need.
6. Have almost 65 kids already signed up for the Summer Youth Program.
7. Recently met with the Chittenango Parks and Rec Department and have moved forward with a potential job fair to be held in May.
8. We will be at the Oneida Library event this upcoming week
9. We are looking into attending the Farmers Markets this spring.
10. We have continued posting flyers around the county for Summer Youth.

4. IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

- Nelson Farms has determined that they're closing their doors for good.
 - It is anticipated that the building and its equipment will all be sold. There has been a very large amount of interest in both their building and equipment.
 - I have talked with a couple of farmers who use Nelson Farm's facilities, and they seem interested in starting up a USDA certified processing facility if they can't secure the purchase of Nelson Farm's facility or equipment.
 - Ag ED should have more input during their report...hopefully.
- Hotel Oneida – some progress is being made.
 - IDA benefits have been approved.
 - City designated parking for the apartments are being worked out with the municipality (survey and appraisal are

nearly complete). The IDA will most likely facilitate the transaction.

- Demo permit has been issued allowing them to start with gutting portions of the building (note fencing and signage has been erected).
- Initial kick-off meetings for the Canastota NY Forward (downtown redevelopment) initiative was held, and a group of local leaders will serve as the Local Planning Committee (LPC).
 - May 8th at 6 pm will be the first of the LPC meetings for the public to attend and to start the discussion of the downtown district boundaries, rules of the NY Forward program, potential projects to be supported by state grants, etc.
- The IDA held a public hearing on IDA tax breaks for 99 Albany Street in Cazenovia.
 - There was limited attendance, and nobody against the project. Final approval of the benefits will be considered at our May board of directors meeting.
 - The company has also sought additional funding via Empire State Development.

5. CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik/Sarah Rosenthal

Larkin reported:

- AED is working with a variety of stakeholders on alternative solution with Nelson Farms closing
- AED is developing a local ice cream trail with MC Tourism
- AED is working on a few workshops, supporting farmers' markets including to accept SNAP benefits as a way to diversify revenue and support the food system.
- Tax Counseling for the Elderly reached nearly 1,400 seniors this spring, our highest number ever!
- 4-H Updates:
- Ag Educator Maryellen Sheehan is doing an enormous amount of 1:1 technical assistance with farmers on land leasing, irrigation, pests, etc.
- Did pesticide certification training and test for new applicators given the new NYS regulations phasing in over the next few years. CCE Regional Ag Team is also doing research into alternatives for neonicotinoid pesticides.
- We have two potential ag-related threats – HPAI in Cows (as close as Ohio – fact sheet attached explaining this outbreak), and a potential case of over-wintering Late Blight in Tomatoes that could affect Madison County. CCE Madison was contacted about the late blight and ensured that it was tested and that an alert went out to farmers. We are doing what we can to educate producers with hope to stop the spread.

Sarah was not in attendance today but Maryellen Sheehan attended

today's meeting and is reporting on Agriculture. She reported about the Bird flu virus that is a large problem right now. The virus has been found in the dairy milk supplies, although safe for consumption it is being studied why virus is jumping species.

Late potato blight currently affecting the fields, of which farmers are hoping to keep contained. Maryellen has been helping farmers get education and licensing for pesticides that are environmentally accepted.

6. Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn reported they had 48 people attend their annual meeting last month at the Oneida Community Mansion House. In the future she would like to continue making the event free for anyone to attend.

There are 2 tour busses scheduled to come in later this summer with stops all throughout Madison County on the itineraries.

The Executive Director position Kaytlynn was filling temporarily for 6 months ended yesterday, at this point the position has been offered to Kaytlynn permanently although she has only verbally accepted the position she is very excited to remain here in Madison County.

Upcoming Events:

May 11th Critz Farms Apple Blossoms and Beers

May 11th Oneida Nation will offer their spring event.

May 31st Lorenzo will open tours thru fall

May 31st thru June 2nd daily from 8am-5pm Madison-Bouckville Antiques Show

May 31st thru June 2nd Oz-Stravaganza in Chittenango Village

June 15th Boat Float and Folk Fest at the Chittenango Landing Boat Museum

7. PCD/HUB Update - Dana Krueger/Jocelyn Gavitt

Jocelyn reports working on a CDBG with Mosher Farms, they will be opening soon at a new location in Sherrill.

The building being constructed in Hamilton on Albany St. is looking for a restaurant to be put into the building. There will be about 2,500 sq.ft. available, if a prospective business owner comes along prior to completion of construction they can have some input about the site design otherwise it will be built as contractors have laid out.

Work in Earlville will continue, looking to bring senior housing to the area. Hoping for 42 senior housing apartments. A collaboration with Crouse Memorial for a possible assisted living option. Currently the vacant school building is being looked at for the project.

Dana reports they recently submitted the Market NYCFA application for Hamilton and surrounding area, playing with the official title but

going for something like Antiques and Arts?

New brewery tap room in Hamilton next to Maxwells. They will not brew the beer onsite but rather will be working with a group from the Cortland area to brew the beer and ship to Hamilton, more of a tap room than brewery really. With plans to open in August their hours will expect to be closing around 9pm or so daily.

Flour and Salt was selected as the SBCA best small business for the area.

The collaboration with WISE is set to expire due to end of contract and end of funding at the end of June 2024. The working relations where great therefore looking for funding possibilities to continue the efforts and filling the needs of the communities.

Street Beaters group met last week in Syracuse, the group helps small business owners help each other. By networking the business owners can find new ways of growing their business and possibly helping another grow too. Their next meeting will be hosted at Ray Brothers.

Dana continued on to say she has many other projects currently being worked on as well including some collaboration with CCE to create future events. Trying to change the out going message that HUB is for the whole county not just Hamilton/Colgate but for all Madison County.

May 23rd there will be a Fireside Chat at the Brewster Inn for local business owners.

8. BUY Madison - Sam Field

BUY Madison is part of rural equity. Working closely with multiple entities such as WISE, PCD/HUB, and Madison County Tourism they are working towards helping to promote all things Madison County.

At present Sam is looking for possible grants to help promote AG and Food tourism.

Building up the website to showcase is another current project. Showing the local farms, creating a new "Beautifully Local" campaign all about the parks. Another campaign "Serving Local" for restaurants and eateries. She is also working to create a page for Madison County businesses similar to what the yellow pages used to be. Collaboration with C&D Advertising will commence to help work on those web page build ups.

9. Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Scott reported today about the two proposed Hoffman Hills Wind farm and the Solar Arrays. New York State has authority on these proposals therefore Madison County, unfortunately, cannot do much

about them incoming with these large projects.

To date the County has done a lot with renewable energy, for many years now we have been at the forefront of renewable technology in this area.

Already in place are many projects bringing a total of 537 MW proposed. (approximately 1 MW of electricity services about 173 homes).

Currently looking at road use laws for the towns/villages to refer to if the large equipment is coming in then NYS has to make/adjust roads to accommodate bringing in the parts/equipment and that the state needs to put roads back to previous condition or make the roads better upon completion.

Loren mentioned that battery storage is going to be needed for all these arrays/windmills. Dave says if Madison County can work together with the towns/villages maybe progress can be slowed for the development of these areas. Mark says there is a lot of movement from various other towns throughout the state on the moratoriums with reference to battery storage units.

Scott showed a map for the Connect All project. He says the map shows who is underserved for internet access within the county. There is a grant that would service 99% of the county for the broadband and does not require match, it was applied for with ECC and Empire to expand the project funding. Scott submitted the grant recently and the result should be known by the end of this month if the grant is going to be gifted.

10. MCPLUS Update

Work is continuing on this project but no updates at this time.

Resolutions:

1. Authorization to enter into an agreement with Earlville Opera House, Inc. for New York Main Street Program Grant

Motion by Ronda Winn to Approve. Second by Kyle Reger. The motion was Passed.

2. Authorizing a contract extension with LeChase for the Delphi Falls County Park construction project.

Motion by Joe Wicks to Approve. Second by Kyle Reger. The motion was Passed.

3. Authorizing a Utility Easement to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation in the Town of Cazenovia

Motion by Ronda Winn to Approve. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

Other Committee Business

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting:

1. May 29, 2024

11 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers

Adjourn

Meeting adjournment called at 12:22 pm. Motion by Joe Wicks to Approve.
Second by Ronda Winn. The motion was Passed.