

**Planning, Economic Development,
Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 @ 11:00 AM
Chambers**

MINUTES

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

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Shwartz at 11:02 am.

Attendees: Eve Ann Shwartz, Emily Burns, Scott Ingmire, Ronda Winn, Joe Wicks, Ellen Bowe, Jamie Kowalczk, Katlynn Lynch, Sam Field, Cindy Edick, Sarah Rosenthal, Kipp Hicks, Loren Corbin, Candy Morgan, Jim Cunningham, Kyle Reger, Mary Cavanaugh, Jocelyn Gavitt, Dana Kruger.

Attendees via Zoom: Melissa Martel Felton, Jennifer Keville, Peggy LeClair.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of February Minutes

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

Department and Agency Reports

1. Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy reports so far this year totals are below that of last year. Overall 2023 had positive results closing around 42 million for the year.

2. Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan was not in attendance therefore Cindy reported on his behalf, the department is continuing work on annual tax collections with no new developments at this time.

Melissa says she should have more updated information with regard to the foreclosure legislations after speaking with the Harris Beach Group.

3. Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen reports today:

-Next job fair on 04.02.2024 at the Bell Tree in Earlville.

-Spent time at the DeRuyter school this morning discussing training, summer youth, and the Carpenters Union.

-Now accepting applications for the training we are holding with the Carpenters Union; this training will offer guaranteed employment.

-Currently working with the Green Thumb program to provide employment to income eligible older workers over 55.

-Ellen met with TDO and WDI regarding upskilling of workers at Merlin Mold yesterday.
-Looking into the Work Keys program which is currently only utilized by Oswego County.

Eve Ann asked for annual reports of attendance for the job fairs, Ellen will look into that.

4. IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp reports he is busy working on the annual reporting. That the next Paris Report is expected in May by the state authority. Also that they are working on wrapping up an annual audit with their CPA. Waiting on final SEQR approval for the Community Memorial Hospital bonding for their proposed construction improvements. The Hospital plan will be to expand and make needed updates to the facility.

Received application from Albany Holdings for a plan to build a 40,000 sq.ft. multi-use space, they have funding assistance from Restore NYS.

Moshers Farm Stand purchased the former Arnie's Produce in Sherrill and have submitted an application for revolving loan funds. All-Seasons in Oneida also submitted an application for a revolving loan fund.

Oneida DRI funds have started being disbursed so far to 6 small businesses within the city, waiting to see the progress.

Unfortunately come with some bad news, Marquardt Switches Corporate has chosen to reduce the employee volume in Cazenovia and will be sending 180 jobs to Mexico. Kipp has been in touch with local elected officials and current employees to assist them in finding new employment.

Eve Ann asked if the building can be used for something else, Kipp says at this time the company is not selling the facility and that some staff will remain on site.

5. CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik

Larkin is out sick Sarah is reporting for CCE that continued work towards Open farm Day is progressing. Currently accepting applications for participants, to date have 24 farms registered. Recently sent the call out for event sponsors.

Build your Business Logo workshop offered tomorrow, to assist owners in their branding.

Work is being done towards securing a local pesticide application testing site, in the interim there is a workshop this weekend to prep for the exam.

The Seed to Table program is a free Garden Workshop Series collaborating with 4H and Snap-Ed currently with 44 participants.

6. Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn Lynch reports The Madison County Tourism Annual meeting is coming up on April 11th the event will take place at the Oneida Community Mansion house.

Madison County Tourism has recently purchased memberships on 2 new software platforms. The first being CrowdRiff, utilizing the software Tourism is looking to help increase marketability through User Generated Content (UGC) story telling. Content from all social media platforms will be found using specific AI searches which will then be solicited for use on the Tourism website.

ITI Digital is the other new membership purchased to increase the number of events advertised on the website. Overall goal of the Madison County Tourism website is to become a main hub for the county and its communities to showcase various events and businesses.

7. Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Scott showed a Micron and housing development presentation. Unknown yet the outreach Micron will have into Madison County as the distance may or may not play a factor.

Currently most of the county is suburban although the towns and villages have a more developed housing area.

The county is growing regardless of Micron therefore we need to discuss, "How do we grow smart?" A slow grow has a way of creeping into the suburban feels.

The rural character can be preserved and enhanced but we want to keep the suburban feel not the urban build ups.

Looked at town/villages within the county to find ways to develop what is already there. Town of Sullivan by proximity could have the most impact from Micron.

Joe says the view shed from solar and wind farms are becoming major discussions, therefore seeking what the planning department is offering as stance for the upcoming projects. Unfortunately the state has say on anything over 20 megawatts. Therefore local towns/villages will have no say.

Eve Ann says the silver lining could be to maybe develop the towns/villages instead of allowing the projects to invade.

Kyle suggests making a committee specific to the solar/wind projects in order to work better with the big companies coming in to help the transitions. Although the state can do anything they want maybe the committee could help smooth the process.

Jocelyn asked again, is there anything the towns/villages can do for smaller projects to slow the development?

Pilot negotiation was in place but that's been pulled by the state already from the Nelson project.

Jim says there are a few counties already working to slow the progress, sometimes farm lands can be saved from development.

Eve Ann says the county could pinpoint the lands that they want to

keep protected, maybe make the county purchase some parcels to hold the developers off.

8. MCPLUS Update

Mark reports the Broadband Project is moving along in progress. Currently working to obtain letters of support from local businesses. Upon completion the program will update about 1700 underserved properties with internet services. Ongoing work needed to connect the service dots for coverage. The application is being worked on for additional funding.

9. BUY Madison - Sam Field

Sam reports she's reaching out to all community partners for help with ongoing programs. Continuing her work on expanding the County website while looking at different grant options for increased funding. Looking for bloggers to add to the Marketing page of the County website.

Recently collaborated with PCD/HUB putting together 8 roadshows, the turn out was good, and in the future hope to do more.

Resolutions:

1. Opposing Part O of the Governor's 2024 Article VII Revenue Bill Regarding the Siting of Major Electric Transmission Facilities, Also known as the "RAPID" Act

Motion by Joe Wicks to Approve. Second by Jim Cunningham. The motion was Passed.

2. Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement ECC Technologies, Inc.

Motion by Jim Cunningham to Approve. Second by Kyle Reger. The motion was Passed.

3. Authorizing an Agreement with the Madison County Rural Health Council for a Mobility Management Program

Motion by Jim Cunningham to Approve. Second by Kyle Reger. The motion was Passed.

4. Resolution Supporting S.1179 (Harckham)/A.7269 (Levenberg) to Alleviate Statutory Hurdles to Solar Canopy Installation

Motion by Joe Wicks to Approve. Second by Jim Cunningham. The motion was Passed.

5. Authorizing Madison County to apply for a New York State ConnectAll Municipal Infrastructure Grant

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

6. Authorizing a Grant Agreement with CNY Community Foundation for and ADA Accessible Kayak Launch

Motion by Kyle Reger to Approve. Second by Jim Cunningham.
The motion was Passed.

Other Committee Business

PCD/Hub- Jocelyn Gavitt reports Dana Kruger has accepted a position as the new director. Accepted award for non-profit work. Dana says this is her first full week. Working on events with WISE and Sam Field for additional marketing. Upcoming events for women in business. Rural equity group meeting with the mayors in the spring. Street Beaters program get together for sharing of different local resources.

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting:

1. May 1, 2024

Adjourn

Eve Ann closed the meeting at 12:30 pm. Motion by Joe Wicks to Approve. Second by Jim Cunningham. The motion was Passed.