

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2021– 11:00 A.M. Supervisors' Chambers

Supervisor	Present	Absent	Late	Time In
MOSES	X			
Ostrander	X			
Jones	X			
Magliocca	X			
Stokes	X			

PRESENT:

Committee: **Cliff Moses**, Joe Ostrander, Dave Jones, Joe Magliocca, and TJ Stokes

County Staff: Ellen Bowe, Karin Bump, Cindy Edick, , Melissa Martel Felton, Scott Flaherty, Kipp Hicks, Scott Ingmire, Jamie Kowalczyk, Becky Marsala, Mark Scimone, Myron Thurston, and Gwen Williamson.

Meeting was called to order at 11:04 A.M. by Moses.

A-1: The December 10 2020 minutes were approved on a **MOTION** by Magliocca and seconded by Stokes at 11:05 A.M. 5/0/0

A-2: Cindy Edick presented the Sales Tax Update. The distributions were up and down throughout the year, but ended better than anticipated at 4.21% over 2019. A visual slide was shared showing overall tax distributions for fiscal years 2005-2020. The 3rd quarter of 2020 recorded the highest distribution amount ever in the history of Madison County; so even with a low 2nd quarter, it all ended up leveling out for a surprisingly excellent outcome for 2020. Edick explained that the municipal budget credits are figured from the November 2019 through October 2020 distributions.

A-3: Becky Marsala presented the Treasurer / Real Property Update. The Governor's executive orders banning tax foreclosures prior to May 1, 2021 does not really affect the County's procedure. The County did not take possession of any parcels last year. There are only 8 parcels from 2018 and 232 from 2019, totaling 240, which is below the 300+ parcels typical for Madison County by this time. Marsala indicated that someone has expressed interest in buying one of the parcels in Madison and she will report on this at a future meeting after doing some research.

A-4: Ellen Bowe presented the Career Center Update. The staff is back in the office on a reduced schedule. There are no DOL workers yet, and there are many calls that the Career Center staff continue to refer to NYS. There are 20 employers with many job openings to fill. The staff is working with customers doing job searches. According to the data from November, Madison County's unemployment rate is at 4.7%, which is 11th out of 62 counties. Dutchland Plastics is holding a job fair at their facility tomorrow (Jan 22) from 11-2. Scott Ingmire praised his staff for helping with the CoVid hotline and fielding vaccination-related phone calls in addition to their usual job requirements. Moses and Scimone offered appreciation as well.

A-5: Kipp Hicks presented the IDA Update. The affordable housing project in Hamilton is still moving forward, led by Colgate University. Caz Arts is a tourism-related art culture project being coordinated with Cazenovia College. Work on the Harden Warehouse Oneida project continues for 28 new luxury apartments. Pat Roberts is helping with discussions on converting the former Oneida Hotel for mixed-use purposes. All Seasonings is finalizing construction on the mezzanine area expanding the facility to 33,000 square feet.

A-6: Karin Bump and Myron Thurston presented the CCE Update.

Karin emphasized that CCE had a great end to 2020 while they received word of having been awarded two grants. The first is a pilot program for dairy education as part of Cornell in the Classroom. This funding of \$30,000.00 will target fifth-graders. The second grant is for \$65,000.00 from CNY Community Grant Foundation for the Cornell Curbside Program. Money will be used to continue this program by allowing for staffing needs, coordination of on-line ordering, and parking lot / lighting improvements. The CCE Madison Team received the NYS Ag. Society "Cap" Cereal Journalism Award for their Cornell in the Community column. Tess Southern is beginning to work on Open Farm Day for 2021. Volunteers are in training for the tax-free / tax credit service program for seniors.

Myron Thurston reported on several agricultural economic development projects including: Eaton Hemp value-added project, Cody Farms diversification, Off the Muck relocation back to Madison County, Flour & Salt in Hamilton, and Starlight Acres solar grazing project. He also mentioned working with Derringer Farms regarding chicken processing and Pushlar Farms regarding options for milk products. He is working with Kipp Hicks and Morrisville College on the Start-Up NY Program. The business center is being renovated with new countertop and electronics, with anticipation of a March/April opening for individuals and later for groups. The new intern is working on maps of farms in Madison County including farms under threat. CCE is working with Scott Flaherty on a MC Agri-tourism bus tour. CVAP – Corona Virus Assistance Program is in round three with a focus on helping farms who have lost revenue, particularly crops due to the pandemic. Training is currently being done on Value-added Producer Grant, Paycheck Protection Program- Round 2 and Economic Injury and Disaster Program – Round 2.

A-7: Scott Flaherty presented the Tourism Update. 2020 ended in decent shape with Tourism making some cuts due to decreased occupancy tax receipts. 2021 advertising focuses on outdoor recreation. The two campaigns running now are Winter, and Weddings. The summer campaign will focus on hiking, biking and camping. Scott has been contacting group tour companies for later in the year. Data from a recent survey shows 26% of people plan to visit family within 200 miles and 12% plan to have a "getaway" vacation within 200 miles as soon as travel restrictions allow. Flaherty is pleased that the Governor's 2021 NYS executive budget includes matching funds for advertising at 1.4% - down from 2.9 but still great to see it in the budget. Scott reported that event planners are still hoping to hold their events, but there is fear that if they cannot due to CoVid 19 restrictions, some events will not survive.

A-8: Scott Ingmire presented the Planning Update. Scott reported on the progress at Delphi Falls. He referred to work being done under contract with EDR for design of parking areas, bridge and ADA compliancy. Scott noted that between the State Parks Grant and the DASNY Grant through Senator May, there is potentially 1 million dollars in funding. Scott shared a visual concept of Delphi Falls created by the design team at EDR. He recognized the additional work being handled by the planning department pertaining to CoVid contact tracing, call center, and CoVid hotline help.

Jamie Kowalczyk offered explanation and special thanks to the Reimagine the Canal selection committee and she is happy to present the following resolution delaring Savarino as the chosen developer and partner. Jamie shared an animated video of the Canal side Pocket Neighborhood concept.

Jones no longer connected to Zoom meeting

A-9: The resolution approving a memorandum of understanding with Savarino companies was unanimously *approved* on a **MOTION** by Magliocca and seconded by Stokes at 11:48 A.M. 4/0/0

A-10: The resolution reappointing a Cedric Barnes to the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District Board was unanimously *approved* on a **MOTION** by Stokes and seconded by Moses at 11:49 A.M. 4/0/0

A-11: The resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement between the Oswego County Soil and Water District and Madison County was unanimously *approved* on a **MOTION** by Stokes and seconded by Magliocca at 11:51 A.M. 4/0/0

A-12: The resolution authorizing the recertification of agricultural district 3C in the towns of Sullivan, Lincoln, Lenox, and the City of Oneida was unanimously *approved* AND

A-13 The resolution adopting the inclusion of certain parcels of predominately agricultural land in certified agricultural districts was unanimously *approved* on a **MOTION** by Stokes and seconded by Magliocca at 11:57 A.M. 4/0/0

A-14: The resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Board to enter into memorandum of understanding with Workforce Development Board of Herkimer, Madison, & Oneida Counties was unanimously *approved* on a **MOTION** by Magliocca and seconded by Stokes at 11:59 A.M. 4/0/0

A-15: The above resolutions are to be included in the preferred agenda via **MOTION** by Moses and seconded by Ostrander at 11:59 A.M. 4/0/0

A-16: Melissa Felton reported that she continues to follow-up on the occupancy tax lawsuit. Moses requested that Jamie share the animated video presentation at the upcoming February board meeting.

A-17: Next meeting date is Feb 18, 2021 at 11:00 A.M.

A-18: The meeting was adjourned on a MOTION by Magliocca and seconded by Stokes at 12:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Williamson