

**MADISON COUNTY PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Call Meeting to Order

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

Attendees: Mark Simone, Eve Ann Shwartz, Jamie Kowalczyk, Cindy Palmer, Joe Wicks, Emily Burns, Jenny Keville, Melissa Felton, Kaytlynn Lynch, Ryan Chaires, Hannah Reece, Ellen Bowe, Kyle Reger, John Pinard, MaryEllen Sheehan, Larkin Podsiedlik, Kipp Hicks, Jim Cunningham, Lorin Corbin, Tom Daviau, Mary Cavanaugh, Ryan Coe, Candy Morgan.

Approval of Minutes

1. October 2024 Minutes

On motion by Supervisor Wicks, seconded by Supervisor Reger, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy reported today that the budget was \$39 million for 2024. For 2025, they're looking to have a more realistic budget at around \$42 million.

1. Sales Tax Final 2023-2024

Cindy says sales tax totals for 2024 compared to 2023 are down about \$500,000. That's approximately a 1% decrease, which is similar to neighboring counties. A few are ahead but no known reasons as to why.

2. Sales Tax by Quarter 2005 thru 2024

The quarter is shown in the chart as well, now 4% vs. 3% previously. The 4th quarter made the difference for the overall year.

Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan reported for the Real Property Department that the town and county tax payments are coming in daily, making it busier than usual. Yesterday alone brought in about \$1 million of tax payments.

Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen reported working with SUNY Morrisville to potentially host a CDL class. Hopefully more to come on that in the near future. She also shared news of a Beginner Computer class on January 27th at 1pm in the Working Solutions office.

1. Job Fair February 12, 2025

Ellen shared information about the upcoming Job Fair on February 12th from 10a - 12p. Currently, there are 10 vendors signed up to attend, they have space for 2 more. Working Solutions is looking at doing one job fair per month in the coming year, if anyone has suggestions please share.

2. Child Care Scholarship Program

Madison County was included in funding for a childcare scholarship program. The program is designed to help offset some of the costs of this significant family expense. Recently, increasing the income eligibility levels allowing qualification for more families. If families find they're not eligible there are other options with DSS, reach out to Ellen for more information.

IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp reports from the IDA that two projects are being considered tomorrow at their Board meeting, the Seneca Fields project and the DCC Ranger Project, formerly Good Nature Brewery. Both are seeking PILOT acceptance.

The Capital Resource Corp received an application from Colgate University to refinance their bonds early, originally set to mature in 2040.

Kipp recently had a site tour with JHM Global to view their facilities.

Caz Barns updated their intent in Cazenovia to develop 64 housing units and a potential space to be used for a medical operation. The overall plan is for a mixed-use building with affordable housing; 4 dwelling units with 16 individual units per dwelling. There is no PILOT in place for this housing project.

CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik

Larkin reported today for the CCE. She started off with the Ag, AED, and Environment. Their recent Celebrate Madison event was a success. With over 400 attendees and 47 vendors, most of whom were from Madison County. Larkin was happy to report the Specialty Crop Growers email reaches 115 growers monthly. The CCE is currently training a new crop of Master Gardener Volunteers. There are many grants available right now – CCE is helping farmers with SARE, NYFVI, becoming NYS Grown and Certified, and Dairy Modernization. Please pass the information along to those in the community that could benefit from the funding opportunities.

The 4-H Programming offered 31 programs this past year, reaching about 1,415 community youths. Funding was available to send 4 youths to the Cobleskill Agribusiness Careers Conference. The Cornell Raptor Program was offered to Madison County youths, with 46 in attendance. There are hopes of continuing such programs in the future.

Larkin announced the search to hire an Administrative Assistant, an Outreach Coordinator, a 4-H Educator, and a Local Foods Educator; if you know of any potential candidate please give them the information to CCE. She also announced four new CCE Board members:

- Asher Burkhardt Spiegel, Common Thread CSA, Madison
- Sara Dougherty, SU & Colgate, Canastota
- Evan Sweeney, NRCS, Cazenovia

- Cat Cardelus, Colgate, Hamilton

Finally, Larkin reported on some upcoming programs; Tax Counseling for the Elderly starts at the end of January. Multiple virtual workshops are offered from January–March with a farm business management focus. Winter events will be starting soon to include topics such as farmland protection and transition, high tunnel/greenhouse management, and farm business development resources. Town Board Meetings – coming to present to every Town Board about CCE and gather feedback from each town on town priorities where CCE can be of assistance.

Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn reports of a new short term law signed into effect that brings transparency to the short term rental industry while supporting long term growth as well. Counties that choose to create a local registry will be included in the surveys to show how much the county should be collecting to balance tax revenues. Using data mining programs to keep people in check when paying their taxes on short-term rentals.

The wedding guide is almost complete with the intention of heading to the printer next week. The magazine will be previewed at the upcoming wedding expo in Buffalo as well as at the Turning Stone Resort Wedding Expo in May. The wedding market is the main focus, but it will showcase many things for the entire county.

PCD/HUB Update - Hannah Reese/Jocelyn Gavitt

Hannah was here today for PCD/HUB, they're currently working with the 8 Micro Enterprise Grant awardees to distribute the funds. An Advisory Committee awarded the grantees in November. Hannah would like to create a fast-track for the grant process. Later in the year they will look to reapply for additional funding to be able to distribute in next year's round of applications.

The Rural Equity Group's last event was held at a local brewery owned by a veteran, showcasing how to be successful as a business owner and veteran.

They're working on 2025 plans inspired by a summit to have community conversations and resources for a networking event come to fruition.

BUY Madison - Sam Field

Sam was not in attendance today, Ryan reported no known updates except that there is an annual review meeting with C&D Marketing on Friday.

MCPLUS - Update

Mark reported Phase 1 of the pole attachments is going along well although not on schedule. Phase 2 will commence concurrently with Phase 1 starting this spring/summer. The pole attachment process with National Grid for Phase 2 is easier than in Phase 1. They hope to have some houses hooked up by the end of this year. Consideration to apply for the B.E.A.D. grant was tossed around, but it requires 25% funding from the county budget in the amount of about \$3.8 million. With an estimated 717 homes not in line to receive the Broadband services. It is not conducive for the county at a cost of \$3.8 million when a larger company like Verizon could come in tomorrow and lay lines for everyone in the area. For now, the project will continue as is, without plans to extend further into the southernmost part of the county.

Planning Update - Jamie Kowalczk

Jamie reported to the board about two budget line items placed on the Finance committee meeting's agenda for Planning with regard to the FL-LOWPA funds for aquatic vegetation to continue County water projects.

1. County Infrastructure Grant

Jamie reports for Planning, the Empire State Development grant is being called a county infrastructure grant to fund infrastructure projects in the county. It is a first come, first served process. She would like to apply for funding for the Pocket Neighborhood Project in Canastota. There is a possibility of being awarded another \$1 million dollars. Joe Wicks says even if the award is not received it may be beneficial to apply anyway just to be in the queue for future processing. Kyle Reger stated he met recently with a woman from Cazenovia about other Pocket Neighborhoods in the area, that she has found this is a newer niche for the older populations looking to downsize a bit.

2. Oxbow Hill Solar Project

The Oxbow Hill Solar Project is now pending review of their application. Currently, there is a big push for public comments with regard to this project. Jamie asked the Supervisors to put together some questions and feedback to offer the project leaders for the upcoming March meetings.

Resolutions

1. Calling for a Public Hearing regarding the submission of a Community Development Block Grant Application

On motion by Supervisor Reger, seconded by Supervisor Wicks, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

2. Authorizing the Chairman to request Federal Section 5311 Consolidated Grant Assistance for Public Transit

On motion by Supervisor Wicks, seconded by Supervisor Pinard, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

3. Authorizing Chairman to enter into an Agreement with C&D Advertising

On motion by Supervisor Reger, seconded by Supervisor Wicks, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

4. Support for Nomination of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway

On motion by Supervisor Pinard, seconded by Supervisor Reger, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed.

5. Authorizing the Extension of a Public Transit agreement with Birnie Transit, Inc. and a coordinated service memorandum of understanding with Birnie Transit, Inc., Madison County, and Heritage Farm Inc.

On motion by Supervisor Pinard, seconded by Supervisor Reger, the motion was made

to Approve. The motion was Passed.

Other Committee Business

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting

1. February 19, 2025

Adjourn

On motion by John Pinard, seconded by Kyle Reger, the Board adjourned at 12:11 pm.