

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

Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Call Meeting to Order

Supervisor Eve Ann Schwartz called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Attendees: Cindy palmer, Mark Scimone, Eve Ann Schwartz, Scott Ingmire, Melissa Felton, Joe Wicks, Larkin Podsiedlik, Ryan Chaires, Candy Morgan, Hannah Reece, Jocelyn Gavitt, Kaytlynn Lynch, Kyle Reger, John Pinard, Sam Field, Dave Jones, Ellen Bowe, Mary Cavanaugh, Loren Corbin, Jim Cunningham, Jenny Keville, Keith Lummis, Pete Walrod.

Online: Town of Lincoln

Approval of Minutes

1. February 19, 2025 Minutes

On motion by Supervisor Pinard, seconded by Supervisor Reger, the motion was made to Approve. The motion was Passed. No changes or corrections presented.

Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy was happy to report some good news. So far this year the county is ahead by about \$460,000 or about 8% above last year at this same time. This is a great start to 2025.

1. Sales Tax thru March 2025

Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan reported being in the middle of interviewing third-party companies to take the lead for short-term rental property management.

He went on to say that the Real Property Department will be starting their first round of Foreclosure Postings late next month. Cindy added that the first posting is done only on properties where the owner has not signed the certified letter of foreclosure. This is why they are posted, to allow the owner time to be aware that the property is in jeopardy of foreclosure. Eve Ann asked how many properties, Ryan says 55 parcels are on for now.

John Pinard asked if there are guidelines about the state of the property sites? A property in Canastota was left a mess, some of which fell into the canal and needed to be cleaned up. Ryan says there is a contract when people sign up for the auction, but after that there are no guidelines. Melissa says if you put restrictions on a parcel, no one will buy them. Also, if restrictions are placed on a property, the county would have to uphold those restrictions. Without a codes department in the county, that could be very difficult as well as costly. Melissa says perhaps the town/village codes officers could better address those things. Melissa says it would be difficult but she will continue to think on it and maybe another county is already doing something like that, and it would be best to piggyback off their role. Joceyln wanted to bring back up the land bank, which should be investigated for the county. Melissa says with the new

surplus law that passed there are exceptions that could offer an advantage to a county land bank. Mary Cavanaugh says Oneida City spoke with someone previously that she would offer for Melissa to perhaps contact for further information.

Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen reported for the Career Center. There is another Job Fair coming up on March 27th from 9:30 am -11 am. There will also be one in Cazenovia on May 1st.

Free Computer Training is available, see enclosed flyer. Also, the Green Thumb Program is available again this year for seniors 55 and older.

The current unemployment rate as of Feb is 3.6% for Madison County. Ellen went on to report that the planning for Summer Youth Programs have started, see enclosed flyer. In an attempt to save funding, there will be no Summer Counselors this year. Positions will be filled in house with existing staff.



CALL US:
(315) 363-2400

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a Madison County resident AND be between the ages of 14 and 20
- Must receive one more of the following benefits:
 - Family Assistance
 - SNAP (food stamps)
 - Medicaid
 - HEAP
 - SSI/SSDI
- OR Member of a family whose income falls below the amount shown for your household size

Family Size	Monthly Income
1	\$2,510
2	\$3,407
3	\$4,303
4	\$5,200
5	\$6,097
6	\$6,993
7	\$7,890
8	\$8,787

Summer Youth Employment Program

Get involved in the community

- 4 weeks of work, learning, personal growth, and FUN!
- Work within the community: worksites throughout Madison County
- Earn \$15.50/hour for up to 22 hours per week

Madison County Working Solutions
133 North Court Street | ellen.bowe@madisoncounty.org
Wampsville, NY 13163 | <https://www.working-solutions.org/>



NORTHSTAR DIGITAL LITERACY
a program of Literacy Minnesota

Working Solutions
an americanJobcenter
Workforce Development Board, Madison, Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Yates Counties, NY

FREE COMPUTER TRAINING

Are you struggling to job search or need computer skills to increase your employability?

Unlock your digital potential with us!
Please call (315) 363-2400 to register for our informational session this month!

NO WALK-INS

Can't attend? Informational sessions are held on the last Monday of every month!

WHEN & WHERE:
Madison County
Working Solutions
133 N. Court Street
Wampsville, NY 13163
315-363-2400
March 31st 2025
1:00 pm

Topics Include:

- Basic Computer Skills
- Internet Basics
- Career Search Skills
- Microsoft Word and Excel
- And More!

Informational session attendees will receive a Northstar account and will be given an overview of the program



PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

You are eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services if:

- You are between the ages of 14 and 22
- You are enrolled in an educational program and eligible IEP, 504 or have documented disability
- You do not have an open case with ACCIS-VR

Job Exploration Counseling

Assist students to explore career options and identify career pathways of interest. Students will learn about skills needed in the workplace and for specific jobs, uncover vocational interests, understand the demands of the labor market, and learn about non-traditional employment options.

Work-Based Learning Experiences

Assist students to develop work skills through participation in paid and nonpaid experiences in integrated community workplaces. Students will apply classroom knowledge to the workplace, gain understanding of general employability skills (i.e., soft skills) important for success in the workplace, and learn from people currently practicing in the occupations and career of interest to the individual student. This may include in-school or other school opportunities, or experience outside the traditional school setting (including internships) that is provided in an integrated environment.

Counseling on Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Educational Programs

The post-secondary options that should be explored include Community Colleges (AA/AS degrees, certificate programs, and classes), Universities (Public and Private), Career pathways related to workshops/training/apprenticeship programs, Trade/Technical Schools, Military, and post-secondary programs at community colleges and Universities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Assist with researching career and post-secondary educational options.

Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living

Enhance career exploration and develop soft skills, including social/interpersonal skills, independent living skills, financial literacy, orientation and mobility skills, job seeking skills, and develop understanding of employer expectations for punctuality and performance.

Instruction in Self-Advocacy

To develop self-advocacy skills, defined as learning how to speak up for oneself, making one's own decisions about their own life, learning how to get information so that the individual can understand things that are of interest to the person, finding out who will support the individual in their journey, knowing one's rights and responsibilities, how to request accommodations or services and supports, problem solving, listening and learning, peer mentoring, reaching out to others when the individual needs help and learning about self-determination.

How to refer a student for Pre-Employment Transition Services?

- Submit the completed Program Intake and Release Form.
- Provide proof of disability documentation

Contact Information:

Paris Rich
Director of Vocational & Self Direction Services
T: (315) 363-3315 ext. 5160 C: (315) 269-2396
E: Paris.Rich@corfmc.org



Green Thumb Activities

Green Thumb workers serve to augment the efforts of full-time state employees wherever the state needs their valuable services. You will find them raking leaves and cutting the grass at DEC campgrounds. They plant flowers and perform general beautification activities along the rest areas of the Adirondack Northway. They enhance the grounds of various department and agency buildings by planting flower beds and trimming shrubs and bushes. They remove unsightly litter from walkways, and they perform some office work for selected state agencies.

Green Thumbs take pride in the performance of their assigned tasks with minimal physical exertion. Their efforts make a difference in the groomed appearance of New York State's facilities.

Eligibility Requirements

To join the ranks of Green Thumbs one must be at least fifty-five years old and fall within the income guidelines provided within state law. Income levels may not exceed \$39,125.00 for an individual or \$84,600.00 for a couple.

A certificate from a healthcare provider stating that one is healthy enough to work is also required. Green Thumb will provide \$100.00 toward the cost of a medical evaluation. It is important to note that one should not have a medical evaluation until they have been instructed to do so by a Green Thumb representative.

Supplements Social Security

The Green Thumb Program is operated to ensure that employees' earnings remain below the threshold that would impact on social security benefits. Green Thumbs earn enough to supplement their income within the guidelines established under Social Security. This arrangement provides senior citizens with an opportunity to remain active and perform a valuable service for the state without incurring a financial penalty under the law.

Part Time Hours

Green Thumb work is part-time. On the average, Green Thumbs work three days a week. Some state agencies have openings for Green Thumb employees year-round. Other assignments are limited to spring, summer and fall work schedules. Benefits provided are paid sick time, vacation and holidays.

(Rev. 1/2025)

IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp was unable to attend today's meeting, but he did leave some updates with Scott. IDA

- Chittenango was awarded a NY Forward downtown revitalization award of 4.5 million.
- The Madison County Planning Department was instrumental in creating a winning proposal and helping to guide the community's plan.
- Public Authority Reporting and Information System (PARIS) reports are being finalized for submission by 3/31/2025 for the 2024 calendar year.

CRC

- All the approvals and paperwork on the Colgate University bond re-finance project have been completed. Closing should occur on 4/3/2025.

GFC

- Request by the Partnership for Community Development for funding to complete the county's business incubator space at The Hub – which is under construction at 18-22 Utica Street in Hamilton.
- KJM Consulting's analysis should be available for the Committee's review and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors if they're comfortable advancing

the request.

CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik

Larkin reported for the CCE:

4-H

- Ag Lit Week – 10 school districts, 1588 youth, 77 volunteer hours – thanks to Mary Cavanagh for reading!
- Environment – Youth Tree Planting with 25 trees Jack Pine, Red Oak, Speckled Alder, and River Birch – looking for a town to partner
- Public Presentations & Dairy Bowl are active now – 5 Madison County youth moving on to district public presentations, 8 youth participating in Dairy Bowl.
- 4 youth in Albany today representing Madison County

Ag/AED

- OFD has 10+ farms so far – would like every town represented. May have picked up 2-3 Amish Farms who want to participate this year.
- Technical assistance included supporting farmers around the NYFVI grant, helping two new landowners assess business opportunities for their farms, and a joint food safety farm visit with CCE Oneida and CCE Onondaga
- Starting Rural Land Series with a Land Management Workshop March 5

Gardening & Environment

- Secured location for Seed to Supper program at Canastota Public Library.
- Started conversation with person caring for the Morrisville Community Church garden about ways MGVs could assist them in garden design, planning etc.
- About to graduate a new crop of MGVs who will be looking for community gardening & beautification-type projects.
- Chainsaw safety course (April 26th): coordinating this program in partnership with NYCAMH, ensuring that equipment needs will be met on the day of the training
- Climate Stewards (April 3rd - June 19)

Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn was happy to report for the Madison County Tourism that they have hired a new staff member. On April 7th, Mara Horan will be joining the staff as Operations Manager. This is a brand new position for MCT, with the addition, MCT will be back to 2 full-time staff members. Mara is a results-driven office and administrative services manager, as well as a financial analyst with nearly 25 years of experience.

A reminder that the Annual Madison County Tourism Meeting will be on April 10th from 5-7 p.m. at Meier's Creek in Cazenovia.

Starting April 1st, MCT will launch a Married in Madison campaign to complement the new Madison County Wedding Guide. For this campaign MCT will be working with Paperkite out of Cooperstown. Paperkite is a digital marketing agency and creative studio that connects businesses with the modern consumer. Showcasing picturesque venues and unmatched charm, the webpage, Pinterest and Meta ads will aim to attract engaged couples, inspire wedding planners, and drive requests for information. Work is also being done to build a robust summer visitation campaign. So far, they have one 15-second commercial created by Black Cub Productions and approved by I LOVE NY, that video will begin running in early May with buys on Meta and YouTube.

PCD/HUB Update - Hannah Reece/Jocelyn Gavitt

Hannah reported for the HUB. The eight awardees of the Micro Enterprise Grant are in various stages of progress towards utilizing the grant funds. The Village Clay in Hamilton was awarded \$20,000. They were the first to complete their project. Eve Ann asked about the store/deli project in Peterboro. It is reported that the store will be getting a new life, although it is unknown yet when it will open. Hannah is offering on April 1st a webinar on the Retail Safety Act. If interested, email Hannah to register. April 15th at the HUB Quickbooks 101 from 10a-11a. May 12th 10a-11a learn all about Event Capacity and Community. June 9th Sales without the Grinch.

Jocelyn started off with a Thank You to Madison County Tourism for all their sharing and collaboration with the marketing and photos. Help with info about consumer data mining information. The current HUB location at Lebanon St. is temporary, with plans to move into a new building in the Village of Hamilton. They have funds coming in from NY Forward to cover the amount needed for the new space. The grant requires cash up front to cover initial costs. The PCD is requesting a loan from the Madison County revolving loan funds to cover the upfront costs until reimbursement from the grant is received. Scott can make ready a resolution for the board to vote on today if accepted. The total project is expected to be about \$701,000. The PCD has obtained grant funding for the total, but needs assistance with the initial investment. Scott says the County can offer a term of 30 months at 4% interest. Joe Wicks says he does the same thing with non-profits. He thinks this funding option is great. It allows those without cash first to go ahead in project completions that could otherwise be out of reach.

Joe Wicks votes yes, Kyle Reger too votes yes. Eve Ann says the money should be used for whomever needs it. All approved. (add on resolution)

BUY Madison - Sam Field

Sam is continuing work with their marketing partners for the upcoming season. They are soliciting bloggers to talk about small businesses and rural counties. They're also looking to add new businesses to BUY Madison archives and a better way to add people/businesses to the registry. Eve Ann asked how many businesses are currently listed. Sam said the list has a wide variety of businesses that there are about 50 businesses so far.

She went on to say that the mass-communication system the PIO system is working on should be available within the next few weeks. With hopes of promoting soon.

MCPLUS - Update

Mark says they've recently been made aware of a competitor coming into the area. SLIC Wireless is now offering services in the northern part of the county. He would like to market a relationship between them and the county, to find strategic ways to partner with competitors. Scott reported the pole attachment process is the most painstaking part of the Broadband project as a whole. Each and every pole requires a methodical process that just takes time. Although the county would like to move along faster in the process we must follow along with set guidelines.

Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Scott reported today about a leak found in the Old Erie Canal near the aqueduct in Durhamville. NYS Canals is aware and working on fixing the problem. Back in 2003, the same thing happened and was fixed with a "bandaid". A piece of steel was placed over the leak, and it held up until now. NYS Canals has decided to drain the entire canal from New London to Chittenango. Unfortunately, the infrastructure is very old. The aqueduct was built in 1912 and is now in very bad repair. The hope is to have the canal back in use by June for the upcoming Boat Float event on June 14th. Delphi is nearing completion. We are currently waiting for parts of the water system. They are expected to be shipped April 1st with installation commencing after that. A meeting next week will be held to get through the finish line, working with John Regan to finish this project. May 10th is the first event being held by Matt Urtz offering a historian showcase. Scott has the intention of next month's committee meeting laying out the plans made so far for Delphi opening to the board.

Resolutions

1. Authorizing an Economic Development Loan - PCD

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

Other Committee Business

Kyle Reger says he loves the collaboration within this committee. The NYS Labor Department is looking to educate the municipalities with regard to the contractors used for various jobs and the need for them to be vetted. With a \$200 fee the contractor would have the permit to be able to do the needed work when it comes about for municipalities. Sometimes things need to be done quickly. Jim says he thinks the state is trying to capture the prevailing wage. Ellen says the prevailing wage is very expensive that most mom n pop businesses couldn't compete with.

Preferred Agenda

Next Meeting

1. April 23, 2025

Adjourn

On motion by Joe Wicks, seconded by Kyle Reger, the Board adjourned.