

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

Meeting Agenda - Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Call Meeting to Order

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

Attendees: Eve Ann Shwartz, Scott Ingmire, Ronda Winn, Joe Wicks, Pete Walrod, Emily Burns, Dana Krueger, Jocelyn Gavitt, Kaytlynn Lynch, Kyle Reger, Dave Jones, Kipp Hicks, Sarah Rosenthal, Loren Corbin, Thomas Daviau, Mary Cavanaugh, Becky Marsala, Ryan Chaires, Candy Morgan, Jessica Geary, Jamie Kowalczyk, Charles Shemet, Keith Lummis, Roseann Warner, Jeremy Ryan, Melissa Felton.

Attendees via Zoom: Wendy Marsh, Peggy LeClair

Approval of Minutes

1. July 24, 2024 Minutes

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

Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick

Cindy reported that:

As of August, the County is now ahead of 2023 by \$237,718 or just about 1%. Although it's not a great number, it is not so bad either.

1. Sales Tax Thru August 2024

Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires

Ryan reported for Real Property that:

The school tax bills will go out next week. Everything seems to be in order and good standing for the upcoming auction. Opening on September 16th and closing on September 19th at 10am. All properties are now available online to review.

Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe

Ellen was not in attendance today but forwarded to Scott a short video showcasing the Summer Youth Employment Group participants.

1. Short video showcasing the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

IDA Update - Kipp Hicks

Kipp reported today for IDA that:

- Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA's) were due at the end of last month.
 - There is still money available through ESD, Strategic Planning and Feasibility, and CDBG funding.
- Pro-Housing – we still encourage all towns and villages (and the City of Oneida) to pursue the designation, as it helps to open up grants and capital for future projects in NYS.
- NY Forward and Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funding has opened.
 - Webinars are available online for communities that wish to apply.
- The new owners of Good Nature Brewing Co. are asking for a continuation of the PILOT enjoyed by the previous owners.
 - They've stated that the economic impact will be the same or similar.
- Two by Four construction has applied for tax breaks for Seneca Fields II, a senior and partial assisted living facility located on the Oneida Healthcare campus in Oneida.
- We have closed on the 99 Albany Street project, which intends to construct a new mixed-use building at the site of the former NAPA auto store and service garage in downtown Cazenovia.
 - Work on the site is under way.

CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik/Sarah Rosenthal

Sarah reported today for CCE:

Open Farm Day was a success again this year with almost 3,500 participants. This year CCE tried lots of marketing in new places, with a big media push to increase participation. #Wandercuse is a local micro-influencer that showcased the event on their social media page. After the event, CCE did a farmer survey with reports of about 100 people visiting per farm.

Sarah is working to create a mini Agro Tourism event. Some of the farm participants from Open Farm Day will give tours of their farms and operations as well as present to participants how their farm impacts Madison County.

Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch

Kaytlynn reported for the Madison County Tourism:

New York State Tourism Industry Association (NYSTIA) Tourism Champions Mid-Year Update- NYSTIA works to advance statewide economic growth, employment, and quality of life by realizing the potential of New York's tourism industry and facilitating the success of NYSTIA members.

Earlier this summer, a Tourism Champions travel booth was installed at the Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park on the Thruway and will be up through the 2024 season, this is in partnership with the Canal Society of New York State. Madison County and a photo of Chittenango Falls is featured prominently on display. Friday, Kaytlynn will be volunteering at the NYSTIA booth at the Great New York State Fair.

Inaugural Ice Cream Trail update - in partnership with CCE this week we shared the 14th and final stop.

Madison-Bouckville Antique Week update - We hosted a giveaway and info tent this year at Madison-Bouckville Antique Week. We distributed promotional materials along with I LOVE NY publications, as well as about 1,200 postcards and 1,000 posters showcasing the design collaboration between Madison County Tourism and David Owens Illustration. Feedback was positive from patrons. Kaytlynn brought today to pass around some of the postcards.

PCD/HUB Update - Dana Krueger/Jocelyn Gavitt

Dana and Jocelyn reported for the PCD/HUB:

RESTORE NY GRANT: Secured the first of multiple necessary funding streams for the Fayette Park Manor Project in Earlville, a project that seeks to restore the old school building in the village to over 40 affordable senior housing units. Also, applied for parks funding for the adjacent park space to restore it and reprogram it as a multi-generational space. Christopher Community Inc. is the developer and lead on this project.

HOUSING SUMMIT: Jocelyn attended the CNY Housing Summit, an important component identified was that with the expected growth for housing in the area due to Micron, most of the communities that will receive these residents are ill-prepared (from a zoning standpoint) to implement the smart growth building typologies that would best fit into their existing available spaces.

MICROENTERPRISE: We are actively accepting applications for Microenterprise grants through the end of September. Please have businesses contact the HUB to find out more about eligibility and application requirements.

HUB:

RURAL EQUITY GROUP: Jocelyn presented on Monday to the CNY REDC and shared the strategies that have been successful in Madison County.

The fall roadshow Madison Business Chats & Connections Series

- This Thursday from 4-6:30 pm at Meiers Creek, first event of the season pairing business owners and relevant discussion topics. This event will focus on marketing.
- More networking events to follow in Sept, Oct & Nov. focusing on Trades to Business, Workforce Development and Food Industry Business Development.

NEXT WISE EVENT: Sept 17th 4:00-6:30pm at the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum.

Women Entrepreneurs: Leadership through Coaching Program by Amy Sherwood, sHRBP, ACC NBT Bank Vice President and Talent Development Business Partner Professional Business Coach Food provided by Ashley Proskine, Huff Brau in Earlville.

BUY Madison - Sam Field

No update today as Sam was not in attendance at today's meeting.

MCPLUS - Update

Scott reported on the continued work for the Broadband project. Permissions are being obtained while the digging is going to commence soon, as some of the lines are proposed to be buried.

Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Scott reported about the Planning Department that:

The budget for 2025 is shown to be 1.39% below last year's. The department is at full staff this year, which has not happened in a while. Contract funds are down this year because ECC work is completed by the end of this year. The Madison County Transportation was increased because every year is an estimate and every year we seem to be below the actual amount awarded from the state. In doing so it requires budget modifications of which we are trying to avoid for next year.

1. 2025 Budget Review

Resolutions

1. Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Labella Associates for Madison County's USDA Reconnect Broadband Project

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

2. Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with NYSEG approved Contractors

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

3. 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.

4. Authorization to enter into an agreement with Ann Duffy for New York Main Street program grant.

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

Other Committee Business

1. Review Committee Description & Discuss Any Proposed Changes or Corrections

Eve Ann asked if any supervisors has reviewed the policy and asked if there are any changes that need to be made? Scott made a few adjustments that were already noted. Emily says to add in non-profit agencies receiving funding, that they should report in to the board. Pete asked for an impact report from any group receiving funds after the funding has been given.

2. Village of Canastota Mayor Roseanne Warner and Jeremy Ryan presenting about S. Main St. property.

Jeremy Ryan from Canastota presented to the Planning Board Committee the Village of Canastota's acquisition proposal of two parcels within the village limits. The Village of Canastota has hopes of revitalizing the properties to upgrade the community. The Village of Canastota is asking Madison County to transfer ownership of the two properties. One of the properties is overgrown and has been vacant for about 10 years with a serious need for rehabbing. The second property building is also in serious need of demolition as it is falling in on itself. The Village of Canastota would like to transform them into vital pieces of the Downtown Revitalization Program.

Currently, the NY Forward project has proposed Canal St. to become a one-way road, in doing so this would create a greater need for already strained downtown parking.

Therefore, one of the properties, if obtained from Madison County, would be transformed into a parking lot for the downtown area. The other property is being proposed as a possible visitor center. Jeremy went on to say that the hopes of the village are that Madison County will gift the properties to the Village of Canastota with the knowing that upcoming tax revenues would eventually return to Madison County.

Eve Ann asked if these two properties were not gifted to the village, is there an alternate location for these ideas to build? Jeremy says not at this time.

John suggested pulling the two parcels from the auction line and having another discussion on the matter at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mark commented that in the past there were monies exchanged when other neighboring counties made similar transactions. He stated that maybe the parcels should be paid for by the Village of Canastota.

Jocelyn mentioned a property in The Village of Hamilton a few years back. In that case, an out-of-state person purchased the property and left it undeveloped as an eyesore for the community all the while living someplace else. Jocelyn says she would prefer the property to be owned and developed by someone more local who has an interest in bettering the community and scenery as a whole.

Joe says Canastota is a gateway community off the NYS Thruway, and that support from the county is important. He would like to see the property go to the village for the betterment of the area and to keep it out of the hands of less desirable owners.

Mark rounded back to the funds, stating that something should be given to the county for the back taxes.

Becky says the Village of Hamilton was offered the same deal to pay off the old tax bill but that they refused and attempted to purchase it at auction. They were out bit by an out-of-state buyer to which the property currently sits undeveloped.

Ronda stated she likes the rehabbing but thinks lower income housing is important in other areas.

Jeremy says \$25,000 is the offer from the Village of Canastota for both parcels.

Becky says the county is owed over \$174,000 for the two parcels.

Ryan commented that he feels like the opportunity in that area is prominent for revitalization and that the village and county should come together on a monetary settlement.

Dave says he agrees with Ronda, Becky and Mark that an exchange of money is needed, the county can not flip the bill for this.

Eve Ann asked for a consensus to pull these two properties. Dave says no, all others say yes. Table the discussion for now with an opportunity to re-discuss at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 12th

Eve Ann asked Jeremy and Roseann to please come back at 3pm on Sept. 12th after the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Preferred Agenda

Melisa Felton and Wendy Marsh (via Zoom) discussed the road use agreements for the four towns impacted by the proposed incoming wind farm. Currently, there are very limited laws to stop the state wind farm to boost the town/county road use. Wendy asked how aggressive the county wants to be fighting this. Joe says the general town/village consensus does not want these wind farms therefore he thinks the road use laws are the only grounds to stand on against the contractors of the wind farm. Wendy is working on a draft for a united road use agreement. Overall, though, it will be more of a contractual agreement than a law.

Dave says the roads are really going to be impacted. And that once the contractors are done with their work, they are known to move out and never fix the things they say they're going to do.

Wendy says she was only working on the agreement, not the law.

Eve Ann says she wants the laws updated.

Melisa says she thought the law was already supposed to be worked on too.

Pete says they have a road use agreement already. He wants to know if it wasn't in place initially, then how are they going to enforce it.

The purpose as drafted by Wendy is specifically addressing damage caused by the work the contractors are doing. She says it is specific to the work trucks/loads not everyday farm trucks or semi's making deliveries. Wendy went on to say the towns want a directive from the county. Wendy will work on the laws and reconvene in the near future.

Next Meeting

1. September 25, 2024

Adjourn

On motion by Dave Jones, seconded by Kyle Reger, the Board adjourned at 12:46 pm.