

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

**AGENDA**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of February Minutes

**Department and Agency Reports**

1. Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick
2. Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires
3. Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe
4. IDA Update - Kipp Hicks
5. CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik
6. Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch
7. Planning Update - Scott Ingmire
8. MCPLUS Update
9. BUY Madison - Sam Field

**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
2. Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement ECC Technologies, Inc.
3. Authorizing an Agreement with the Madison County Rural Health Council for a Mobility Management Program
4. Resolution Supporting S.1179 (Harckham)/A.7269 (Levenberg) to Alleviate Statutory Hurdles to Solar Canopy Installation
5. Authorizing Madison County to apply for a New York State ConnectAll Municipal Infrastructure Grant
6. Authorizing a Grant Agreement with CNY Community Foundation for and ADA Accessible Kayak Launch

**Other Committee Business**

**Preferred Agenda**

**Next Meeting:**

1. May 1, 2024

**Adjourn**

**Planning, Economic Development,  
Environmental and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 @ 11:00 AM  
Chambers**

**MINUTES**

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

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Shwartz at 11:04 am.

Attendees: Eve Ann Shwartz, Loren Corbin, Cindy Edick, Ryan Chaires, Larkin Podsjedlik, Dave Jones, Kaytlynn Lynch, Sam Field, Jamie Kowalczyk, John Pinard, Emily Burns, Joe Wicks, Ronda Winn, Mark Scimone, Candy Morgan, Scott Ingmire, Jocelyn Gavitt

Attendees via Zoom: Kyle Reger, Mary Cavanagh, Melissa During, Melissa Felton, Peggy LeClair

**Approval of Minutes**

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

- Approval of January Minutes

**Department and Agency Reports**

**1. Sales Tax Update - Cindy Edick**

Cindy reports that January sales tax revenues were 3% lower than expected. Although in comparison to other counties seems about the same across the board.

**2. Real Property Update - Ryan Chaires**

Ryan reports they are busy collecting 2024 property taxes. Currently have no direction with regard to the pending legislation over foreclosure sales therefore the county attorneys are meeting soon to discuss best options moving forward.

**3. Career Center Update - Ellen Bowe**

Ellen was not in attendance therefore Scott reported on her behalf, the next job fair will be hosted at Canastota Library on March 6th starting at 11 am.

**4. IDA Update - Kipp Hicks**

Kipp was not in attendance therefore Scott reported on his behalf, continued progress is being made with Community Memorial

Hospital with regard to bond financing for their expansion projects.

5. CCE Update - Larkin Podsiedlik

Larkin reports:

**Ag Census Story:** Fewer Farms, More Consolidation, Higher Profits. County-level specifics and information to come by end of March.

**Ag Economic Development Technical Assistance/Updates:**

- Enormous amounts of farmer technical assistance:
- Client interested in starting Co-op in Caz
- Questions about Solar
- Identifying First time farmer grants
- Pesticide questions
- Increased interest in starting farm stands
  - We are setting up summer field sessions
- Testing out our commercial kitchen as an incubator for other businesses
- Pesticide Applicator Test Prep-Increased number of farmers who now need licenses due to state law changes. A test prep session for people who need to take the pesticide applicators exam. This program is helping prep people on how the test will go. 3/29 Poolville
- 110 local producers receive our specialty crop grower emails

**Open Farm Day:**

- Started farmer registration
- Farmer info session happening 2/22
- Offering a logo building class in March in Ag Business

Center

- April we will host a Google Business Account Set-up class

**Dairy:**

• CNY Regional Team Dairy Specialist is working with a Madison County Farm on Dairy Acceleration Program. Maryellen Sheehan is working with a different dairy farm on the Dairy Climate Adaptation Fellows program.

**Upcoming Programs:**

- Hosting another Apple Tree Pruning class (26 people registered)
- Seed to Supper starts in March – teaches vegetable gardening and cooking for low-income households. Classes in Morrisville, Brookfield, Canastota, and Clear Path for Veterans
- Agricultural Literacy Week this year is March 18-22. The book selected is I LOVE Strawberries by Shannon Anderson. Volunteer readers needed!

Office Hours: Increasing hours M-Thursday to be 8-4:30 or 5:00, open by appointment only on Friday to allow staff more time to work through technical assistance, reporting, grants, focus work. This is a pilot for 6 weeks, if it works we will do it during the winter season October-April.

6. Tourism Update - Kaytlynn Lynch/Nell Zeigler

Kaytlynn reports the Tourism Annual Meeting is coming up on April 11th from 5pm - 7pm held at the Oneida Community Mansion House.

She wants to thank Kyle for recently joining the Tourism Board.

Kaytlynn also expressed her excitement about a new community monitoring software, Zartico, that was recently purchased. The software collects spending data from patrons to show where people are spending their money and how they find businesses offering desired goods/services.

7. PCD/HUB Update - Melissa Davis/Jocelyn Gavitt

Jocelyn reports the Collaboration Award is being presented to the PCD/HUB.

Creative Endeavors Series is ongoing with many attendants.

March Roadshow and Rural Equity Group promoting WISE starting March 1<sup>st</sup> for 2 weeks.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 1:30pm at The Oneida Mansion House they will be co-hosting with WISE to help Leaders of Rural Women entrepreneurs, there is a small fee of \$10 to attend.

Hosting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> Happy Hour fire side chat at Brewster Inn for women in business.

Lastly she reports Melissa is leaving to take a position at the NY State office, therefore will now be the direct liaison. And the search is on for a new director.

8. Planning Update - Scott Ingmire

Scott will report on each resolution. At this time things remain unchanged in the Planning Department itself.

9. MCPLUS Update

Mark reports after lots of outreach the vendors will be paid for work completed thus far. Reimbursements will be coming from NYS. Syracuse Utilities will be breaking ground in the Spring, working on the pole attachments.

## Resolutions:

1. Adopting the inclusion of certain parcels of predominately Agriculture land in Certified Agricultural Districts

Scott displayed a brief NYS AG District presentation. The program protects farms/farmers to have noise and smells of usage to not disrupt neighbors. We have 4 districts in Madison County, every 2 years a survey goes out to land owners within each district asking if they would like the property to remain or remove from the program there is also an option to add parcels into district. Not only the bi-annual survey but every October there is open enrollment available for review to add parcels to the program. This year when we sent out the survey we received back about 40% which is really pretty good.

We are discussing today three property owners that expressed interest in adding parcels. The first being the Ramanthan property of which is not recommended because of all the litigation already, the county does not feel it meets the criteria therefore suggest not moving forward. Secondly the Pylman property, this has had issues in the past due to too much onsite "dead" materials. The town has been trying to work with owner about using parts from the "dead" equipment all over but there is too much. The town asked for some order to be brought to the property, unfortunately the owner just keeps bringing more and more items onsite. Ariel views shown here of the property about 4 years apart clearly show the amount of additional accumulation. Therefore it is not recommended for ag district inclusion. Lastly the Owens property in Brookfield is asking for inclusion, there is no known complication on this site therefore is recommended for inclusion.

Eve Ann states maybe table this for now to bring more information for review first. Melissa says maybe review the ag district criteria first before voting.

Eve Ann moves to take out Pylman and Ramanthan properties for now, Dave and Loren vote to agree with removal.

Partially Approved resolution amended to only include the Owens property.

Motion by Dave Jones to Approve with conditions. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Other.

2. Appointing a Board of Supervisors Representative to Madison County Cornell Cooperative Extension Board

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

3. Authorization to submit a grant application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal

Motion by Dave Jones to Approve. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

4. Adopting the Recertification of Agricultural District 2C in the Towns of Stockbridge, Smithfield and Fenner

Motion by Dave Jones to Approve. Second by Ronda Winn. The motion was Passed.

### **Other Committee Business**

Dave Jones asked about Delphi Falls Park signs, states he has concerns about people walking around the barriers, wants to know what can be done? Scott says we have signs ready to be put up that they cover the liability aspect with regard to insurance but unfortunately people will do whatever they want. Scott will speak with Facilities to have the signs installed as soon as possible.

Dave also mentioned he is aware of the Wind Program Application that has been submitted for development in the Town of Fenner. Dave says the county roads will be directly impacted by the increased usage of large oversized trucks and that many roads will be in need of repair. Town of Fenner road laws do not apply because it is a state funded project, therefore trumps the town laws. There is concern that the new windmills are potentially going to block 911 frequencies. He knows the USAF has already blocked the tower idea that was proposed in the City of Oneida stating interference.

### **Preferred Agenda**

#### **Next Meeting:**

1. March 27, 2024

### **Adjourn**

Eve Ann closed the meeting at 12:04 pm. Motion by Ronda Winn to Approve. Second by Joe Wicks. The motion was Passed.

**Madison County  
Sales Tax Distributions  
Actual Cash Receipts**

| <b><u>Distribution Date</u></b> | <b><u>2023</u></b>        | <b><u>2024</u></b>        | <b><u>Increase/<br/>(Decrease)</u></b> | <b><u>%</u></b>       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| February 7                      | \$2,518,274               | \$2,423,593               | (\$94,681)                             | (3.76)%               |
| February 13                     | 532,314                   | 521,821                   | (10,493)                               | (1.97)%               |
| March 7                         | 2,194,836                 | 2,195,528                 | 692                                    | 0.03%                 |
| March 13                        | <u>435,145</u>            | <u>454,535</u>            | <u>19,390</u>                          | <u>4.46%</u>          |
| Total                           | <u><u>\$5,680,569</u></u> | <u><u>\$5,595,477</u></u> | <u><u>(\$85,092)</u></u>               | <u><u>(1.50)%</u></u> |

**Notes:**

2024 Budget - \$39,000,000

Percent shared with towns & villages - approx. 42%



**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**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**

**WHEREAS**, New York Governor Hochul has released the Executive Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025, which includes Part O of the Transportation, Economic Development, and Environmental Conservation budget bill entitled the Renewable Action through Project Interconnect and Deployment (“RAPID”) Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the RAPID Act seeks to move the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (“ORES”) from the Department of State to the Department of Public Service, and seeks to consolidate and expedite permitting procedures for major renewable energy and electric transmission facilities under a new Article VIII of the Public Service Law; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the RAPID Act will undermine sound environmental review of major electric transmission facilities by requiring ORES to render a permit decision within a single year, otherwise the facility shall be automatically approved, regardless of project size or impact on private property or conservation lands; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the RAPID Act will constitute a significant deprivation of Private Property Rights by extended the power of Eminent Domain to the construction of major electric transmission facilities by large-scale solar and wind developers, said power being currently limited to regulated utilities granted a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the RAPID Act will undermine the protection of natural resources by allowing conservation easements to be extinguished anywhere in the state, including the Adirondack Park and Catskill Parks, for the construction of major electric transmission facilities by large-scale solar and wind developers, said authority being currently limited to regulated utilities granted a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the RAPID Act will further erode home rule and local decision-making enshrined in the New York State Constitution, Local Government Bill of Rights, Statute of Local Governments, and Municipal Home Rule law, usurping the rights of local governments to determine how communities and property within their jurisdictions develop, and contravening the purpose of comprehensive planning outlined in Section 272-A of Town Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Madison County strongly opposes the passage of Part O contained in the Governor’s Article VII Revenue Bill relating to the

expedited siting of major electric transmission facilities, the use of Eminent Domain, and the extinguishing of conservation easements, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Madison County calls on the Governor of New York, members of the State Senate, and members of the State Assembly to ensure that Part O, and particularly the offending provisions identified herein, be excluded from the New York State budget or any other legislation, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Madison County opposes state or federal action that would weaken or eliminate New York's long-standing tradition of home rule and local government authority; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, members of the State Senate, members of the State Assembly, the New York State Association of Counties, the New York State Association of Towns, the Inter-County Association of Western New York, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

**Dated:** April 9, 2024

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Eve Ann Schwartz, Chairwoman  
Planning, Economic Development,  
Environmental and Intergovernmental  
Affairs Committee

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT  
ECC TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, Madison County previously entered into an agreement with ECC Technologies, Inc. as the result of a RFP for Broadband Consulting Services to assist the County with developing information that will form the basis for future decisions concerning expansion of broadband coverage throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, ECC conducted an initial county-wide inventory and mapping of critical assets including the location and ownership of fiber optic networks followed by a community survey using a Broadband Availability and Adoption Tool ("BAAT") that identified unserved and underserved portions of the County and evaluated market conditions, likelihood of adoption as well as other critical metrics; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, in conjunction with ECC, were successful in receiving a grant award from the USDA for a Reconnect broadband expansion project in Madison County; and

**WHEREAS**, as of January 22, 2024 New York State has created the ConnectALL "Municipal Infrastructure Program" (MIP) with over \$228 million in competitive grant funding available for municipal broadband expansion projects; and

**WHEREAS**, ECC has the experience and expertise necessary to assist the County in developing a grant application with the goal of providing Broadband internet access to all unserved/underserved addresses in Madison County (estimated at over 1,700 locations); and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of said services is up to \$38,000, and said funds have been allocated in the 2024 County budget;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a contract with ECC Technologies, Inc. to provide services to assist with the ConnectALL MIP grant application, as is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

**Dated:** April 9, 2024

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Eve Ann Shwartz, Chairwoman  
Planning, Economic Development,  
Environmental and Intergovernmental  
Affairs Committee

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MADISON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH COUNCIL FOR A MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Madison has submitted a request for a consolidated grant of funds to the New York State Department of Transportation, pursuant to Section 5311, Title 49 United States Code, a request for a grant of funds for a project to provide public mass transportation service for Madison County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Madison and the State of New York have previously entered into a continuing Agreement which authorizes the undertaking of the Project and payment of the Federal Share; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Madison makes application semi-annually to the New York State Commissioner of Transportation for such Federal aid used in Madison County 's rural transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, the present application calls for the implementation of a mobility management program for Madison County, as part of a coordinated transportation program; and

**WHEREAS**, after Madison County RFP 2-24, we have determined that the Madison County Rural Health Council has the special skills and abilities necessary to undertake this mobility management effort on behalf of our transportation program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Madison will be subcontracting with the Rural Health Council as a third party subcontractor for the project described above for a sum not to exceed \$294,968, all of which comes from our Federal 5311 transportation allocation;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign this contract with the third party subcontractor, The Madison County Rural Health Council, for the completion of the above-named public transportation mobility management project, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board.

**DATED:** April 9, 2024

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Eve Ann Schwartz, Chairwoman  
Planning, Economic Development,  
Environmental and Intergovernmental  
Affairs Committee

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S.1179 (HARCKHAM)/A.7269 (LEVENBERG) TO ALLEVIATE  
STATUTORY HURDLES TO SOLAR CANOPY INSTALLATION**

**WHEREAS**, solar canopies have become an increasingly popular method for investing in solar power, utilizing existing spaces efficiently by generating renewable energy and providing shade to parked vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the parking areas for county and municipal parks are a prime location for solar canopy installation, as they make productive use otherwise unused airspace and create an opportunity to educate park visitors and the community about the benefits of renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities often cannot advance these projects on their own and engage a solar developer to finance and build the installation; however, to do this, the municipality must go through a parkland alienation process that is governed by state law; and

**WHEREAS**, the current parkland alienation process requires local governments to request an act from the State Legislature and acts as a barrier to timely implementation of solar projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1179 (Harckham)/Assembly Bill 7269 (Levenberg) would encourage renewable energy development by allowing local governments to advance solar energy projects under two megawatts directly above parking areas without the need for approval from the State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York Senate has passed this legislation with bipartisan support during every legislative session since 2020, and it has died in the Assembly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Madison County Board of Supervisors support S.1179 (Harckham)/A.7269 (Levenberg) to empower counties and municipalities to harness solar energy in public parks, contribute to the goals established by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and generate revenue that can be reinvested in park maintenance or community projects; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors commend the Senate for their continued passage of this legislation and calls on the Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign S.1179 (Harckham)/A.7269 (Levenberg) during the 2024 Legislative Session; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Pete Harckham, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Environmental Conservation, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Dated: April 9, 2024

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Eve Ann Shwartz, Chairwoman  
Planning, Economic Development, Environmental  
and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZING MADISON COUNTY TO APPLY FOR A NEW YORK STATE CONNECTALL  
MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, Madison County has conducted a county-wide inventory and mapping of critical broadband assets including the location and ownership of fiber optic networks; and

**WHEREAS**, a community survey also was conducted using a Broadband Availability and Adoption Tool ("BAAT") that identified unserved and underserved portions of the County, evaluated market conditions and the likelihood of adoption, as well as other critical metrics; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has also participated in local and regional efforts to help identify unserved and underserved addresses in conjunction with New York State ConnectALL and the FCC; and

**WHEREAS**, though our current USDA ReConnect grant will make significant strides in serving residents and businesses with broadband fiber internet service, the USDA program rules didn't allow us to reach everyone (approximately 1,700 unserved/underserved) addresses remain); and

**WHEREAS**, New York State is making available over \$228 million in funding through the Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP), which has a round 2 application due date of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Madison County has assembled a team, including County Departments, ECC Technologies, and Empire Access, in a collaborative effort to apply for up to \$30 million in funding through the MIP program to finally provide service to as many last-mile unserved and underserved addresses in Madison County as funding will allow; and

**WHEREAS**, Madison County recognizes it has been on the forefront of creative and innovative ways to provide broadband access to its residents through a County ownership based public/private partnership model; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports this effort to apply to the New York State ConnectALL MIP program and hereby authorizes a Round 2 application, for up to \$30 million, by April 19, 2024.

**Dated:** April 9, 2024

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Eve Ann Schwartz, Chairwoman  
Planning, Economic Development,  
Environmental and Intergovernmental  
Affairs Committee

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH CNY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
FOR AN ADA ACCESSIBLE KAYAK LAUNCH**

**WHEREAS**, Madison County (along with portions of Onondaga and Oneida Counties) is blessed to have the longest remaining intact section (36 miles) of the Old Erie Canal pass through some of its northern municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, Madison County has formed the Old Erie Canal Community Working Group to focus communities, agencies, and interested citizens on revitalizing the waterfront that is the Old Erie Canal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Department applied for and was awarded a \$60,000 grant through the CNY Community Foundation for the purchase and installation of an ADA accessible kayak launch to be installed along the Old Erie Canal at the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chairman is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement, a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the Board, with the CNY Community Foundation and that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the necessary arrangements to receive and disburse the funds.

Dated: April 9, 2024

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Eve Ann Shwartz, Chairwoman,  
Economic Development, Environmental  
and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee