

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING March 2, 2021

### **ATTENDEES:**

**Legislators:** Dale Weston, Ed Hollenbeck, Mike Roberts, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

**Staff:** LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson

**Guests:** None

Legislator Weston called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

- Approval of minutes from January 5, 2021 – Legislator Weston asked for approval of minutes from the January 5, 2021 committee meeting. Legislator Roberts made a motion to accept the January 5, 2021 minutes, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck. All were in favor.

**TIOGA COUNTY TOURISM: Rebecca Maffei** – Ms. Maffei was unable to attend, however her monthly report was previously emailed.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): LeeAnn Tinney** – Agenda, attachments and highlights previously emailed. Following are the Director's Highlights:

**Meetings Attended** – Ms. Tinney reported attending the following meetings:

- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce – The Chamber is partnering with the Career Center on the Virtual Job Fair scheduled for 3/10-3/13; first time for a virtual job fair.
- VEDA – Attended regular meeting.
- EDO's (Economic Development Organizations) – Meetings have begun; Ms. Tinney reported finding it very helpful.
- Town of Nichols - Met to discuss the Lounsberry truck traffic; independent truckers that are headed for Crown, Cork and Seal or Best Buy. Their GPS is taking them right past the buildings and often end up getting stuck somewhere in Town, have trouble maneuvering and farmers have to help them out of ditches. The difficulty is trucks trying to get to the facility, not leaving. There are several signs, but the truck drivers follow what the GPS is saying. Ms. Tinney has researched the following:
  - Asked about putting signs on the highway stating to use Exit 63 only, but the state won't allow it.

- Reached out to the Sr. VP of Independent Truckers Association to ask if there was a difference in software being used and was told there is not.
- Checked with Bill Ostrander, Tioga Co. GIS Manager, to check directions on Wave, Google Maps, etc. and found the information is correct.

Ms. Tinney reported taking several calls from residents, will continue to work on this issue and keep this committee informed of any progress.

- USDA/REAP – Joint meeting regarding potential funding opportunities. Ms. Tinney stated USDA has funding set aside for REAP specific to Tioga County; looking to access those funds.
  - ST8 - Met to discuss putting a marketing plan in place for all Opportunity Zones in the Southern Tier. There are two federally designated opportunity zones in Tioga County. Ms. Tinney is working closely with ST8 on this project.
  - Owego Apalachin School District- The school discontinued their STEAM Program due to COVID; conversations are beginning again. This is a collaboration of different entities across the County specifically related to preparing our students for post-graduation with the hope of keeping them within the community.
  - Prospects – ED&P TEAM is working on the following leads:
    - Warehouse distribution - Looking for 50 acres; connected them with a few property owners.
    - Project Closet – Potential manufacturing company; looking for an existing building.
    - Village of Owego – Ms. Tinney reported there has been a lot of interest from commercial and residential developers and is taking calls on a regular basis from developers looking at the Owego area. Ms. Tinney stated the DRI is having an impact on the area.
- Legislator Roberts asked if there was a way to track those that decline coming to the area; to see if there is a trend that might be able to be fixed. Ms. Tinney will look into the possibility of tracking this information.
- Presentations
    - Kiwanis- Interested in a presentation regarding IDA 101; Christine Curtis, IDA Administrator, will be giving a presentation later this week.

## Department Highlights

- COVID-19
  - Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council (TCERAC)
    - Economic Recovery Strategy Plan – All 9 committees are progressing on long and short term goals. TEAM Tioga is leading the committees. Most of the short term goals have been met; moving on to long term strategies.
  - PPP release- Working with the Small Business Development Center on getting the word out to our small businesses.
- Village of Owego
  - DRI (18 projects) - Starting to gain momentum on these projects.
  - NY Main Street (6 projects) - Ongoing; moving into the environmental review phase. Hope to see construction soon.
  - Owego Gardens 2
    - Water Tank work- Project has been awarded.

- DOH water system approval issued – Project was put out to bid; work was awarded to a local company, RB Robinson in Candor. An AQUASTORE tank will be installed. Home Leasing has started work on the site, beginning with the road to access the site.
- IDA
  - Crestwood PILOT - IDA approved the request for 3 parcels to be included in the 5-year PILOT.
- Land Bank
  - Ms. Saraceno to present at the March 4<sup>th</sup> work session.
  - Liberty/Temple Street area – Working on tenant relocations in partnership with Tioga Opportunities.
  - 2020 audit is underway.
- RESTORE NY
  - Owego and Waverly projects are progressing. Waverly project includes a restaurant, as well as three apartments.
- Housing
  - Home Leasing
  - Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services – Looking at the Liberty/Temple Street area.
  - SEPP – Looking in the Waverly area.
- Community Development – Ms. Hendrickson continues to work on the following:
  - Tioga County Non-Profit Network
  - Child Care Task Force
  - REAP
  - Tioga County Foundations Coalition
- Workforce – Ms. Woodburn continues to work on the following:
  - Broome Tioga Talent Task Force
  - Workforce Pipeline Development Study- Implementation
    - Workforce Liaison position to be created - Looking at the foundation for funding for this position for a 3 year period. After 3 years the hope is to get local businesses, schools, BOCES and local colleges to contribute toward that position. Continued efforts to keep young people in the area.
    - Talent Supply Table
- Ag – Ms. Griffiths continues to work on the following:
  - Agricultural Resource Group
    - Agricultural Resource Directory – Continually updating; Ms. Tinney had the directory on display.
  - Agricultural District Inclusion Public Hearing was held and there is a resolution before this committee, listed below, allowing for the inclusion of a 146 new acres to the Ag District.
  - TCERAC Ag Strategic Plan Implementation Meeting attended.
  - Ag and Farmland Protection Board Meeting attended.
  - Ag Value Chain Study Steering Committee

- DRAFT Memo completed by the Steering Committee and the consultants outlining themes and potential strategies; work continues on this project.
  - Webinars
    - Agritourism & Rural Grocery
    - Cornell Cooperative Extension Solar and Farmland
  - Agribusiness Facebook Spotlights/Facebook updates
  - Other
    - GIS mapping activities
    - DRI Project Administration
    - NY Main Street Project Administration
    - Solar project mapping

Not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney reported that T from CCE, is working with the Department of Health on a farmer vaccination site at the Fairgrounds 4-H Youth Building; they need to be ready for when the doses arrive. They are setting up a drive through.

- Planning – Ms. Jardine is working on the following:
  - 239 Reviews (3)
    - County Case 2021-003: Village of Waverly, PUD Special Permit with Site Plan Review, Cocoon Wellness & Birthing Center – Applicant wants to establish a birthing and wellness healthcare practice in an existing residential structure at 31 Ithaca Street, across from the Village Offices. Staff recommended approval and the TCPB carried the vote.
    - County Case 2021-004: Town of Owego, Floodplain Development Special Use Permit, Apalachin Development – Applicant wants to fill and evenly grade this site that has been marketed for decades for future commercial development at the Exit 66 interchange in Apalachin. Staff recommended approval and the TCPB could not carry the vote, resulting in an inaction.
    - County Case 2021-005: Town of Owego, Special Use Permit, Watson Engineering – Applicant wants to add five 30x50 square foot storage units at the rear of their property and pending engineering office building located near the corner of State Route 434 and Forest Hill Road in Apalachin. Staff recommended approval and the TCPB unanimously carried the vote.
  - State Mandated County Pandemic Operations Plan
  - Village of Owego - Assisting with National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System that will reduce residents' flood insurance costs.
  - Village of Owego/INHS local approvals
  - Active Plans
    - Village of Waverly Comprehensive Plan
    - Tioga County Economic Recovery Strategic Plan (COVID)- Implementation
- Grants
  - Potential (11)

- Town of Berkshire- DOT TAP funding (sidewalk extension)
- Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services
- Village of Nichols- Shared Services USDA Community Facilities (vacuum truck)
- ARC- Workforce Development Liaison
- Hooker Foundation- Workforce Liaison
- REAP-Owego Elks Lodge- Fannie C. Hyde
- Candor EMS- Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation
- Candor EMS- Mee Foundation
- REAP- Owego Elks Lodge- Mildred Faulkner Truman
- Racker- USDA/CDBG Neighborhood Depot
- Village of Owego- CDBG, Housing Rehab
- Pending (6)
  - REAP- Community Foundation (Code Enforcement Plan Implementation Tasks)
  - Village of Candor- NY Main Street
  - TCLDC-USDA RDBG- Tioga County Recruitment Tool
  - TCLDC-USDA RBDG- Technical Assistance to Business
  - Town of Richford- CDBG (engineering of railroad stream crossing)
  - Catholic Schools of Broome County- Fannie C. Hyde
- Active (19)
  - Village of Owego- RESTORE NY, Briggs/Awad
  - Village of Owego- Downtown Revitalization Initiative
  - Village of Waverly- NYS Parks, Waverly Glen Park
  - Village of Waverly- RESTORE NY, Twigg
  - REAP- USDA REDI, Strategic Planning (extended 1 year)
    - ❖ Cottage Industry Study (TOI/REAP/TEAM Tioga)
  - REAP- USDA, Public Well (equipment)
  - REAP- Tioga Downs, Workforce Pipeline Implementation
  - TCPDC- Enterprise Community Partners (land bank funds)- X2
  - Village of Owego- Main Street (CFA)
  - Midwestern Pet Foods (CFA)
  - Racker (CFA)
  - IDA- USDA RBDG, Multi-county Broadband Study
  - IDA- USDA RBDG, Ag Value Chain Study
  - Village of Waverly- Mildred Faulkner Truman, Waverly Glen Park
  - Town of Richford- SAM, Assemblyman Friend (highway equipment)
  - Village of Owego- CU, Design Connect (art park)
  - Owego Apalachin Central School District- WDI (workforce)
  - Tioga County – 2020/2021 Snowmobile Trails (Phase I)
  - Tioga County- 2020/2021 Snowmobile Trails (Phase II)
- Completed (1)
  - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (grandstand restoration)

## **2021 Budget**

- Economic Development- Tracking
- Planning- Tracking

## **Other**

- The TEAM Tioga 2020 Annual Report was distributed.
- The Soil and Water 2020 Annual Report was distributed.
- Legislative Chair, Ms. Sauerbrey, thanked Ms. Tinney for allowing Ms. Jardine to work on the creation of the State Mandated County Pandemic Operations Plan; adding that she did a great job.

**Resolutions** The following resolutions were presented and agreement was made to move them forward:

C04-Appoint Member (Messler) to the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board

C05-Reappoint Member (B Johnson) to the Tioga County Local Development Corp Board

C06-Reappoint Member (C DiStefano) to the Tioga County Local Development Corp Board

C07-Reappoint Member (D Astorina) to the Tioga County Local Development Board

C13-Request the Rescinding of the NYS Fiber Right of Way Fee

C14-Authorize 2021 Requests for Inclusion of Land in Agricultural Districts

C25-Set Public Hearing for CDBG 2020 Housing Rehab Application

C26-Authorize CDBG 2020 Housing Rehab Grant Application

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Sampson

Administrative Assistant to Economic Development & Planning