

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman  
Joseph J. Minuta, Rob Sassi,  
Joel Sierra, Kathy Stegenga, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
John S. Vero, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harold Porr III, Deputy County Executive  
Daniel Bloomer, Director of Operations  
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
Amanda Dana, Tourism Director  
Stephanie Kistner, Tourism Coordinator  
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:02 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator O'Donnell who participated via teleconference and Legislator Cheney who was excused.

Mr. Sassi moved the request for confirmation of reappointment to Orange County Community College Board of Trustees for the term expiring June 30, 2026 (F. Watson), seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Porr stated that Fred Watson has been serving on the Orange County Community College Board of Trustees and this will be his second term. They are seven-year terms and he is the current Chairman of the Board and he is doing an excellent job.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Dana presented the quarterly update for Orange County Tourism and Orange County Film Office (see original minutes). Ms. Dana showed the committee members a video regarding Tourism/Marketing, "The Perfect Place" and another video of Choice Umbra Stages.

Next on the agenda was Legislative Counsel Reed who explained the annual review of the agricultural districts under Agricultural and Markets Law. The 30-day review period runs from March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020. This will provide the opportunity for landowners to submit applications to the Orange County Department of Planning for inclusion of their property in Agricultural District Nos. 1 or 2. The Clerk of the Legislature will have the notice published in the newspapers. Applications are submitted to the Orange County Planning Department and reviewed with the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board who conduct site visits and make a final recommendation to the Legislature. The Legislature would then hold a public hearing and

vote on the properties in August. Ms. Reed pointed out that no action is required by the committee at this time.

Last on the agenda was the 8-Year Review on the inclusion and exclusion of lands in Agricultural District Nos. 1 & 2.

Ms. Tautel moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature directing the Clerk of the Legislature to publish a Notice of Review of Orange County Agricultural Districts Nos. 1 (Towns of Blooming Grove, Chester, Cornwall, Crawford, Goshen, Hamptonburgh, Monroe, Montgomery, Newburgh, New Windsor, Palm Tree, Walkill And Woodbury and the Villages of Chester, Maybrook, Montgomery and Washingtonville) and 2 (Towns of Blooming Grove, Chester, Deerpark, Goshen, Greenville, Minisink, Monroe, Mount Hope, Walkill, Warwick and Wawayanda) of Orange County, New York and directing the Orange County Planning Board and Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board to file reports as to any proposed modifications to said districts, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Legislative Counsel Reed explained that counties with agricultural districts are required every 8-years to review and determine whether or not they want to continue, modify or discontinue the agricultural districts. There are two districts in Orange County with Agricultural District No. 1 north of Route 17 and Agricultural District No. 2 south of Route 17. They are looking to address two items this year: 1) to comply with the law, and 2) to seek Legislative approval to combine the two districts into one district causing less forms and confusion for landowners. There was a recent meeting held where they discussed having the Planning Department put the agricultural district maps on their website so that property owners can see which properties are in and or out of the district. Mr. Ruscher, Director of Real Property Tax Service Agency will work with the assessors as the goal is to keep properties in as opposed to coming out. Cornell Cooperative Extension will be working on community outreach with everything channeled through the Department of Planning. The Clerk of the Legislature will publish a notice of review in the county's official newspapers notifying landowners and municipalities that the 8-year review is being conducted with notice provided to the municipalities and eventually landowners whose property may be modified out and/or into the district. They expect having the report from the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board on or before May 22, 2020 and then a notice of public hearing will be issued with the public hearing held in July or August of 2020. The vote to adopt will take place at the November Legislative session and then they will send that information to the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for certification.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Mr. Sierra who left at 4:27 p.m.

On the motion of Ms. Tautel, seconded by Ms. Stegenga, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.