

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman  
Joseph J. Minuta, James D. O'Donnell,  
Rob Sassi, Kathy A. Stegenga, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Kevindaryan Lujan, Legislator  
John Vero, Legislator  
Daniel Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Robert J. Schreibeis, Jr., Staff Assistant to the County Executive  
Harold Porr III, Acting County Executive  
Steven M. Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources  
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources  
Karin Hablow, Commissioner, Finance  
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner, Finance  
Nicole Andersen, Director, Community Development  
Linda Dauer, Vice President of Admin., Orange County Community College  
Agnes Wagner, Comptroller, Orange County Community College  
Lucy T. Joyce, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:12 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Cheney and Sierra who were absent.

Ms. Dauer updated the committee on the 2019-2020 budget process and provided a state funding update. She displayed a power point presentation (see original minutes). She addressed Major Budget Drivers; AY 18-19 Full-Time Equivalent; Projected FTE based on Orange County HSG; Orange County Community College Budget History Highlights; AY1920 Budget Challenges; 2019/20 State Budget; 2019/20 State Budget CC Highlights; Budget Scenario Summary, DRAFT; SUNY Orange Initiatives; and the Next Steps.

Ms. Stegenga moved the request to create new position of Community Development Project Manager, Grade 15, to replace the Rehabilitation Planner Position, Grade 14, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Ms. Andersen explained that John Ebert who was the Rehabilitation Planner retired in January. After reviewing the work they do, they really needed to change the position. She stated

that the work Mr. Ebert was doing over the years did not match what he was actually doing such as construction. She added that the position is fully federally funded.

Mr. Minuta asked how long the position will be federally funded.

Ms. Andersen replied until the federal government decides to stop funding the entire department. It has been around for forty years and is the longest running HUD program. Now that she sees how in depth everything is ran in the department, it is the most effective way to get funding into the local communities.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Joyce was next on the agenda to provide an update on Cornell Cooperative Extension. She stated that they have been focusing on the Resilience video that deals with adverse childhood experiences. They have been showing it all over and are working with many county departments and staff. It's an exciting program which goes hand in hand with the Strengthening Families Program. The 4-H Program had major staff changes. They are advertising for a new leader and requires a masters degree. The robotics program is growing and there is a lot of interest in that. She added that most of their livestock animals are leased. There is a lot of pressure on dairy farms and they are in a lot of distress. New crops such as hemp, are on the rise. She announced Animal Fun Day which will be combined with a dog show in June. She expressed her disappointment that their engagement broke with the Otisville Country Fair which would help them. The main reason why it broke was due to the Orange County Fair changing their dates and moved it back a week. They are hosting their 4-H Fair and Family Festival. She is hopeful that in the near future they can join forces with the Lions Club. She added that their focus this year is to get water to the barns and are desperate to build a storage facility. She mentioned that a few years ago the Legislature passed a resolution in support of Cornell Cooperative Extension being able to receive the Fair Infrastructure Grant money from the Department of Agriculture and Markets. It is state money that has been given to every county fair for the past three years in the amount of roughly \$96,000. It is for agriculture infrastructure at fairgrounds. They are ineligible because the Orange County Agricultural Society is the eligible entity, although they have not applied. Last year, Senator Bonacic had it pass through the Senate but it did not pass in the Assembly and at that time the Farm Bureau and the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs were hesitant to change the rules for having new entities. Senator Bonacic had it switched so it was not an increase in funding from the Agricultural Society for them to be eligible. She is still working on that this year with Senator Metzger and Assemblywoman Gunther. They are now a member of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs and they understand their situation, so they are no longer in opposition. They now support them but are not going to go out and lobby for them.

Mr. Ruskiewicz asked if a new resolution was needed.

Ms. Joyce replied that they have been using the previous one. She added how great it would be for them to get the grant money because they could get the storage facility built and water to the barn.

Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that they never received the \$96,000 last year and Ms. Joyce confirmed he was correct.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they received the money when they were at the Orange County Fairgrounds and Ms. Joyce replied no, they did not.

Ms. Joyce explained that when Pataki was Governor, there was an Infrastructure Grant but they never applied for it.

Mr. O'Donnell confirmed that it has been three years that they missed out on the grant money and Ms. Joyce replied yes, it has been three years and there is talk of a fourth year.

Ms. Joyce stated that once you can qualify and are eligible, they can go back for retroactive to the first year, second and third year so there could be almost \$300,000.00 available to them.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they were eligible now and Ms. Joyce responded that they are not eligible, the law needs to change.

Ms. Joyce explained that when you go to a fair and have a project that is to be judged, you get a blue ribbon and maybe \$10.00 for that blue ribbon which is called a premium. There could be an animal someone puts on exhibit and things like that are called premium dollars. The law was written that you have to be getting and receiving premium money in order to qualify for the Fair Infrastructure Grant. When our kids were at the fair and won ribbons and had exhibits, they received money. When they left the fairgrounds, they lost the opportunity to receive that money. The kids are still showing but do not get premium dollars for it. When the infrastructure money came out, Mr. Ruskiewicz sent her the press release and she was proactive right away, only to find out they were not eligible because they were not given premiums. She asked what sponsors can she get in order to get premiums and she was told she did not qualify for it anyway because there is already an entity doing that. She reiterated again that Senator Metzger is trying to move something forward.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Ms. Joyce if she could prepare a draft resolution asking for the money going back three years and put supporting reasons within the resolution.

Ms. Joyce agreed and planned to work on a resolution.

Chairman Brescia stated that the draft resolution can go before the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations Committee on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ruskiewicz shared with the committee that Mr. Fioravanti was not able to be at the meeting today but did submit his monthly report which was distributed to committee members (see original minutes).

On the motion of Ms. Tautel, seconded by Mr. Sassi, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.