

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MAY 20, 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  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Kevindaryan Lujan, Legislator  
Peter Tuohy, Legislator  
John Vero, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harold Porr III, Acting County Executive  
Daniel Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Steven M. Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources  
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources  
Bill Fiovoranti, Director, Economic Development  
Stephanie Kistner, Tourism Coordinator, Tourism  
Lucy T. Joyce, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Kevin Sumner, O. C. Soil & Water Conservation District Director  
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director  
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Cheney moved Home Rule Resolution of the Orange County Legislature in support of Senate Bill S5510 and Assembly Bill A2079 seeking to amend New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 286 to provide that Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County be eligible to qualify for State funding reimbursements and grant programs for the Promotion of Agriculture and Domestic Arts, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Ms. Reed explained that last month the Legislature adopted a resolution supporting the Home Rule Request for the inclusion of Cornell Cooperative Extension into Section 286 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law. This will allow them to be included as an eligible entity and to qualify for state reimbursement, application for grants and premiums from New York State Agriculture and Markets. We would like to support and endorse both bills and when you send a home rule and there are bills pending in both houses

you fill out blue forms which will go to various committees and to our senators and assembly people who will walk the bills through.

Mr. O'Donnell requested the Education and Economic Development Committee members be added as sponsors.

Chairman Ruszkiewicz granted the request with the exception of Ms. Tautel who abstained.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Ms. Tautel who abstained.

Ms. Stegenga moved Home Rule Resolution of the Orange County Legislature in support of Senate Bill S4974 and Assembly Bill A7423 seeking to amend New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 16 and the Environmental Conservation Law Sections 27-1907 and 27-1915 to develop a plan and provide funding for remediation and removal of waste tires used in agricultural production, seconded by Mr. Sierra.

Ms. Reed explained that the legislature adopted a resolution to provide funding to dairy farmers for the removal of tires. There is now a statewide effort to remove tires from all farming operations. There is \$75,000.00 set aside which will be offset by other funding received by grants or state funding. It amends the Environmental Conservation Law and the Agriculture and Markets Law. It will ask the two commissioners of those agencies to put together a comprehensive plan on removal and remediation of those tires.

Mr. Sumner commented that they are moving along with their project and have the first pick up tomorrow.

Chairman Brescia stated that Mr. Sumner came to the IDA a few weeks ago and the governance committee approved \$25,000 and he was able to get it raised to \$37,500 at the regular meeting. He was happy to see that the state was doing something and if they can bring more money to the pot, which they should have a done long time ago.

Mr. Ruszkiewicz thanked Chairman Brescia for his help and support through the IDA.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Ms. Tautel who abstained.

Ms. Joyce addressed why Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County should be eligible to qualify for State funding reimbursements and grant programs for the Promotion of Agriculture and Domestic Arts. Basically, unless they are interested in going back to Orange County Fairgrounds, they are not interested in talking to her. She thanked the committee and noted that hopefully this shows local support.

Mr. Cheney asked for clarification.

Ms. Joyce explained that Agriculture and Markets are concerned about opening things up where other counties might say this one gets it but not this one.

Mr. Cheney asked if every other county in the state has only one entity.

Ms. Joyce confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Cheney asked if she told Agriculture and Markets that we only want one entity.

Ms. Joyce thought it said to switch entities in the resolution, however that was not the case.

Ms. Reed stated that as of now there is legislation pending and they were not going to change it at this point. Perhaps next year they can start early discussions with the Agricultural Society and see if there is a way they can work out an arrangement, so they do not lose the premiums.

Mr. Fioravanti presented the Economic Development monthly update (see original minutes).

Ms. Kistner presented a quarterly update on Tourism (see original minutes).

Mr. Sassi moved request to create one (1)  
Part-time Film Office Specialist, Grade 11,  
seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Ms. Kistner explained that this position will handle development and marketing to help support film and video production.

Motion carried. All in favor

Mr. Sierra moved to review applications for Inclusion of Lands in Agricultural District Nos. 1 & 2 and review SEQRA and set the public hearing for June 6, 2019 at 3:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Ms. Reed stated that this will come back to the committees in June after the public hearing is held which will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m. before the Legislative Session. There are two parcels, one in the Town of Chester and one in the Town of Newburgh. The Newburgh parcel is presently being farmed for Christmas trees. The town supervisor was notified and received no response to date. This parcel was unanimously supported by the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. The other parcel in Chester is presently being farmed for growing strawberries and ethnic food. The owner plans to raise livestock, goats, cows, chickens, horses, pigs, bees and flowers. The town supervisor was notified, and they have not received comment to date. This parcel was also voted unanimously by the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.

Motion carried. All in favor with the exception of Mr. Sassi who left at 4:47 p.m.

On the motion of Ms. Tautel, seconded by Ms. Stegenga, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.