

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Thomas J. Faggione, Legislator
John S. Vero, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Marina O'Neill, Assistant County Attorney
Steven M. Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources
David Church, AICP, Commissioner of Planning
Nicole Andersen, Director, Community Development
Robert Dart, Contractor, Community Development
Rachel Wilson, Director, Youth Bureau
Susan Ambrosino, Associate Account Clerk II, Youth Bureau
Laurie Villasuso, Chief Operating Officer & Exec. V.P., Industrial Dev. Agency
Vinnie Cozzolino, Managing Dir., Industrial Development Agency
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 with the exception of Legislators Sierra and Stegenga.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to accept and appropriate funds in the amount of \$7,886.00 from the "Friends of the Orange County Youth Bureau," seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Ms. Wilson stated that this funding will be put towards printing more Youth Bureau directories as well as coordination efforts with the Accelerator through the IDA for job readiness and skill building.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel moved the request to create one (1) Fiscal Manager, Grade 15, in the Office of Community Development, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Ms. Andersen explained the big changes that took place at Community Development, especially with all the staff that retired, now they are rebuilding the structure and the staff. It is a newly created position which is 100% federally funded.

Chairman Brescia asked if the individual will help with accounts payable to assist in the lag of payments to municipalities.

Ms. Andersen responded yes, they will. She added that they are trying to bring the department up to 2019 current regulations and she needs a high-level person to do it. She added that they brought back Bob Dart who was an auditor for the county for twenty years.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel request supplemental appropriation to adjust award and Program Income for CDBG to reflect actual receipts which reduces the General Ledger by (\$512,939.66), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Dart explained that on an annual basis they should adjust the budgets to the actual amount to what they received. It has not been done since 2011. They are now making the corrections.

Mr. Benton asked if this should be audited every year and is this something that they should add to our accountants duties as additional oversight.

Mr. Dart responded that you could but hopefully it will be getting done correctly now.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Tautel request supplemental appropriation to adjust awards to reflect actual receipts for the HOME Program, which reduces the General Ledger by (\$138,357.14), seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Villasuso and Mr. Cozzolino provided a quarterly update on the IDA (see original minutes for flash drive). Ms. Villasuso addressed *IDA/CBD Accelerator, Farms, Technology Partners, and Resource Partners, Persons of Interest, Processors, End Products, and Research/Training*. They showed a news clip, *Betting the Farm on Hemp* from Channel 4 News with Ms. Villasuso who was briefly interviewed.

Mr. Cheney moved to approve SEQRA and applications for inclusion of lands into the Orange County Agricultural District Nos. 1 & 2, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Church explained that March is the annual review submission period for request to be added to the Orange County Agricultural District Nos. 1 and 2. There were two deemed eligible; one in the Town of Newburgh Agricultural District No. 1 and one in the Town of Chester Agricultural District No. 2. with both subject to SEQRA. There were comments made on the Newburgh parcel.

Ms. Tautel mentioned that there were comments regarding traffic control. What do we do to address those concerns before moving forward with the process.

Mr. Ruskiewicz stated that agricultural districts do not affect local zoning. Many of the concerns addressed at the public hearing were local municipalities issues. This will give certain protections under Right to Farm Laws.

Mr. Benton suggested that the applicants provide an additional map as to where they want their farm operation. The property owner should highlight what they envision and what they plan to do.

Mr. Church stated they could look at further documentation regarding the applicants.

Mr. Minuta was concerned about the neighbors on Holmes Road. The proposal is to grow Christmas trees. When chainsaws start running, hydraulics of machines in a residential neighborhood with children and there could be sprays. When this is in an open area it would be great but when you condense it into a residential neighborhood, there is a difference. When he heard that the property owner was operating a bulldozer twenty feet in front of the neighbor's pool, that is not being a good neighbor.

Mr. Ruskiewicz pointed out that we are following the process of Agriculture and Markets, this is not the Orange County process, it is a state process.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to set public hearing for 2019-2020 OCCC Budget August 1, 2019 at 3:15p.m., seconded by Ms. Tautel.

On the motion of Mr. Sassi, seconded by Mr. Minuta, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.