

RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022
3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Paul Ruszkiewicz, Chairman
Michael Amo, Barry J. Cheney, Kevin W. Hines, Michael D. Paduch

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Alan Sorensen, ACIP, Commissioner of Planning

Mr. Ruszkiewicz opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present with the exception of Legislators Faggione, Sierra and Stegenga who were absent.

Mr. Cheney moved request to accept and appropriate grant funds, as a subcontractor, to the Orange County Health Department for the Healthy Orange Schools and Communities Program for the period of 6/1/22 through 5/31/23. Grant funds will be used to fund thirty percent (30%) of a Community Health Coordinator position to be filled by one Planner. The coordinator will work with municipal officials in selected communities to develop appropriate policies for their jurisdictions and work with those officials, community organizations and members of the public to enact those policies, \$75,000.00, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Sorensen explained that this program has been in existence for several years and they are currently working with the following communities: Towns of Deerpark, Mount Hope, Wallkill, New Windsor, Newburgh and Highlands; cities of Port Jervis, Newburgh and Middletown and villages of Otisville and Highland Falls. The goal of the program is to increase the number of municipalities that implement community planning and active transportation interventions (walking and biking) to increase safe and accessible physical activity. They have provided training, models for complete street legislations and have worked with communities to get policies and legislation adopted. They encourage the inclusion of sidewalks and things of that nature to enhance pedestrian access.

Mr. Cheney asked if there was a relationship with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for their projects such as repaving, intersection upgrades and drainage that would encourage them to meet some of these goals. Mr. Sorensen replied yes, but not necessarily through this program. They have worked with municipalities to adopt complete street policies and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is very receptive of those ideas.

Mr. Cheney addressed an issue that the Village of Warwick was having regarding a state project and asked if the Orange County Planning Department could assist. Mr. Sorensen replied yes and asked that Mr. Cheney have the village of Warwick contact him.

Mr. Hines asked how the communities were selected. Mr. Sorensen replied that they were selected during the grant application process based on the eligibility criteria which included census tracts and poverty levels.

Mr. Amo suggested that Mr. Sorensen look at possibly expanding this to the Town of Palm Tree and village of Kiryas Joel as they could benefit from this program.

Mr. Sorensen responded that they would explore his suggestion and beyond this program they have a template of Complete Streets Policies that they are trying to get municipalities to adopt and goes well beyond the communities in this program.

Mr. Paduch asked how the coordinator will work with local officials, community organizations and members of the public to enact these policies. Mr. Sorensen replied that they have liaisons that work with the Orange County Planning Department and Community Health Coordinator to implement Complete Streets Policies and monthly meetings are held to coordinate and implement projects such as markings for pedestrian crossings, striping intersections, public safety events, and outreach materials.

Mr. Paduch asked if they go to National Night Out Against Crime events as they usually have a good turnout. Mr. Sorensen replied that he was unsure, but he would look into it.

Motion Carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.