

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

June 25, 2012

PRESENT:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman
William Hughes, Jr.
Elizabeth Young
Arthur Bassin
Ellen Thurston
Sarah Sterling
Arthur Baer
Jeffrey Braley
Ronald Knott
Richard Scalera
Robin Andrews

ABSENT:

John Porreca - notified
Matt Murell – notified
Michael Benson

ALSO PRESENT:

Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Kelly Radzick

PRESS: 1

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Farmland Protection Plan

Draft Objectives Input - The Board is looking for verbal and written comments on the draft plan. A representative will attend next month's committee meeting to accept these comments. At this time R. Knott of Stuyvesant has submitted comments from his town. Supervisors can email all comments to K. Flood.

Cornel Cooperative Extension – K. Radzick

4H Day was discussed. It was held at the Chatham and Taconic Schools for third graders.

Cornel is partnering with Questar and Columbia Greene Community College to create a program called Career Pathways Summer Camps. This will be paid through state funding and a grant from North East Agricultural.

Consolidated Funding Applications

Regional Counsel – A meeting took place this past Friday. K. Flood reported that the counsel is following the same trek that it did last year, focusing primarily on high-tech initiatives. There is not as much funding available as there was last year, and they expect that leverage requirements will be much more astringent this time around. Columbia County's plan will involve combining the Airport project with the Sewer Plant project, expanding the Airport, and making improvements to Richmore's buildings. They may also request a new hanger.

There is a new Agricultural Fund with \$3 million in funds available state wide. It is being targeted to make farms and agricultural related operations more profitable.

It was mentioned that Catamount is negotiating for a flagship.

Columbia Economic Development Corporation's Public Authorities Accountability -

Any organization created by a public entity is subject to public authority's accountability. Meetings for this organization will now be public. The public will now be allowed review the audit and the board will be subject to filling out Financial Disclosures. Employees of CEDC and their titles were discussed. Ken will be providing YTD progress reports to the committee regarding the corporation. CEDC's default rate was discussed and is less than 10%.

A tentative Broadband Meeting is scheduled for August 4th. It will be a public meeting and Representative Gibson will host it.

K. Flood reported that Local Ocean is in default of their PILOT and as a result the PILOT has been canceled, putting them back on the tax role. The current group had lost a lawsuit and a new investment group is looking to buy the operation.

Rail Trans Loading Facility

A CFA project was awarded last year to create a regional Rail Trans Loading Facility. They are still negotiating with DOT on how to structure the deal. No contract has been signed at this time. With certain milestones met, the IDA board authorized K. Flood to have the property appraised by two appraisers.

Greenport Crossings – Everything has come in under budget. The appraisal came in as expected. They are waiting for a DOT permit. The opening should be sometime in August.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:53PM by A. Baer, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried.

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