

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

September 24, 2012

PRESENT:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman
Michael Benson
Art Bassin
Jeff Braley
Ellen Thurston
Sarah Sterling
Matt Murell
Robin Andrews
Ronald Knott
Richard Scalera

ABSENT:

Arthur Baer - notified
William Hughes, Jr. – notified
Elizabeth Young, notified
John Porreca

ALSO PRESENT:

Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Linda Tripp
Evan Antonio

PRESS: 1

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

Agriculture:

Cornell Cooperative Extension – L. Tripp & E. Antonio

Proposed 2013 Budget – They are requesting the same amount as last year, \$500,000.00. The recent decrease in staff had some supervisors questioning if there should be a decrease in funding. R. Caponera explained that an MOU was signed between the County and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Controller certifies that all Columbia County funds are being put towards Columbia County programs.

Farmland Protection Grant Contract Extension – The contract with NYS Agriculture and Markets will be expiring.

Resolution Request – Authorization to extend the grant contract with NYS Agriculture and Markets contract expiration date for the Farmland Protection Planning Grant from October 1, 2012 to March 30, 2013. Motion to approve by R. Knott, seconded by M. Benson, motion carried.

Refer to Finance.

R. Keaveney requested that all Supervisors get a copy of the current draft of the plan.

New York Rural Water Study Proposal – This study would identify significant reserves of ground water. The Committee discussed the advantages of such a study. A copy of the NY Rural Water Study proposal was handed out. Funding from their previous federal source for ground water resource mapping has been exhausted. As K. Flood is confident that they will have a GIS system sometime next year he plans to come up with a plan to fund the remainder of this project through the NY Rural Water Association.

Economic Development

2013 Budget and Goals Discussion – CEDC is not asking for an increase in funding. It was pointed out that Columbia County is the biggest County contributor to Hudson Valley Agriculture, so there is an increase from \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 in that line item.

It was mentioned that Commerce Park now owns only a couple of acres of land. It was decided that it is still more cost effective to keep CEDC located where they are now.

K. Flood mentioned that new companies in the area are having a hard time hiring people.

Broadband Data from County Fair-

They received two pages of information from people attending the fair who have no broadband or whose broadband is lacking. They plan to compile this information to help make a case for funding.

Project Updates-

Greenport Crossings is still dealing with varying issues with Government Agencies.

Catamount is a priority project. They have requested money for the development of a sewer system.

Columbia County Airport-

There is a potential tenant interested in building a hanger. It was questioned if they could build in a new terminal and a new pilot's lounge.

K. Flood has an upcoming meeting with CNS Engineers where a wide range of topics for the airport will be discussed.

Resolution Request – Authorization to appoint Dan Marcus to the EMC Board. Motion to approve by M. Murrell, seconded R. Andrews, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

A large company that constructs truck stops, gas stations, and various other things are planning to locate at the B3 exist. The sales tax would be great for the County. They have offered a small bump out of space for tourism as well.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 5:54PM by A. Bassin, seconded by R. Knott, motion carried.

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