ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE January 22, 2013

PRESENT: ALSO PRESENT:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk

Robin Andrews

Elizabeth Young

Art Bassin

Jeff Braley

Ellen Thurston

Ronald Caponera

Kenneth Flood

Todd Erling

Patrice Perry

Chuck Brooks

Ellen Thurston

Sarah Sterling

John Porreca

Arthur Baer

Ronald Knott

Chuck Brooks

Jim Waterhouse

Becky Polmateer

Tom Garrick

Richard Scalera
Michael Benson
Press: 2

Chairman Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

Agriculture

Farmland Plan Review – Todd Erling, Executive Director HVADC & Jim Waterhouse The plan is currently being presented to the public, including a presentation in the Chambers at 401 State St. tonight. A handout was given on goals that have been reached. This plan will show that the County continues to have agriculture priorities, and will thereby allow the County to apply for more funding. It will also allow Towns, Board Members, etc. to have the full array of data.

Public 2

303b Additions to Agricultural Districts – Eight parcels that were all recommended by the Farm Land Protection Board will be added this year (134 Acres). One property that applied was not recommended to be made an Agricultural District for various reasons. A document of the parcels was passed around. The benefits of owning land in an Agricultural District were reviewed, including the fact that these districts supersede town zoning laws.

<u>Cornell Cooperative Extension</u> – Discussion of Eat Smart New York Programs and Parenting Classes, Becky Polmateer, Community Health and Wellness Team Coordinator There are two main programs – East smart NY and the Parenting program. Program highlights were reviewed. ESNY is a grant program. They are facing a 28% budget reduction. Programming will continue, but will be cut back.

The Parenting Program is not currently available in Columbia County as it is set up and funded through Greene County Department of Social Services. They have had discussions with the Columbia County DSS Commissioner. Grants are being pursued at this time, which leaves them hopeful that his program will be offered in Columbia County in the near future.

They have recently contracted with CDPHP and will deliver a nutrition lesson in May and June to CDPHP members.

Girls at certain area Youth Detention Centers may also have services provided to them in the future.

K. Flood announced that CEDC has received \$82,000.00 to re-loan to small business in the area.

Economic Development

Geographical Information System (GIS)

\$17K has been secured for equipment and software through NYS DOT. P. Perry is working to set this equipment up and has been meeting with the MIS Director. They are keeping R. Lopez and S. Booy informed.

Recent Decisions on Consolidated Funding Applications-

On December 19, 2012 the Governor announced these awards. A handout was provided and reviewed of what was awarded in Columbia County.

Trans-loading Facility Update-

Discussions regarding a match with NYS have been settled. They will be proceeding with this project. There first step is to get a draft plan of the facility. They will then hope to get a preliminary to the town.

Business District Improvement Program-

All supervisors have received a fact sheet on this. The goal of this program is to occupy businesses in vacant store fronts on busy streets. They are trying to regenerate areas that are in need of assistance.

Project Update-

- -Local government efficiency grants are out which are provided by the State. The deadline is March 13^{th} .
- -Premier, which is going to occupy the former Wal-Mart, plans to be in the location by mid-February.
- -Phoenix Hudson is under production and doing very well.
- -LOVES is proceeding. They had a planning board meeting last night that went well. An issue that needs to be discussed is sign placement and sign size with the NYS Thruway Authority.

It was announced that the new SEQR Forms go into effect April 1st.

K. Flood attended the Work Force Investment Board meeting. He said a good group of businesses attended and continually spoke about seeking assistance in the improvement and continued training of their existing work force.

The Governor recently announced that there will be funding available to bring films to NY.

Columbia County Transportation-

R. Brown had tasked K. Flood with chairing the Columbia County Transportation Committee during his tenure as Chairman. Three meetings have taken place, one being today. There are currently 15 projects on the list which consist of town, County, and village projects. The role of this Committee is to help DOT prioritize this list of projects.

M. Benson stated that a large portion of this Committee should be ensuring that the County and Towns receive their fair share of state and federal funding. He does not think this is getting the attention that it should and should fall under the Public Works Department/ Committee. R. Andrews explained the history as to why it was not initially set up under Public Works. J. Porrecca applauded K. Flood for getting the committee off the ground. K. Flood will provide a copy of the Committee's list of projects to the Supervisors. .

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:04 PM by R. Keaveney, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Richachad Keaveney, Chairman	Michael Benson
Robin Andrews	Arthur Baer
Jeffrey Braley	William Hughes, Jr.
Ronald Knott	Matt Murell
John Porreca Sr.	Richard Scalera
Sarah Sterling	Ellen Thurston
Arthur Bassin	Elizabeth Young