

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

November 25, 2013

PRESENT:

Michael Benson, Dpty Chairman
Arthur Baer
Jeffrey Braley
Ronald Knott
John Porreca
Sarah Sterling
Ellen Thurston
Arthur Bassin
Elizabeth Young
Richard Scalera

ABSENT:

Richard Keaveney, notified

ALSO PRESENT:

Barbara Fischer, Asst. Dpty.Clerk
Kenneth Flood
Chuck Brooks
Linda Tripp
Robin Andrews
Ronald Caponera

PRESS: 2

Deputy Chairman Michael Benson called the meeting to order at 4:58 pm.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) - Chuck Brooks, Executive Director

Linda Tripp, 4- H Youth Development Program Director presented a Staffing List for 2014 explaining that there will be three full time exempt staff for 2014. Amanda Benson has been hired as the new 4-H Agriculture Educator (Community Educator). The 4-H Natural Environmental Educator (Community Educator) has been advertised but has yet to be filled. The "Guiding Principles," an informational packet describing the Vision, Values and Mission of 4-H Youth Development was presented to the Board. As of October 1, 2013, 4-H membership totals almost 450 children. Over 3400 children have been reached with 4-H Youth Programs. Elizabeth Young "thanked" Ms. Tripp, C. Brooks and Cooperative Extension for enriching the lives of families.

Agriculture- C. Brooks

C. Brooks explained that the Farmland Protection Plan still needs to be reviewed by New York State.

Economic Development- K. Flood

K. Flood explained that Columbia County has received a \$516,000 Community Development Block Grant Award by the New York State Housing Trust Fund to assist with the development of a new freezer facility at Ginsberg's. This is the first phase of a 65,000sq. ft. refrigerated warehouse to be located just over a mile from the current Ginsberg's distribution facility and office building on Route 66 in Ghent, NY.

Resolution Request- Authorization to accept the grant and to authorize the Chairman to take the required steps to implement the grant by R. Knott, seconded by J. Braley, motion carried. Refer to Finance.

The New York State Authority Budget Office Review CEDC and CRC- K. Flood explained that the reports were clean and there were questions on two expenditures. They are making sure that agencies are within the exact mission of the CEDC guidelines.

Received \$300,000 Loan Funds from SBA for people wanting to start a small business. The loan is now closed and they are looking for people to start borrowing.

Community Visitation Report was given. There was a visit to Matthew's signs.

Project Update

LOVES is going to Public Hearing in December. Construction will begin in the spring and they have received all approvals. Catamount must appear before the Planning Board again and they are working with the Town of Copake on this project.

FYI- K. Flood explained that GIS needs a matching grant. R. Caponera asked K. Flood to do a budget amendment in revenue and appropriations.

With no further business, there was a motion to adjourn at 5:30 PM by A. Baer, seconded by S. Sterling, motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Richard Keaveney, Chairman

Michael Benson

Robin Andrews

Arthur Baer

Ronald Knott

John Porreca, Sr.

Sarah Sterling

Ellen Thurston

Arthur Bassin

Richard Scalera

Elizabeth Young