

Planning & Development Committee
August 13, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Barry Ormsby, Legislators Robert Thomas, Philip Reed, Allen Drake, John Peck, Michael Behling, Robert Ferris

Others Present: Legislators Michael Astafan, Jennie Adsit, Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, Planning Director Don Canfield, Senior Typist Torri Richmire

Chairman Ormsby called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the June meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Wayne Vanderpool, Adams Center, New York, addressed the Committee regarding an Incredoubleman Triathlon that he is planning for September 13-14, 2014 in Sackets Harbor, New York. On the 13th there will be a sprint triathlon and a half ironman and on the 14th will be an olympic triathlon and a half ironman. He hopes to bring thousands of people into Jefferson County making a positive economic impact. He stated that he is not looking for financial assistance but would like help from police, fire and EMS at the event.

Cheryl Mayforth, Employment and Training Director, addressed the Committee regarding the North Country Economic Development Council and Employment and Training Department. She reported that the June unemployment rate in Jefferson County is 8.8%. She stated that the manufacturing and construction sectors have recovered since the recession but the government sector (including teacher and Fort Drum layoffs) has been hit hard causing the increased unemployment rate. She advised that an analysis was done on customer flow in Jefferson, Lewis, Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties resulting in Jefferson County having the highest number of customers coming into the One Stop Career Center.

Mrs. Mayforth reported that the North Country Economic Development Council has helped Jefferson County and the surrounding communities to focus on secondary drivers, such as tourism, the airport, agriculture and agri-business. She stated that by extending recreation seasons to support hotels and restaurants it will provide year round jobs for residents. The Council studies barriers in the community, such as housing, childcare, transportation and employment and training, to find solutions to the issues faced by rural communities.

She advised that Employment and Training is working with the North Country Empire Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program stating that job openings in these areas are unable to be filled due to a lack of education and training in these fields. One of their plans is to target youth by having a free camp at BOCES for Jefferson County students allowing them to be exposed to different occupations.

Mrs. Mayforth reviewed many programs the Employment and Training Department has offered to Jefferson County residents in the last year, such as Manufacturing Awareness Day, an

Annual Open House, Job Fair, Workforce 2020, STEM Sub Hub Launch, Entrepreneurial Day and Summer Youth Program.

She also reported that Job Club has been moved from the Department of Social Services Building to the One Stop Career Center. Job Club is for individuals who have applied for public assistance with the hope that they will find employment prior to their case opening. She stated that they are focusing more on case management with these individuals and the change has been successful.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution authorizing an agreement with the Community Action Planning Council (CAPC) to promote Fair and Equal Housing and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed and seconded by Legislator Behling. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution amending the 2013 County Budget in relation to the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Program and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Drake. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

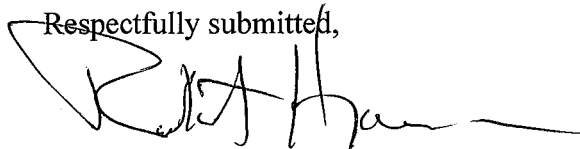
Chairman Ormsby reported that figures at the Watertown International Airport were up 13% for July making it the first time enplanements were over 4,000 in a month.

Legislator Peck reported that at the August Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting it was learned that legislation was passed allowing districts to enter into intermunicipal agreements with municipalities. He stated that given the district has certain special powers allowing them to go on private properties to do projects it might open up an avenue for partnership between local governments and the county to work with Soil and Water on some projects that may be of mutual benefit.

In response to a question from Legislator Behling, Mr. Hagemann stated that there had to be an increase in enplanements at the Watertown International Airport for at least two consecutive years to receive more federal funding. The question remains whether you have to complete three years or within the third year an increase will be seen.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Ferris and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert F. Hagemann, III', written over a horizontal line.

Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board