Economic Development/Planning/Recreation, Forestry and Parks Committee Meeting
November 27, 2017


12:30 p.m. meeting was called to order by Legislator Dolhof.

Ms. Ginny Churchill, a 25 year resident and landowner in the Town of Osceola, addressed the committee regarding her concern over opening a portion of County Route 44 for snowmobile traffic citing that her first concern is safety. As a member of the Osceola snowmobile club she is supportive of the trail system but has great concern about opening this 1.7 mile portion of highway due to the deteriorated shoulders, layout of this portion of road, and Town plow trucks needing to cross or turn around in this section of road. She also voiced concern over who would be held responsible if an accident would occur? She is asking that an alternative route be looked at to avoid the potential danger of snowmobiles on this portion of road.

Legislator Dolhof responded by stating that the Town of Osceola Supervisor made him aware that the Town is opposed to opening that section of road. County Attorney Joan McNichol addressed the question of “Who is responsible” by stating that it would ultimately depend on the circumstances but most likely the county would be responsible because it is a county road. Jackie Mahoney explained that if the Town of Osceola was against opening that portion of the road then in her opinion it wouldn’t pay to pursue it any further. Legislator Brennan pointed out that NYS Law allows snowmobiles to ride on the shoulders of that road so whether or not it is safe some snowmobilers will do it anyway. It was decided that the road would not be opened.

The following dockets were read and approved.

1. Resolution requesting Lewis County General Hospital reimburse the Lewis County Self-Insurance plan for penalties imposed by the Workers’ Compensation Board for late filings.
2. Resolution regarding SEQRA review of a new trail to be added to the Lewis County ATV Trail System and declaring no significant impact (Mike and Tracy Hurilla, Lawrence Williams and Mark Kovach Properties)
3. Resolution to incorporate Mike and Tracy Hurilla, Lawrence Williams and Mark Kovach properties into the Lewis County ATV Trail System.
4. Resolution regarding SEQRA review of a new trail to be added to the Lewis County ATV Trail System and declaring no significant impact (Raymond Gagnon, David and Laura Descoteau and Nowwhac LLC Properties)
5. Resolution to incorporate Raymond Gagnon, David and Laura Descoteau and Nowwhac LLC properties into the Lewis County ATV Trail System.
6. Resolution to appropriate funds – Trail Maintenance (Reimbursement of payroll by Careers Here)
7. Resolution to appropriate ATC monies in Bus Operations accounts - $48,998
8. Resolution to adopt updated Lewis County Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan
9. Resolution to authorize renewal agreement with Birnie Bus to provide busing operation for the Lewis County Public Transportation System for 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018
12:56 p.m. Recreation, Forestry and Parks (report attached)

Jackie Mahoney began by explaining that she had received a quote back from Enterprise on a F550. The lease quote came in at roughly $1,115/month for 5 years. Jackie thought that was high and has a hard time justifying due to only using the vehicle for 6 to 7 months out of the year. Ryan stated that he would call his contact at Enterprise and ask them if they can get better pricing. There was further discussion on pricing specifically regarding the cost of an F150 versus the F550 and leasing versus buying at State bid. Jackie also pointed out that at 5:30 this evening there would be a meeting at the Village of Lyons Falls DPW for a Public Hearing on opening a section of Belmont Street for ATV access and urged everyone to come out for support. Legislator Dolhof said he had reached out to every resident on that street and most are in favor of it. Jackie finished up by mentioning that she was in the process of working with clubs to update maps and next year agreements.

1:02 p.m. Public Transportation (report attached)

Casandra Buell announced that she had finalized the Lewis County Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The ATC Funds have been opened up so the next step is to set up revenue and expense accounts for the funds. She touched on some grant workshops that she had recently attended. In response to Legislator Dolhof question about the fluctuation in the population on the Transportation Plan report Casandra thought it could be due to the number of manufacturing plants that were open at that time, while Legislator Brennan thought it might have to do with the construction of Fort Drum. It was brought up that a possible drop off location of the Jefferson County bus route could be the hospice center on Gotham Street. Casandra explained that the route is very flexible and anyone can get on or off the bus along the route, it doesn’t have to be a designated stop. She went on to clarify that the bus can deviate up to ¼ of a mile anywhere along the route to accommodate someone all the person has to do is call in advance to let them know where they want to be picked up and dropped off. County Attorney Joan McNichol thought that there should be more advertising done to show the flexibility of the public transportation program, not many people are aware of that aspect.

1:10 p.m. Planning (report attached)

Frank Pace briefly touched on the annual agricultural district 30 day inclusion period and clarified that it was the 8 year review which was just closed. Frank reported on the November 17th trip to the Commissary on Fort Drum in which all Lewis County products that were taken were purchased to be distributed to 5 other commissaries. The interest at Fort Drum was phenomenal. Frank had taken one box of the new visitor guides from the Chamber of Commerce and he had handed them all out as many were interested in what Lewis County offered. In response to a question about the capability of vendors to be able to supply the large quantities necessary for a commissary Frank explained that it was part of the application process for vendors in order to have their products taken. Frank mentioned that the solar project should be ready to go live by the end of December, as the wiring should be completed by the middle of next week. Frank concluded by explaining that the CEC grant had new criteria so he was working with Frank Archer to change the proposal to better line up with the new criteria. Frank assured the committee that Lewis County was still in line to receive the $100,000 grant but needed to change the project plan due to the new criteria.
1:26 p.m. Economic Development (report attached)

Eric Virkler announced that there was a company with a small project of 5 towers which is in the process of development in Martinsburg and Harrisburg. The ReEnergy Lyonsdale PILOT had been finalized. The Copenhagen Wind Farm agreement will be signed off on very soon. In response to a question Eric Virkler responded that the Copenhagen Wind Farm is basically a done deal even though there is so much controversy over these types of projects. He also mentioned that the Copenhagen Towers were going to be taller than most current towers at a height of up to 600 feet. The ReEnergy Lyonsdale PILOT was discussed as the renegotiated PILOT extends through 2019 too. Eric Virkler has spoken to someone at the Energy plant who confirmed that one of the turbines was shut down due to damage but the part was ordered and the once the repair is done the turbine should be up and running again. Legislator Tabolt pointed out that there is a Bio Fuel plant in Canada and he urges everyone to go to visit and see the operation.

Eric stated that the solar project in New Bremen has been approved for siting, the next step would be a PILOT agreement. Eric would like to see consideration of a standard taxing agreement for these types of projects. Acadia Energy presented to the LCIDA board about providing consulting services to develop and build microgrids. They are currently working on a microgrid on Jefferson County. There could be potential for these types of projects in Lewis County. One specific point of interest is that they do not reply on National Grid. The micro grids have their own separate infrastructure that is below ground. Eric concluded by mentioning the Business Leaders Breakfast went well even after a few formatting changes.

Frank Pace handed out an outline of a new Program Ryan has implemented in which an Economic Development Team has been put together and meets every Monday morning. The team consists of Eric Virkler, Director of Economic Development; Frank Pace, Director of Planning; Jackie Mahoney, Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks; Kristen Aucter, Director of Chamber of Commerce; Michele Ledoux, Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. They discuss the topics of Business, Agriculture, Community Development, and Tourism/Recreation and gather input as a way to gain direction for Economic Development in the county. Ryan feels they are moving in the right direction with this.

At 1:52 p.m. Legislator Moser motioned to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations of the acquisition of property, seconded by Legislator Brennan. Motion passed.

At 2:15 p.m. Legislator Brennan motioned to enter back into regular session, seconded by Legislator Moser. Motion passed.

At 2:15 p.m. Legislator Moser motioned to adjourn the meeting, Legislator Brennan seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Deputy Clerk, Board of Legislators
Memo

TO: Frank Pace, Director of Planning

CC: Ryan Piche, County Manager
    Cassandra Moser, Deputy Clerk of the Board
    Planning Legislative Committee
    • Larry Dolhof, Chairman
    • Craig Brennan
    • Bryan Moser

FROM: Casandra Buell, Planner

DATE: November 20, 2017

SUBJECT: November 2017 Committee Report (Meeting: 11/27/17 @ 12:30 PM)

Fair Housing Task Force
• Attended Fair Housing Task Force meeting held in the Planning office on November 15, 2017.
• Created the Fair Housing page on the new Lewis County website that provides information to landlords and tenants regarding resources and agencies that assist in fair housing matters.

Lewis County Public Transportation
• Prepared a Spanish version of the Lewis County Public Transportation Fixed Route schedule for the migrant worker population.
• Coordinated and launched the JCC Connector Route expansion to the Salmon Run Mall on November 1, 2017.
• Presented information to advocates and clients at the Systems Advocacy Meeting regarding our Lewis County Public Transportation system held at the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) center on November 1, 2017.
• Recorded an informational video on Lewis County Public Transportation routes and new services with Nick Altmire from LinkingLewisCounty.com on November 1, 2017.
• Met with Terry Inkawich and Missy Kenealy of Birnie Bus on November 11th to discuss and draft the 2018 contract. Also drafted revisions to Schedule B portion of the 2017 contract and submitted to Joan McNichol for review.
• Attended the Central New York Agriculture Worker Coalition held at the Carthage Professionals Building on November 14, 2017. The Coalition requested transportation education for agencies throughout Lewis and Jefferson Counties that work directly with migrant workers. I will be working with Margaret Murray of Cornell Cooperative Extension to schedule an educational transportation meeting with farmers throughout Lewis County who employ migrant workers.

• Collaborated with Leslie DiStefano, JCC Marketing and Communications Director, to promote the JCC Connector Route at the Town Hall Theater. The attached advertisement will run prior to all showings for the next two (2) months and will be billed to JCC. They plan to run this ad a few times each year.

• Working with Birnie Bus to utilize the electronic route signs on the two (2) Lewis County Public Transportation buses. Birnie Bus has struggled to configure the electronic signs properly and is working to get them up and running.

• Received authorization from New York State Department of Transportation on November 13, 2017 to move forward with the procurement of the mobility management vehicle, wi-fi modems, and bus stop signs.

• Completed and submitted New York State Office of General Services (NYSOGS) mini-bid paperwork for the 2017 Rav4 XLE Hybrid mobility management vehicle on November 16, 2017. The bid is now posted on the NYSOGS website and will remain there until November 24, 2017.

Training

• Attended introductory training with Charlie Higgins, Account Executive with IMPAN, on Lewis County’s new Economic Impact Analysis program (IMPLAN) on November 7, 2017.

• Attended a Webinar for “Your First Analysis with IMPAN” presented by Lynette Hatton, Customer Service Manager with IMPLAN, on November 8, 2017.

• Attended a Grant Workshop presented by USDA Rural Development, U.S. Small Business Association and Farm Service Agency held at the Tug Hill Vineyards on November 8, 2017.

Double Play Community Center

• Met with Double Play Community Center and Lewis County Economic Development on October 24, 2017 at the Lewis County IDA/Economic Development Office to discuss the Community Center Project status and path forward.

County Planning Board / 239-L and M Reviews

• Prepared one (1) 239-M review for the month of November. County Planning Board recommendations were presented for the following municipality at the November 16, 2017 CPB meeting:
  o Special Use Permit - Town of Martinsburg Planning Board

Community Development

• Attended the “In the Beginning” History and Demographics Leadership Academy Session held on October 20th. The bus tour included stops at the Lewis County Historical Society in Lowville, Town of Diana Museum in Harrisville, and the Mennonite Heritage Farm just outside of Croghan.

• Attended the Lyons Falls/Tug Hill Zoning Development meeting held on October 23, 2017 at the Lyons Falls Fire Hall.

• Attended the United Way of Northern New York conference “It’s a Jungle Out There,” held on October 24, 2017 at the Watertown Ramada Inn.
Memo

TO: Ryan Piche, County Manager
    Recreation, Forestry & Parks Legislative Committee
    • Larry Dolhof, Chairman
    • Craig Brennan
    • Bryan Moser

CC: Cassandra Moser, Deputy Clerk of the Board

FROM: Jackie Mahoney, Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks

DATE: November 20, 2017

SUBJECT: November 2017 Committee Report (Meeting 11/27/17 @ 12:30 PM)

Docket Items
1. Resolution regarding SEQRA review of a new trail to be added to the Lewis County ATV Trail System and declaring no significant impact (Mike and Tracy Hurilla, Lawrence Williams and Mark Kovach Properties).
2. Resolution to incorporate Mike and Tracy Hurilla, Lawrence Williams and Mark Kovach properties into the Lewis County ATV Trail System.
3. Resolution regarding SEQRA review of a new trail to be added to the Lewis County ATV Trail System and declaring no significant impact (Raymond Gagnon, David and Laura Descoteau and Nowwhac LLC. properties).
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5. Resolution to Appropriate Funds – Trail Maintenance (Reimbursement of payroll by Careers Here)
6. Resolution to set Public Hearing on December 21, 2017 to open County Route 44 for snowmobile access. (see Snowmobile section below)

Equipment
I still have not received a quote from Enterprise on the F550 Dump Truck costs.
Crew
All my seasonal employees are done for the year. I am very thankful for the great employees I had this year and I hope that I can get them all back next year. The equipment has been put away for the winter in the horse barn at the Fairgrounds. The Highway Department will keep the dozer with theirs in case they need to use it.

Snowmobile
The Osceola Snowmobile Club has had a landowner shut down the C4 Snowmobile Trail between Ryan Road and C5G. The club has requested that the Redfield Road, County Route 44 from Ryan Road to the Florence Road, County Route 78 be opened to snowmobile traffic (see attached map). This will provide a reroute for the C4 trail. They feel this will be the safest location for a reroute due to the time constraints. They will continue to work on attaining off-road trail access. At this time, I have emails out to the Highway Department as well as the Town of Osceola in regard to this request.

Black River Navigation
Met with Lewis County Soil & Water and Tug Hill Commission to see what can be done regarding the navigability of the Black River. We plan on meeting monthly to discuss this matter. Moving ahead we will reach out to other agencies to see what projects would be the best options to pursue.

ATV
The ATV Permit Report is attached. There have been 101 permits, 238 passes and $10 in donations in October, bringing the total revenue to-date to $80,588.12. This is down 79 permits and up 124 passes when compared to last year to date and a decrease of $7,412.22 from last year. The contract with the Chamber of Commerce will be up for renewal in December. I have discussed it with the County Attorney to change the website clause since Adam will be doing it.

The November ATV Round Table Meeting had 14 people in attendance; meeting minutes are attached. The next meeting will be Monday December 11, 2017 at 5 PM at Lewis County Search and Rescue. It was decided to move the meeting earlier so it could be done in time for the LCASA meeting.

On October 23rd, I attended the Village of Lyons Falls Board meeting with a group of ATV enthusiasts to request that the section of Belmont Street from the rail road bed off-road ATV trail to the Williams et al off-road ATV Trail be opened to ATV traffic (see attached map). The village agreed to set the public hearing to November 27th at 5:30 PM at the DPW. Nichelle from the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District has completed the long form of the SEQR for the road opening and found there was no significant impact. I have encouraged the ATV clubs and everyone attending the ATV Round Table to attend the Public Hearing and show their support of this opening.

ATV Trail Agreements
The Black River Valley Riders ATV Club, Highmarket Wheelers, Tug Hill Wheelers and Tug Hill Adirondack ATV Association have each signed their 2017 ATV trail agreements. The Highmarket Wheelers and the Black River Valley 4 Wheelers ATV Club have returned the 2018 ATV Club agreements. The Black River Valley 4Wheelers are from Brantingham and are new this year. I have also extended invitations to the Northern Oneida County ATV Club and the Osceola ATV Club.
Website
I have met with Brandon, Adam and Patty to get the ATV Permit website started. We are still in the preliminary stages and until we can review the Xpress pay account Patty uses for charges, we are on hold. We will be doing a conference call soon.

Facebook
With the season ending and no events taking place I have not been posting.

Events/Important Dates
November 27th 5:30 PM at Village of Lyons Falls DPW— Public Hearing to open a section of Belmont Street for ATV access.
December 11th 5 PM at Lewis County Search and Rescue - ATV Round Table meeting

Tyler Munis Financial System Budget Reports
#6410-Tourism, #7141-Snowmobile Trails, #7989-Trail Program, #7990-Trail Maintenance, #8711 Reforestation Year-To-Date Budget Reports are attached.
## Lewis County ATV

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** Includes donations **

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ATV Round Table Meeting 11/13/17 — 14 people attended the meeting

Lewis County — Jackie Mahoney

In Progress
Belmont Street - Monday October 23rd at 6 pm Village Board meeting — Please attend!
Williams/Kovach/Hurilla - Town of West Turin/Village of Lyons Falls
  Public hearing December 5th at 5 pm
Nowwhac/Decoteau/Gagnon - Town of West Turin
  Public hearing December 5th at 5 pm
Town of Osceola - Osceola and Florence Roads - Needs SEQR
Town of Diana - French Settlement Road - Needs SEQR

Great Lots — NYSDEC Habitat Division is reviewing the permits. Parking area is completed.
Grower — NYSDEC Habitat Division is reviewing the permits - Parking area is completed.
James Bauer, Barret, Daniels, Morgan — Done.
Farrells- Osceola Road — landowner approval needed for location of trails.
Painter-Wilks — landowner approval needed for location of trails.

Still working on missing Community Connectors
Local Law - need to review to address overweight vehicles, season length, events and permits.
Website - waiting on Adams and Patty’s review of Xpress payments.
Maps & Permits — would like everyone’s help getting new ads and finalizing by December 11th
Permit Application — Still waiting to hear back from Black River Valley Riders, Northern Oneida County ATV Club and Osceola ATV Club. However, Tug Hill Wheelers membership will be $15, Highmarkets membership will be $15, THAATVA membership will be $10, Black River Valley 4 Wheelers ATV Club (Brantingham) membership will be $15

Discussions
New trails near Kubinski, Ernst and York was discussed as well as the locations of the old Snowmobile trails through this are as possible options.

The Local law regarding ATV/UTV was discussed. Floyd Rivers, Past NYSORVA said we need to consider 48C, regarding ATV’s. He sent a letter in 2004 requesting the County Reforestation areas be opened to ATV Access. In section 1 of 2405 roads can be opened for access. He suggested that the county and have the county allow UTVs by permit and have the Legislators act on it. There is no legal NYS definition of a UTV so we could create an ordinance for the trail system. NYS has reciprocity but PA issues plates through DNR not DMV. Lewis County needs stipulations in Permit process for UTV’s. It was decided that Larry and Jackie would take it to Joan for review to see what she thought regarding this.

The website was discussed and it was decided that the fee for credit cards would be passed along to the purchaser as a convenience fee. Most felt that is how most website do it anyways. Jackie is hoping to have a payment method set by December so the website can be build and beta tested in December.

Permit sales were discussed with some of the business issues reviewed. Dolhof True Value would like to sell permits and if the trail to the Edge is finalized it was brought up to ask them to sell the
permits. Kristen needs to review how many permits have been sold at each location, issues that have taken place in the past year as well as chamber membership reviewed prior to next years sales.

Club memberships were also discussed. It was a very active discussion with many feeling that all membership should be the same. Joe stated that the Association felt that $10 membership was adequate. Jackie stated that it was up to the individual Clubs and she would not dictate, she would however stress that this is about working together and staying positive and moving forward with ATV access in Lewis County.

- Henry Bardo stated that he had found signs on the ground on his road and had brought them to the meeting. Jackie said she would put them away at the containers for next years use.
- Pete Jantzi said he is working with John and Kandy to get access to some new trails.
- Mike Leviker said that there is a new Highway Super in West Turin- Douglas S. Salmon. He also stated that the Town of Montague needs signs.
- John and Kandy said that the windmill project has shut down Ryan’s crossing and it will need to be looked at next year.
- Joe Onyon said that John Hale on Rector Road would be willing to out off-road trails on his property. He will work with Jackie to get the agreements completed.
- Doug Dietrich said that the Black River Valley 4Wheelers would set their membership at $15 and that they have new officers and will be setting up a Facebook page.
- Gordon Yancey said that his trail turned out good. The stone had all been placed and they would not close it off. He is happy with it.
- Kristen Aucert said that she would like to ask for patience but that they hope to have everything done soon. She thinks we should pursue a winter ATV event. Henry said that it might work well with the Boonville Winterfest since they cancelled it the last two years.

Events/Important Dates
April 21st – SNIRT- Barnes Corners SnoPals
May 12th – Dick Sellers Ride – Flat Rock Inn
June 2nd – ATV Safety Course #1197123 – Flat Rock
June 16th – Fathers Rule Poker Run – Myers Towpath
July 21st- Christmas in July/ATV Dice Run- Myers Towpath
July 28th – ATV Safety Course #1197124 – Flat Rock Inn
August 18th – ATV Safety Course #1197125 – Flat Rock Inn
August 18th – ATV Scavenger Hunt – Myers Towpath
September 8th – ATV Safety Course #1197126 – Flat Rock Inn
September 22nd – Tug Hill Buck Run – Montague Inn

NOHVCC Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI - August 14-18, 2018

***Please note the next meeting will be Monday, December 11th at 5:00 pm at the Lewis County Search and Rescue. ***
Memo

TO: Ryan Piche, County Manager
    Planning Legislative Committee
    ▪ Larry Dolhof, Chairman
    ▪ Craig Brennan
    ▪ Bryan Moser

CC: Cassandra Moser, Deputy Clerk of the Board

FROM: Frank Pace, Director of Planning

DATE: November 20, 2017

SUBJECT: November 2017 Committee Report (Meeting: 11/27/17 @ 12:30 PM)

DOCKET ITEMS:
1. Appropriate ATC monies in Bus Operations accounts - $48,998
2. Adopt updated Lewis County Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan (attached)
3. Authorize renewal of agreement with Birnie Bus to provide busing operations for the Lewis County Public Transportation System for period covered 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018 (attached)

Monthly Highlights
The annual agricultural district 30-day inclusion period opened on November 15, 2017. We have received one request already and will be accepting applications through December 15, 2017.

Cornell Cooperative Extension and Maple Producers
▪ Continue to assist maple and beef producers in value-added Ag product exporting. I attended a conference call with our contacts in Washington DC to continue our discussion regarding value-added agricultural product distribution in New York City.
▪ On November 9, 2017 attended the annual CCE dinner and awards.
▪ Completed administrative duties as a Director for CCE throughout the month.

Outer Stowe Street Projects
▪ Continue to work with Ways & Means and Building & Grounds committees on various projects including Solar, and Clean Energy Communities Grant program.
▪ Assisting IT and County Manager with broadband project. Providing documents and land use guidance to Mohawk Networks.
Chamber of Commerce and Recreation, Forestry & Parks
- Attended monthly Chamber meeting

Soil & Water/Flood Mitigation
- Our Team continues to monitor the stream system with varying weather conditions. Yearly maintenance has been completed on several units by our team over the past few weeks, while water levels have been low.

Advanced Educational Program
- Continue discussions with Lewis-JCC Educational Team.

Clean Energy Communities Study
- Researched the possibility of electric charging stations for public use. The DEC announced $2.2 million in grant funding for this type of project. Evaluated two possible locations for the charging systems and the operational system associated with the project. I will be reporting to Ways & Means Committee in November on possible DEC programs.
- Met with Smartwatt and Maintenance Dept. to revisit our proposed CEC grant. We are required to resubmit since our first proposal was not approved.

County Planning Board / 239-L and M Reviews
- Our Planning Team completed one referral review this month.

Southern Lewis County Regional Water Study
- Continue to work with Clark Patterson Lee on the project. Waiting for municipalities to complete their community meetings.

Community Outreach Program
- Completed our first Housing Taskforce meeting on November 15, 2017. Topics discussed were related to educating our tenants and landlords on regulatory requirements.
- Attended community meeting on November 13, 2017 at Lowville Academy regarding our JLUS project. This was a comment period on the Public Draft of the report.
- Attended another census seminar presented by NYSAC on November 13th.
- Continue to work with DANC on Lyons Falls BOA Step 3 and its scope of work and administration of the project. We are in the final stage of having the budget modification approved by DOS.
- Our office continues to attend bi-weekly meetings with the Village of Lyons Falls zoning committee and Tug Hill Commission to develop zoning regulations for the village.
- Attending bi-weekly broadband meeting with IT and County Manager.
- Coordinated and attended a meeting between Mohawk Networks and the municipal Mayors and Town Supervisors on November 15, 2017.

Tyler Munis Financial System Budget Report
2017 Budget is on target. #8020-Planning Year-To-Date Budget Report is attached.
County of Lewis  
Economic Development Report  
Eric J. Virkler  
November 27, 2017  

Old Business  

- Business Park: We are getting closer to final steps for acquisition – the property survey has been updated and the property owner is working through the subdivision process with the Town. Potential closing of the transaction could occur in late December. We are also making final changes to our NYS Shovel Ready application and expect to submit that soon.  
- Economic Development Funding: The balance of the fund at October 31, 2017 is $919,138. A summary will be attached with this report.  
- Wind Projects:  
  - Deer River and Number 3 negotiations have not been active this month.  
  - Maple Ridge Wind has initiated meetings to discuss a renewal of the PILOT agreement for that project. All taxing jurisdictions are engaged in that discussion. The jurisdictions have agreed to split the cost of legal assistance and an appraisal of the wind project. This expense will be allocated to the jurisdictions in same methodology that they shared expenses for the original PILOT process. No amount is known yet but future approval of an estimated expense amount will be requested.  
  - Discussions are continuing between the development companies and Fort Drum.  
  - A company with a very small project – five towers, is in process of development in Martinsburg and Harrisburg.  
- Climax Manufacturing. The LCIDA is continuing discussions with the building owners regarding a possible purchase.  
- Business Leaders Breakfast. A breakfast was held on November 14 at The Maples Restaurant. Approximately 55 people attended and shared ideas on economic development priorities for Lewis County. The attendance remains strong and the feedback from these events is very positive. The next breakfast will be planned in February and will coordinate with the Lewis County Leadership Academy.  
- Solar Projects. There are two companies working to identify land for development of commercial solar projects. The project in the Town of New Bremen has been approved for siting. The company will potentially submit a request for property tax benefits and continue moving forward. Consideration of a standard taxing agreement for these projects for any town in the County might be worth considering.  

New Business  

- Lyons Falls mill. We are currently working on grant applications for additional funding for the Lyons Falls mill project. An application to the federal EPA was submitted on November 16. A NYS Restore NY application is due on December 19.  
- Acadia Energy. The LCIDA board heard a presentation from this company. They provide consulting services to develop and build microgrids. They are currently working with JCIDA on a project in the Coffeen Street business park. The initial idea in our area would be a potential project in the Lowville area.
• JCC Center for Community Studies. The Center has completed its biennial survey of three county residents related to key economic indicators. I will provide an attachment to this report which is a summary of the relevant pages for Lewis County. There is good info in the survey.

• Drum Country Business. Our three-county consortium met this week. The group plans to discontinue its recent work with a lead generation consulting firm. Future plans are for a direct mailing campaign, improving the Drum Country website and printed promotional material, and sponsoring a site selectors visit and tour of our counties. For $5,000 per year, I believe this continues to be a good use of our funds. All money from the county members is matched by National Grid providing approximately $40-50,000 per year in funding.

Lewis County IDA Updates

• PILOTS. ReEnergy Lyndsdale PILOT extension has been finalized and the Copenhagen Wind/Own Energy PILOT should be signed and final in the next few weeks.

• Copenhagen Wind Labor. The LCIDA has been the subject of negative publicity from labor unions that are unhappy that the Copenhagen project has hired a non-union general contractor. This has quieted some, but the demonstrators did visit outside the LCIDA office again this week.

• Brew System. Skewed Brewing is slowly moving toward operation on Trinity Ave. The company has applied for additional small business loan assistance from the LCIDA and this loan has been approved by the loan committee.

Lewis County Development Corporation Updates

• Lyons Falls mill: Phase 3 is complete and the estimated budget for the final Phase 4 is $1,600,000. LCDC has secured approximately $800,000. As noted above, there are two grant applications in process. We need to close approximately a $500,000 gap to move forward and finish the remaining work.

Time and Budget Report

• October 2017 time summary for IDA, LCDC and County activity is available and can be provided upon request.

Meetings

• LCIDA meetings (2)
• North Country Alliance meeting
• LCDC Board meeting
• Wind project meetings (3)
• Visit at Lyndsdale Biomass
• Drum Country Business meeting and three county IDA meeting
• Business Leaders Breakfast
• CITEC Annual meeting

Business Contacts

• Individual seeking to purchase an existing business.
• Meeting with value added dairy entrepreneur
• Contact with small solar developer

Mandates / Regulations

• Nothing new
# Lewis County Economic Development

## ED Reserve Activity

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Business
- Retention/Support
- Growth
- Small Business Support
- Entrepreneurial Spirit

Agriculture
- Value Added
- Diversification
- Dairy
- Agritourism

Community Development
- Workforce
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Public Health/Safety
- Housing
- Quality of Life, etc.

Tourism/Recreation
- Events/Entertainment
- Marketing
- Experience-Based Tourism
- Infrastructure