

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, January 4, 2010

1:30 p.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Donald B. Creath, Chair Thomas J. Ryan, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
Joseph J. Hauryski Randolph J. Weaver

STAFF: Mark R. Alger Gregory P. Heffner Jack Wheeler
Frederick H. Ahrens, Jr. David English

LEGISLATORS: Patrick F. Donnelly Lawrence P. Crossett Carol A. Ferratella
Michael Hanna Philip A. Palmesano Gary B. Roush
John S. Walsh

OTHERS: Mary Perham, *The Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for opportunity for public comment. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2009 MEETING MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. RYAN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Buildings & Grounds

1. **Davis-Ulmer Contract Amendment** – Mr. Partridge requested authorization to amend their contract with Davis-Ulmer to include the addition of 3 backflow prevention devices to be tested. This amounts to an increase in \$200.00.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TO AMEND THEIR CONTRACT WITH DAVIS-ULMER TO INCLUDE THREE ADDITIONAL BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES TO BE TESTED FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$200.00 MADE BY MR. WEAVER. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **2010 Capital Projects** – Mr. Partridge requested authorization to go to bid for the Exterior Painting of the Clerk's and Surrogates Buildings, Coating the Main Roof of the Corning Courthouse and to Seal and Stripe the Wilson Avenue Parking Lot.

Mr. Farrand asked did we just do the soffits? Mr. Partridge replied yes, we replaced the soffits and eaves and also did the exterior painting. This capital project will be to recoat the top portion of the roof.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE BID PROCESS FOR THE FOLLOWING 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS: EXTERIOR PAINTING OF THE CLERK'S AND SURROGATES BUILDINGS; COATING THE MAIN ROOF OF THE CORNING COURTHOUSE AND TO SEAL AND STRIPE THE WILSON AVENUE PARKING LOT MADE BY MR. RYAN. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Planning

1. **Hornell Area Arts Council Room Tax Request** – Mr. Heffner distributed the proposal submitted by the Hornell Area Arts Council for use of the \$10,000.00 they have requested from Room Tax. This looks like a good proposal and they will continue to work in conjunction with the Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes.

Mrs. Ferratella asked do you audit them to confirm how they spend the money? Mr. Heffner replied yes.

MOTION: APPROVING THE 2010 ROOM TAX REQUEST OF \$10,000.00 BY THE HORNELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL MADE BY MR. WEAVER. SECONDED BY MR. RYAN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **2010 Contracts** – Mr. Heffner presented his 2010 contracts funded out of the General Fund as well as from the Occupancy Tax for approval. Mr. Hauryski asked for an explanation of the Snowmobile Grant. Mr. Heffner explained this grant is for snowmobile trail maintenance and is paid for by snowmobile registrations. They use the funding for trail grooming and signage.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2010 CONTRACTS ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND: FINGER LAKES SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (\$39,000.00); SOUTHERN TIER LIBRARY SYSTEM (\$110,000.00); MARVIN RETHMEL – CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (\$17.00/HOUR); STEUBEN COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS (\$3,000.00); FIRST TRANSIT (\$24,333.00); ARBOR DEVELOPMENT, INC. – CDBG HOUSING REHAB GRANT (\$224,000.00) AND NYSOPRHP – SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GRANT (\$45,880.00) AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2010 CONTRACTS ADMINISTERED OUT OF THE OCCUPANCY TAX: STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS' BUREAU (\$673,398.00); FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY (\$100,000.00); FINGER LAKES TOURISM ALLIANCE, INC. (\$11,500.00); ARTS OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (\$30,200.00); HORNELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL (\$10,000.00) AND STEUBEN COUNTY DAIRY FESTIVAL (\$750.00) MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. WEAVER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. WEAVER. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman
Senior Stenographer
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, February 1, 2010
11:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, January 25, 2010.**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, February 1, 2010

10:30 a.m.

**Legislative Committee Conference Room
Steuben County Office Building
Bath, New York**

MINUTES

Committee: Donald B. Creath, Chair Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
Philip Palmesano Joseph J. Hauryski

Legislators: Patrick F. Donnelly Thomas J. Ryan Carol A. Ferratella Michael Hanna
Gary B. Roush Lawrence Crossett John Walsh

Staff: Mark R. Alger Jack Wheeler Gregory P. Heffner Frederick Ahrens
Amy Dlugos David English William Partridge

Other: Mary Perham, *Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Creath at 10:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4 AND JANUARY 25, 2010, MEETINGS MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Planning Department

1. **Proposed Natural Gas Task Force** – Mrs. Dlugos stated the Environmental Management Council (EMC) has been following the Marcellus shale issues for the past few years and its impact on the environment. In that process, we've attended many meetings and conferences and we're starting to see that there are several secondary impacts to towns and the County as far as housing, economic changes and community changes. Many of the surrounding Counties are putting together task forces to review how to be prepared for those changes. The EMC is proposing that Steuben County also create a task force to review these issues. I imagine many of the things they would have in that proposal would be better addressed on a regional basis, but they would like to have a County task force. Discussion followed.

Mr. Donnelly asked who would be responsible for appointing the task force. Mrs. Dlugos stated they would be looking to the Legislature to handle the appointment. Mr. Alger stated one issue he has about their recommendation is that it is a very large group and we would have a problem providing them with staff. He suggested they consolidate what they are requesting and we'll want to think about how we are going to provide support staff to that group.

Mr. Farrand suggested contacting outside organizations to see if anyone wants to volunteer to serve on the task force. Mr. Creath stated before we decide to organize it, let's decide what their mission would be and see if there is an existing group that could take on these responsibilities. He stated that he would like more information on it. Mrs. Dlugos stated her thought would be to limit their scope to impacts on the County and local government. Some of the issues they wanted to address would fall under the Cooperative Extension function as far as working with landowners. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Dlugos stated Chemung County just started a task force and they have a part-time employee handling it. She noted this individual currently works part-time assisting the EMC so now they'll be working full time. Schuyler County has one with several subcommittees and Yates, Broome, Tioga and Sullivan Counties also have task forces. The economic impacts are regional, so maybe the STC Regional Planning Board could handle that aspect of it.

Mr. Heffner stated there has been discussion at the STC level about a different focus from the State as far as the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants. The State is very interested in looking at something larger than our traditional projects. The Marcellus drilling is a larger than local project with impacts so it may make sense to talk to the Southern, Eastern and Western Regional Planning Boards to put together a regional application to ARC for a study. However, it would take a year to know whether or not you received that funding. He stated there are a lot of questions in EMC's outline that we are going to have to answer anyway so that may be the way to structure the approach. Discussion followed.

Mr. Donnelly suggested they ask for a proposed mission statement from the EMC.

Mr. Hanna stated the hot issue is in my district and I've been involved in that somewhat. I heard quite a bit about the task force in Yates County. It is very diverse and they are very interested in what's going on in Pulteney.

Mr. Creath asked would this task force have any authority or is it a monitoring group. Mrs. Dlugos stated it would be a monitoring and strategic planning group. Mr. Alger stated they would make recommendations to you.

Mr. Hauryski suggested looking at what the other counties are doing and how they developed their groups and bring it back to this Committee so we can tweak it to suit our needs. Considerable discussion followed.

The Planning Department will look at what other counties have done, consolidate the topical areas and bring it back to the Committee in April.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Memorializing Resolution – Mr. Farrand stated there is a bill that has been approved by the Assembly Labor Committee that places a disadvantage on our farming industry. The bill would require payment of overtime to farm workers for time worked over 60 hours, as well as a minimum wage increase. Agriculture is too important to this County and we need to voice our opposition to this. Mr. Palmesano noted the bill is in the Senate Agriculture Committee right now. We need to make sure they have copies of this resolution.

Mr. Nichols stated this would hurt an industry that's already hurting. Mr. Palmesano stated he thinks it is a good idea to make sure that the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the InterCounty Association receive copies of this resolution.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 2247-B AND ASSEMBLY BILL 1867, GRANTING UNPRECEDENTED WORK RELATED BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURAL LABOR MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. Meeting Date and Time – Mr. Creath stated the Committee agreed to hold their meetings on the first Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. *Secretary's Note: Various Committee members agreed to switch the meeting time to 9:30 a.m. pending approval by the Public Safety and Corrections Committee to move their meeting time to 10:30 a.m.*

MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.F. THE MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION, OR MATTERS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: FORWARDING TO THE FULL LEGISLATURE THE NAMES OF THE RECOMMENDED INDUCTEES TO THE STEUBEN COUNTY HALL OF FAME MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. *Resolution Required.*

MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda K. Mori
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, March 1, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, February 22, 2010**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, March 1, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Donald B. Creath, Chair Joseph J. Hauryski	Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Philip A. Palmesano	Dan C. Farrand
STAFF:	Mark R. Alger Amy Dlugos Frederick H. Ahrens, Jr.	Gregory P. Heffner William J. Partridge	Jack Wheeler David English
LEGISLATORS:	Patrick F. Donnelly Gary B. Roush Randolph J. Weaver	Lawrence P. Crossett Thomas J. Ryan	Carol A. Ferratella John S. Walsh
OTHERS:	Jeff Parker, Soil & Water Conservation District Dick Winnett, Finger Lakes RC&D		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for comments by members of the public. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2010 MEETING MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

A. Soil & Water Conservation District

1. **Finger Lakes RC&D Council** – Mr. Parker informed the committee that the Federal government has decided to cut the funding for the RC&D and are proposing to eliminate the program entirely. He and Mr. Winnett are here today to ask for your support to reinstate the funding to the RC&D Council. He commented that the Soil & Water District has sent a letter of support to Congressman Massa and other individuals. Mr. Winnett is the coordinator for our local RC&D program. He works very closely with the Soil & Water Conservation District and many other agencies through the community. Mr. Winnett brings in, administers and writes grants that we don't always have the time to do. This program has administered \$3.4 million of grants to the six-county region which is comprised of Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung, Seneca, Yates and Ontario counties.

Mr. Winnett commented our agency falls under the USDA's natural resource conservation services. The administration, for the second year, has recommended zeroing the program out. If that happens, our office would be closed. Mr. Winnett distributed their annual report and a chronological timeline of the RC&D for informational purposes. In other years, the Legislature has prepared a resolution supporting the RC&D Council. Our board also took the liberty of putting together a support letter.

Mr. Creath asked Mr. Ahrens to prepare a resolution. Mr. Winnett recommended the resolution be faxed rather than mailed to make sure that it gets there in a timely fashion. Mr. Palmesano suggested that Mr. Parker talk to the regional and district offices of Congressman Massa and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. You should mail the resolution to the regional offices, in addition to sending the fax. Also, you should ask to meet with the regional/district offices. He asked have you made similar contact with the other counties? Mr. Winnett replied yes, in most cases the Soil & Water Districts have made the initial contacts. Nationwide there is \$51 million in funding for 375 counties. Here, our Federal share is \$115,000 and on average we have brought in \$200,000 per year since the mid-1980's. This program has been very beneficial to the six-county region. Your investment annually is \$600.00 for dues and that has come back to you hundreds of times over.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE USDA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MADE BY MR. PALMESANO. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

Mr. Creath asked for a draft of the resolution as he will be meeting with Congressman Massa next Wednesday in Washington. Mr. Alger suggested that we send the letter of support and then send the resolution as a follow-up. Mr. Creath stated that he could hand deliver the letter directly to Congressman Massa. Mr. Farrand asked Mr. Winnett to include pictures with his annual report and to give those to Mr. Creath to take with him next week.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Buildings & Grounds

1. **Contract Renewal** – Mr. Partridge requested authorization to renew their contract for fire alarm monitoring and inspection at the Hornell Office located at 7406 Seneca Road North. The cost for monitoring is \$288.00 per year and the cost for inspection and testing is \$400.00 per year.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING BUILDINGS & GROUNDS TO RENEW THEIR CONTRACT WITH DAVIS-ULMER FOR FIRE ALARM MONITORING AND INSPECTION AT THE HORNELL OFFICE LOCATED AT 7406 SENECA ROAD NORTH MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Planning Department

1. **Budget Transfers** – Mr. Heffner requested authorization to transfer all capital money for the purchase of buses from the 2009 budget to the 2010 budget as we are still in the process of purchasing buses. He stated that we are the pass-through agency for 5311 funding for ARC for the public bus system and he requested authorization to transfer that pass-through funding into the 2010 budget.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ALL CAPITAL MONEY FOR THE PURCHASES OF BUSES FROM THE 2009 BUDGET TO THE 2010 BUDGET AND APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF 5311 FUNDING TO THE 2010 BUDGET FOR THE ARC PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Agricultural Districts** – Ms. Dlugos requested authorization to commence the review periods for Agricultural District No. 3, Agricultural District No. 4 and Agricultural District No. 17. The intent is to combine these into one district that will be Agricultural District No. 3.

Mr. Farrand asked what towns are these districts located in? Ms. Dlugos replied these districts are located in parts of Pulteney, Prattsburgh, Wheeler, Urbana, Bath, Howard and Avoca. After this consolidation, we will have 12 agricultural districts and when everything is said and done, we should only have 6 – 8 districts.

MOTION: COMMENCING THE REVIEW PERIOD FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS NO. 3, NO. 4 AND NO. 17 MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

3. **Public Hearing on Land Submitted for Inclusion in Certified Agricultural Districts** – Ms. Dlugos informed the committee that it is time for the annual thirty-day inclusion of land into certified agricultural districts.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING ON LAND SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS DURING THE 2010 ANNUAL THIRTY-DAY PERIOD MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. **State Parks** – Mr. Nichols stated that there is some concern that the State may be looking to cut parks funding which could potentially impact Pinnacle State Park and Indian Hills State Parks. If that happens, we need to request that the State will maintain the greens and fairways. Those parks are of value to the County and we don't want to see that lost.

Mr. Crossett asked what else are these parks used for? Mr. Farrand replied Pinnacle has picnic pavilions and trails. Mr. Crossett commented if they close, you would not be gaining anything. You probably need to memorialize the State to keep them open.

Mr. Ryan asked has there been any talk about turning them over to the private sector? Mr. Nichols replied no, he doesn't think so. His concern is that we don't want to lose an asset. Mr. Farrand suggested including in the resolution that they use the prisoners from Monterey for the upkeep of the greens and fairways.

Mr. Ryan asked do we have any dollar figures for the costs of these parks? Mr. Nichols replied they provide employment and his understanding is that Pinnacle loses \$20,000 - \$30,000 per year. Indian Hill is in the black.

Mr. Alger suggested that the resolution be specific to the three parks in the County; Pinnacle, Indian Hills and Stony Brook.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO NOT CLOSE THE PINNACLE, INDIAN HILLS AND STONY BROOK STATE PARKS LOCATED WITHIN STEUBEN COUNTY MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. **Marcellus Shale** – Mr. Creath stated we will discuss the natural gas proposal at the April 5th meeting.

MOTION: TO ADJORN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Amanda L. Chapman, Senior Stenographer, Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, April 5, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, March 29, 2010**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, April 5, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Donald B. Creath, Chair Joseph J. Hauryski	Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Philip A. Palmesano	Dan C. Farrand
STAFF:	Mark R. Alger Amy Dlugos Frederick H. Ahrens, Jr.	Jack Wheeler William J. Partridge Vincent Spagnoletti	Gregory P. Heffner David English
LEGISLATORS:	Patrick F. Donnelly Brian C. Schu	Carol A. Ferratella John S. Walsh	Michael Hanna Randolph J. Weaver
OTHERS:	Jeff Parker, Soil & Water Conservation District Mike Sweet Greg Lynn Weaver Willow DeCamp Beth B. Miller Mark Schlechter John Benson Dennis Carlson Mary Perham, <i>The Leader</i>		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Mr. Palmesano to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for comment by members of the public.

Mike Sweet stated that I would like to thank Mr. Creath for providing me with this opportunity. I'm here today, not only representing the Corning Country Club, where I serve as the General Manager, but all businesses in Steuben County that generate revenue from the sale of alcohol. Specifically, I'm here to ask this committee to consider repealing a law that has existed perhaps for 100 years, a law that seems to be so outdated that according to my research and the research of Sheriff Joel Ordway, Steuben County may be the only county that still prohibits the sale of alcohol from noon to 3pm on Good Friday. This year, Good Friday brought one of the nicest days of the year, and with that, a full golf course. Unfortunately, we had to inform all golfers that no alcohol could be sold from noon to 3pm. Even though our loss may be only a few hundred dollars, I would argue that every dollar counts, particularly in an industry that has been hard hit by the recent economy. But today I would offer even a much more significant argument to repeal this law; an argument that may for years have gone unspoken until now. In Steuben County one of our most prized revenue opportunities are our wineries, where some days, hundreds of visitors spend thousands of dollars. This Good Friday was no exception. Tourists and others who enjoyed Good Friday as a holiday were out in full force visiting wineries and spending money. Those who would start in Yates County at Hunt Country were shocked when they would arrive at Dr. Franks, Bully Hill or Heron Hill; all located in Steuben County, to find out that they had suspended all tastings and sales until after 3pm. Even as their revenue streams dried up, more importantly there were bad feelings with those visiting who didn't understand why, after visiting a winery up the road and doing tastings, that they couldn't here and that was

a wasted trip; and according to Fred Frank, thousands of dollars in lost revenue. Now, I want to make this clear, I am not here today representing Fred Frank, Bully Hill or Heron Hill; I'm here today to challenge a law that is antiquated, out-dated, and for those in the industry, unpopular. During this economy the Corning Country Club, the wineries, liquor stores, bars and restaurants need every dollar we can get; and when Steuben County handicaps us, it acts as one more barrier to success or even survival. As someone who deals closely with the NYS Liquor Authority I can tell you their laws are not easy to understand, interpret and on top of their hundreds of pages of restrictions, we have this law, a law that our Steuben County legislators can repeal. As I conclude here this morning, over the past four to five years, I have marveled at the forward looking, progressive nature of Steuben County, and today, is one more chance, a chance to stand up for those in the business of selling alcohol and help us eliminate this obscure law. Thank you for your time!

Mr. Creath commented that he thought this topic was in order as we look over industry and commerce. This will be referred to the Administration Committee for their review and discussion.

Greg Lynn Weaver, Town of Wheeler, stated that he is here today to discuss the process of hydrofracking. He has done his own research and as a result that has increased his concerns for our area now and what the lasting effects will be into the future. Hydrofracking threatens the quality of life we have here. It seems as though gas drilling could help us in the short term, but it will have lasting effects. Some of the long lasting effects are surface water pollution, air pollution, soil contamination. In addition there will be an increase in crime, 24/7 lights and noise contamination and property values will decline. There will be more traffic, less green space and contamination of our food chain. Hydrofracking uses chemicals that will remain in our water supplies for generations. The process of hydrofracking pulls out radiation within the ground and that contaminates the water.

Willow DeCamp, stated that she is concerned about how the gas drilling industry will affect our area which is primarily agriculture and tourism. We need to be careful about looking at bringing in industry on this massive scale and how it will impact us. Once the drilling is started there will be no turning back in some instances. In Pennsylvania they are seeing problems with their roads as well as spills and the companies are bringing their waste to New York. How do we deal with that if it starts in New York? This is not the way to drill in New York State. Gas is not needed at this time and until we can find a safer way to drill we shouldn't allow it to happen. There have been numerous issues in West Virginia, Wyoming, Texas and Pennsylvania. We are talking about the use of thousands of gallons of chemicals. She urged the Legislators to be thorough, careful and to take their time looking at this issue.

John Benson stated that since he spoke at last month's Legislative Meeting, he has made four trips to Pennsylvania to look at their drilling operations. He drove around Mansfield, PA and also Towanda, PA. The feeling he had driving around was that he was in a totally different world. The drilling pads are very easy to find and there are 5,000 gallon trucks everywhere. He learned that it takes 1,000 tanker loads to frack one well. The pits that are by the drilling pads hold 11 million gallons. There is a lot of activity and he strongly encouraged the Legislators to take the time to go down and have a look.

Beth Miller, Town of Wheeler, stated that she has an issue with the acceptance of drill cuttings at our landfill. Chemung County already agreed to accept drill cuttings. With the hydrofracking, the gas companies are drilling one mile down and one mile across into the Marcellus Shale which contains radioactive material. The amount of radioactivity in the shale is greater than what is found in Uranium. The Department of Environmental Conservation currently has no regulations in place regarding horizontal hydraulic fracturing and they are in the process of reviewing the draft supplemental GEIS. With regard to the drill cuttings, Chemung County tested it for ignitability, and found that it will not catch on fire, but they did not test the radioactivity. There will be a press conference Friday announcing the radioactivity of the cuttings that are being accepted in Chemung County. Let's not accept these radioactive cuttings. Why don't they take these drill cuttings in Pennsylvania? Ms. Miller stated that she is grateful to the Legislators for their public service and representation of us in the County. We appreciate you taking your time and establishing a task force. Gas drilling will dramatically change the landscape of the region and our lives. In talking with Jim Bacalles he feels there will be a net loss and a lot of private gain. Mark Schlechter, Village of Bath, thanked the Committee and the Planning Department for their input. You understand the enormity of the hydrofracking issue. The proposal for the establishment of a task force drafted by

the Planning Department shows the incredible infrastructure that is necessary to study this. He distributed copies of his comments regarding the proposal for the establishment of a task force and stated that he has three main issues. The first is that we need to ensure that there is proper representation on the steering committee and that the appropriate subcommittees are established. Secondly we need to look at the economic impact on businesses and we need to make sure that they are represented on the steering committee. Lastly, we need to ensure that there is program coordination between the County and the local towns and villages. A lot of the towns and villages do not know what we are up against and they need to be able to protect themselves. Mr. Schlechter stated that his packet also includes a resolution from Onondaga County declaring that the County Legislature not allow hydrofracking on property owned by Onondaga County until such time as potential impacts are identified and addressed. In addition, they also memorialized the Federal Government to amend appropriate Federal laws to protect the environment and the public from any risks associated with hydrofracking. We cannot afford to have this kind of drilling.

Dennis Carlson, Town of Wayne, stated that so far the comments this morning have been spot on with regard to approaching this situation with caution. There will be things we will not be able to control, but we have the time to manage those things in the County that we do have control over the best way we can. We sit on a very fragile environment. Gas drilling will have a financial benefit to the county within five to ten years. He stated his hope is that the County will remain exactly the way it is for hundreds of years.

Mr. Creath thanked everyone for their comments. There being no further comments, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2010 MEETING MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Buildings & Grounds

1. **Exterior Paint Bid – Clerk’s and Surrogates Buildings** – Mr. Partridge informed the committee that they received six bids and one of those bidders has been declared unresponsive. He recommended declaring Finger Lakes Painting & Staining as not responsive and awarding the bid to Carone Painting of Dansville.

MOTION: DECLARING FINGER LAKES PAINTING & STAINING AS NOT RESPONSIVE AND AWARDING THE BID FOR THE EXTERIOR PAINTING OF THE CLERK’S AND SURROGATES BUILDINGS TO CARONE PAINTING OF DANSVILLE, NY FOR \$14,318.00 MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Seal and Stripe Quote – Wilson Avenue Parking Lot** – Mr. Partridge informed the committee that they received two bids and he recommends awarding to the low bidder, Nelson & Street Construction Co. d/b/a Airport Striping.

Mr. Farrand asked why are we not having Public Works do this? Mr. Partridge replied we did talk with them, however, their paint truck is set up to do road striping and it is more difficult to set it up to do small parking lot striping.

MOTION: AWARDING THE BID FOR THE SEAL AND STRIPE OF THE WILSON AVENUE PARKING LOT TO THE LOW BIDDER, NELSON & STREETER CONSTRUCTION CO., D/B/A AIRPORT STRIPING FOR \$7,860.00 MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **Closing Balcom House Renovations Capital Project** – Mr. Partridge requested authorization to close the Balcom House Renovations Capital Project and return the remaining balance of \$9,805.00 to the Repairs & Renovations Fund.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS TO CLOSE THE BALCOM HOUSE RENOVATIONS CAPITAL PROJECT AND RETURN THE REMAINING BALANCE OF \$9,805.00 TO THE REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS RESERVE MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. Planning

1. **Addition of Agricultural Lands to Certified Agricultural Districts** – Mrs. Dlugos reported that as a result of the 30-day period to add agricultural lands to certified agricultural districts, they received requests for 14 parcels to be added to seven agricultural districts throughout the county.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS AS A RESULT OF THE 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Natural Gas Task Force** – Mrs. Dlugos stated when doing our proposal we looked at what was going on in other counties and tried to come up with a mission statement in line with our discussion from February. Our proposed mission statement is to address natural gas development related impacts on County government operations and make best use of opportunities; to participate in regional studies or other efforts that address impacts and opportunities at a broader scale and to assist local governments or other agencies with impacts or opportunities when feasible and appropriate. Mrs. Dlugos stated we are proposing that there be a steering committee and several subcommittees including Public Safety, Roads and Infrastructure and Socio-Economic. Other issues such as economic opportunities, workforce training, etc. could be addressed on a regional basis.

Mrs. Dlugos stated that she, along with Legislator Hauryski and Jeff Parker attended a meeting with task forces throughout the northern tier of Pennsylvania and the southern tier of New York. They gained more insight and information as to how a task force could be structured. Mr. Hauryski commented this meeting was in Sayre, PA and was attended by representatives of counties in Pennsylvania that are currently being affected by drilling as well as counties in New York. One of the speakers was a professor from Penn State who gave a presentation about the aspects of forming a task force. He had asked Mrs. Dlugos to send a copy of that presentation to the AIP Committee for review. He would encourage the committee to look at that as well as the web link to Lycoming County, PA. The more information that we have really will be very helpful in how we prepare ourselves for a task force that will be effective. If we do it right in the beginning it will pay off for us in the end.

Mr. Parker commented that in his experience we really have to have a task force. There are a lot of issues that we need to discuss before things start happening. The task force has to be able to answer questions from the public and direct them to the agencies that will be able to help them. Tioga County, NY is ahead of us.

Mr. Hauryski commented we have ground to make up, but we have time to do it. With the leadership in the Planning Department it can be done in a timely manner. The only suggestion he has with regard to the steering committee is that we may want to consider having 10 – 15 members. Any more than that and it is too cumbersome. The major stakeholders should be a part of that committee and then we could expand out with the subcommittees.

Mr. Creath stated that he is not ready to approve a task force because he wants to see it organized properly, but not over organized. He agrees that we need to limit the size of the steering committee.

Mr. Donnelly stated perhaps it would behoove the committee to look at the suggestions proposed by Mr. Schlechter and sit on it for a month and during that time visit the people in Bradford County, PA. Mr. Creath stated that he would like to analyze the proposal for one month.

Mr. Weaver asked that email information regarding this topic be sent to all legislators and not just to the AIP Committee.

Mr. Hanna asked is your mission statement similar to that of other counties? Mrs. Dlugos replied we did look at other counties and some have broader mission statements. Our mission statement is most similar to Chemung County. Their task force is just in the process of being formed. Our mission statement is also very similar to Tioga County. Mr. Hanna commented that Yates County worked on this for quite a while. How effective is their task force? Mrs. Dlugos replied they meet regularly and they did make comments on the draft environmental impact. Their task force is spearheaded by the Planning Department and Cooperative Extension. Schuyler County also is very active and their task force is coordinated through their Cooperative Extension office.

Mr. Creath stated that he had suggested earlier that we regionalize the natural gas advisory task force and have it under the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board (STC). Since Chemung, Schuyler and Yates are already up and running or considering a task force, we should go ahead and work with STC to have an oversight committee that in the long-term will bring together the thoughts, ideas and concerns that we have as a region. Admittedly, Steuben County has some different concerns than the other two counties.

Mr. Palmesano stated it is important that we have our own task force in Steuben County, but that we also work with STC to help with collaboration with other counties. It is important that the task force and steering committee remain flexible. Mr. Creath stated this is ongoing and if anyone has any thoughts please send them to the Committee. We will make a decision on the task force at the May meeting.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman
Senior Stenographer
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, May 3, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, April 26, 2010.**

****NOTE:** The June meeting will be held at Gunlocke, in Wayland, NY on **Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.** Please be sure to mark your calendars accordingly.

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, May 3, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Donald B. Creath, Chair Joseph J. Hauryski	Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Philip A. Palmesano	Dan C. Farrand
STAFF:	Mark R. Alger Amy Dlugos Frederick H. Ahrens, Jr.	Gregory P. Heffner William J. Partridge David English	Jack Wheeler James Gleason
LEGISLATORS:	Patrick F. Donnelly Thomas J. Ryan	Carol A. Ferratella John S. Walsh	Gary B. Roush Randolph J. Weaver
OTHERS:	Mark Schlechter Mary Hickey Dave Walczak Mary Perham, <i>The Leader</i>	Rosellen S. McFarland Ted Markham Rachel Treichler	Kenneth A. Knowles Beth B. Miller Susan Malter

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for comments by members of the public.

Mark Schlechter stated that he is here representing Citizens for Healthy Communities. He stated that he received a copy of the proposed County Natural Gas Task Force structure. It is clear that there are issues with regard to hydrofracking and there are issues that we can agree on. There is a new form of drilling that will affect the County and nobody wants to see drilling that will destroy farms, industries or our health. A lot of people have concerns about this drilling. There are also questions regarding the Department of Environmental Conservation exempting the Syracuse and New York City Watersheds from drilling. These are all issues the Task Force could address. Mr. Schlechter distributed a handout of his comments pertaining to the proposed County Natural Gas Task Force and commended Mrs. Dlugos for her efforts.

Rosellen McFarland stated that a group of us went to Dimock, PA to view their gas wells. They were all shut down that day because of Department of Environmental Protection in PA found that the Cabot Oil and Gas Company were ruining water wells and they were given until the end of March to fix the problem. They did not and as a result have been closed down. We did talk to some of people whose well water was polluted. These gas companies will not pay attention unless something is done.

Ken Knowles read an article from the May 1, 2010 Albany Times Union entitled "High Standards for Gas Drilling in N.Y. Already Exist". The following is an excerpt from that article: "...Hydraulic fracturing has been utilized in New York for more than 60 years. We have never had a problem. The process is proven, and refinements and technologic improvements have made exploration and development in the Marcellus and other shales economically viable." Mr. Knowles stated that he knows the political action committee was present at last month's Legislative Meeting and provided information regarding the tax impact on the top 30 taxpayers in the County as it relates to gas and oil.

Ted Markham stated this is an extremely important issue. I would suggest that this should not be a political thing and that the Task Force should be bipartisan with both Republicans and Democrats getting together and figuring out the real facts. Mr. Markham stated that he is very interested in hydrofracking and knows a few things that go beyond this. The Marcellus Shale is one of a group of seven formations that will be affected by drilling. Hydrofracking is not simple drilling. This committee should try to understand all of the facts. He stated that his recommendation is that you give this some time and study the facts, not hearsay.

Mary Hickey stated she is here as a member of the Steuben County Landowner's Coalition. There are 163,000 acres in the Coalition representing 1,400 people in the county. This is not a matter of drilling jobs, but rather the residual effects of the economy and some of the things that we are thinking about. For example, the issue of water treatment facilities, etc. With the gas drilling you are looking at bringing in other infrastructures.

Susan Malter stated that she is here representing the Steuben County League of Women Voters. We have no position for or against drilling. We do, however, have a long standing position on air and water quality, both of which will be affected by gas drilling. There are developments that you should be aware of. The first is that the Chemung County Landfill is accepting drill cuttings from Pennsylvania. The second is that the landfill in Painted Post is also receiving drill cuttings. When they drill into the Marcellus Shale they are drilling one mile down and one mile across. The Marcellus Shale formation has radioactive qualities and heavy metals including arsenic, lead etc. When the drill cuttings come up they contain those radioactive elements. Ms. Malter urged the committee to send an email to the Department of Environmental Conservation and ask if the drill cuttings are being accepted in Painted Post and when you get an answer, then you will have some information for this committee to do something about. There is a bill being introduced in both the Senate and Assembly to delay the permitting for drilling until the Environmental Protection Agency has finished their study. This will not stop the gas drilling, but it buys time for regulations to be strengthened. She urged the Committee to send letters to Senator Winner and Assemblyman Bacalles asking them what their position is on this proposal and why.

Rachel Treichler, Hammondsport, stated that she is here on behalf of the Steuben County Environmental Management Council. She supports this Committee establishing a task force and there is a lot to be learned and a lot to be studied. She commented that she is surprised to hear that drill cuttings are being accepted in Painted Post as she had asked that very question a few weeks ago and was told that the County was not accepting drill cuttings. She encouraged the Committee to look into the issue of drill cuttings. Ms. Treichler distributed copies of memos pertaining to the radioactivity of drill cuttings and drill fluids. The Department of Environmental Conservation has two missions; the first to protect the environment and the second is to facilitate mining of natural resources. They have a staff of 16 – 18 people that monitor this huge gas crush. They do not have enough staff. With regard to the towns and villages, the gas and oil companies are exempt from home rule and the municipalities have no control of what happens. The vertical gas wells have strict regulations, but they are still in the process of developing regulations for hydrofracking. This is about our children, our air and our collective resources. We have had horizontal drilling and hydrofracking in the past, but it has been low-volume. The high-volume hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale has not happened and we do not have test wells. Ms. Treichler thanked the Committee for establishing a task force and asked that they also please include an environmental/health subcommittee.

Dave Walzcak stated that he is here as a member of the Citizens for Healthy Communities. This process has a lot to do with respect and social issues that will come out in great depth. There will be ethical decisions to make. He doesn't think we have begun to realize how big this is. This is an enormous undertaking and is very complex. Mistakes do happen and are managed after they happen. Home Rule is something that has been negotiated since the 1980s in this State and it is time for the counties across the State to step up and demand Home Rule. We need to protect our citizens. Mr. Walzcak commented that he doesn't think anyone here wants to sacrifice any rural lives for the profit of a few. It is also important to look at creating an economic subcommittee along with an environmental/health subcommittee. Even with the high standards that the industry has, tragedy happens. Please continue your efforts and I commend your efforts and am looking forward to working with you.

Mr. Creath thanked everyone for their comments and declared the public comment portion closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2010 MEETING MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Buildings & Grounds

1. **Quotes for Corning Courthouse Main Roof** – Mr. Partridge informed the committee that they received three quotes for the Corning Courthouse Main Roof from Carone Painting (\$7,974.00), CJ Marley Construction (\$8,450.00) and New Britain Roofing Co. (\$16,000.00). He recommended awarding to the low bidder, Carone Painting.

MOTION: AWARDING THE BID FOR THE CORNING COURTHOUSE MAIN ROOF TO LOW BIDDER, CARONE PAINTING AT A PRICE OF \$7,974.00 MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Planning Department

1. **Natural Gas Task Force** – Mr. Creath stated that he would just like to clarify that statement that drill cuttings are being accepted at the Painted Post Landfill. The county does not have a landfill in Painted Post and if drill cuttings are coming into the County, we are not aware of it. Mr. Nichols commented that is a private facility. Mr. Roush stated that is a construction landfill.

Mrs. Dlugos stated that they sent a memo and their proposal for a County Natural Gas Task Force to all Legislators for their review. This revised proposal is based on comments made at last month's meeting. The Task Force will have a Steering Committee as well as three Subcommittees; Public Safety, Roads and Infrastructure and Housing. There will also be advisory members who will represent various stakeholder groups in the County who may assist and advise the Steering Committee or any of its subcommittees. Mrs. Dlugos stated this proposal incorporates flexibility which will allow the Task Force to have the ability to expand or form committees as new issues arise.

Mr. Roush stated that he attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors on April 7th in Williamsport, PA as well as the Chemung County Economic Forum on the Marcellus Shale on March 19th in Elmira. He compiled notes from those two meetings and reviewed them with the committee. Mr. Roush stated the Marcellus Shale is a big deal and it is important that we look at this. His recommendation would be that planning should be done on a regional basis. There is no need to reinvent this as there is lots of information available. There is also a company, Advanced GeoServices out of Westchester, PA that we could look to contract with to help put together a plan. Drilling can be and should be done in an environmentally responsible way.

Secretary's Note: A copy of Legislator Roush's notes are on file with the official minutes in the Clerk of the Legislature's Office.

Mrs. Ferratella asked will the medical community be involved in the Task Force? It seems as though this could be quite a burden on them. She stated that she would also like to see more communication for the towns that will be affected. Mr. Donnelly suggested that the minutes of the Task Force be posted on the County web site.

Mr. Hauryski stated we are going to be making a recommendation to the Full Legislature on forming a task force. Is the next step that we are going to use this as a framework for the structure of the task force? Mr. Creath replied yes. If there are pertinent changes, then we should make those changes now. Mr. Hauryski stated that the presenter in Sayre, PA was very clear in saying that a task force's mission should be that we are here to provide services for the County, towns, etc. We can have representation by those for and against gas drilling, but we need to have unbiased facilitators leading these discussions. We want to keep that in mind as we go forward. Communication is an important issue. We need to communicate with the public. As part of the task force, we should have a media office.

Mr. Creath stated the AIP Committee will oversee the task force and we should have a monthly report from them. The minutes should be posted on the web site and made available to the public.

Mr. Palmesano thanked Mrs. Dlugos for all of the time and energy that was put into this proposal. He also thanked the members of the public for coming to the meeting and giving their input. It is time to move forward and he likes the fact that this proposal has some flexibility. We can add additional committees if need be and things will change along the way.

MOTION: APPROVING THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A STEUBEN COUNTY NATURAL GAS TASK FORCE AND FORWARDING TO THE FULL LEGISLATURE FOR THEIR REVIEW AND APPROVAL MADE BY MR. PALMESANO. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. June Meeting – Mr. Creath announced the June meeting will be a field trip to Gunlocke in Wayland on Thursday, June 3, 2010 with a tour of the plant following the meeting. We also will be taking a brief trip to a windfarm in the afternoon.

B. Room Tax – Mr. Farrand stated that he thinks the AIP Committee should look at room tax, especially with the gas industry coming in. After a 30-day stay, there is no room tax charged and that is an issue that we should revisit. Mr. Alger stated that he has asked the Planning Department and the Law Department to review the State Law as well as our County Local Law. He believes that we will need to amend the Local Law. Mr. Nichols stated that he was a member of the AIP Committee when we did that and the main reason we did not change it was because Corning, Inc. was bringing in a lot of out of area people. If we change that, it will affect everyone.

Mr. Creath stated that in Pennsylvania, half of the hotel rooms are stacked up with temporary workers that are over a month at a time. Mr. Alger stated we will be looking at the law and seeing what could be changed. We will need to evaluate that and bring it back for your recommendation.

C. Old Health Care Facility – Mr. Wheeler informed the committee that the asbestos removal is complete and we did save a significant amount of money by using the services of the Groveland Correctional Facility and they did a great job. Previously we had talked about the replacement of some of the tile and carpeting. He distributed an estimate from Corporate Flooring, USA who replaced the flooring at the 911 Center. The carpet is on State bid through them, but the tile is not. The estimate for the first floor is \$32,000 and we would also like to replace the flooring in the community room area on the second floor as that is used by Elections for storage of machines and is a good area to conduct community training. There is money in the Old Health Care Facility Project. He requested authorization to spend no more than \$40,000.

Mr. Donnelly asked this is for tile and carpet? Mr. Wheeler replied the lobby/administrative area will be carpeted and the rest is tile. Mr. Nichols asked will we need to go to bid for this? Mr. Gleason replied if the amount is over \$35,000 then yes, it will need to go to bid. Mr. Nichols stated the entire project would be \$40,000, so that would need to go to bid? Mr. Gleason replied he believed so.

Mr. Weaver commented you are going down a slippery slope with this building and we haven't decided what to do with it. We replaced the roof and now you are looking at putting in an additional \$40,000. Before we spend money, we need to look at the long-range plans. Mr. Ryan stated that he thought we had already talked about this. Mr. Alger stated that the Board of Elections and Records are in the building and if you continue to use the building for that purpose, you have to do the floors. We are not doing anything beyond what we had originally talked about. In order to make the building usable, you really need to do this. The upstairs community room is where the election machines are stored. Mr. Alger stated we still continue to heat the building and we did put in for a grant to do an energy study. We have no commitment to go forward. This is not a huge investment. You would have a hard time leasing space for that kind of money. At some point we are going to have to make a decision as Records is out of space. We also have issues here in the County Office Building with space. At some point decisions will need to be made. At this point no one feels they want to invest a large amount of money and we are keeping it as minimal as we can, but operational. The kitchen area is of interest to ProAction to do the meals program for the Office for the Aging. That will require additional work and right now we do not have hot water in the building.

Mr. Wheeler commented we have \$15,000 in surplus from the asbestos removal project and we would need an additional \$25,000 from the existing Old Health Care Facility Project.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SPEND NOT MORE THAN \$40,000.00 ON REPLACEMENT FLOORING ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE OLD HEALTH CARE FACILITY AND IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND TO TRANSFER \$15,000.00 FROM THE ASBESTOS REMOVAL PROJECT AT THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY AND \$25,000.00 FROM THE OLD HEALTH CARE FACILITY PROJECT TO COVER THAT COST MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman
Senior Stenographer
Steuben County Legislature

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE** NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE****

Thursday, June 3, 2010

9:30 a.m.

The Gunlocke Company

One Gunlocke Drive

Wayland, NY

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office**

NO LATER THAN NOON

Monday, April 26, 2010.

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 3, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Donald B. Creath, Chair Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
Joseph J. Hauryski Philip A. Palmesano

STAFF: Mark R. Alger Gregory P. Heffner Jack Wheeler
William J. Partridge Frederick H. Ahrens

LEGISLATORS: Patrick F. Donnelly Carol A. Ferratella Patrick F. McAllister
Scott J. Van Etten John S. Walsh

OTHERS: Tyler Briggs, *Hornell Evening Tribune*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Tim Costello, Division Salesman for the Northeast and Canada welcomed the committee to The Gunlocke Company. He also introduced the President of The Gunlocke Company, Don Meade. Mr. Costello informed the committee that The Gunlocke Company was first founded in 1902 and the commercial part of the business was started in 1939. In 1969 the company was sold to Sperry & Hutchinson and in 1980 went back to being privately owned. In 1989 the company was purchased by H & I Corporation who continues to be the owner. There are currently 30 job openings in production and orders this year are up 10 percent. Mr. Costello stated it is important that we work together to bring jobs to New York State and keep life in our existing companies so that they will remain here. He thanked both the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency and the Hornell Industrial Development Agency for working with Gunlocke.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2010 MEETING MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Buildings & Grounds

1. **Repairs & Renovations Reserve Transfer** – Mr. Partridge informed the committee that they recently had a sprinkler inspection and two of the sprinkler units failed the test. We will need to do repairs on the supply pipe going to the Courthouse as there is a rusted or clogged pipe. In addition, the West Wing of the Old Hospital Building pipe is rusted or clogged. The piping we have is ¾" and the new building codes require 1" piping so that will need to be replaced. Hunt Engineers has submitted a proposal for engineering services for this for a sum of \$5,300.00 plus \$500.00 in reimbursable expenses. Mr. Partridge stated that he does not have an estimate for the Courthouse, but the Old Hospital Building would cost about \$14,000.00.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$40,000.00 FROM THE REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS RESERVE INTO A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT ENTITLED SPRINKLER SYSTEM REPAIRS MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. Planning

1. **Designation of Conference & Visitors' Bureau as County's Official TPA** – Mr. Heffner requested the committee pass a resolution naming the Steuben County Conference & Visitors' Bureau as the County's Official Tourism Promotion Agency.

MOTION: DESIGNATING THE STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS' BUREAU AS STEUBEN COUNTY'S OFFICIAL TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY MADE BY MR. PALMESANO. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Welcome Signs** – Mr. Farrand commented that he noticed the Welcome to Steuben County sign coming from Chemung County has been taken down. He would like a letter to be sent to the New York State Department of Transportation to find out why that has happened. Mr. Heffner stated that he will look into that.

3. **Room Tax Permanent Resident Exemption** – Mr. Heffner stated last month the committee asked the Planning Department to investigate the process for and impact of, removing the thirty day limit on the collection of Occupancy Tax, usually referred to as the room tax. The Local Law specifically exempts a permanent resident from payment of the room tax and defines a permanent resident "as any occupant of any room or rooms in a hotel or motel for at least thirty consecutive days" shall be considered a permanent resident with regard to the period of occupancy. The room tax is not imposed on a permanent resident or an exempt organization. If we did impose the room tax on everyone for as long as they occupied a room, it would not affect the standard tourism or business traveler. This discussion is now coming about because of the potential for gas drilling in Steuben County.

Mr. Heffner stated that the current average room rate of the larger, branded lodging properties in the County is \$74.12 per night. According the Conference & Visitors' Bureau, this figure would be lower if we included the independent properties, including the twenty Bed and Breakfasts. He estimated that a conservative cost per night would then be \$65.00. If we use the 4 percent room tax rate, an average of \$2.60 is collected in room tax on each night's stay. This would result in a potential collection annually from each room of \$949.00. However, under the current local law, if that same room is rented for the entire year, the room tax would only be collected for the first thirty days would result in a total room tax collection of \$78.00. The County would have lost revenue on that one room of \$871.00. There are a total of 1,587 rooms in the County. If half of those rooms were rented by permanent residents, under the current local law, the County would lose \$691,138.00 annually. Mr. Heffner stated that the experience in Pennsylvania has shown that the drilling companies need places for their workers to live. There are a lot of hotels/motels in Pennsylvania that are at 95 percent occupancy.

Mr. Farrand asked do we have the same local law as Chemung County? Mr. Heffner replied yes. Yates is the same as ours, but Schuyler is not. Mr. Farrand asked what is Chemung County thinking of doing? Mr. Heffner replied that he has not heard. Mr. Farrand stated we need to reach out to the other counties to make sure we are all on the same page with this.

Mr. Heffner stated you must ask why are you considering removing the exemption. It is because it will open up rooms for tourists or is it to increase room tax revenues? Mr. Farrand stated if they are not paying room tax after thirty days, then they are taking money away from tourism.

Mr. Palmesano stated that before we move forward he would like to have more details. Chemung County room tax revenues are up forty percent. Do we want more revenue or more rooms to be available? We need to find out how many permanent residents there are. If we change the local law and the neighboring counties do not, then we have the possibility that we will lose rooms, etc.

Mr. Alger commented that he is not sure that is the issue. The issue is that the drillers come and occupy all of the rooms. Are we concerned about the drillers or the tourist industry? If we do this, then we have guaranteed that people who want to come to the county for tourism can come. They will not stay for thirty days. We may have pushed the drillers out, maybe. You could argue that you lose revenue, but you are maintaining rooms for tourism.

Mr. Heffner commented the Staybridge in Corning was built for long-term stays and then the economy turned down and now they have become a motel.

Mr. Palmesano stated that he would like to have more background information with regard to how this would impact local businesses. Revenue is an important part of it. We are at 30 percent occupancy. I would rather have more details before we make a decision. Mr. Donnelly stated the room tax is 4 percent and if the average stay is 90 days, you are talking one-third of 4 percent. Mr. Palmesano stated that he understands that, but he would like more details and time to look at that.

Mr. Creath commented the objective is to protect our base of current room tax revenues. He would want to avoid a room tax increase. He talked to the President of the Corning Hotel Corporation and he is against a room tax increase. Mr. Palmesano stated that he would like to look at and survey the hotels/motels with regard to how many permanent residents they currently have.

Mr. Van Etten stated that 4 percent on a \$65.00 room is \$2.50. People are not going to make a decision to not take a room based on that. With regard to the intern program at Corning, they are usually children of Corning, Inc. employees and there are 10 percent or less that are coming in from outside and they would likely get an apartment.

Mr. Nichols commented the last thing you want to do is raise the room tax. This is a good proposal. When the gas companies come in, they will be here for several years and you will sacrifice your room tax dollars for tourism. Our goal long-term is tourism. He stated that he is leaning in favor to save our tourism industry. That is our long-term bread and butter.

Mr. Hauryski stated if we are going to do a survey of the hotels and motels we should find out how many of the long-term residents are related to gas drilling. He stated that he wants to see tourism survive, but drilling will be here long-term; probably for ten to twenty years. He commented that he could see more hotels being built as a result of the gas drilling.

Mr. Van Etten commented we have a lot of small hotels that will most likely be purchased by the drilling companies.

Mr. Creath stated that he would like to defer a decision on this topic until next month in order to gather further information. The committee was in agreement.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. **Natural Gas Task Force** – Mr. Donnelly commented that he is here to give the monthly Natural Gas Task Force Steering Committee update as requested by the AIP Committee. The Task Force in general, the Steering Committee in particular, was charged by the Legislature to address natural gas development related impacts on County government operations and make best use of opportunities; to participate in regional studies or other efforts that address impacts and opportunities at a broader scale, and to assist local governments or other agencies with impacts or opportunities when feasible and appropriate. I was charged, as Chairman, to appoint a Steering Committee and to select the members of the Task Force. I am here today to report to you that the initial members of the Steering Committee have been appointed; myself, the County Administrator, County Planning Director, and Joe Hauryski as the AIP representative. In addition, there is one other individual who will be appointed as a local government representative. We will set the date of the first meeting for the Steering Committee and at that time we will take on the task of developing a mission statement, which will then be submitted to you, the AIP Committee, for your approval. The next step in the process I anticipate will be seeking qualified applicants for the various sub-committees. At this point in time I think it is imperative that the members of this Committee, the Legislature and the public at large understand that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has exclusive jurisdiction over natural gas, and in particular Shale Gas exploration, development and operations. The County, by virtue of State Legislation, has a very limited role in this issue. Towns have jurisdiction over land use planning and control by various means such as Comprehensive Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement. The County does not have those options. Mr. Donnelly stated that he will continue to provide a monthly report to the Committee.

B. **Setting the Date of the July Meeting** – Mr. Creath stated that due to the 4th of July holiday, he would suggest moving the date of the meeting to Monday, July 12, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. He commented that he will not be able to attend as he will be on vacation from July 3rd – July 17th.

MOTION: SETTING THE DATE FOR THE JULY MEETING FOR MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010 AT 9:30 A.M. MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman
Senior Stenographer
Steuben County Legislature

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE** NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE**
Monday, July 12, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, July 5, 2010.**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, July 12, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand Joseph J. Hauryski
Philip A. Palmesano

STAFF: Mark R. Alger Jack Wheeler Amy Dlugos
Frederick H. Ahrens, Jr. Ken Isaman Dave English
James Gleason

LEGISLATORS: Patrick F. Donnelly Carol A. Ferratella Michael Hanna
Gary B. Roush Thomas J. Ryan John S. Walsh
Randolph J. Weaver

ABSENT: Donald B. Creath

OTHERS: Robin Gaige, Mobility Manager, Steuben Coordinated Transportation
Peggy Coleman, President, Steuben County Conference & Visitors' Bureau
Richard Stewart, Steuben County Farm Bureau
Mary Perham, *The Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He asked Mr. Palmesano to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nichols opened the floor for comments by members of the public. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2010 MEETING MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. (MR. FARRAND ABSENT FOR VOTE)

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Steuben Coordinated Transportation – Robin Gaige introduced herself as the Mobility Manager for Steuben Coordinated Transportation, which is operated by the Institute for Human Services. The Institute for Human Services applied for a two-year grant through the New York State Department of Transportation to hire a mobility manager to meet the unmet needs of residents of the County, including older adults, people with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. Approximately 48 percent of the population lives in areas that are not accessible to public transportation. We have three transportation providers in the County, and they are not in a position to expand their routes or their hours. Local employers have also told us that it is unfortunate that the bus scheduling does not accommodate shift workers. Mobility Management tries to meet individual needs with the coordination of services from other organizations and human services agencies, as well as public transportation providers. We have been working with volunteer drivers, local employers and the Department of Social Services. We are also working with Allegany and Livingston counties to increase our medical transportation services to get clients to their appointments in Rochester.

Mr. Nichols asked with regard to the volunteer drivers, do you pay them mileage? Ms. Gaige replied yes, but it is a very small amount. They volunteer their time and their vehicles.

Mr. Hauryski asked how much is the grant? Ms. Gaige replied the grant is \$183,000 over two years. Over the course of the next year we are going to do a big marketing push and try to get more volunteers on board as well as more employers.

Mr. Nichols thanked Ms. Gaige for her presentation.

V. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Steuben County Conference & Visitors Bureau

1. **Update-** Ms. Coleman stated that in light of the fact that they are trying to become sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint, she did not bring copies of her presentation. This year is looking good. The first quarter was down slightly and at the end of the second quarter we are up about 5 percent. The Glass Fest in Corning brought in higher sales for merchants and restaurants. She stated that they have redesigned their website and the new site was launched June 4, 2010. They have seen an increase of 40 percent in traffic from all sources. There was a public relations pitch about the Women Only Weekend program included in an article entitled "How to Plan an Affordable Girls' Weekend Getaway" on smarttravel.com. Our online travel guide requests were down in June, but downloads of the guide have increased significantly.

Ms. Coleman informed the committee they have debuted a new program to assist with tracking future motor coach visits. They are doing this with Market Street Coffee and Tea and when a motor coach books a tour, then everyone will get a brochure with a coffee lid and a coupon for a free coffee. This will allow us to track who is coming and it does not cost us anything. We would like to expand this program to another business in the County. We are seeing the resumption of corporate travel, which is good for the cities, but not so good for the independents and B&B's. The leisure travel booking windows are even shorter, with many booking the same day without reservations. We also are seeing a loss of our annual repeat customers; however, the new visitors are spending more than the repeat visitors. As an example, the annual visitors to Hammondsport are not booking the same weeks, so we need to work with our partners to help fill that void.

2. **Room Tax** - Ms. Coleman stated that with regard to room tax projections, originally we had forecast that we would be flat with 2009 figures. At this point, we are looking at a conservative 3 percent increase and at the end of the year expect to have \$844,000.00 in room tax. We are looking at the impact of long-term stays and did a casual poll of our properties. A long-term stay is 30 consecutive days; and starting on day 31, they do not have to pay room tax up to 90 days. Starting on day 91, they no longer pay sales tax. That will be a 9 – 10 percent impact. The impact from Corning Inc. is less than 2 percent of the long-term stays. The other large businesses would be the hospitals. Some of the gas drilling people stay weekly and go home on the weekends.

Mr. Farrand asked after 31 days is the room tax refunded to the company? Ms. Coleman replied the hotels are responsible for doing that. If this group were to decide to adjust the room tax to match the State, then potential would be there for rebates because the taxes are required to be reported quarterly. Mr. Farrand asked with the gas companies purchasing hotel rooms, how many rooms are being taken away? Ms. Coleman replied that is happening in Chemung County and she can look into that further. She commented that she doesn't think there are many of our facilities that they could purchase. Mr. Farrand commented that he is concerned about the loss of the rooms and the room tax. Ms. Coleman stated that in Towanda, PA, the drilling companies are building what they call dormitories, but in reality are really hotels and when they are done they could sell the building as a hotel or a long-term care facility. That is potentially something that could happen here.

Mr. Farrand asked Ms. Coleman what her opinion is regarding the room tax. Ms. Coleman stated that it would be great to boost it to 90 days. We have a lot of big companies and we don't want to bite the hand that feeds us if there was some way to work with those large companies. In the long run, that would help us. Ithaca is the lead agency for an ARC Grant to do a study on the affect of gas drilling on the tourism industry for all of the counties that would be impacted. Gas drilling is a lot bigger than people think and when the gas companies come in, there is a lot of wear and tear on the hotel rooms.

Mr. Alger asked is there a way to put into place a monitoring mechanism that would allow us to track the numbers of gas workers that we are seeing? He stated that his opinion is that we should wait before making a decision as we will have time before we have to implement a change. We want to monitor and see how this tracks. He doesn't see a need to change the room tax before we need to. We need to gather data and if we see a spike in the long-term stays, then we will need to react. Mr. Nichols commented that he would rather do the 90 days than raise the room tax. Mr. Alger stated part of what we need to do with the reporting is to monitor and account for those revenues. Ms. Coleman stated that for most of these situations, the workers will be signing a contract with the hotel.

Mr. Palmesano asked did you talk to your counterpart in Chemung County with regard to the 44 percent increase in room tax revenue that they have seen? Ms. Coleman replied because of the length of time after they rebate the room tax back, they may only be up 5 percent. They are forecasting seeing a drop in November or December. Mr. Roush commented the development phase lasts 15 – 20 years and there will not be a quick drop off.

3. **Shop Listings** - Ms. Coleman informed the committee that the State made the decision not to list all of the shops on the New York State website. As a result of that, we have developed a map/brochure entitled "Tiffany & Treasurers Trail" and on our website we have a link to a listing of all of the potters. The next phase will be to work with the antique shops and develop a map/brochure as well as a link to a listing of all of the antique shops in the county. We will include these brochures when people request information.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Planning Department

1. **Road Signs** – Mrs. Dlugos stated that she checked with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the signs on the Interstate and they were removed as they no longer meet Interstate sign standards. The signs have been changed from Welcome to Steuben County to Steuben County. Mr. Farrand commented we should get those back so we can put them on the County roads that are near the border.

2. **Agricultural Districts** – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to hold the Public Hearing on the eight-year reviews of Agricultural Districts No. 3, No. 4 and No. 17. These three districts will be consolidated into one district which will be known as Agricultural District No. 3.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE EIGHT-YEAR REVIEWS OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS NO. 3, NO. 4 AND NO. 17 MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

3. **Farm-City Day 2010** – Mrs. Dlugos announced Farm-City Day will be held at Burns Farm in Fremont. This event is sponsored by the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and they partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension. The first date will be September 23rd for second grade school children. The date for the general public will be September 25th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Natural Gas Task Force

1. **Update** - Mr. Donnelly stated that the Steering Committee held its first meeting on June 17, 2010 and at that time defined the Mission Statement which is as follows:

The purpose of the Steuben County Natural Gas Task Force is to address natural gas development related impacts on County government operations and make best use of opportunities and to assist local governments or other agencies with impacts or opportunities when feasible and appropriate.

Mr. Donnelly stated there are three subcommittees; Public Safety, Roads and Infrastructure and Housing. It had been suggested that we have an Environmental/Health Subcommittee, but we already have an Environmental Management Council and they are willing to help.

Mr. Donnelly stated a number of applications were mailed out to interested individuals and those were reviewed. The Steering Committee has appointed the members to each of the subcommittees and it was determined that there will be seven individuals on each of the subcommittees. The Steering Committee will be appointing the Chairs for each of the subcommittees. Mr. Donnelly stated that he had requested the Law Department to incorporate into the appointment letters a reminder that the appointees are not agents of the County and those letters will be sent out in the next few days. The County does not have a lot to do, but the towns and villages will need to look at whether or not they want to have road use agreements, site review plans, zoning, etc. Press releases will be issued by the Steering Committee. The subcommittees will submit their recommendations to the Steering Committee and those will then be forwarded to the AIP Committee. Mr. Donnelly stated that we are developing two email lists; one for the committees and one for general notification for anyone in the public. Mr. Weaver asked that the Legislators be included on those email lists.

B. Dog Licenses – Mr. Ryan stated that the towns have received a letter from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets stating that the process for dog licensing will be shifted over to the towns. Mr. Farrand stated we need to look at standardizing how this is done or there will be thirty-five different ways this will be done. Mr. Alger stated that part of the licensing fee goes for damages and anything remaining is used to fund the SPCA. The State will no longer do this and it will now be the responsibility of the towns. Mr. Alger stated that he does not think the County should be involved. The towns have always done it. It will be at the discretion of the towns with regard to how they implement the law. The County is legally responsible for annual damage claims.

Mr. Nichols stated the town collects the money and pays 40 percent of that to the County. Mr. Ryan stated that he can see this being an expense for the towns with regard to the administration of this program. The letter the towns received refers to Animal Control Officer rather than Dog Control Officer. Mr. Alger commented that he is not sure that it makes any difference what they call the officer. Discussion followed.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.F. THE MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION, OR MATTERS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: APPOINTING AMY DLUGOS PROVISIONALLY AS PLANNING DIRECTOR PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAM AND SETTING THE SALARY AT \$73,000.00 PER YEAR MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. PALMESANO. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman
Senior Stenographer
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, August 2, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, July 26, 2010.**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, August 2, 2010

9:30 a.m.

*Legislative Committee Room
Steuben County Office Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Donald B. Creath, Chair Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
Joseph J. Hauryski Philip A. Palmesano

STAFF: Mark R. Alger Jack Wheeler Amy Dlugos
David English William Partridge

LEGISLATORS: Patrick F. Donnelly Carol A. Ferratella Michael Hanna
Gary B. Roush Thomas J. Ryan John S. Walsh
Randolph J. Weaver

OTHERS: Jeff Parker, Soil & Water Conservation District
Richard Stewart
Mary Perham, *The Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for comments by members of the public. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2010 MEETING MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Soil & Water Conservation District

1. **Update** – Mr. Parker distributed the annual newsletter and his June accomplishment report. They have been working on three projects. The first project they installed a solar and wind powered water pumping system for a farmer in the Town of Pulteney. This individual has a 1,600 gallon water tank and they are monitoring the system to see how it will work. They are also looking at doing another solar powered system in Addison. Mr. Parker stated the second project was assisting a farmer in Addison with stream cleanup and a cattle crossing. We used geoweb, which is an expandable pocket material, that we fill with #2 stone and placed it across the stream, and then fenced that crossing for the cattle.

Mr. Hauryski asked what is the cost for a solar powered water pumping unit? Mr. Parker replied that the cost for a solar powered unit is approximately \$4,000 and the solar/wind unit is around \$8,000. Mr. Donnelly asked is there a tax credit for installing these? Mr. Parker replied not that he is aware of.

Mr. Parker stated the third project they worked on was a wetland mitigation site from Beaver Dams to West Corning. That came about due to the highway being built in Lindley. We helped build the 12-acre wetland site

and he stated that he was the stream water manager and will be reimbursed for his time. We will also be reimbursed for the equipment time.

2. **2011 Budget** - Mr. Parker distributed his 2011 proposed budget for review. He commented that they are still waiting for FLOWPA funding from 2008-2009. Last winter we did layoff two full-time employees. We hired them back to do the hydro-seeding. We have to do 50 – 60 acres of hydro-seeding to pay for their salaries. Mr. Parker stated that they also put in a grant to purchase a new vehicle, but he does not know the status of that.

Mr. Parker stated that overall there is an increase in the budget as they have to purchase a new truck. We are looking for an additional \$35,000 from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition in order to hire another staff person who would be a District Technician. If that funding comes through, we will include that in the 2011 budget. Our general operations budget is \$412,933.83. He stated that in 2010 they did make some drastic cuts. There is an increase in our general operations budget of \$75,000 and we hope to make that up with some grants that are still pending. The County's contribution to the District Stream Bank Program is \$75,000 and that money does not go into our general budget. This is a 25 – 75 cost shared program. This generally involves stream repairs or stabilization that needs expensive materials to do the project correctly. We do about 25 of these projects a year and last year we actually did 42. Mr. Parker stated we have one of the best stream bank programs in the State.

The County also appropriates \$150,000 toward our general operations budget and that amount represents approximately one-third of our operating budget. He requested an increase of \$1,000.00. Discussion followed.

MOTION: ACCEPTING AND FORWARDING TO THE BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE THE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2011 BUDGET AND FUNDING REQUEST OF \$150,426.00 MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Planning Department

1. **Agricultural Districts** – Mrs. Dlugos informed the committee that they have finished the reviews of Agricultural Districts No. 3, No. 4 and No. 7. These three districts will be combined into one district known as Agricultural District No. 3. She requested a resolution modifying, adopting and consolidating these three districts.

MOTION: MODIFYING, ADOPTING AND CONSOLIDATING AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS NO. 3, NO. 4 AND NO. 7 AS A RESULT OF THE EIGHT YEAR REVIEW OF SAID DISTRICTS MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Natural Gas Task Force – Mr. Donnelly informed the committee that on July 30, 2010 a joint organizational meeting was held and at that time, the following individuals were named as Chairs: John Tunney – Public Safety Sub-Committee, Kathryn Muller – Housing Sub-Committee and Karl Anderson – Roads and Infrastructure Sub-Committee. These three individuals will also now be members of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Donnelly asked that the committee adopt a resolution adding the Environmental Management Council as a special advisor to the Steering Committee.

MOTION: NAMING THE STEUBEN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY NATURAL GAS TASK FORCE MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mr. Donnelly stated that the Natural Gas Task Force website is up and running and can be found on the main page of the County website at www.steubencony.org. This website will include agendas, minutes, meeting notices, committee

membership, etc. He would be interested in hearing feedback regarding the website. Mr. Donnelly stated that at the organizational meeting, Mrs. Dlugos reviewed the mission statement and Mr. Alger reviewed the procedure regarding media and public relations. Anyone on the task force may speak to the media, but official statements will be made through the Steering Committee. In the near future, a meeting will also be held with the Chairs of the Sub-Committees to determine meeting schedules, etc. Mr. Creath stated if anyone is interested in visiting a drilling site, please let Mrs. Mori know.

B. September Meeting Date – Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the September Meeting will be held on Monday, September 13, 2010. Mr. Creath stated that the Arts of the Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes Association will be making their budget presentations. As such, he would like to hold the meeting at 9:00 a.m. The committee was in agreement.

Mr. Creath stated that in October the Conference & Visitors' Bureau and Finger Lakes Wine Country will make their budget presentations and he would like to hold that meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 4, 2010. The committee was in agreement.

C. Room Tax – Mr. Creath asked are there any projections on the room tax? Mr. Alger replied we don't have those figures yet. Traditionally the first quarter is the worst. The second quarter looks fairly good. You usually will see an increase in room tax collections in the third and fourth quarters.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amanda L. Chapman
Senior Stenographer
Steuben County Legislature

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE**Monday, September 13, 2010**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE **
9:00 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, September 6, 2010.**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, September 13, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Donald B. Creath, Chair Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
Joseph J. Hauryski Philip A. Palmesano

STAFF: Mark R. Alger Amy Dlugos David English

LEGISLATORS: Patrick F. Donnelly Carol A. Ferratella Michael Hanna
Gary B. Roush Thomas J. Ryan John S. Walsh
Randolph J. Weaver

OTHERS: James Sherron, Executive Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency
Ginnie Lupi, Executive Director, ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
Cindy Kimble, President, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
Bob Williams, First Transit
Mary Perham, *The Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for public comment. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2010, MEETING MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. (MR. FARRAND ABSENT FOR VOTE)

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

A. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. **Activities Update** – Mr. Sherron stated normally he would also present his budget, however, they have changed their budget to the calendar year and he will present that in January.

Mr. Sherron stated that over the past year they have worked on the NYSEG Corning Valley Transmission Project which is a \$300 million project that will serve the entire valley. The substation will be built at Sullivan Park and will be 200 mega watts. They also have been working on an easement with the Village of Bath to put in a new water main at the Babcock Ladder Company. Unfortunately, they encountered contaminated soil and the cleanup of the soil has been taking place over the past couple of weeks. In addition, they have worked on a \$3.5 million expansion project at Crowley Foods. We have completed the SEQR process on the Howard Wind Project and we expect they will move forward with construction in the spring.

Mr. Sherron stated that this month the Prattsburgh Wind Farm should receive a decision from the judge on whether they can move forward with their project. There are two lawsuits, one by the Town of Prattsburgh and

one by the Town of Italy. Most of the objections to this project have been noise, concerns about ground water, wildlife and seizures. Hopefully this project will be able to move forward. The Canandaigua Power Partners project has been completed and is operational. They did just do a refinance with them for \$240 million to take advantage of the lower interest rates. Mr. Sherron stated that they also have been working on the railroad line and did a bridge replacement and will be adding to the engine house located in Cohocton. We also will be repairing the railroad crossing on Route 54. We are hopeful that someday the rail line will be operational again. There is extensive work that needs to be done on the line in Hammondspport.

Mr. Hauryski asked have you had any inquiries on the industrial park location in Bath? Mr. Sherron replied we have had some interest by sand facilities for a location for fracking sand. That would be more down in the Coopers Plains area and we have some facilities that we hope we could supply land to. For ten years we have been working on the 100 acres of property that the County turned over to the Industrial Development Agency and we have had some interest in that location.

Mr. Sherron stated that they completed the Corning Property Management Corporation's glass research center at Sullivan Park. This has resulted in 20 full-time jobs and the starting pay for employees will be \$60,000. Another project was the Integrated Die Manufacturing Project associated with the Diesel Manufacturing Facility. This is an \$11.5 million project that created 30 additional jobs. The salary range for those jobs is between \$70,000 - \$80,000.

Mr. Sherron stated that three or four years ago, the Industrial Development Agency took an option out on the 100+ acres at the Wayland exit. We are exploring the possibility of assigning that option to a developer and are looking for an opportunity to create new facilities and new jobs. In addition we have looked at the formation of the Urbana Water District. For a number of years we have been trying to develop a water district that would serve Bully Hill and surrounding wineries. Bully Hill has expressed an interest in having additional water. We are looking to Rural Development for some assistance with that.

Mr. Sherron informed the committee that they are doing a strategic plan for the Industrial Development Agency to determine where we are going in the next three to five years. This plan will also include a succession plan for an individual to take my place which will be in July 2011. He stated that over the past two to three years, all of the projects seem to be energy related. For example, we have the Cohocton Wind Project which generates 125 mega watts of power, the Wykoff Gas Storage project in Jasper, and the Millenium project which generated a \$23 million pumping station. It appears that there is some real value in our area relative to wind emergency, gas storage and possible gas drilling.

Mr. Creath asked would you be involved in natural gas exploration? Mr. Sherron replied we would be involved if there were any construction projects.

Mr. Creath asked what is the status of legislation on funding? Mr. Sherron replied we do look to the State to get assistance on projects. We have had problems getting funding for the water project and the railroad project. Mr. Creath asked are there any restrictions on IDA's with regard to labor? Mr. Sherron replied they would like to tie the IDA projects to prevailing wages which would raise the price of production 28 percent. We already are having difficulty attracting and retaining people to the area.

Mrs. Ferratella asked do you have a formal plan for trying to bring businesses into the County? Mr. Sherron replied that is what our strategic plan will address. He commented that one of the things we need is the support of the people who are in favor of projects. We need them to come to the public hearings and express their support. Money is also a big issue. Discussion followed.

B. Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes

1. **2011 Budget Presentation** – Ms. Lupi stated that she is the Executive Director of the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. They serve as a cross between a Chamber of Commerce and a United Way for arts and culture in our region. We serve Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties. We also receive funding from the New York State Council for the Arts. In addition, we do grant matching in Allegany and Tioga counties.

The ARTS assists arts/cultural and community organizations, individual artists, and schools to enrich our communities, educate our children, enhance the economy, and increase tourism. Ms. Lupi requested continued funding in the amount of \$30,200 for 2011. She also requested that the County consider additional funding to more fully support their work in Hornell and western Steuben County. This funding will allow us to continue our services, which support and strengthen arts and culture in Steuben County, thereby enhancing the County's reputation as a cultural destination and desirable place to live.

Mr. Farrand stated last year we brought in representatives from the Hornell Arts Council to give a presentation. Should we ask them to come in again this year? Mr. Nichols commented that we need to hear from the Hornell Arts Council. If they are disorganized and struggling, maybe the additional funding should go to the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.

Mr. Creath stated last year we appropriated \$30,200 to the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and \$10,000 to the Hornell Arts Council. This money comes from room tax revenues and cannot be used for capital expenditures. It can only be used for programs. Considering the success in Corning with economic development and the arts, he would say that Hornell offers a great opportunity. He thinks the suggestion for having the Hornell Arts Council come in and request the funding is a good idea. Right now he would give the Hornell Arts Council \$5,000 through the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes or \$10,000 directly to the Hornell Arts Council if they are going to use it correctly. Mr. Nichols stated the Hornell Arts Council needs to be accountable for what they used the funding for last year.

Mrs. Ferratella asked do you receive any other funding or grants? Ms. Lupi replied the New York State Council for the Arts gives us \$175,000 of which approximately two-thirds goes for regrants. The remainder of the funding is used for the Folk Arts Program with six to eight counties in the State. We also receive \$100,000 from the Corning Incorporated Foundation which helps us provide services to the three-county region. Some of that funding also supports the Folk Arts Program. In addition to community fundraising events, we also receive Community Foundation grants. Our total budget is \$400,000.

Mr. Ryan asked is the funding from other sources being maintained? Ms. Lupi replied they received notification that the three grant programs through the State are being reduced 10 percent and the general operating budget for Folk Arts Program was reduced 16 percent.

Mr. Alger stated that he would recommend continuing the allocation of \$30,200 for the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and hold the \$10,000 appropriation for the Hornell Arts Council until we get specific written information from them.

MOTION: RECOMMENDING THE BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ALLOCATE \$30,200.00 OF ROOM TAX REVENUE TO THE ARTS COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES FOR BUDGET YEAR 2011 AND HOLDING THE REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$10,000.00 ALLOCATION FOR THE HORNELL ARTS COUNCIL UNTIL THE RECEIPT OF SPECIFIC WRITTEN INFORMATION FROM THEM MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Secretary's Note: The Hornell Arts Council will be tentatively scheduled to appear at the October 4, 2010, AIP Committee Meeting.

C. Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance

1. **2011 Budget Presentation** – Cindy Kimble, President, stated that the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has been in existence for 91 years. We have one of the oldest destination marketing organizations in the nation. We promote 14 counties. In 2009, tourism brought in \$2.5 billion in business for the Finger Lakes. For 2009, the Finger Lakes Region was the second best performing region in the State. The number one region was the Thousand Islands. We did see a 7.9 percent loss over the year. To-date in 2010, we have had over 177,000 unique visitors and have distributed 50,000 travel guides. Looking toward the future, our goal is to grow tourism in the Finger Lakes Region 20 percent over the next three years. Our Board of Directors has also made significant

changes to our investment structure. One change is that each county will be a partner of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance effective January 1, 2011. Ms. Kimble stated they have had a successful year and we are looking forward to continuing to serve Steuben County. She requested funding in the amount of \$11,500 for 2011.

Mrs. Ferratella asked do you receive grants or funding from other sources? Ms. Kimble replied we do not receive any State grants. The "I Love NY" tourism program is changing and their future depends on finding money. Mr. Ryan asked what is your budget? Ms. Kimble replied for 2010 their budget was \$1.2 million.

Mr. Nichols commented these organizations are very good and we need to have them in order to bring in tourism, but we will have to look at the budget. If we have to make a cut, we will have to do it across the board. We will need to look at the room tax.

Mr. Creath stated that with the State pushing regionalization, we may have to look at the tourism agencies that we are funding. If regionalization happens, he would be looking at consolidating some of the Finger Lakes Wine Country's efforts. We started that with a three-year commitment and it has been continuing. If we look at cutting anything, we may have to look at that. Mr. Nichols commented everything is open.

MOTION: RECOMMENDING THE BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ALLOCATE \$11,500.00 OF THE ROOM TAX REVENUE TO THE FINGER LAKES TOURISM ALLIANCE FOR BUDGET YEAR 2011 MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. **Bid Award for Transit Buses** – Mr. Alger informed the committee that they had received a grant in 2008 and put out bids for three buses; two 24' medium duty cutaway transit buses with electronic destination sign and one 29' medium duty low floor bus with electronic destination sign and extended warranty. He recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, Empire Bus Sales, LLC.

MOTION: AWARDING THE TRANSIT BUS BID FOR TWO 24' MEDIUM DUTY CUTAWAY TRANSIT BUSES WITH ELECTRONIC DESTINATION SIGN TO THE LOW BIDDER, EMPIRE BUS SALES, LLC, FOR A TOTAL EXTENDED PRICE OF \$127,650.00 AND AWARDING THE TRANSIT BUS BID FOR ONE 29' MEDIUM DUTY LOW FLOOR BUS WITH ELECTRONIC SIGN AND EXTENDED WARRANTY TO THE LOW BIDDER, EMPIRE BUS SALES, LLC, FOR A TOTAL EXTENDED PRICE OF \$176,109.00 MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **Small Cities Grant** – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to accept a Community Development Block Grant from the Governor's Office of Small Cities in the amount of \$200,000. This is an extension of the housing rehabilitation program which included well and septic system replacements.

Mr. Farrand commented that a lot of the smaller towns don't hear about this. He asked if a letter could be sent out to the Code Enforcement Officers saying that a grant has been awarded? Mrs. Dlugos replied that Arbor Development does a lot of outreach with the Code Enforcement Officers. Mr. Farrand asked that a notice be put in The Addison Post and the Corning Leader.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL CITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting Date – Mr. Creath announced the October meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. The Conference & Visitors' Bureau and Finger Lakes Wine Country are scheduled to give their 2011

budget presentations. We also would like to ask the Hornell Arts Council to give a presentation and Mr. Weaver will contact them to make arrangements. Mr. Ryan asked if the Sportsman's Federation could also come in and give a brief presentation? Mr. Creath stated they will be included on the agenda.

B. Field Trip – Mr. Creath stated that a couple of months ago we took a trip to Gunlocke in Wayland. In November, he would like to see if we could hold our meeting at the Diesel Facility located in Erwin. Corning, Inc. would host and give us a tour. Mr. Farrand stated that would be nice, but he would also like the committee to go to the Pellet Forestry Facility located in Tuscarora. Mr. Creath will check with Corning and Mr. Nichols will contact the Pellet Forestry Facility and they will report to the committee which location we will hold either the November or December meeting at.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE**Monday, October 4, 2010**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE ****
9:00 a.m.

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, September 27, 2010.**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, October 4, 2010

9:00 a.m.

*Legislative Conference Room
Steuben County Office Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Donald B. Creath, Chair Joseph J. Hauryski	Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Philip A. Palmesano	Dan C. Farrand
STAFF:	Mark R. Alger William J. Partridge	Jack Wheeler	Amy Dlugos
LEGISLATORS:	Lawrence P. Crossett Thomas J. Ryan	Carol A. Ferratella John S. Walsh	Michael Hanna Randolph J. Weaver
OTHERS:	Tom Tomsa, Cornell Cooperative Extension Jeff Parker, District Manager, Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District Diane Trickey-Rokenbrod, President, Hornell Area Arts Council Morgen McLaughlin, President, Finger Lakes Wine Country Peggy Coleman, Executive Director, Steuben County Conference & Visitors' Bureau		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Creath opened the floor for public comment. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Cornell Cooperative Extension

1. **2011 Budget Presentation** – Mr. Tomsa requested an appropriation of \$365,000 for 2011. This amount is level with 2010 and represents a decrease of 7 percent from their 2003 budget request. This funding is used to leverage other funding from State and Federal sources. Every dollar you appropriate is matched by \$2.50 from outside sources to provide programming in Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Nutrition and Food Safety, Family Financial Management and Home Energy Efficiency. Mr. Tomsa stated they have been focusing on the two priorities listed in their 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan, which are local renewable energy systems and local food systems. He announced that they will be holding the 4th Annual Southern Tier Outdoor Recreation Exposition, October 9th – 10th, and the organizers of this event have already committed to a fifth year.

Mr. Hauryski stated with regard to biomass, last year you talked about Switchgrass and the cost for establishing that. Where are you today, compared to last year, with the development of that? Mr. Tomsa replied it takes three years to establish a stand of Switchgrass. There are other mixed stands that take less time to establish. It will be a few years before we have a refined figure for the establishment costs for different types of stands. Mr. Hauryski asked are you working with companies now working toward developing systems to burn biomass? Mr. Tomsa replied yes. There is a project funded by the New York State Department of Research and Development. We have some distributors and assemblers of biomass stoves that are doing the testing for us. Discussion followed.

Mr. Creath stated last year we gave you an appropriation of \$5,000 to use for a visitor center. What is the status of that? Mr. Tomsa stated we are hoping to continue to work with a consultant to conduct a study and continue on the process.

Mr. Creath commented the County is faced with an austerity budget next year. He stated that he would like Mr. Tomsa to look at his budget and impose a 10 percent cut and see how that would affect his proposal. The Budget Officer and the Finance Committee will be looking at the budget very closely. He stated that he would also like to see a breakdown of Cooperative Extension's budget. Mr. Tomsa commented a 10 percent cut will have the greatest impact on Agriculture and Natural Resources Program and 4-H Youth Development Program. All of our other programs are funded primarily with outside funding.

Mr. Nichols stated Cooperative Extension needs credit for keeping farmers in business as they had to provide advice to farmers on how to manage during the economic downturn in 2009. The average dairy farm lost one generation of equity staying in business in 2009. We have to give credit to them for keeping farmers interested in continuing and helping them plan. Discussion followed.

MOTION: FORWARDING THE REQUEST FROM CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF \$365,000 FOR 2011 TO THE BUDGET OFFICER AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Soil & Water Conservation District

1. **Development of Consolidated Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan** – Mr. Parker explained there is a movement across the State with regard to a proposed resolution in the Standing Committee for Economic Development, Environmental & Rural Affairs. They are asking the Governor to set up an advisory committee on agriculture to authorize the development of a consolidated agricultural and farmland protection plan. This calls for continued funding of the Environmental Protection Fund, which is the fund where we receive funding for grants. In the past, the Governor has taken money out of that fund and has not replaced it.

MOTION: MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONERS OF AGRICULTURE AND THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A CONSOLIDATED AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN TO HELP GUIDE THE STATE'S EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING ITS AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL LAND MADE BY MR. NICHOLS. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Chesapeake Bay** – Mr. Parker stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made a decision with regard to the total maximum load for the Chesapeake Bay and it is not good. They are looking at trying to re-regulate core nutrients at sewage treatment plants. That will be a very expensive treatment to modify. As soon as he finds out more information, he will come back to the committee with a memorializing resolution. Part of the new requirements is they will require dairy farms to have manure storage. This will have an impact on the small dairies. It will cost \$400,000 for manure storage and in addition, farmers would be required to have a complete nutrient management plan done, which would cost between \$10,000 - \$15,000. That plan would have to be done by a consultant and that would be maintained annually. Discussion followed.

C. Hornell Area Arts Council

1. **2011 Budget Presentation** – Ms. Trickey-Rokenbrod introduced herself as the President of the Hornell Area Arts Council. She thanked the committee for the room tax appropriation they received in 2010 and reviewed the activities that they used the funding for. They are requesting \$10,000 for 2011. This funding will be used to expand our publicity and promotion of events as well as to bring in new events to our area.

Mr. Farrand asked how much money has the Hornell Area Arts Council raised on its own? Ms. Trickey-Rokenbrod replied the City of Hornell gave us \$2,000 and we were able to raise money through the sale of t-shirts. Mr. Farrand asked could you provide us with an audit summary of what you raised? Ms. Trickey-Rokenbrod replied the vast majority of funding we have is received from the County. When we hold events, the vendors pay \$25.00 for their space. Discussion followed.

MOTION: FORWARDING THE REQUEST FROM THE HORNELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF \$10,000 FOR 2011 TO THE BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

D. Finger Lakes Wine Country

1. **2011 Budget Presentation** – Ms. McLaughlin stated Finger Lakes Wine Country is funded by Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties. Our mission is to increase tourism to the area as well as to increase revenue. Ms. McLaughlin requested an appropriation of \$100,000 for 2011, which is the same level as 2010.

Mr. Farrand asked how is each county's funding determined? Ms. McLaughlin stated it is not based on a formula. We base it on historic investment and where each county is with regard to extra resources from room tax. There are a lot of variables.

Mr. Creath stated originally there was a \$100,000 appropriation from both Chemung and Steuben counties, but then Chemung's appropriation was reduced. Ms. McLaughlin stated she could provide the committee with the historical information. It is important to understand that we are not strictly county supported. Corning Enterprises does do a matching component. Last year they did it dollar for dollar. Now this year, they will match up to \$250,000. Ms. McLaughlin stated that an additional one-third of their budget comes from the private sector. Discussion followed.

MOTION: FORWARDING THE REQUEST FROM FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 FOR 2011 TO THE BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

E. Steuben County Conference & Visitors' Bureau

1. **2011 Budget Presentation** – Ms. Coleman stated that corporate travel has been good for Corning and Hornell and our leisure visitors are increasing. We should see a good fourth quarter. We have seen a loss of our annual repeat customers, but new visitors typically spend more. Our leisure booking windows are shorter, but that affects the best opportunity for economic growth. Our occupancy rate in Steuben County increased 5.3 percent and that is better than the national trend. Ms. Coleman stated that our New York State matching funds disappeared for 2010 and that is likely to be the case for 2011.

Mrs. Coleman stated our occupancy rate has increased 5.3 percent, which is better than the national trend. For every property owner in the County, tourism saved them \$383.42 per year. That is based on the total tourism sales tax. For every dollar you invest in the Conference & Visitors' Bureau we are able to generate \$12. Our third quarter actual collections were \$313,652.50. There are a couple of properties that did not get their reports in. Ms. Coleman stated that she is forecasting they will end the year at a 5 percent increase in collections, which would be an increase over last year.

Ms. Coleman stated that in summary, the tourism economy in Steuben County is beginning to improve. Our total revenues are up. We are seeing a further shift to internet-based marketing, which is critical to future success. It will also be critical to continue to do marketing during the off-season. Ms. Coleman stated that this year's request is an increase over last year as they are going to add a part-time staff person and will be increasing their online marketing. She requested an appropriation of \$724,160.00 for 2011. Ms. Coleman explained, every person in our office is working beyond their capacity and we are not using our resources in the correct manner. Adding a part-time administrative staff person will help us to use our resources.

Mr. Farrand commented your budget shows salaries increasing 4 percent. Ms. Coleman explained that is for everyone across the board. Mr. Farrand stated that he can't go along with that. The county employees' salaries were at 1.5 percent. Mr. Alger commented the bargaining unit will get a 3.4 percent increase next year. Ms. Coleman stated we will adjust our salary budget if that is what is needed. When you look across the State, we put 65 percent or more of our budget toward marketing and 35 percent toward administration. In other parts of the State, those numbers are reversed.

Mr. Creath stated that he is on the Board of Directors and he thinks the salary concern is a Board and management concern, and he doesn't think this committee should dictate their salaries. If we make a cut to their appropriation, let them take it off the top and manage their own money. With regard to the salary adjustment, they are a hard working group. Mr. Nichols commented that he doesn't see their request going through with a 4 percent increase to salaries. Mr. Crossett commented that he doesn't think it is the committee's decision to tell them their salaries. You have to determine how much money you are giving them. Their overall administrative costs are not out of line. Mr. Palmesano stated your request represents a 7.6 percent increase and we have to be careful about what we dictate to you, but when you go back to your Board, everyone is asking for a flat amount.

Mr. Alger commented that with their current year budget, we did transfer \$65,000 from the fund balance. Their 2011 request is an additional 7.6 percent increase on top of what we took from the fund balance. The room tax would need to grow \$100,000. It looks like we will be \$20,000 - \$25,000 short, assuming the projections are accurate. We need to determine how much to allocate. We need to make sure the budget is realistic and that we don't overextend. Mr. Nichols stated the tourism organizations are great, and he is in favor of them, but we have to stay on budget. Mr. Alger stated these organizations are funded with room tax, but we still need to be aware of the revenue stream. Discussion followed.

MOTION: FORWARDING THE REQUEST FROM THE STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS' BUREAU FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF \$724,160 FOR 2011 TO THE BUDGET OFFICER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. County-Owned Forested Property – Mr. Hauryski stated the County had a number of acres of forestland, about 200 – 300 acres, and quite a few years ago, a forester was working with the County to decide what to do with it. Mr. Alger stated we had a couple of those parcels harvested and reserved those funds from the harvest to be used for the taxes on those parcels. We haven't done all of the parcels, and there are probably more that we could do. Mr. Hauryski asked do we have a forest management plan? Mr. Alger replied no. We may have had one done for the parcels that were harvested. Mr. Farrand commented that when you have a plan, it typically takes 12 years before it can be harvested again. Mr. Nichols commented that he doesn't think it has been that long since we had those parcels harvested.

Mr. Hauryski stated that he has a forest management plan on a small wood lot. We also have a crop plan and that is how we make our revenue, and with forestry it is no different. We can harvest every 12 years. With the acreage the County has, a forest management plan could be done. Mr. Crossett stated we had left it up to Public Works to take care of that. Mr. Hauryski stated that he would like the County to consider a forest management plan. We need to look more long-term. Mr. Alger commented that a lot of those areas may be past maturity and falling down. Mr. Crossett stated the last time we did that, we put out an RFP for a forester. Discussion followed.

B. Economic Development – Mrs. Ferratella stated that when she went to NYSAC, she attended a workshop regarding economic development. Ontario County uses the model that was discussed at the workshop and she believes it would be a good model for us to look at.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. PALMESANO. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk, Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, November 1, 2010
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, October 25, 2010.**

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Donald B. Creath, Chair Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
Joseph J. Hauryski Philip A. Palmesano

STAFF: Mark R. Alger Jack Wheeler Amy Dlugos
David English

LEGISLATORS: Patrick F. Donnelly Lawrence P. Crossett Carol A. Ferratella
Michael Hanna Gary B. Roush Thomas J. Ryan
Brian C. Schu Gary D. Swackhamer Scott J. Van Etten
John S. Walsh Randolph J. Weaver

OTHERS: Jeffrey Parker, Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
Jimmy Joe Carl, Chemung County Soil & Water Conservation District

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Creath called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Gold Seal Winery – Mr. Creath stated he received a letter from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation announcing that Gold Seal Winery has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. for their approval.

B. Cornell Cooperative Extension – Mr. Creath stated that the committee received a letter with an analysis of the 2011 budget should they be required to take a 10 percent cut. If that happens, it appears that it would impact the local 4-H programs. His letter also addressed other questions that came up during the course of the meeting.

III. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Soil & Water Conservation District – Mr. Farrand informed the committee that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a draft proposal for the Total Maximum Daily Load for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. A few years ago, New York State voluntarily reduced the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen going into the watershed. Other states did not. We put in 10 percent and they are putting in 25 percent. The EPA is calling for a 50 percent reduction across the board. There will be no additional funding for this. The New York State Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Farm Bureau and The Grange are requesting resolutions from each county to be presented to State and Federal representatives to stop this proposal or to have reasonable changes.

Mr. Parker explained this is a big issue and we have been working on this for the last ten years. The EPA's model is based on information that is loaded into a computer. He introduced Jimmy Joe Carl who works for the Chemung County Soil & Water Conservation District and also has a background in water treatment plants. We have received a tremendous amount of support from other agencies. We have the support of our Federal representatives. The resolution we are asking you to pass today will confirm that we are all working together. This is on the fast track and comments need to be sent in writing and received by November 8, 2010.

Mr. Crossett asked have the municipalities done anything? Mr. Carl replied he previously did work with waste water treatment facilities. A number of treatment plant facility representatives met to discuss this. There are a lot of fairness issues with regard to this proposal as well as cost issues. New York State's water quality is significantly better than the water quality of other states within the Basin. New York State is 65 – 73 percent forested and we have also seen a decline in population. Between 1990 and 2010 the population increased by 3 million people in the Basin, with the majority located in Maryland and Virginia. Our water quality is better because we are further away from the Bay and less of our nutrients actually make it into the Bay. If the cost to remove Nitrogen is the same in Maryland as it is in New York, it will cost us twice as much because we are more remote. Mr. Carl explained with our waste water treatment there is less than 1 percent of overall Nitrogen going to the Bay. The cost is significant. Chemung County has two treatment plants and if this proposal goes through, they are looking at spending \$28 million to upgrade. The cost to upgrade the treatment plant in Hornell would be \$5 - \$7 million and that is based on the requirement of having to remove certain concentrations of Nitrogen and Phosphorous.

MEMORIALIZING FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN OPPOSITION TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REGULATORY PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND REQUESTING A MORATORIUM ON REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD IN NEW YORK STATE MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Hauryski asked what will be the impact on small farm operations? Mr. Parker replied some impacts would include fencing cattle out of streams, which we have been doing. The biggest issue for small farms under 200 head, the requirement is they will have to install manure storage, inject manure and there would no longer be manure spreading. Within the EPA's proposal, there is no additional money, other than the priority equipment funds that will come to the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Palmesano asked what is the cost estimate if this proposal goes through? Mr. Parker replied in order to meet the 2025 nutrient levels on agriculture, we would need \$150 million in funding to implement those protocols, plus the landowners would be contributing 25 percent or more. Mr. Palmesano commented that it would be a good idea for the municipalities to be involved and write to the EPA with regard to this as waste water treatment facilities will be impacted. We are talking about billions of dollars for changes and it will not significantly change the load going into the Bay. This is a federal mandate that needs to be addressed and we need to make sure that comments get put on the docket. Hopefully a lawsuit can be filed or our federal representatives can do something to stop this.

Mr. Alger suggested amending the resolution to include a paragraph about waste water treatment.

MOTION: TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO INCLUDE A PARAGRAPH REGARDING THE IMPACT ON WASTE WATER TREATMENT MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. PALMESANO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

STEUBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, November 1, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

Meeting was cancelled.

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, December 6, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Legislative Committee Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Robert V. Nichols, Vice Chair	Dan C. Farrand	Joseph J. Hauryski
STAFF:	Mark R. Alger William J. Partridge	Jack Wheeler James Gleason	Amy Dlugos Twila O'Dell
LEGISLATORS:	Lawrence P. Crossett Gary B. Roush	Carol A. Ferratella Thomas J. Ryan	Michael Hanna John S. Walsh
ABSENT:	Donald B. Creath, Chair	Philip A. Palmesano	
OTHERS:	Bob Williams, General Manager, First Transit Jane Davis, Steuben County Mobility Manager Richard Stewart		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Mr. Farrand to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nichols opened the floor for public comment. There being none, he declared the opportunity for public comment closed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2010, MEETING MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

A. First Transit

1. **Update/Report on Steuben Transit System** – Mr. Williams introduced himself as the General Manager for the Steuben, Corning and Chemung transit systems. Through November 2010, our ridership has dropped approximately 8 percent. However, since 2006, our ridership has increased 50 percent. Since the downturn in the economy during 2008 and 2009, most transit systems in the nation have seen a decline in ridership between 5 and 10 percent. Even though ridership has declined, our revenue has increased 12 percent in pass sales.

Mr. Williams stated in September we changed our bus route schedules. One of the reasons for this was because our customers did not like the 2 ½ to 3 hour breaks in service. Now we have consistent service for the Village of Bath and Hammondsport routes. There is a bus going from Bath to Corning every 90 minutes.

Mr. Williams stated there has been some discussion about regionalizing transit systems into one system that would be seamless in nature. There would be one place for people to go for scheduling and route information. Conceivably we could have a route from Allegany County into Sayre, Pennsylvania. There has been discussion with some of the other transit providers about that.

Mr. Williams stated that we have two buses that operate the Bath-Corning-Bath route. The route actually starts in Elmira and when we get our new buses we will do actual bus switches, rather than having drivers come up and meet the bus. Our hope is that will create more ridership. That will also help with our funding as our funding is based on every mile of revenue we operate and every passenger that we pick up. We have three buses on order now; 2 smaller buses and 1 larger, 40 feet bus. This bus will operate the Bath – Corning route and has a low-floor design. It will be easier to enter as there will only be one step. There will be no lift, but it will have a ramp. Mr. Williams stated we are going to make the buses more attractive looking and pick up on the themes of the area; wine country, historical, etc. and use the buses as a marketing tool for the area.

Mr. Williams commented that more State funding is coming, even though it was reduced by 6 – 9 percent. With the capital money, we will purchase new fare collection equipment. Currently we have a drop box. The new boxes are more sophisticated and riders could use a monthly pass and swipe the cards. A rider will no longer have to purchase their pass prior to the beginning of the month; they will be able to purchase the pass at any time and it will be activated when they put it in the fare box. This will be more convenient for the customers.

Mrs. Dlugos commented that for anyone who needs transportation information, they can call 2-1-1 and they can get that information from the Mobility Manager or someone at the Institute for Human Services. We are trying to get the word out to the public. Ms. Davis introduced herself as the Steuben County Mobility Manager.

Mr. Hanna asked do people get help if they can't get a bus pass? Ms. Davis replied yes. We have tokens or we can set them up with the volunteer driver program. It depends upon their needs. Mr. Hanna asked do you do private contracts, chartering? Mr. Williams replied the closest one is Terp's in Elmira. As we receive federal funds, we cannot charter our vehicles out. We could, however, provide transportation to and from the County Fair, for example because that would be for the public.

B. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. **Railroad Update** – Mr. Sherron commented that they have called for a study of the railroad between Bath and Hammondsport. We have potential to use it with the Pleasant Valley Wine Company. Mr. Nichols asked how much work will it need? Mr. Sherron replied a lot. There is a lot of rail that was put in around the Civil War era. We would need to change the rail from the Jail to Pleasant Valley Wine. It would require all new track, ties, ballasts, etc. We have kept the brush down every year. The estimated cost is \$3 million to get the rail up to par. We gave up on the idea of having a tourist train to the head of the lake. We could only go to 54A and we would love to go to the Curtis Museum, but there is no access. We could look at having a bus that could take people to various areas in Hammondsport. Mr. Nichols commented that he would hate to see us lose the railroad right of way.

2. **2011 Budget** – Mr. Sherron reviewed their 2011 budget with the committee. We are anticipating revenue to be \$406,643 and our expenses \$407, 840.

Mr. Ryan asked what are the bonuses? Mr. Sherron replied our Board does annual performance reviews and based on that we could receive a bonus. Mrs. Ferratella asked is that a salary increase? Mr. Sherron replied no, it is strictly a bonus. Over the past few years we have changed the format of the IDA and now we have a Personnel/Audit Committee.

Mr. Sherron explained our consultant fees are substantially higher as we have been working with Susan Payne on our strategic plan. That plan is finally put together and we are in the implementation phase of that now. Ms. Payne will now be coming in on an as-needed basis. We also had put together a succession plan for my position, as I will be retiring at the end of July, 2011. We have received numerous applications and have narrowed the list down to six candidates. Mr. Sherron commented we have other consultants that work with us, but their roles will be minimized. Within three years, we really won't be using consultants on an ongoing basis; only as needed.

Mr. Sherron explained with regard to the Howard Wind Project, administrative income is calculated based on the total project cost and is payable prior to breaking ground. It is 1 percent for the first \$10 million and then goes down incrementally. Mr. Farrand asked how many towers does the Howard Wind Project have? Mr. Sherron

replied they have 23 or 24. Mr. Farrand asked do they have a PILOT Agreement? Mr. Sherron replied yes. However, it has been changed from the normal distribution. Because the town is getting the impact, they wanted more than what is normally done. The Town of Howard and the School District agreed to change the distribution. We are not involved in that process. That amount is based on the total mega watts. Discussion followed.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS

A. Historian

1. **Hall of Fame Budget Request** – Ms. O’Dell requested authorization to transfer \$1,000 from the Bicentennial Account to cover the costs for the HOF luncheon.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$1,000.00 FROM THE BICENTENNIAL ACCOUNT TO THE COUNTY HISTORIAN FOR THE HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON MADE BY MR. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

Ms. O’Dell stated that she would like to bring to the committee’s attention that she has many volunteers who help her with the Hall of Fame. She would like to thank Amanda Chapman, Eleanor Silliman, Dennis Abbey, Jennifer Gleason, Helen Bulkowski and Bill Partridge for all of their help. These individuals help with addresses, mailings, office hours, photographs, printing pictures for the Hall of Fame and building the framework to house the pictures at the display in the County Office Building.

B. Buildings & Grounds

1. **Sewer Pump Replacement** – Mr. Partridge informed the committee that we have a pump station at the County Office Building with two pumps. They are both original to the building and the seals are leaking, the motors are shorting out as a result and they are in need of replacement. He stated he discussed this with both Mr. Alger and Mr. Gleason and they declared this an emergency purchase. We received a quote from the pump company who originally installed the pumps and it will take four to five weeks to get a new pump from the factory. The cost is \$4,258 per pump, not including installation. Mr. Partridge stated that we expect that installation will cost \$2,000. Mr. Farrand asked do you know if you will be able to repair the current ones? Mr. Partridge replied no, we won’t have any information about that until we can pull the pumps out and see if they can be repaired. He requested the committee ratify the emergency declaration.

MOTION: RATIFYING THE DECISION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR DECLARING THE SEWER PUMP REPLACEMENT AN EMERGENCY MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

C. Planning

1. **2011 Contracts** – Mrs. Dlugos presented her 2011 contracts for approval. She commented these are contracts that are funded by the General Fund as well as contracts that are funded by Occupancy Tax.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2011 CONTRACTS FOR THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO BE PAID OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND: FINGER LAKES SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (\$39,000.00), SOUTHERN TIER LIBRARY SYSTEM (\$99,500.00), MARVIN RETHMEL – CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (\$17.00/HOUR), STEUBEN COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS (\$3,000.00), FIRST TRANSIT (\$24,333.00), ARBOR DEVELOPMENT – CDBG HOUSING REHAB GRANT (\$200,000.00), AND NYSOPRHP – SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GRANT (\$45,500.00); AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2011 CONTRACTS TO BE PAID OUT OF OCCUPANCY TAX: STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE AND VISITORS’ BUREAU (\$698,398.00), FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY (\$100,000.00), FINGER LAKES TOURISM ALLIANCE, INC. (\$11,500.00), ARTS OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (\$30,200.00), HORNELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL (\$10,000.00) AND STEUBEN COUNTY DAIRY FESTIVAL (\$750.00) MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. FARRAND. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Milk Pricing – Mr. Nichols informed the committee that the Farm Bureau sent information regarding milk prices. He asked Mr. Stewart if he had any comments on this? Mr. Stewart replied the dairy farmers are still receiving the same price from last year. The main concern is that corn is over \$5.00 per bushel. The farmers that grow it to sell are in good shape, but those farmers that need it to feed cattle and have to purchase it are going to suffer. Mr. Nichols stated the Farm Bureau is asking for a resolution in support of a milk support system based on the average cost of production at the county level. This is something that we may want to send to our representatives in Congress as well as the President of the United States, as they are creating this problem. Approximately one-third of American corn produced is going to ethanol production and that would not happen if the farmers were not subsidized by the Federal Government to do that.

MOTION: SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILK SUPPORT SYSTEM BASED ON THE AVERAGE COST OF PRODUCTION AT THE COUNTY LEVEL MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
Monday, January 3, 2011
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the
Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Monday, December 27, 2010.**