

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

10:00 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE: Robin K. Lattimer, Chair K. Michael Hanna, Vice Chair Dan C. Farrand
John V. Malter Robert V. Nichols

STAFF: Jack Wheeler Mitchell Alger Eric Rose
Amy Dlugos Matt Sousa Jennifer Prossick

LEGISLATORS: Joseph J. Hauryski Carol A. Ferratella Hilda T. Lando

OTHERS: Jamie Johnson, Executive Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency
Jim Griffin, Executive Director, Hornell Industrial Development Agency
Larkin Podsiedlik, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Mary Perham
Jeff Smith, *The Leader*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Malter to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2016, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MALTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. **Authorizing Public Hearing on Eight-Year Review of Agricultural District No. 2** – Mrs.

Dlugos requested authorization to hold a public hearing on the eight-year review of Agricultural District No. 2. This district includes property in Bath, Bradford and Wayne.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 2 MADE BY MR. FARRAND. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. *Resolution Required.*

2. **Food Sector Meeting** – Mr. Sousa informed the committee that he attended a Food Sector Meeting in Watkins Glen. This meeting was sponsored by the Finger Lakes Region Proprietary Network. The keynote speaker was Leslie Shull who is very involved with the Appalachian Region of Ohio and has worked extensively with food hubs and farmers markets. This is a great end goal for what we would like to see in our area. The group discussed a regional food hub and the distribution of county produce throughout the State. We also discussed increasing the branding of our area. Looking ahead to the next steps, the group is still in the assessment phase. We could work more closely with Cornell Cooperative Extension to create a winter farmers market. We will continue to work closely with the FLRP network that operates out of Tompkins County. Going forward, we will go after more grants and identify more partners in the County to work with them through Main Street Revitalization.

Mr. Hauryski stated that he would like to thank Mrs. Dlugos and her staff, and Ms. Podsiedlik for attending this meeting. This is one of the initiatives that he wanted to look at and he appreciates them coming and reporting back to the committee.

Mr. Johnson stated his office also attended and we actually have a meeting with the FLRP network in a couple of weeks. He stated that he is the Co-Chair of the Regional Economic Initiative Agricultural Subcommittee. This committee has not been as active as we were trying to figure out what the State wanted for URI projects. The State wants to see large projects and we feel the need to try to figure out how we work with the local communities to advance projects. Mr. Griffin commented the smaller municipalities should be able to apply for small projects and in the past that has been a barrier.

Mr. Farrand commented the National Association of Conservation Districts awarded \$2 million to establish food hubs and farmers markets. The only municipality to apply this year was New York City, and they received \$50,000.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Hornell Industrial Development Agency/Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. **Alstom Update** – Mr. Johnson stated one of the areas of interest we have targeted with Alstom is the development of the North American Hub for Advanced Transit Manufacturing. There are four phases to this project. Phase I is Research, Testing and Transfer of Technology Facilities and Collaborative Projects. This will encompass capital improvements and upgrades. Additionally, we will be looking to enter into collaborative relationships with academic institutions. Phase II is the Advanced Rail Center of Excellence. This will involve the incubation of vendor and supply chain businesses. Phase III is the Talent Recruitment Initiative. We will be looking for skilled production workers and specialized engineers and focusing on downtown revitalization. Phase IV is the Supply Chain Expansion Development Initiative. There will be a recruitment program and we will work to strengthen and expand existing supply chain businesses. We would like to use Alstom as leverage to get suppliers to locate closer to Hornell. Mr. Johnson stated that they will be putting together a URI application for \$35 million to support these four components.

Mr. Griffin stated that Alstom occupies 110,000 square feet and are committing 35,000 square feet to the Center for Excellence. We have sponsored and set money aside to redo the inside of the facility and will be hiring an engineering firm. France will be guiding us during the design phase to ensure that we will have everything we need. A portion of this space will be used as an incubator for start-up companies. We will be collaborating with RIT, Alfred University, Alfred State College, Corning Community College, BOCES and the local school districts. The longevity of the center will be assured with that kind of support. Mr. Griffin stated this project will solidify our presence in the US market. Steuben County has always been a partner on this and we appreciate the partnership with the County.

Mr. Griffin informed the committee that the Avelia train for Amtrak will be produced in Hornell. This is an 800 foot long train with six cars, one dining car and two engines. This train will be run on the east coast and is capable of speeds of 220 – 230 mph. Everything for this train will be produced in Hornell. Production is slated to begin in two years. We have 250 engineers and designers working in Hornell now, on this project. Mr. Johnson stated because of the technology that is being built in Hornell, the Avelia train will be able to operate at the high speeds that Mr. Griffin mentioned.

2. **Hornell Hospital** – Mr. Griffin announced the hospital obtained its certificate of need. They will be utilizing the old Kmart Plaza. The building is very structurally sound and they will be turning that into medical offices.

3. **Corning Hospital** – Mr. Johnson announced the old hospital is almost down. The nursing school is currently in the process of being constructed. This is a \$35 million project that will also include 150 housing units. The school is anticipated to open in August of 2017.

4. **Star-Gazette Article** – Mr. Johnson commented recently the Star-Gazette published a very one-sided article regarding the State’s property tax exemptions. The article cited that last year more than 7,000 parcels of property in New York State, valued at \$34 billion, were exempted from State, County, local and school taxes by IDA’s. Mr. Johnson stated just in Steuben County, we have projects that have generated \$8.5 million in PILOT revenue.

5. **Cohocton Wind Project** – Mr. Johnson stated a number of bankruptcy notices have been sent out indicating that Sun Energy is going through bankruptcy. As of this morning, the Cohocton and Dutch Hill projects were sold to Terra Firma and were not included in the bankruptcy. Business continues as usual, but they failed to notify us of their transfer of sale.

6. **Philips** – Mr. Johnson stated they are still in the clean-up process.

7. **Corning Hotel** – Mr. Johnson stated that the hotel is close to starting construction.

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR****

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Please send your agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office

NO LATER THAN NOON

Wednesday, November 30, 2016.