

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

February 24, 2009

2:00 p.m.

Conf. Rm. E, 4th Floor, Legislative Office Building, Oswego, NY

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**I. Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Legs. Morris Sorbello, Chairman, , Louella LeClair, V. Chair., Jack Beckwith, Arthur Gearsbeck, Douglas Malone, Shawn Doyle and Arthur Ospelt

GUESTS: Paul Forestiere, John DeHollander, Joe Chairvolotti, Erica Shreiner, Mr. and Mrs. Pringle, Mike Treadwell, Leg. Santore, Leg. Brown, Leg. Kastler, Leg. Potter, and Aaron Curtis.

STAFF: Dave Turner, Phil Church, Fred Maxon, and Deb Wise

**1. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2009**

The minutes of January 27, 2009 with corrections to Page 1 - GUESTS: Mike Treadwell was added; # 1 County Fair started in 1858 not 1958; Page 3 - H. reappointment to the Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board of Eugene Blumer. Motion by Leg. Ospelt second by Leg. Gearsbeck to approve with the aforementioned corrections to the minutes of January 27, 2009. All were in favor.

**2. Environmental Management Council**

***A. A Bigger Better Bottle Bill***

Chairman Sorbello introduced Tim Carroll as the new EMC Chairman. Mr. Carroll gave a quick review of the EMC's Strategic Plan for 2009. Mr. Carroll stated that there are a few changes to the work plan, one being the re-establishment of a Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC).

Mr. Carroll stated that the EMC did send letters to our state representatives in support of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill. The EMC supports this bill to help eliminate litter. This would also give the NYS DEC some extra funding, as unclaimed deposits would now go to the state instead of going to the distributors, as it stands now. Some discussion ensued.

**3. Resolutions**

***A. Public Hearing – Fair Housing Law***

Dave Turner asked for consideration of a resolution that would amend our Local Law which establishes Fair Housing standards in Oswego County. The changes simply make our Local Law consistent with state and federal statutes. Mr. Turner stated that we are asking for a Public Hearing on this issue. Motion by Leg. Malone second by Leg. Ospelt in support of the resolution for a public hearing for the revisions to the Oswego County Fair Housing Local Law. All in favor.

**4. Trail Coordinator Update**

Phil Church stated that this committee had asked to start looking into a trail coordinator position. Mr. Church stated that he is still looking into this, looking at adjoining counties and their trail coordinator positions. Mr. Church stated that he had received a proposal from Soil and Water, which he hadn't reviewed as of this meeting. Much discussion ensued.

## **5. Planning and Tourism Updates**

Dave Turner stated briefly he had some new advertisements that he wanted to share with the committee, these were done in-house. With regard to the website we've had over 100,000 visits since it was launched in May 2008. Mr. Turner stated that the blogs continue to be popular, with visits from all over the world.

Mr. Turner stated that he wanted to talk briefly about the county planning board. Chairman Leemann mentioned this in his Address to the County. Mr. Turner stated in 2003 the Legislature by Local Law # 6 designated the Planning office to be the official planning agency of the county. Mr. Turner said this was done for a couple of reasons; we were spending internally about \$8,000 per year for staff to supply support and attend meetings of the county planning board. With almost 100% of the referrals, our staff recommendations were then adopted by the planning board. Mr. Turner stated that another reason for making the change was to shorten the turn around time which often took as long as 60 days. Mr. Turner further clarified that he was not advocating for or against the Chairman's proposal but rather providing background for the committee. Mr. Turner stated that currently there is usually a 5 day turn around for referrals. Phil Church stated that we need a planning board that would concentrate on the larger projects and not get involved with the small ones.

## **6. Operation Oswego County**

### ***A. IDA Annual Report***

Mike Treadwell stated that the IDA (Industrial Development Agency) Annual Report is a requirement of state agencies. The IDA is a separate legal entity from Operation Oswego County, providing support to the IDA.

Motion by Leg. Doyle second by Leg. LeClair to accept the IDA Annual Report. All were in favor.

### ***B. Wind Turbine Project***

Mike Treadwell stated they are working with C&S Engineering, they will evaluate the need for what size turbine, is needed at the Oswego County Business Expansion Center site at 185 E. Seneca Street. The purpose of the study is to determine if it makes economic sense to use wind power on site and if this should be a vertical or horizontal windmill. This will lower the cost of power to their renters in this building. Mr. Treadwell stated that they will also have a cost/benefit analysis of the project done. Mr. Treadwell stated this is a pilot program, everything seems right for it, the wind pattern, etc. Phil Church suggested that the information be shared with other businesses after the study is completed. Mr. Treadwell stated that it will be five (5) weeks before the study is finished.

## **7. Agency Items**

### ***Soil and Water Conservation District***

John DeHollander stated that they are looking to hire a stormwater person. We were losing our funding for this position, so the staff person had left. Now the state is reconsidering this funding so we will be able to hire another staff person, in the next month.

### ***Cornell Cooperative Extension***

Paul Forestiere stated he wanted to let everyone on this committee see this New York State 4-H publication. Mr. Forestiere stated that this article of Oswego County 4-H and robots and aeronautics

was learned at a day camp. Mr. Forestiere stated that they really want 4-H to get away from the usual cows and cooking.

**II. Adjournment**

The chairman asked for a motion to adjourn at 3:28 p.m.

Motion by Leg. Ospelt second by Leg. Gearsbeck for adjournment. All in favor.