

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING & TRANSIT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 22,2009
MEETING HELD AT: UCAT– One Danny Circle, Kingston, NY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT: Legislator Hector Rodriguez – Chair Legislator Wayne Harris
 Legislator Gary Bischoff Legislator Peter Loughran
 Legislator Catherine Terrizzi

ABSENT OR EXCUSED: Legislator Mary Sheeley (family emergency)
 Legislator Joseph Roberti

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning; Lydia “Lee” Reidy, Exec. Director of Cornell Co-Op
Lance Matteson, President of UCDC;

Guests: The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) Representatives - Mike DiTullo,
 Frank Falatyn, Mark Hakim

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and asked for a motion to approve the March 25, 2009 minutes. **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Harris. All were in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Lance Matteson publicly thanked the Legislators for supporting the UCDC Performance Contract at session. Discussed the reason for the new UCDC subcommittee focusing on retention issues and what retention efforts are put forth. For new businesses coming in, we need “real estate ready properties” which is property that has significant infrastructure, is zoned properly, has sufficient water, sewage, electric, etc., and overall is shovel ready.

NEW BUSINESS:

TSEC representatives gave an update on activities of TSEC and how monies given by the County to date have been used. (Provided handouts on file)

TSEC Performance Contract was reviewed; Contract incorporated Department of Energy requirements and Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means will be added to the group of Legislators who currently oversee and sign off on performance contract submissions. **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Bischoff to support performance contract and recommended modifications. All were in favor.**

Lee Reidy handed out Legislative update and briefly discussed (2) lists serve that provide services to the elderly and the other one provides services that are difficult to obtain. Cornell Co-Op and the Department of Environment have been asked to do another list serve that could

provide information on environmental matters. A fourth list serve is about food security issues – Orange County has a grant funded program which is quite large.

Lee also discussed Agricultural Districts in Ulster County. Ag Farmland Protection Board will meet on May 12th to review recommendations made by professionals at Co-Op and related agencies concerning applications submitted to be included in the farmland districts. Ag Board advises Legislature on applications and makes recommendations as to who to include. Approximately 25 applications were made this year. By being allowed to go in to ag districts, there are specific benefits to be obtained – can apply for grants, protection from nuisance suits, allows for farm expansion, etc.

Dennis Doyle joined Lee Reidy on answering questions related to Ag Districts. Dennis went on to give a brief update on Transportation Projects (\$20 million in projects being advanced). Transit projects (\$2.5 million) also being worked on. Cynthia has completed her necessary work but the Transportation Council is behind on approving as they are waiting on two other counties. State is asking Transportation Council to prepare additional projects as there may be additional monies becoming available.

Legislator Bischoff asked if public hearings could be held to solicit additional projects but the response was no because projects have to be ready to begin immediately. (Project must meet deadlines, address areas of distress and create jobs.)

Topic of county owned railroads and development of such for economic reasons arose. *Lengthy discussion occurred and committee as a whole agreed to take a more in depth look at the rails and what, if anything, the County can do to have the rails and trails co-exist, while getting the rails developed for tourism reasons and to stimulate economic growth. A more in depth look may result in the County finally making decisions about the railroad rather than continuing business as usual.*

Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, indicated that a major problem has been obtaining funding. The railroad falls under a different stream of funding than other transportation and existing monies are often put to use in operational railroads, such as commuter railway systems.

Railroad Advisory Board members are to be invited to May meeting to give the Committee an update on where things presently stand with the railroad.

RESOLUTIONS:

Setting a Public Hearing as Required Under Article 25 AA of Agricultural and Markets Law to be Held on Wednesday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM on Addition of Lands to Agricultural Districts and Providing Direct Notice to Affected Municipalities. **Motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Terrizzi. All were in favor.**

Motion to Adjourn:

**Motion was made by Legislator Terrizzi, seconded by Legislator Loughran.
All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at: 8:10 PM**

Submitted by: Mary L. Carey, Clerk of the Legislature