

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Economic Development & Tourism Committee

DATE: May 9, 2011

TIME: 5:45 P.M.

PLACE: County Office Bldg., Library Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman James Maloney, Legislators Rodriguez, Frey, Hayes, Sweeney, Terrizzi, Donaldson, Loughran

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED: Legislator Aiello

OTHERS ATTENDING: Legislators Maio and Madsen, JJ Hansen Deputy Budget Director, Lance Matteson President UCDC, Carl Meyer Co-CEO Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), Vic Melville LWV, Karen Spinozzi Deputy Clerk of Finance

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Maloney at 5:45 PM.

- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Loughran was made to accept the April 4, 2011 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, all were in favor, Carried.

Resolutions:

- 1.) Resolution Draft No. 0513 - May 17, 2011: Authorizing The County Of Ulster To Submit Applications And Assurances To The New York State Office Of Community Renewal For Community Development Block Grant Funds For The Year 2011 - Department Of Planning

Q - Legislator Rodriguez - Is this a joint application? A - Legislator Maloney - Yes.

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Frey, Seconded by Legislator Hayes, All in Favor, Unanimously Carried.

- 2.) Resolution Draft No. 0519 - May 17, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Contracts And Agreements With The NYS Department Of Economic Development To Allow The Ulster County Department Of Planning To Act As Census Designated Affiliate Data Center - Department Of Planning

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Rodriguez, Seconded by Legislator Frey, All in Favor, Unanimously Carried.

- 3.) Resolution Draft No. 0520 - May 17, 2011: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Transportation - Accepting New York State Share For Mass Transportation Projects For Federal Fiscal Year 2011 - Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Rodriguez, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Unanimously Carried.

Correction needed on sponsors (Legislator Bischoff's name was inadvertently on the resolution.)

- 4.) Resolution Draft No. 0526 - May 17, 2011: Setting A Public Hearing As Required Under Article 25AA Of Agricultural Markets Law To Be Held On Tuesday, June 21, 2011 At 7:00 PM On Addition Of Lands To Agricultural Districts And Providing Direct Notice To Affected Municipalities

Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Loughran, Seconded by Legislator Rodriguez, All in Favor, Unanimously Carried.

Q - Legislator Terrizzi - What lands are included? A - Legislator Rodriguez - The Ag Board meets next Wednesday.

Lance Matteson President UCDC: A staff member has been spending one day per week in the Ellenville area working with businesses there. She has been there about three weeks and it has been very fruitful. She is working on retention and expansion.

There are some new leads in the solar industry but couldn't be more specific at this point.

Legislator Frey suggested reaching out to the media about this work in the Ellenville area for some positive press.

L. Matteson: there are several projects in the pipeline, including two or three manufacturing projects, and six to eight major retention projects, one performing project and a major office. Several health care/housing projects are being considered, although none in the Ellenville area.

Existing public projects already in the IDA process: Center for Spectrum Services (formerly the Children's Annex) expansion. \$2.3 million bond to save on debt service. Likely will close before the end of July.

Mid Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union in Esopus is at the ribbon cutting state. They have a lease-back deal with the IDA.

The Partition Street Project is under construction. Tom Struzzieri recently spoke to the Ulster Chamber about the project.

Central Hudson substation upgrade in Saugerties - this is a \$12 million upgrade. It will free up the existing location for more economic development. There is a proposal for a special PILOT whereby CH will pay the full property tax equivalent up front, but get stabilization of the rate over time. They gain predictability of payments, a flat tax rate over ten years. CH will make a cash contribution to the school district.

Legislator Sweeney: What's happening with a representative from Ginsburg coming to speak to this committee. L. Matteson said he will make that happen.

Legislator Loughran: wants a copy of the Central Hudson PILOT when available. L. Matteson said all will get it emailed to them.

Carl Meyer, President & CEO TSEC:

- The President of the NY Federal Reserve will be in the Hudson Valley May 19. Pattern for Progress is facilitating the visit. He will be presenting at SUNY New Paltz that morning.
- They are working with the Chinese, who are interested in building a solar plant. CVD got pulled to Georgia as they got a better offer there.
- They are working with a Spanish firm that is interested in Tech City.
- Natural Currents in Highland may be getting a major government contract. They produce systems for renewable energy markets.
- NYS Dormitory Authority is providing a \$3/4 million grant to purchase lab equipment at SUNY New Paltz. They plan to purchase a sun simulator and a thermal oven.
- There are no significant solar subsidies in NYS. TSEC is putting together a push for legislation on this, doing the back office work developing bullets. There is no solar farm in NYS!

Legislator Terrizzi: is there a concern with the Chinese company coming here? Is it worrisome to the industry?

C. Meyer: a good question! They are not worried about competitors. They have signed a non-disclosure agreement. They will use our labor. They recognize the "made in America" advantage. Panels manufactured here are higher quality. All partners benefit.

Legislator Maio: what is the name of the firm? A - C. Meyer - can't say now.

Art Smith, representing Dennis Doyle and Bob DiBella: nothing to report

Legislator Rodriguez asked about ridership numbers. Legislator Maloney: there will be a meeting with Legislator Sheeley and R. DiBella regarding the route in southern Ulster.

Legislator Frey noted that he had requested March Gallagher to be at this meeting. Legislator Maloney said she was out of town.

* May Abstract provided to committee members.

Adjournment:

The meeting was respectfully adjourned at 6:45 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Terrizzi and Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, with all in favor, carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Maloney/ks

Chairman Economic Development & Tourism Committee