

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Economic Development & Tourism Committee

**DATE:** September 9, 2010

**TIME:** 5:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman James Maloney, Legislators, Hayes, Petit, Sweeney, Terrizzi

**LEGISLATORS EXCUSED:** Legislators, Loughran, Frey, Rodriguez, Donaldson,

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Legislator Robert Parete, Dennis Doyle Planning Director; Victor J. Melville LWV Observer Corp.; Lance Matteson President UC Development Corp.; Carl Meyer CO-CEO Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC); Robert DiBella Director of Public Transportation; Nettie Tomshaw Legislative Employee

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Maloney at 5:05 PM.

- Attendance
- A motion by Legislator Petit was made to accept the June 7, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, seconded by Legislator Sweeney, all were in favor, Carried.
- A motion by Legislator Hayes was made to accept the June 28, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, seconded by Legislator Sweeney, all were in favor, Carried.

Carl Meyer, CO-CEO Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC): (attachment provided)

Solar Conference

- International Annual Solar Conference held in Valencia, Spain September 6-10, 2010
- TSEC shared booth w/ IBM - sponsored & paid for by IBM - \$80K booth (state chipped in a few dollars)
- Largest Annual Solar - Photovoltaic Conference in the world
- DOE Grant enabled TSEC to attend
- Only representative of New York State present
- Setup meetings with companies interested in coming to the US for manufacturing
- Received numerous leads - will keep the committee updated

Objectives to Construct Solar Farms

- Nothing going on in New York - frustrated with NYS - no long term energy planning - doesn't feel it will workout in NYS
- State of NJ and PA are on board - a lot of activity - not the case in NY

- Talking with local developers from Rhinebeck (developing solar farms in the Caribbean) - also talks with NYS on racing authority properties.
- Looking for potential sites such as land fill site (perfect location for a solar farm - need 6-8 acres)
- Visiting TEC City, College, County land etc., private and municipal sites. Roof tops are good but wind load makes it prohibitive in our area. Need a good farm for all day usage.

Q&A

Legislator Sweeney - Are you looking at private and municipal sites? A - Yes. Q - Also what is the perfect application for a solar farm? A - Good healthy around the clock mode - like a cold storage on a farm. Also a landfill which has minimal maintenance.

Legislator Terrizzi - Are there tax credits for households? A - Yes, approx. 50%, Federal 30%. Market has plateaued. In NY you still can't make the numbers work. There's a lot of interest on the part of the stakeholders in the business, but right now it's kind of quiet. Lance M. said N.J. is so far ahead due partly to the fact they choose to subsidize, NY does not. Component parts must come down in cost - it will then be closer to grid parity - it will happen, the question is when.

Bob DiBella, Director of Public Transportation: Bob explained in regards to the resolution on tonight's agenda; Grant already written and approved by the FDA - just a formality.

Legislator Terrizzi - Qualified no cost to the county - federal money and Legislator Petit qualified money is coming out of the appropriation fund. A - Yes

UCAT:

Bob DiBella also stated rider ship is starting to pick up with college being in full swing. The students use it religiously. The rate increase has not diminished rider ship. Para transit (americans with disabilities) is growing by leaps and bounds. Senior population statistics show right now, age 55 and over are 24% of the rider ship population vs. in 10 years the senior rider ship population will be 40%. Looking into how we can serve seniors better - to prepare for the tidal wave coming based on Dennis Doyle's figures!

Legislator Petit - Received a complaint on the Saugerties to Uptown Kingston AM Route - took 80 minutes as it was stopping from door to door. Bob DiBella felt that shouldn't be and he will look into it. Also, the taxi cab outside vendor rider-ship has dropped 60% - looking into why.

1.) Resolution Draft No. 0916 - September 21, 2010: Amending Capital Project No. 312 for Ulster County Area Transit Building Upgrade and HVAC Controls Facility - Additional Federal Funds and Reallocation of Funds - Ulster County Area Transit Facility and Department Of Public Works (Building And Grounds)

**Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Petit, Seconded by Legislator Hayes, Unanimously in Favor, Carried**

Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning Department:

HUD GRANT

- HUD issued a notice of \$100 million funding available on a national level
- UC and surrounding counties requested \$2.9 million dollars worth of regional planning grants over a three year period working together with numerous organizations throughout the region coming together.

- Grant encompasses housing, transportation, case studies
- Estimate of pledges with respect to agencies that will work together to provide equity is close to \$6 million.
- Grant submitted 2 weeks ago, validated by HUD - region is eligible for preferential treatment
- Orange County is the fiscal agent for grant
- End of year will hear grant result announcements
- Bad News - Two other HUD grants non-related - Workforce Housing and Homeownership grants were declined this go-around - not surprised. Notified Cornell and Repco

#### TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL AGENCY PLAN

- Adopted long range policy plan for 2035 for council to use
- 14 different corridor studies completed in this county since 2003
- Completed and adopted on 8/23/10 the Transportation Improvement Program - runs from federal fiscal year 2011 - 2015, waiting on final approval from state
- Transportation Council's federally funded monies are moved back and forth to implement the council's needs /actions. (we act as host agency)
- South Putt Corners Rd. - waiting for federal fiscal year to change (Oct 1<sup>st</sup>) then work will begin - we have all the approvals. Approx. \$175K will be made available for county to complete design work. (Response to Legislator Terrizzi asking if all approvals were in, thus County Exec. announcement today may have been premature)

Legislator Hayes - Dangerous Bridges & Public Safety - Requested Dennis Doyle meet with DPW. Leg. Hayes will discuss further with Dennis. Would like to go over bridges in need of repair - state & local bridges?

- I587 corridor - flying in prominent design specialists - discovery and design - should finish up 9/30. Reports expected early next year.
- RFP for Transit Development Plant - begin to look at City of Kingston & UCAT services becoming integrated
- (TMA) Transportation Management Area - look at how all the regional work comes together (Orange, Dutchess & Ulster) - including Ferry Service support, Beacon & Newburgh and support for Trailways

Solar Application at the Fair/New Paltz Park - Project was delayed due to panel inventory shortage, now back under construction this week.

Legislator Terrizzi asked if the panels were made in Ulster County. A - Panels made in the USA - Ulster County company has not received UL certification to manufacture panels.

College Alternate Reliable Water Supply - First meetings have taken place, design process. Ulster County Legislature is the lead agency - circulation of materials will follow shortly. There is a capital program available for dorm consideration pending water supply outcome. Water from the High Falls water district requires approval from the town board.

Chairman Maloney asked about a 25 year plan - are we planning ahead for infrastructure, roads to support housing needed in 15-20 yrs., etc? DD - Short answer is we are likely going to see less sprawl - so most likely pay on your own dime. More usage of park and ride facilities, multi passenger vehicles. Fund density and not fund sprawl is where current policies are taking us.

Legislator Parete - Noted a previous resolution passed that mandates walk paths, bike storage areas, etc., be considered when implementing capital projects.

Trails - Dennis also noted interest - talks ongoing to have trail systems throughout the prison systems properties. Also, working towards making former agriculture land on prison property stay in agriculture.

Lance Matteson President UC Development Corp.: (ABO), Authorities Budget Office Annual Report on Public Authorities in New York State, June 1, 2010 (see attachment)

- Lance Update letter (attached), Ref: Compliance status of UCDC (worksheet outline attached)
- Covers all Public Authorities including UCDC, listed under the IDA
- Is Subject to the Public Authority Accountability Act
- UCDC - Subject to a whole new layer of extensive reporting and regulation
- UCDC Chair, Julie Krieger has appointed a Governance Committee to oversee the process
- UCDC ended negotiations/litigation with the NYS ABO to be excluded from this public authority classification
- The end of 2009 UCDC started to go forward with steps to comply with public authority requirements
- ABO's web site lists 79 nonprofits as noncompliant (some have chosen to put the burden on the ABO to force the issue)
- Compliance requirements are extensive - time consuming
- UCIDA have been working toward compliance for over three years - still working on governance & audit committee charters, a compliant property disposition policy, a compliant investment policy and a compliant agency mission statement.
- The authorities motivation is for transparency and accountability - however feels over the top.
- Must have a real estate investment policy even though we have no real estate.
- Will keep committee informed

What UCDC Does: (attachment)

- Creates and retains jobs
- Expands business investment
- Protects and expands the tax base
- Markets and supports shovel ready sites
- Aggressively advances key industries

How Has UCDC Improved Its Operations:

- Kept UC taxpayers economic development costs below the per capita average
- Accepted NYS Authority Budget Office (ABO) classification of UCDC as "public authority" and proceeding to full compliance
- Added independent audit committee
- Added ethics and conflicts of interest policy
- Does RFP's for professional contracts
- Has annual objectives, measures results
- Annual reports posted on Web
- Business majority on board (15 of 26)
- Has productive, professional staff (4 full time, 2 part time)

Chairman Maloney thanked Lance Matteson for his efforts and commended him and the boards efforts for the direction he is headed in moving toward compliance to protect future funding.

Legislator Hayes asked if working on an annual financial report is SOP. Lance stated the authority has very strict and specific requirements of what this consists of. Must use their format - multi years of information using the "PARIS" online system.

Legislator Sweeney - Asked what the other counties like Orange and Dutchess are doing. A - They divvy up their economic development activity to different groups. The Orange County partnership are the lucky ones, they have escaped! All the other entities in the Hudson Valley are in the same position we are. Can't speak to Greene County's new entity.

Legislator Sweeney - When does the trickle down stop. A - There is no length to their reach.

Legislator Hayes - Feels there is a double standard.

Additional Information:

- UCDC *Fundraiser* on the Walk Way Over The Hudson - September 23, 2010 6-9 PM

Gave committee postcard / invitation of the event - Lance very proud of 1<sup>st</sup> ever on the walkway.

- Potential shovel ready project program Armor Dynamics - looking for 10K SF to house a \$10K piece of Equipment - loyal to Kingston but they need our help.

Adjournment:

The meeting was respectfully adjourned at 6:30 PM with a motion offered by Legislator Terrizzi and seconded by Legislator Hayes, with all in favor, carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**James Maloney/nt**

**Chairman Economic Development & Tourism Committee**