

## MINUTES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Johnson, Groat, Chatfield and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Wayne County Cooperative Extension Executive Director Elizabeth Claypoole, Tourism Director Christine Worth and Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli. Supervisors Robusto and Lasher were not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the December Committee meeting were approved as written.

Ms. Claypoole gave an overview/history of Wayne County's Cooperative Extension Program. In 1862 President Lincoln established land grant universities, in 1887 the program added state research centers and in 1914 Cooperative Extension was established with a land grant to help people help themselves with a focus on quality information, education and problem-solving. In 1917 Cooperative Extension came to Wayne County and the program was known as the Wayne County Farm Bureau, in 1919 the organization added the name Wayne County Home Bureau. In 1936 the organization became known as the Wayne County Farm and Home Bureau and 4-H Association, when 4-H was added. In 1956 the name and structure of the organization changed, and the Farm Bureau and Home Bureau separated from the newly named Wayne County Extension Service Association. Each county in every state throughout the country has an Extension Office. Extension delivers programming in agriculture, home economics, youth development, nutrition and health, agricultural sustainability, environmental education, job skills and community development.

Ms. Claypoole said Extension Offices are in place to teach, research and educate to meet local needs. Extension is involved in the COVID vaccination effort and working with the State on how to get more vaccinations and personal protective equipment to area farms and farmers. The local Extension Office works with other agencies and County Departments, striving to eliminate the duplication of services. Ms. Claypoole noted Extension cannot provide support for the growing of marijuana in the County; however, can provide assistance to those growing hemp.

Supervisor Miller left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

A brief video entitled *Cornell Cooperative Extension Helping New Yorkers Thrive* was presented. It noted the knowledge Extension Offices provide in their community and how this knowledge can improve residents' lives. Extension has a presence in every New York State county, operating as a subordinate agency in its respective county.

The monthly Tourism activities report was included with the agenda. The reported list meetings attended by Mrs. Worth and the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator during December. Winter

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Facebook promotional activities are underway, as are initial coordinating efforts for the 2022 Apple Tasting Tour. Mrs. Worth obtained quotes for the printing of a children's activity book for the County's Bicentennial Committee. The Department received notice they will be receiving \$55,797 this year in I Love NY Matching Funds. Supervisors were informed the part-time Account Clerk in the Tourism Office resigned, efforts are underway to fill this position. The Department's Tourism Assistant has said she will be retiring in June. Potential changes to the Visitor's Guide are being reviewed for 2022 and participants are being contacted regarding their listings.

Mrs. Worth noted the number of businesses closings and openings in the County. Mr. Groat questioned the status of the County's request to impose an occupancy tax. He was informed Senator Helming did not support the request to add any new taxes at this time and the issue did not reach the State Senate floor.

Ms. Claypoole stated Extension is also available to assist with bringing businesses to the area.

An out of state travel request was presented for Mrs. Worth to attend the Springfield, Massachusetts, Sports Show from February 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. There is no local cost for attendance. Approved.

Mr. Pincelli reviewed programs operated through the County's Economic Development/ Planning Department. The Office handles Brownfields projects, housing, agricultural district, business planning resources and economist development, to name a few. Efforts the local Office makes to help entrepreneur's start-up and expand their business were reviewed. The Department provides resources to improve the quality of life by advancing social, economic, environmental and public health goals in the community. Staff assist local municipal boards to plan and implement land use and economic development efforts. The Office performs grant writing and administrative services and administers and promotes agricultural district programs.

The following transmittals were presented for the Economic Development/Planning Department:

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Wayne County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and pay the 2022 County appropriation of \$527,553. Funds will be utilized to pay for administrative support, specialist, outside consultant services, special studies, and projects for the IDA. Approved 3-0.

--Authorization to set a public hearing date for a Community Development Block Grant application. Approved 3-0.

Mr. Pincelli reviewed with the Committee expansion taking place at the Intergrow greenhouse facility in Ontario and efforts made by the local Economic Development/Planning Department to bring this company into Wayne County. He also reviewed how Industrial Development Site Fund moneys can be accessed for use by businesses.

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Mr. Pincelli noted both the Chairman of the Board and the Chair of this Committee serve on the IDA Board.

The IDA is also working with businesses and host communities on proposed solar projects. Mr. Groat questioned if the local Extension Agency or any other source was looking into any possible negative impacts of having a solar farm in a community. He noted the land proposed for the solar farm in the Towns of Rose and Galen would no longer be farm land. They gather data and analysis it to help develop information regarding land use at the local level. Mr. Pincelli stated his support for a GIS (Geographic Information System) Office in the County. Mr. House noted a transmittal will be put through the Government Operations Committee later this week to authorize the creation of the GIS Office and hire a Coordinator. The County dedicated \$400,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to start the GIS project. Mr. House said the project will be another shared services venture the County enters into with municipalities.

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.