

Legislative Committee on Economic Development, Housing, Planning & Transit

Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2008
Ulster County Transit Center

Committee Member Attendees: Chair, Legislator Hector Rodriguez, Legislator Wayne Harris, Legislator Peter Loughran, Legislator Joseph Roberti, Legislator Mary Sheeley Legislator Catherine Terrizzi

Absent: Legislator Gary Bischoff

Other Attendees: Lance Matteson, Dennis Doyle, Nancy E.K. Schaefer, Tom Jackson, David Porter, Harry Ellis, Brian Gold, Ben Olsen, Lee Reidy, and Frank Falatyn.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Hector Rodriguez.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes from the May 27, 2008 meeting was made by Legislator Peter Loughran, seconded by Legislator Wayne Harris and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION: Adopting the inclusion of Additional Lands in Agricultural Districts Within Ulster County as Recommended by the Ulster County Farmland Protection Board.

Legislator Hector Rodriguez made motion to remove the wine property consideration with amendment to the resolution to state, "FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature adopts the recommendations of the AFPB as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature to place additional lands within existing agricultural districts in Ulster County with the exception of two parcels located in the Town of New Paltz included in the AFPB recommendations as tax map (section block and lot) 86.1-1-37.11 and 86.1-1-37.12 consisting 2.251 and 1.84 acres respectfully with "Wine" listed as the applicant, and". It was seconded by Catherine Terrizzi and carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the resolution as amended was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Mary Sheeley and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Frank Falatyn, President of Fala Technology, Spoke on TSEC – The Solar Energy Consortium, a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(3) with high ranking persons from manufacturing, engineering and business backgrounds.

Solar is an answer to our high energy costs: Photovoltaic Panels, Passive Solar Construction, Solar Walls, Building Integrated PV (BIPV), Solar Thermal Panels, Photovoltaic Farms, and Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Farms.

TSEC's Business Plan for NY's Solar Industry: Niagara NY – Solar Silicon Supply, Western NY – Large Scale Manufacturing, Upstate Region – Solar Products Manufacturing, Capital Region – Solar R&D, and NYC – Marketplace.

TSEC's Business is to: Collaborate with – Industry, Academic, Public/Private Organizations, Environmental, Labor, Utilities, and Economic Development Agencies.

Work of the Consortium: Develop, Perfect, Assist, Attract, Incubate, Test, Train, Educate, Teach, and Publish

TSEC will Function as: State-wide Solar Industry Council, R&D Laboratory, Governmental Policy Advisor, Industry & Public Education Provider, Market Development Association, Prime Contractor for Federal Gov't R&D Investment, Pilot Manufacturing Facility, Business Attraction & Site Selection Agency, and Shared Services Technology & Business Incubator.

TSEC Presentation Continued

University Partners: Binghamton University, Clarkson University, Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), SUNY New Paltz, The City University of New York (CUNY)

TSEC Activities: Projects, University R&D Partnership, Industry Partner Projects, Solar Company Attraction, Grant Writing, NYS Policy/Eco Dev, Workforce Training, NYS CleanTech Global Marketing, Public Education.

The presentation was followed by a few questions.

RESOLUTION: Urging the United States Congress to continue to provide funding for the F-22 Raptor Program in the 2009 Federal Budget.

Legislator's Fabiano and Roberti brought a Resolution forward that would assist LoDolce Machines, a Saugerties firm, that is in contract with the federal government to make parts for F-22 Raptor aircraft. The Resolution is a memorializing resolution seeking the U.S. Congress to continue the F-22 Raptor Program. Initially LoDolce Machines were contracted to make parts for 381 aircraft. Congress presently is cutting this program to build 183 aircraft which would cause loss of jobs to our local manufacturer. Discussion led to whether support of this resolution would infer continued support of the Iraq war. An amendment was made by Legislator Rodriguez to add "Resolved: This resolution in no way constitutes support for the war but supports F-22 Raptor program as a way of strentheing our national defense."

Motion to approve amendment was made by Legislator Rodriguez, seconded by Legislator Roberti and carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the resolution itself was made by Legislator Roberit, seconded by Legislator Loughran and carried unanimously.

LANCE MATTESON – UCDC

SOLAR: Mr. Matteson emphasized the Ulster County aspect of the Solar industry. He stressed that the funds allocated by the county for TSEC are focused to support Ulster County in this economic development cluster. This is a regional initiative and there are other funds going into it. It is a fact that we are part of a region, state, and national solar industry however, TSEC is not forgetting the focus on Ulster County.

Legislator Loughran asked, when will Ulster County see job creation? Mr. Matteson stated that Precision Flow is expanding rapidly right now. They are hiring to make machines that make solar components. Prism is also hiring. These are great paying jobs. We should see an abundance of jobs within the next 6 to 12 months.

SHOVEL READY: The Town of Lloyd is finally poised to get their first check for their capital project which has been completed. Saugerties is now poised to implement a bigger project.

UCDC has been receiving inquiries from other towns: Gardiner is interested in a feasibility study for their water system. There has been discussions with Wawarsing, Ellenville, and the Town of New Paltz.

Obvious growth areas in Ulster County that are not controversial are the City of Kingston Industrial Park, Tech City, Ellenville, Wawarsing, and Saugerties-Old Kings Highway. These are all the right places for growth to happen. The only thing missing is the green field opportunity where you can start with an unpolluted, appropriately zoned area that has access to transportation and infrastructure with a community interested and willing for development. Winston Farm is shaping up as such a site in Saugerties.

IDA Legislation: The big fight over prevailing wages and civic facilities authorization reached an impasse in Albany. We are back to square one, which means there is no statewide prevailing wage requirement and still no authority to do civic facility projects. There is talk of a summer session.

UCDC has updated their website with new content. They are taking seriously the need to be credible, active, transparent and accountable. They have done two things: 1- Created an audit committee headed by Julie Kreiger (Board of UCDC), four non-board members, all high level type individuals from non-profits or manufacturing. 2-Established a conflict of interest policy. Legislator Rodriguez, praised Mr. Matteson for doing an outstanding job as President of UCDC.

DENNIS DOYLE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Action Items

RESOLUTION: Adopting and issuing a negative declaration under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For the Inclusion Of The Priority Strategies to Support Housing Development in Ulster County As An Element Of Ulster County’s Comprehensive Plan Consistent With Article 12-b Of The General Municipal Law – Planning

Motion to approve by Legislator Peter Loughran, seconded by Legislator Mary Sheeley, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION: Adopting The Priority Strategies to Support Housing Development in Ulster County As An Element Of Ulster County’s Comprehensive Plan Pursuant To Article 12-b Of General Municipal Law – Planning

Motion to approve by Legislator Peter Loughran, seconded by Legislator Mary Sheeley, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION: Amending Resolutions Relating To Memorandums Of Understanding For The Purchase Of Farmland Development Rights For Conservation Easements To Change Name From Open Space Institute To Open Space Conservancy, Inc. – Planning

Motion to approve by Legislator Peter Loughran, seconded by Catherine Terrizzi, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Doyle asked Lee Reidy, Director of Cornell Cooperative, to speak on the Farmland Protection Program Grant Application Announcement. The applications are out and have to be to the state by September 15, 2008. In order to be able to apply for these funds they have to be approved by the County Ag Property Protection Board and have their own Farmland Protection Plan. Ms. Reidy also spoke on the Farm Working Housing Program Housing Grant and the purpose is to improve substantial housing.

Information Items

- 1- **Ulster County Transportation Council**-The budget is going to be subject to Federal Rescission. There is about \$127 million dollars of federal rescission in NYS with respect to the transportation bill. The Planning Department budget will be impacted between \$20,000 - \$40,000 dollars and they will have to amend their budget. This is the first time that planning funds have been rescinded. Lengthy discussion ensued.
- 2- **Main Street Program**- Planning has worked with RUPCO to put an application in with respect to Port Ewen and Milton. There is a meeting scheduled in Rosendale on Thursday, June 26, 2008. A meeting is scheduled with Dean Palen, Director of UC Health Dept., on Health Department and local planning.
- 3- **Grant Application – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program – Ulster County River Towns -** The grant will be \$100,000.00 and will require \$100,000.00 in match funds. In reference to LWRP it no longer relates to a waterfront. It can be used outside the coastal zone for an entire town and very important it can be used as a designated inland waterway. There is only one designated waterway in Ulster County and that is the Esopus Creek. A resolution will be brought to the committee for approval in the future to designate other streams such as the Rondout and Wallkill. They are also working with the Department of Environment on their application for a Hudson River Grant estimated at \$30,000 directed at updating and expanding and building in the Open Space Partnership.

TOM JACKSON – UCAT – Cynthia Ruiz sends here regrets for not being able to be here tonight.

RESOLUTION: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-municipal Agreement To Provide Public Transit Service To The New Paltz Area – Hiring Bus Drivers – Amending The 2008 Ulster county Budget – Ulster County Area Transit.

Motion to approve was made by Legislator Peter Loughran, seconded by Legislator Catherine Terrizzi and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION: Appointing Cynthia Ruiz, Director of Public Transit

Legislator Mary Sheeley commented that Cynthia continues to do a very efficient and remarkable job. Cynthia remained professional during a time when all of this was happening. Legislator Catherine Terrizzi agreed that Cynthia is doing a commendable job. It is a shame she has to constantly defend what she is doing. Legislator Rodriguez said Cynthia Ruiz always gets the job done no matter what the circumstances. A job well done, plain and simple.

Motion to approve was made by Legislator Mary Sheeley, seconded by Legislators Hector Rodriguez, Peter Loughran, Catherine Terrizzi, Wayne Harris, and Joseph Roberti.

Draft Ulster County Charter Policy – This is an update of a pre-existing charter policy pre-approved by this committee. As of April 30, 2008, Ulster County is prohibited from using FTA-funded equipment and facilities to provide charter service if a registered private charter expresses interest in providing the service. The County is allowed to operate community based charter services exempted under the regulation; some irregular or limited duration services; and those covered by the exceptions.

Cynthia wanted this charter brought to the committee for review for consideration. She would like to bring resolution to the next meeting.

Fuel Usage: It is line with what they had over the last two years, but as you know prices are up and as a result the 2008 budget as adopted is not going to be sufficient to cover the cost until the end of the year. Cynthia would like to bring resolution to move money to the next meeting.

NANCY E.K. SCHAEF – OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Ms. Schaf would like to thank this committee and all the other legislative committees that helped to expedite the hiring of four new seasonal staff persons for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The Office of Employment & Training received \$227, 000 from the Dept of Social Services to run this program. There will be 98 youth hired into summer employment throughout the county.

RFP Awards – On June 23, 2008 the Executive Committee on behalf of the Workforce Development Board awarded the following RFP Awards: United Way of Ulster County was awarded \$ 189,700 for youth payroll, Family of Woodstock was awarded \$120,000 for a youth program, and Gateway Community Industries was awarded \$30,085 for assessment (both youth and adults).

Re-entry Program- Ms. Schaf has been working with Sgt. Fiscaletti, Ulster County Sheriffs Department, regarding providing employment and job search assistance to inmates ready for release into the community from the Ulster County Jail.

Efforts to leverage funding are taking place for State education funds from VESID. We have plans to respond to their RFP in mid-July to access this funding source. Also we have plans to be involved with Ticket to Work, a federal funding initiative that pays for getting people with disabilities back to work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Laughran.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday July 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at UCAT

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Lima – UC OET