I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed Mr. Van Caeseele to the committee and to the Legislature. Ms. Lattimer asked Mr. Brewer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Modifying and Adopting Agricultural District No. 6 as a Result of the Eight Year Review – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to modify and adopt Agricultural District No. 6 as a result of the eight year review. This district is located in the towns of Caton and Campbell.

MOTION: MODIFYING AND ADOPTING AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 6 AS A RESULT OF THE EIGHT YEAR REVIEW MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Accepting a Grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission – Mrs. Dlugos stated this is the grant they applied for in 2018 to conduct a workforce housing study. The amount of the grant is $12,500. The results of the study will be due by September 2020.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT AN APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $12,500 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A WORKFORCE HOUSING STUDY MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

3. Approval to Issue RFP for Professional Services for Workforce Housing Study – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to issue an RFP for professional services for the workforce housing study which is being funded by grant funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR, TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE WORKFORCE HOUSING STUDY MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

4. InterMunicipal Agreement with Town of Addison Relative to Code Enforcement – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization for an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Addison for code enforcement. The only change to the agreement is that previously hours were outlined in the contract and now with the retirement of Mr. Rethmel, instead of office hours, concerns will be addressed on an appointment basis.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF ADDISON RELATIVE TO CODE ENFORCEMENT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Mullen asked are we charging back all of the costs? Mrs. Dlugos explained if there is something that requires a permit, the individual pays the County for the permit and that goes toward covering administrative costs. If there is a complaint and no permit, then Mr. Rethmel keeps track of his hours and mileage and that does get charged back to the town. Mr. Mullen stated he thinks there should be an additional charge to capture staff time for administration and overhead. Ms. Prossick stated she does not know if we are able to do that, but she will look into it.

Mr. Horton asked what would happen if every town said they did not want to do code enforcement? Ms. Lattimer commented that could happen because there is a State statute that requires it. Mr. Horton agrees with charging an amount above and beyond to discourage that from happening.

Mrs. Ferratella stated this is an issue for most of the towns because of the training they have to keep up with and the cost of the position. We had talked before about looking at code enforcement for the County. Mrs. Dlugos stated her office did do a training to look at different ways of stretching that responsibility. Mr. Wheeler stated this is something we have under the Share Services Plan and we will be meeting about a concept for that.

Mr. Van Etten commented everything has changed in the past 15 years with regard to the new requirements for education. The position itself has also changed during this time. The code enforcement officers handle multiple towns and spreads that cost. Mr. Wheeler stated we are also having trouble finding qualified code enforcement officers.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

5. Approval to Purchase Equipment for Transit WiFi System off State Bid – Mrs. Dlugos informed the committee that the 911 Director, Mr. Hopkins, had suggested that she could purchase the equipment for the transit WiFi off of State bid as the transit system is incorporated into the Emergency Management Plan. Purchasing this equipment off State bid would result in a significant savings.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THE TRANSIT WIFI SYSTEM OFF STATE BID MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. County Manager

1. Contract Renewal – Hornell Humane Society – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to renew the contract with the Hornell Humane Society for $8,500. With this funding the Hornell Humane Society has increased their T-S-N Program (Trap-Spay-Neuter) outside of Hornell to help control the cat population. They also work on the SPIRIT Program with the Sheriff’s Office.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH THE HORNELL HUMANE SOCIETY FOR $8,500 ANNUALLY MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. 2020 Contract – Empire Zone – Mr. Wheeler stated this contract is through the Hornell Chamber of Commerce/Hornell Industrial Development Agency for economic development. The annual, budgeted amount is $15,000. Mrs. Lando commented it would be nice to get a report to see how they are doing.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH THE HORNELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $15,000 MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES
1. Cornell Cooperative Extension
   1. Supporting Resolution to Increase State Funding to Cornell Cooperative Extensions – Ms. McKinley stated all of the directors of Extension offices across the State are going to Albany at the end of January to request additional funding support from the State. We have been receiving $4 million for a number of years and we are asking that they increase that funding to $8 million.

MOTION: SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE STATE APPROPRIATION FOR CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ASSOCIATION TO $8 MILLION MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

V. OTHER BUSINESS
   A. Newspaper Article – Ms. Lattimer stated Mr. Malter brought in an article published in yesterday’s Evening Tribune/Spectator with the headline “Steuben Wages Beat National Average”. Steuben was one of only two of the 44 small counties that had an average weekly wage of $1,095, which is the national average. In Steuben County, 38,000 workers brought home a weekly wage of $1,127 in weekly wages during the second quarter of 2019, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Allegany County had 13,000 workers that brought in a weekly wage of $815 and Livingston County workers brought in $849 in weekly wages, which is well below the national average. The other small County, defined as a County with 75,000 workers or less, was Schenectady with 63,000 workers bringing in weekly wages of $1,115. Mr. Van Etten commented it would be interesting to get the correlation of the number of available worker wages in relation to the shortage of employees; typically wages increase when there are not enough workers.

   B. Goals – Ms. Lattimer reminded everyone to think about goals for this year as she would like the committee’s input. The department heads will be working on their annual reports. Mr. Wheeler commented the annual reports should be available by mid-February.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hanna called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Mr. Van Etten to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning


MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE 2019-2020 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS PROGRAM (5311) MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

B. County Manager

1. Workforce Development – Three Rivers Development Contract – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to renew the contract with Three Rivers Development for $50,000 for the workforce development coordinator. He stated next month, the Workforce Development Coordinator, Fred Arcuri, will be providing an update to the committee.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH THREE RIVERS DEVELOPMENT FOR $50,000 ANNUALLY FOR THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES
A. Soil & Water Conservation District
   1. Activity Update – Mr. Parker presented an overview of 2019 District activities. He stated that at their annual meeting, they recognized Bluegill Farms as the 2019 Cooperator of the Year. They also recognized Canisteo Town Highway Superintendent Carlton Howland and Hornellsville Town Highway Superintendent Jason Emo for their work with the District. Mr. Parker stated numerous projects were completed in the District last year, and he provided a slide show of before and after pictures. He stated that during 2019, $2,727,036.49 in funds were brought into the County. For every $1.00 that is appropriated by the County, the District brought $15.00 back into the County in funding. We were able to complete 63 projects during 2019 and did not need to ask the County for any additional funding.

   Mr. Hanna asked are you involved in the 9-Element Program? Mr. Parker replied he is somewhat involved and will become more involved in the implementation process. Mr. Hanna asked will you receive any funding for that? Mr. Parker replied it is possible and he will be working closely with the Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District on that.

   Mr. Van Etten asked how many more CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) manure storage facilities need to be built in order to be in compliance with the State? Mr. Parker replied he believes they have four more to do that people have made application on. Then we will have most of the large CAFO’s covered. Currently the large CAFO’s are for farms with 300 or more mature animals. These projects have to be completed by the end of 2023.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. VAN ETTEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:30 a.m.
Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and asked Ms. McKinley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Authorizing Public Hearing – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to hold a public hearing on land submitted for inclusion in certified agricultural districts during the 2020 annual thirty-day period.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING ON LAND SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS DURING THE 2020 ANNUAL THIRTY-DAY PERIOD MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0. Resolution Required.

2. Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant Application – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to hold the annual public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant application. She stated this does not need a resolution and public hearing will be held in March.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.

3. Woodlands Project – Mrs. Dlugos informed the committee that Woodlands had submitted a grant application last fall and that project is finally moving forward and we are working with them on this project.
4. **Workforce Housing Study Consultants Contract Award** – Mrs. Dlugos informed the committee that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funded a workforce housing study in December. We were able to get four proposals, two of which were good enough to warrant phone interviews. She stated Susan Payne and Margaret Lawrence submitted a joint proposal and they also received a proposal from MRB Group.

Mrs. Dlugos stated she is recommending awarding to Susan Payne and Margaret Lawrence as they really understand the focus of workforce housing. This will be a countywide study, but we will be focusing on the Village of Bath, the Town of Erwin and the Town/Village of Wayland. Mr. Mullen asked what is the term of the contract? Mrs. Dlugos replied the study will be completed by September 30, 2020. The total cost is $25,000. Mr. Mullen commented in the future, he would like to get copies prior to the meeting. Mrs. Dlugos stated there is a lot of data work; updating the data that we already have for the I-86 corridor and the City of Hornell. They will also be looking at housing in Hornell and will determine if additional housing is needed. They will also meet with Human Resources and leadership at places of employment and will be looking down the road in terms of hiring, recruitment, housing, etc. Even though this is workforce focused, some of the strategies that come out will also be useful to the Land Bank and local municipalities.

Ms. Dlugos commented with MRB they did not have the connections with the workforce and Ms. Payne and Ms. Lawrence already have that. The proposal from MRB was $24,999.

**MOTION**: **AWARDING THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE WORKFORCE HOUSING STUDY CONSULTANT CONTRACT TO SUSAN PAYNE AND MARGARET LAWRENCE FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED $25,000 MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.**

Mrs. Ferratella asked when is Mr. Arcuri making his presentation to the committee? Mr. Wheeler replied next month.

IV. **OUTSIDE AGENCIES**
   A. **Cornell Cooperative Extension**
      1. **Informational** – Ms. McKinley distributed business cards to the legislators present and stated she would love to host having you coming over and visit and learn more about our program. She also passed around a sign-up sheet if anyone would like to receive their E-Newsletter.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**
   A. **Renewable Energy** – Mr. Malter asked if Mr. Johnson could come in and make a presentation on the windmill projects, in particular the extension of the Cohocton Wind Project, the Prattsburgh Wind Project. He also asked about the Dansville Solar Project. Mrs. Dlugos stated they are just getting into the solar project and her office has been working with the Town of Dansville on their solar regulations. She has seen a very preliminary look at the project and most of it is in Allegany County. There are two projects in Dansville; one is an Article 10 and the other, Bright Solar, is not an Article 10 project.

Mr. Mullen commented there is a change to Article 10 that there may now be a separate State agency that can grant approval if the process is not finalized within one year. Mr. Wheeler stated Article 10 gives NYSEARDA approval to set the PILOT payment. Three years in the Article 10 process is too long. Mr. Mullen commented one of the problems with Article 10 is that there are so many agencies are just mulling over the same issue and not getting a resolution.

Mr. Van Etten stated the IDA Board has talked about solar projects and has decided to take a step back now and figure out what the best process is and look at changes in a standardized way to bring projects. Our group is looking at putting together a proposed plan based on what other counties are doing. One proposed solar project is 27 acres behind Simmons Rockwell in Bath.
Ms. Lattimer commented the solar projects are taking agriculture out of production. Mr. Wheeler commented Mrs. Dlugos is working with the municipalities to look at their agricultural land. Mr. Van Etten stated one of the questions he asked was to make sure there is a decommissioning allowance on these long-term programs. Approximately one half of the townships do not have zoning. Mr. Wheeler stated one of the other issues is energy storage; we do not have any idea of how to deal with this. Mr. Van Etten stated with decommissioning, that has to be evaluated every year. Mr. Malter asked is there money set aside to take care of that? Mr. Van Etten replied it would be part of the bond.

Mr. Mullen stated with the wind projects, there is a letter of credit that is stronger than a bond and they have to negotiate the terms of those. With the Article 10 process, we have wanted the towns to be named in the letters of credit. Mr. Van Etten stated during the public comment, there were claims that the developers are building the project and then leaving. Mr. Mullen stated some of the comments at the Legislative meeting are accurate and some are not.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 3-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
STEUBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Via Teleconference

**MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Robin K. Lattimer, Chair
K. Michael Hanna, Vice Chair
Hilda T. Lando
Aaron I. Mullen
Paul E. Van Caeseele

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler
Christopher Brewer
Brenda Mori
Jennifer Prossick
Eric Rose
Amy Dlugos

LEGISLATORS: Scott J. Van Etten
Carol A. Ferratella
Kelly H. Fitzpatrick
Jeffrey P. Horton
John V. Malter
Robert V. Nichols
Frederick G. Potter
Gary B. Roush
Thomas J. Ryan
Gary D. Swackhamer
Steven P. Maio

OTHERS: James Johnson, Executive Director, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency
Jill Staats, Deputy Director of Operations, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency
Mary Perham

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Accepting a Community Development Block Grant – Mrs. Dlugos stated this is a request for a resolution to accept a Community Development Block Grant. The Legislature approved the application for the grant last November. This will allow us to do approximately 15 more septic systems and also do 2 mobile home replacements, which is new for us, but not new for Arbor, our project management partner.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND MOBILE HOME REPLACEMENTS MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando stated now I have a question Amy. So with all of that, with what’s going on, will they be able to start work; when will they be able to start doing some of that work? Mrs. Dlugos replied well, the original construction exemption included affordable housing projects, so we were assuming that we could move ahead with this, along with some of the Land Bank projects that are considered affordable housing, however, there was some confusion out there about not being able to get permits and things from the code enforcement officers. So we are trying to get some guidance from Office of Community Renewal or somewhere on what they consider affordable housing projects. We were assuming these kinds of projects would fall under affordable housings, so we are just trying to get some guidance on that. Especially the septic projects, I mean some of them are health and safety, so obviously some of those can proceed, but we do need some guidance on the affordable housing exemption. Ms. Lattimer asked if there were any other questions.
Ms. Lattimer asked is that it Amy? Mrs. Dlugos replied yes and that she was going to mute her phone and stay on the line. Ms. Lattimer stated okay. Next up on the agenda is Jamie Johnson to give us an activities update, but first of all I want to give some kudos to Jamie and the Steuben County IDA for their almost daily newsletters and information updates that are going out to businesses during this time of the pandemic. So, kudos to you Jamie. From what I have been seeing you are doing a great job. Mrs. Lando stated I agree. Mr. Johnson stated I appreciate that and none of has ever experienced anything like this at all and how I directed staff was that at least until we hit the bottom and we can start helping businesses with things like funding applications and things like that, our role was to disseminate information and make sure that information was good and accurate. So we spent a lot of time and staff worked tirelessly and I need to give kudos to my staff because when we needed something working from home, they were there whether it was Friday night at 10:30 p.m. or Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. You know last week was very difficult for all of us, trying to understand the actions as it changed, sometimes by the minute. So I appreciate the kudos, but it really was a team effort and my staff deserves a lot of that credit as well.

III. OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. Activity Update – Mr. Johnson stated this is going to be a little bit of a different update than what I would have typically given. Today I wanted to talk a little about our actions to respond during this, where we are looking at going from here and how we continue to respond to this ever-growing crisis. Through this we have attempted and tried very hard to make sure our information was being disseminated appropriately. We actually should be releasing in the next day or so, an actual website that people can go to. I have been hesitant to do that only because that’s one more thing we have to keep updated. The response to our email blasts has been overwhelming and I can say one of the good things that has come out of this for us is that we have continued to be engaged not only with the business community we would be normally engaged with, but businesses that traditionally have not sought out assistance from the IDA, or have been an organization or business that we have worked with. We have grown our relationship and our reach, if you will. So initially through this at the beginning it was all about the dissemination of information and then working with businesses to determine whether or not they were going to be deemed essential. Through that, Jack (Mr. Wheeler) and I had numerous conversations about impacts of essential businesses, the number of employees and what that would do to the public health effort. You know there were several conversations that Jack and I had about whether this was good or bad whether these businesses where being deemed essential. Through that a lot of the businesses, you know took the initiative to implement some very strict guidelines as far as how there were going to treat their employees, but also what we found is that over time, as time went on, some of these businesses, and I’ll use Gunlocke, as an example, just determined that it was best for the business and the health of the employees, to just you know discontinue operations until they had a better understanding of how this was going to impact their business operations. Through this, and I hope Jack agrees, we at least have been able to provide the County information on where the potential hotspots were and understanding what those businesses were doing to help protect their employees and we helped to disseminate that information to Jack and his team as they were trying to manage the crisis. Through that, as I said earlier, the State has set up a hotline and the State continues to update and change their guidance. We continue to promote that. There are businesses who have been investigated by the Attorney General’s Office as complaints have come in. To that line, I think some of the complaints have been very valid complaints and others I think you now simply people not necessarily wanting to go to work every day, but that is left up to the Attorney General to make that determination whether the complaints are valid or not, and they are doing that. Any questions on our initial response before I start talking about recovery efforts and some of the things that are going on now?

Mr. Johnson stated so we all are aware of the trillion dollar package that was approved. Still not quite sure where that money is going to come from, but I guess we will pick up the pieces when we get through this. There is a lot of money for business and when you read the rules and regs, that money is, can be very helpful to get businesses through this. I am cautiously optimistic that the money will flow if the Treasury Department and the SBA want it to flow. Treasury actually released a press release late yesterday which I disseminated to my Board, but have not
yet got to the rest of the business community about it. The Payroll Protection Program which provides forgivable loan assistance to those businesses that keep people on staff during this. That money will be released and applications will start to be processed as of this Friday. This morning I reached out to all of our 7A lenders. There are not very many in this region. The SBA 7A program is a little bit of a bear to get through, but I have reached all the 7A lenders saying okay how are we directing businesses, how should we be assisting business because all of this money is going to flow through our 7A lending community, which is basically the bankers that have been certified. So we have been in contact with them and will continue to be in close contact with them and then help direct businesses the best we can that need to complete applications and seek out that funding. In addition, we have been engaged with several businesses who have looked into the SBA Emergency Loan Program. That was the first program that was released and is actually a very old program that has been around and been in existence for quite a while. We did work closely with the State to make sure New York State was designated. It is kind of a strange designation because they picked a number of counties based on some criteria to go to the Federal government who deems that designation and Steuben was one of them so we had to work with our business community to make sure we got impact statements from them in order to get that designation, but we did get that designation a week ago now. There have been individuals that have worked through this. Having said that, comments in The Corning Leader were I guess, a little negative, but we need to be very careful as we work through this that we understand there will still be bureaucracy, there still is you know a time factor to all of this. Quite honestly, we are in an unprecedented time where we’ve got the entire country trying to access the same programs because we are all under this same situation. This is not a 9/11 tragedy where there was a one-time incident in a very isolated area; this is a global pandemic that everybody is trying to deal with. How the money will flow, how quickly the money will flow and how much of it will be available is yet to be determined and I think through this there will continue to be additional programs and resources that will be made available to help our business community and I want to make sure the IDA is at the forefront of that and communicating that out.

Mr. Johnson stated in addition to that, we have had some discussions at our Board level about how we can help best direct funds locally and programs locally to help what I would call our main street businesses and small business community. I think those are the ones that will have the most difficulty keeping people on board and coming back once we work through this. So we have had a lot of discussions with partners at REDEC, Chris Brewer and Jack at the County, we have talked with them about it and hopefully in the coming days and weeks we will have some additional information we can share about how we are going to re-divert some resources to do that and partnering with some of our local institutions that have the capacity to handle the requests we expect to come in.

Mr. Johnson stated in addition, with all of this going on, we are still very busy with projects which is a good thing. Renewable energy continues to go full bore. We’ve got recent approvals for a solar project in the Town of Bath that should start construction this summer. All three of the wind projects that are looking at our communities, confirmed yesterday that they are still moving forward and expect to start construction; most of them, late summer, early fall, but they are all still moving toward that goal and expect to continue to do that. As I’ve said, that is a billion dollars’ worth of new investment that will be coming to Steuben County and will benefit all of us as we work to recover from this pandemic.

Mr. Johnson stated we continue to be engaged with a couple of interested buyers at the Phillips property. There’s documents being exchanged there. So we are hopeful that Phillips and their team will come to a resolution on that, which we will be very excited to work on. Then, as of Friday, the Board of Directors of the Dana Lyon unanimously approved a purchase contract, which will now go to their entire membership to vote on the sale of the Dana Lyons School to Providence Housing for a $24 million redevelopment of that project as well. So there are still some good things going on in the community despite what’s currently happening on the health crisis.

Mr. Wheeler stated if I could interject, specifically with the Dana Lyon project, I think it is important to point out that you know Mr. Johnson has done a ton of work. Ms. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Lattimer were involved as well, but Ms. Fitzpatrick really helped push that towards the finish line and working with the community and helping with the communication. So she definitely deserves a lot of thanks for that. Mr. Johnson stated absolutely; without
Ms. Fitzpatrick, I don’t think we could have gotten it to a unanimous vote like we did, so thank you Ms. Fitzpatrick. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated you’re welcome.

Mr. Johnson stated so just to wrap up and then I’m happy to answer any questions, we are engaged daily with all of our partners. I know I’m in the basement now so it’s a little dark, because my wife is upstairs on a conference call with CSS Workforce NY because she works for the Workforce Investment Board which Mr. Wheeler chairs. We have talked to REDEC every day. I’ve got three emails that just came through on my phone from Empire State Development regarding different companies and situations. Right now we are in a mode of facilitating information and making sure we can disseminate that and work with our companies to make sure that they have the most updated information. I’m happy to answer any questions regarding our response to what’s going on and any…(Secretary’s Note: Audio was garbled)

Ms. Lattimer stated Jamie if we can back it up a little bit to your comments about meeting with the Board and trying to fashion some sort of resources for local businesses not only going through this, but once they start to open again. I think my question is, I know very well the bureaucracy that the State can present for local businesses. Is there some way in talking with your Board, would they be able to free up some local resources so there won’t be quite so much paperwork and the regular bureaucracy from the State? Mr. Johnson stated yes, that’s exactly what I’m talking about and there are conversations going on at the State level right now about allowing IDA’s to free up some of their local resources, Robin. Right now we are not allowed to provide grants or loans. We can invest into real estate, we can do some other things, but the State has said for the past ten years, through the Authorities Budget Office, that we are not allowed to do grants and loans. So we are working with our State Association and the New York State Economic Development Council; I am the Chair of the policy committee of that, we are trying to get some language softened to allow us to do that in this emergency crisis. A lot of IDA’s have pretty healthy fund balances, including ours, which would allow us then to divert some of our local resources to some of these efforts. Now, having said that, one of my biggest fears is that you know I don’t want this to; I’m looking at this from a statewide perspective. The resources that we are going to be able to free up, we need to be very careful about that because we don’t want to dump everything into an individual program now when we may need it later to help with the recovery. I also don’t want anybody to think that this is going to be a make or break type of program because the resources will not nearly cover the demand that is out there, but again, it is a tool and it can help. What we are talking about is some short-term resources to allow people to get through an SBA process, to leverage other funds, to give them some cushion during this period of time, but we need to get the State to loosen up on some of those regulations, so that’s where we are right now. Ms. Lattimer stated all right, thank you.

Mr. Van Etten stated I talked to a business owner in Corning yesterday who went to his SBA lender, which is a credit union in the Corning area, to learn about how he has to go applying for this stuff and they basically told him that they were only going to handle customers who currently had SBA loans through them, or that were members of their credit union. So if a lot of these businesses don’t have an existing SBA loan, how are they going to get access if the financial institutions are limiting that type of access? Mr. Johnson replied that is a great question Scott, and honestly one of the concerns that I have. When you look at the, what I would call the regional SBA lenders in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler, that are physically here, it’s Chemung Canal, it is these are certified 7A lenders, so the ones that are certified and don’t have a relationship with another institution that is certified. It’s Chemung Canal, it’s Elmira Savings Bank and it’s M&T. Some of the credit unions have relationships with an organization called Pursuit Lending, or the New York Business Development Corporation, and I have been talking with them and that is one of the emails I sent this morning to Jim Conroy who I have known for a long time. I asked him, how do we help businesses get through this process? These lenders are going to be inundated with requests and they are all trying to manage these requests while practicing social distancing and working from home offices. So while the legislation says this money, you know, needs to get out the door in two to three days, a traditional SBA process takes nearly 30 days to get through. So how do you go from a traditional 30-day process to a 3–5 days process with everyone working from home and the entire country asking for money. That has been my concern all along and what we are hoping to have more information on later today, and honestly one of the reasons why I am talking with the Board and REDEC and other organizations about freeing up some local resources, is to try to bridge that gap of time that it will likely take to get SBA funding. I just don’t see, I can’t
see a clear path and I hate to say this because I sound very negative, but I don’t see a clear path on how the SBA will be able to facilitate these things in the time the legislation has put in play for them to do it.

Mr. Van Etten stated well I have been through the SBA process with loans that I have and I would think they are going to severely relax their restrictive nature of review in order to do this. But, that being said, the situation that he explained to me yesterday, to me didn’t seem fair because it’s not first in line or people that we already deal with. It should be that anybody should get access and maybe something like the Business Development Center has to become an area where people that don’t currently have an SBA relationship with their financial institutions could go and get help. Mr. Johnson replied yes and that’s where I think; so Pursuit Lending, the New York State Business Development Corporation, they are a direct SBA lender. They are a statewide organization and they have relationships with many of these banks. Many of the banks; how the organization was funded, was back in the 1950’s and 1960’s, many of the banks contributed to this organization solely for the purpose of being able to have a resource for SBA lending. They have offices all over the State of New York. The one that serves us I believe is out of the Rochester area and they are very adept at being able to do this type of lending. I think what you are going to find Scott, is for those organizations that don’t have relationships with local lenders like that are going to be diverted to a statewide resources like New York State Business Development Corporation, ie., Pursuit Lending, for us to help get them access to that kind of capital. Again, I have been talking to Jim over the past couple of days, Jim Conroy who is the Regional Vice President in charge of lending in New York and Pennsylvania. I asked him this morning how do you want us to send you businesses. You know, how do you want us to help divert businesses to your resources. Honestly, I asked the same question to Chemung Canal, and I asked the same question to Elmira Savings Bank and M&T. Those are all certified, direct SBA 7A lenders per the SBA’s website. They are not the lenders like the credit unions, who have a relationship with Pursuit Lending or NYSBDC, so I am trying to figure out how these organizations are going to handle the influx, so then we can send out one another of those communications to the business community and saying hey, the applications are available, here’s where they are at, here’s who you need to be talking to get this information. I saw the application this morning, it is three pages; it is literally, I was very surprised being that I knew it was coming out of the SBA. Mr. Van Etten stated so it is simple. Mr. Johnson stated yeah it is very simple. I am hoping that my past experience with the SBA is not indicative of what the experience will be this time. Mr. Van Etten stated thank you.

Mr. Mullen stated I think the most helpful thing will be getting that list of lenders out as quickly as possible. I am concerned if we don’t have, if the businesses don’t have the information on exactly who is processing them, that these funds may be sucked up before we do much about it. Mr. Johnson replied that is my goal today Aaron, is to make sure I understand where we need to direct businesses to. Now that the Treasury has released it, so we will get that information out as soon as we have good information to send out. Because right now, it hasn’t been good information. You send people to an SBA website that crashes four times in the course of eight hours with information that says the program is not available yet. To me, it’s not. I don’t want to be sending people to that kind of website. Today, that’s my goal today.

Mr. Hanna stated these projects you mentioned, the solar and wind projects, for next fall, do you think the money is going to be there, I mean in consideration of the financial constraints this virus is putting on our nation? Do you think they are going to hold back the funding because they are going to need it in other places? Mr. Johnson replied I don’t know Mike, I can’t answer that. What I do know is that they are all saying, and again that was as of yesterday, they are all saying that these projects are continuing to move forward. Where the money comes from, for these projects they typically come from large investment groups and large investment banks and they are very heavily regulated and incentivized by the State and Federal governments through a variety of tax credits. I would hope that they are going to continue to move forward, but right now we are in unchartered territory. We really don’t know.

Mr. Malter stated look, some of my clients have already put together their loan packages and these are clients that don’t have an existing SBA loan outstanding, and most of the banks are reaching out to clients right now providing them with the application forms and the information to apply. So I don’t see it as a major problem in my area. Mr. Johnson stated yeah, John, I think the banks will do a good job of disseminating that information.
Where I am more concerned with is on the SBA side and how the money is going to flow on the SBA side. It has never been the local banks that have been the problem, it’s always been the SBA. If it comes through, I will be the first to admit that I was wrong and I will be the first to admit that I am thrilled if the SBA was able to pull this off. I’m just being cautious when it comes to making sure we set an expectation with the business community that we can’t control. Mr. Malter stated I understand.

Ms. Lattimer asked are there any other questions from the committee or anyone else who is on the line?

Mr. Mullen stated I have a question on the wind siting issue Robin, if you can take that now. Ms. Lattimer stated go ahead. Mr. Mullen stated sure, so one of my towns contacted me, but I was at a meeting last month and they were very concerned about the Governor’s potential plan on changing the manner in which these projects are sited, particularly with the potential of the local municipalities really losing out on any substantive or meaningful procedural input and sort of a lack of, potentially a lack of regard for the laws related to wind or solar. I was wondering if we could get a resolution out and maybe it would be for something to do before the full Legislative meeting this month, that basically says that we are opposed to removing local input, but understand some of the reasons why they are looking at reforming the Article 10 process, but don’t want to lose the ability to have substantive local input?

Mr. Johnson stated what I could say to that, just to chime in, is for those that don’t know, in the Governor’s budget he added in an amendment right towards the end of that process that he asked to amend his budget and basically took the Article 10 process out of the hands of the DEC, basically, and the siting board and put it in the hands of Empire State Development which significantly reduced the amount of time that it would take to get a review and approval, and really further limited local communities’ abilities to participate in that review. Furthermore, it actually allows, put some language in there that allows NYSERDA to become involved in the negotiations in the payment of tax negotiations. I don’t know where that stands; like many of the other budget issues, I have been told that the leadership in Albany is trying to get a budget approved and passed in the midst of the current crisis, which I think is a not a very good policy move, but that’s why I’m not in Albany I guess. I do agree with you Aaron, this is typical of the pendulum swinging too far the other way. I do think that the Article 10 process had some faults and was overly lengthy and could be overly burdensome, especially with the conditions they were placing on some of the wind developments when they issued the approvals. For instance, the Baron Wind Project had 160 – 170 different conditions that were part of the Article 10 certification. They had to work through and they will probably remove some turbines from the some of the communities. I think there were some things that needed to be done, but I think the Governor’s proposal took it to too far the other way. Mr. Mullen stated I would agree, there were things that needed to be done with the Article 10 process and that it swung too far the other way with the proposal.

Mr. Lattimer stated I have a suggestion; I believe Jack that we have an advisory from NYSAC sometime back, opposed to this idea of removing local control from the siting process don’t we Jack? Mr. Wheeler replied yes we do and we are on the email, not really the phone with everything else going on, but like Mr. Johnson mentioned they are trying to get a budget done and they have passed some budget bills overnight. They are passing more today. We will definitely keep you posted. We can definitely, to Aaron’s suggestion, we can definitely tee up a resolution one way or the other. If we hear either through Jamie or us, what exactly is in that and if this is removed. From what I am hearing, they are trying to remove a great deal of the policy, non-budgetary items from the budget. There are some policy aspects that are in there, but we can definitely keep you posted and get a resolution ready, but if something changes you know in the next day or two or whenever, when the budget is adopted, we will keep you posted on that too.

Ms. Lattimer stated so Aaron do you want to make a motion to follow-up on that resolution and we will see what happens in the next two weeks? Mr. Mullen stated yes, I will make that motion.

**MOTION: DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO TRACK THE GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO THE ARTICLE 10 PROCESS, AND IF THE PROPOSAL IS NOT REMOVED, TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LACK OF MUNICIPALITY INPUT RELATIVE TO THE**
ARTICLE 10 SITING PROCESS FOR WIND PROJECTS MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

Ms. Lattimer asked if Mr. Mullen had anything else. Mr. Mullen replied no thank you.

Ms. Lattimer asked Mr. Johnson if he had any follow-up. Mr. Johnson replied that is all I’ve got. Mr. Hanna thanked Mr. Johnson. Ms. Lattimer commented I think the committee has exhausted its questions. Thank you Mr. Johnson, that was very thorough. We appreciate it and we hope that you are able to offer all the help you can to our small businesses because that will put the economy back when we finally start up again. Mr. Johnson stated please feel free to send businesses our way. We are, we have the office officially closed, but they can go to our website and use our general email which is being monitored. We are checking messages at the office, so if anybody wants information, just send them our way.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS
   A. Hall of Fame – Ms. Lattimer stated I received a notice from the County Historian, Emily Simms, that the Hall of Fame nominations are being extended because of the situation. She is keeping the application process open until the end of June. The committee will be going through those nominations at that time. We are advancing it for about two months.

Ms. Lattimer asked if there was anything else to come before the committee.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
Legislative Committee Room
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, April 29, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Appointing a Certifying Officer for CDBG Project and Declaring Project a Type II Action –

Secretary’s Note: As Mrs. Dlugos was experiencing some audio difficulties, Ms. Lattimer started the presentation of this agenda item.

Ms. Lattimer stated Mrs. Dlugos is looking for the designation of the Certifying Officer for the CDBG well and septic system project and declaring the project a Type II action. She stated Mrs. Dlugos will be the certifying officer and this is a pretty routine resolution.

MOTION: APPOINTING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR AS THE CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR THE CDBG PROJECT AND DECLARING THE PROJECT A TYPE II ACTION MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. Approving a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Arbor for CDBG Project –

MOTION: APPROVING A SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH ARBOR FOR THE CDBG PROJECT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION
Ms. Lando asked what is the sub-recipient agreement, just a pass through? Ms. Lattimer replied I believe so because Arbor is performing the project work. Mr. Wheeler stated it is a pass through.

Secretary’s Note: Mrs. Dlugos was able to connect with the teleconference.

Mrs. Dlugos explained this is for the new project that we have that was approved at last month’s board meeting and we have to do a new sub-recipient agreement for each new project. Mr. Mullen asked what exactly does this mean? Mrs. Dlugos stated Arbor is our project management team. We administer the project and they do most of the implementation. Arbor does the on-the-ground project for us. We oversee and make sure they are following all of the federal regulations and we handle the finances. We have the primary responsibility to the Office of Community Renewal.

Mr. Potter asked when is the official start date? Mrs. Dlugos replied this is funding we have been awarded. Once we get through the normal review process, then we can proceed. We expect the funds to be released by the end of June at the latest.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. CDBG Funds and Covid Response – Mrs. Dlugos stated there is CDBG funding in the CARES Act and we have been communicating with the Industrial Development Agency on how we can access and use those funds for economic development. These funds are coming from the Office of Community Renewal and we are communicating with them. We are still waiting to hear the when, how and what to do to access these funds.

Mrs. Dlugos stated the second piece of this is there is a waiver through HUD that will let us use existing CDBG grants for other Covid relief purposes. We are currently working on the CDBG grant for septic systems and we could use some of those funds for rental assistance for people who have been impacted by Covid. We are having discussions with Arbor to see if there is a need. Apparently there are 697 households waiting for rental assistance. Arbor would have some funding through the HOME program that can cover people who are at 60 percent of the AMI (Area Median Income), but there is a gap for individuals that are 60 – 80 percent of the AMI and they don’t have funding to help them. She stated she is looking for approval to use the septic system funds to help people who are in the 60 – 80 percent of the AMI who have been affected by Covid and who are on the waiting list for rental assistance. Through this program, individuals would get three months of rental assistance. Arbor would re-qualify the individuals every month to ensure they have not gone back to employment. Individuals cannot be evicted right now and would still be responsible for the three months of rent while they were unemployed. They would also have had to been impacted by Covid. Landlords would be paid directly and households would be re-qualified each month. This funding would cover rent and some security deposits. It would not cover utilities unless utilities are part of the rent. If approved, we could amend our contract with Arbor to allow use of a portion of the septic system funds for rental assistance.

Ms. Lattimer asked what is the pool of money? Ms. Dlugos replied in that grant we have uncommitted funds in the amount of $193,000. We were thinking $40,000 which would roughly be the equivalent of two septic systems.

Mr. Swackhamer asked with all of the different funds being given out and unemployment, can you explain to me where they fell through the cracks? Mrs. Dlugos replied this is specific to individuals who are not able to pay rent and have been laid off. They are also falling within the 60 – 80 percent AMI. For example, for a family of four, the AMI is $40,000 and for a single, it is $28,260. With the local rental rate, if they are unemployed they are falling in that range and are probably having difficulty paying rent. I assume they have applied for unemployment. That is what Arbor would be doing for us, the screening for this. There are 670 households that have not been vetted to be sure they qualify.

Mr. Swackhamer asked didn’t they receive the $1,200 - $1,500 that was sent to all taxpayers? Mrs. Dlugos replied I would assume, but I don’t know their individual situations. Mr. Swackhamer stated I just wonder how
they fell through the cracks. Mrs. Dlugos stated with the $1,500, looking at current rental rates especially for a family of four, it would be a little more than one month’s rent. They may have two month’s rent; they may have applied for unemployment, but there have been delays.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated we should point out that the unemployment system has been bombarded with claims and many people are eligible, but still are not receiving anything. The unemployment system was not designed to handle this. The stimulus check that was sent out was $1,200 plus $500 for each child under the age of 17. There are multiple issues with that; if they don’t have a bank account the checks are delayed or are being mailed. There are funds out there but they are not easily accessible at this point.

Ms. Lattimer stated there is a cap in the CARES Act that is only extended through July. Rent will be due beyond July and there may not be any other assistance available.

Mr. Van Caeseele stated one other thing to think about; unemployment is being delayed, but so are rental payments. If I understand him correctly, Mr. Swackhamer is concerned that for those that are unemployed, their unemployment will come through and they will get this benefit and other people will have to pay rent and these people are getting an extra bonus when they may not have needed it.

Mrs. Lando asked if there is $193,000 uncommitted, how much are you saying we will use for this purpose? Mrs. Dlugos stated we were thinking $40,000 at most. To some of the points being made, individuals will have to re-qualify on a monthly basis. That might alleviate some of those concerns. We are looking at an amount of up to $40,000. I don’t know if you want to put a ceiling on it or not.

Mrs. Lando stated if there are 697 families, $40,000 will not go very far. Mrs. Dlugos stated Arbor thinks they will be able to help a lot of the households with HOME funding. This is only for those households that are at the 60 – 80 percent of AMI. There also may be some people on that waiting list that are not Covid impacted.

Mrs. Ferratella stated Arbor also supports Chemung County. Is it guaranteed that this funding will only go to Steuben County residents? Mrs. Dlugos replied yes, this will only go to Steuben County residents. The home funds will cover individuals up to 60 percent of AMI and that is not a program that we are involved in and Arbor does that on a three-county basis. Our CDBG funds are only for Steuben County.

Ms. Lattimer asked are the payments made to the landlords? Mrs. Dlugos replied yes, Arbor will be paying them and we will be reimbursing Arbor.

Mr. Mullen commented he thinks we are being premature on this. The landlords cannot evict for three months from when Covid started and if there is a hardship situation, there is a deferral on mortgage payments for three months. I think there is a chance the State or Federal governments may address some of these issues and I think it would be better to wait and see if that happens. No one will lose their housing in the meantime. We could wait a month to get more information.

Mr. Wheeler asked is there a timeframe for when funds need to be accepted? Mrs. Dlugos replied once we make that decision the Office of Community Renewal can quickly turn things around for us. There is no timeline for when the offer is no longer open. Mr. Wheeler stated he would suggest that Mrs. Dlugos check with the Office of Community Renewal on this and if there is a timeframe, we could always schedule a special meeting before the Legislative Meeting. Mrs. Dlugos stated she will follow up today and see what she can find out.

Mrs. Lando asked the $40,000 that would have been used to go to this, what septic systems would not get done? Mrs. Dlugos stated people are on a waiting list for the septic system program. We have roughly estimated this $40,000 would cover two systems and those two systems would roll over into the next grant.
Mr. Maio asked for the people receiving these funds, do they have to show that they were actually impacted by Covid? Mrs. Dlugos replied yes. Mr. Maio commented a lot of landlords do not have a mortgage and so the fact that there is mortgage relief is not really helping them right now.

Mr. Van Caeseele stated he agrees with Mr. Maio on that point. I would be more likely to accept funds when people who have applied for unemployment have not received it. When that money comes through they will have the unemployment and other people don’t have that option.

Ms. Lattimer stated we have had good debate and we need to take a pause to consider this further and if necessary, we will have a special meeting before the Legislative meeting.

MOTION: TABLING ACTION ON ACCEPTING CDBG CARES ACT FUNDING PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR RELATIVE TO A TIMELINE FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

4. Transportation Funding for Mobility Management Services Provided by IHS – Mrs. Dlugos stated NYS Department of Transportation has CARES Act funding for transportation. We have had discussions with them and they are working on getting their contract with the Federal government in place and once that is done, then we will have more information. Mrs. Dlugos explained the Mobility Management Program is funded through 5311 Federal funding and State funding. We applied for additional funding at the end of February and have not received the award yet. We anticipate an early summer announcement and then the contract. She stated DOT often lags in getting awards and contracts. We anticipate getting the award and funds and we are not in any danger. In the meantime, the Institute for Human Services (IHS) is still operating; it is an important operation as they arrange transportation for medical and essential things. They used up the grant funding in November and are operating under the expectation of reimbursement when the new grant comes through. At this time they have requested the County consider an advance on those Mobility Management funds. Mrs. Dlugos stated usually IHS can support the cash flow, but with the current situation, they are not able to do that. They are asking the County for an appropriation in advance of the grant award in the amount of $170,788.13. That would cover them through the end of June. Again, I fully anticipate that we will get the award, but it is hard to say when we will get them.

Ms. Lattimer asked where would this money come from? Mrs. Dlugos stated we have a capital project; however, there is no money in it. It would have to come from the County reserves until we are reimbursed by the State when we get the grant award.

Mr. Wheeler stated this is definitely a tough one. With Mobility Management, especially in times like this, there are requirements that we have to meet. We do have a stake in it. It sounds like this funding is probably assured. This is a policy issue for you. Having IHS cash flow negative is a problem as they do help us with arranging transportation, specifically for Medicaid.

Mrs. Dlugos stated she did discuss this with the head of DOT and he said that the funding is Federal funding from the previous year. They have it and it is there. They cannot guarantee we will get 100 percent of what we asked for. They feel we will get enough to cover this and to continue the program moving forward.

Mr. Mullen asked what would we do if the money doesn’t come in? Would we still be doing this anyhow? Mrs. Dlugos replied it would limit their ability to continue to coordinate rides and transportation at this time. Mr. Mullen asked if we did not receive the money, would we pay this money anyhow? Is it critical to us? Mr. Wheeler replied we do have responsibility for implementing a large portion of this, specifically for mobility management. If we were no longer able to secure this under contract, we would have to find another entity and pay to do that. Mrs. Dlugos stated IHS meets the match for the grant by the services they provide to the Department of Social Services for transportation coordination. Mr. Wheeler stated we would have to find a way to make it work if IHS did not provide it. The County has a responsibility for the Medicaid travel. One way or the other, we would have to do something.
Mr. Van Caeseele asked does it make sense and would it be an option to pay a smaller portion of it for the present time and see how the future looks? Ms. Lattimer asked does this funding cover them until the end of June? Mrs. Dlugos replied yes. Ms. Lattimer commented that is not very far off.

Mr. Wheeler stated he would suggest that the appropriation be made from the Contingent Fund as that is the easiest way right now.

MOTION: APPROPRIATING $170,788.13 FROM THE CONTINGENT FUND TO THE MOBILITY MANAGEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT AND DISBURSING THE SAME TO THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE MOBILITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Mullen asked are you confident this will be reimbursed when we receive the grant? Mr. Wheeler replied yes.

Mrs. Lando asked what was the total for the grant? Mrs. Dlugos replied this is a two-year grant and we applied for approximately $800,000. This is a significant amount of money.

Mr. Swackhamer asked is this for expense and revenue? Mr. Wheeler replied if you wanted to put in that the money is reimbursed to the Contingent Fund you can, but there is no revenue included in the resolution. Mrs. Dlugos stated when she does the resolution to accept the grant, she will make sure it includes that the funds get allocated back to the Contingent Fund.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

B. County Manager
   1. Modifying Existing REDEC Contract – Mr. Brewer requested authorization to increase the contract with REDEC to assist them with operating expenses. We would be providing funding to help them cover costs for their day-to-day operations. This additional funding of $150,000 would come from the Economic Development Fund.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO AMEND THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH REDEC TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL $150,000 TO BE PAID FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, TO HELP WITH DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONAL COSTS MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Mullen stated he wants to confirm that during this time REDEC is working hard to lend and help our small businesses through this pandemic. Mr. Brewer stated traditional lending sources have higher interest rates and applications to those sources have slowed to a trickle. The emergency loan fund that was established is seeing a demand. There is no fee for that for the business owner and interest is at 1 percent. The revenue side for REDEC is quite limited. They have expenses every day and staff are operating from their homes; they have had to require additional software and their needs have changed considerably in two months.

Mr. Johnson explained the emergency loan fund is being funded by the Industrial Development Agency and Corning Enterprises and REDEC approves the loans for that program. This is really starting to make an impact in the community.

Mr. Potter asked this money that is being loaned to REDEC, will that be repaid? Mr. Brewer replied no. This additional funding is coming out of the Economic Development Fund and there is no expectation of repayment.

Mrs. Lando asked how much? Mr. Brewer replied $150,000.

Mr. Malter asked this does not decrease the amount of money which this fund was going to be, $500,000? Mr. Brewer replied correct. They are trying to procure other participants to keep at the $500,000 revolving loan fund.
This fund will go on in perpetuity. Mr. Malter stated I believe we should get an annual report on the revolving fund and what has been paid, etc. Mr. Brewer stated absolutely and to put it on the record, I am also the Chair of REDEC.

Ms. Lattimer commented REDEC is an organization that has been involved in economic development in the Southern Tier for 25 years.

Ms. Fitzpatrick asked is this $150,000 going toward the loans for business or for expenses for REDEC? Mr. Brewer replied municipalities cannot give a loan to REDEC directly or indirectly. Our funds are for operating expenses. Mr. Wheeler stated this will free up funds that can be distributed for loans.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.**

2. **Finger Lakes SPCA Allocation** – Mr. Wheeler stated he sent an email to the Legislators related to a current case and the seizure of large animals that the SPCA are boarding and taking care of. They have done a fantastic job with the $10,000 we budget for them and they have not had to come back for additional expenses. They are doing a great accounting. Mr. Wheeler stated with this case they have expended all of the carryover funds they had. The contract does contemplate this. As background, we had changed to using an animal cruelty investigator within the Sheriff’s Department and using the SPCA for assistance. These fees are in line with that. We have $39,000 in the line item and there is sufficient funding to be able to do this.

Mrs. Lando asked if we get money back from the State on this case? Mr. Wheeler replied if there is restitution we would get money back; I cannot guarantee to you how much. That has happened in smaller cases.

Mr. Nichols stated they are bovines. After they get them in shape, why are they keeping them? They can send them to Empire Livestock. Mr. Wheeler stated I don’t think the SPCA does that and this is an ongoing case. Ms. Prossick stated they would have to send to Farm Sanctuary to take care of them.

Mr. Malter asked are we pursuing the owner to turn the animals over? Mr. Wheeler replied I don’t know.

Ms. Lattimer stated until the disposition of the cruelty case, the animals would be status quo. I don’t disagree with Mr. Nichols; in normal farming practices the bovines would be dispositioned.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF $22,000 FROM THE ANIMAL SAFETY COST CENTER TO THE FINGER LAKES SPCA TO PAY FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO A LARGE ANIMAL SEIZURE MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Lando asked we really don’t have a choice, but what could happen if we don’t do this? Mr. Wheeler replied the SPCA really has expenses and no recourse. Up until now they have been able to do it economically. This is just an extraordinary case.

Mr. Van Etten stated for the last three years we have not had to use any of that money and now is the time.

Mr. Malter stated I have no problem with appropriating the additional funding. I still think we need to pursue the situation and pursue the owner so we can dispose of the animals. Mr. Maio stated this is an ongoing current case and this is something the District Attorney has to do.

Mr. Mullen stated I think we should consider a Local Law, if possibly in the future, to be able to sell the animals so that we don’t incur these kinds of costs for farm animals that could easily be sold. I am comfortable paying the shortfall. We should see if the District Attorney is willing to make an offer to purchase the animals so we can sell and cap the damages on this. With regard to the carryover of the shortfall from last year’s budget, why are we paying for last year’s carryover and what is the balance over the course of the contract? Do they always rollover a balance? Mr. Wheeler replied they rollover any unexpended funds and they are not usually significant. He stated
he is a little surprised about the shortfall from last year, but the contract does speak to extraordinary cases. This will make them whole and anticipates getting them through the end of the year. Any funds not expended would then be carried over.

Mr. Hanna stated I think I should not have made the motion because periodically they ask me to help them with real estate and I will abstain from the vote.

Ms. Lattimer asked if there was a new motion.

**MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF $22,000 FROM THE ANIMAL SAFETY COST CENTER TO THE FINGER LAKES SPCA FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO A LARGE ANIMAL SEIZURE MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. MOTION CARRIES 4-0-1. (MR. HANNA ABSTAINED)**

**IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

A Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. PILOT Consent for Canisteo Wind Energy – Mr. Johnson stated as in the past, I am presenting a resolution to all of the taxing entities for a renewable energy project to lock in the distribution rates based on this year’s tax rate. This provides significant assurance to the municipalities as it protects them from changing tax rates. He stated with Baron Wind we were able to negotiate and get an appropriate consent resolution from all taxing entities to freeze the rates based on today’s rate and it became a fixed payment formula.

Mr. Johnson requested the Legislature consider moving forward with a similar resolution for the Canisteo Wind Energy project. This would be a duplication of the resolution for Baron Winds, with different municipalities listed, to basically freeze the rate.

Mr. Mullen stated he will be abstaining as he represents the towns in the project. The towns are very much in favor of this.

**MOTION: APPROVING A PILOT CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CANISTEO WIND ENERGY PROJECT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. MOTION CARRIES 4-0-1. (MR. MULLEN ABSTAINED)**

2. I-86 Workforce Project – Mrs. Lando asked with Fred Arcuri moving to Corning Enterprises, do we have a replacement? Mr. Johnson replied Betsey Hale took a job out west and resigned her position as President of Three Rivers Development. A position then opened up at Corning Enterprises and Mr. Arcuri filled that. Part of his current tasks is workforce development and continuing to manage the I-86 initiative through the transition period. Three Rivers has now hired Susan Payne full-time as President. There have been discussions about how to move and transfer I-86 moving forward. That discussion includes what we do about Mr. Arcuri’s position. Ms. Payne has some ideas and a recommendation to replace that position. Currently Ms. Payne is living in Florida and is trying to transition and move back up here and hopes to be back by mid-May. The question now is what form does I-86 take now because everything has changed. We need to be proactive with our response plan. The work has not stopped and Mr. Arcuri continues to manage this during this transition.

Mrs. Lando asked once everything is all settled, can we get an update on all of these changes at a Chairman’s meeting? Mr. Van Etten replied yes, when we get back to meeting in person.

Mrs. Ferratella stated Mr. Arcuri was going to come back to the AIP Committee to give an updated presentation. Will he still do that before the transition? Mr. Wheeler stated there are a lot of good things that Mr. Arcuri was working on that will carry over. It is up to you if you want a historical presentation or just wait until we find out where we are going.
Mr. Johnson stated Mr. Arcuri is working on an annual State of the Workforce Address and that gives a good historical perspective. Mr. Arcuri was working on the finishing touches and identifying the needs we see going past Covid and once that is done we will be happy to release that. That may be a good opportunity to get Mr. Arcuri and others in front of the AIP Committee.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**
A. **Article 10 Siting Law** – Ms. Lattimer stated this was an item that Mr. Mullen had asked to bring back and have a short discussion on. As it came out of the 2020 budget from the State, it is looking different than what we had expected. Previously they were removing all local input from energy projects within the County. Now it looks a little different and she is looking for the committee’s input on whether we go forward with a resolution opposing or are we not so unhappy with the outcome from the budget.

Mr. Mullen stated I have looked at most of the new law and it is pretty good. They are going to be developing rules still on how agencies actually treat all of this, including the development of model siting for all agencies. If there is a resolution, I would like to say to do them in a way that gives great deference to the local law. There is a provision in the law that says they will give deference to the local law unless the local law is deemed to be unreasonably broad in light of the State’s environmental goals. That is where some of the rule making will come into place, how they interpret. This gives the municipalities’ definite reassurance.

Mr. Johnson stated he would concur with that. I have been on NYSERDA webinars along with Jill Staats from my office and there are a lot of questions, but he agrees with Mr. Mullen that it looks as though they are giving deference to local laws. They are partnering with the power authority and the State is seeking to sign purchase and sale agreements on land being targeted for development. The hope is the State is going to secure, or get under contract, significant acreage and put together an offer. Steuben County is one of the first to be reached out to and we have seen a draft purchase and sale agreement. We will see how that process goes.

Ms. Lattimer asked is the committee in agreement to monitor the rules as they develop and not follow through on an opposing resolution? The committee was in agreement.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER
Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. MULLEN, SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS
A. Planning
  1. Accepting CARES Act 2020 Funding – Mrs. Dlugos stated they have received CARES Act 2020 funding for public transportation and that will be disbursed in two separate contracts. She requested authorization to accept $249,017 for mobility management services.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT CARES ACT 2020 FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $249,017.00 FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES MADE BY MR. MULLEN, SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

Mrs. Dlugos stated with the CARES Act funding we will need to amend our contracts with the operators and the Institute for Human Services in order to get the funding to them. Mr. Mullen asked are we paying the County out of a portion of the State funds? Mrs. Dlugos replied this is 80 percent federal, 10 percent State and 10 percent local match. For the local match for Mobility Management we can use other contracts to make that match. A lot of the matches for operating can use different contracts. The only funding the County puts in is around $23,000 out of bus operations. Mr. Wheeler stated we budget $50,000 but we are not actually spending it. The local share is relatively low.

Mr. Mullen asked what is the practical effect of this? Mrs. Dlugos replied this funding is 100 percent federal with no match. First Transit lost revenue as there was a decrease in ridership and they eliminated the fare boxes for safety reasons. This federal funding is meant to make up that lost revenue and can also be used for extra expenses.
such as PPE and extra cleaning. It is a little unclear what the qualifications are for this funding and the documentation that needs to be provided. She will be working with NYSDOT and the providers. There is no deadline to spend it all now.

Mr. Mullen asked if the money is coming to the County and if we were only paying the 10 percent match before, why is this large of a grant coming to us? Is it in part to prop up those other agencies? Mr. Wheeler replied yes. Some of those things it is tough to make a one to one correlation to the CARES Act. This is just enhanced funding for them to make up for the loss of ridership fees and other things. Mr. Mullen asked that goes through the County to the other entities? Mr. Wheeler replied we are the pass through for mobility management. If we didn’t contract with these agencies we would potentially have to look at standing up our own bus system.

Ms. Lattimer commented they are providing ridership and transportation for constituents that wouldn’t have access otherwise.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT CARES ACT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF $563,575.00 FOR TRANSPORTATION OPERATION ASSISTANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CONTRACTS WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES, FIRST TRANSIT AND ARC OF STEUBEN TO REFLECT THE APPROPRIATION OF SAID FUNDS MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. CDBG Funds for Rental Assistance – Mrs. Dlugos stated last month we had discussed the ability to repurpose CDBG funds that have already been released to address rental problems. We have about 697 households that are on Arbor’s waiting list for rental assistance. Arbor feels these funds are needed to help those individuals who are in the 60 – 80 AMI. We have the ability to use the CDBG funds for rent. Arbor would re-qualify people monthly and individuals would receive three months’ rent going back to April. We are looking at using $20,000 - $30,000 of the CDBG funds for this. Mrs. Dlugos explained recipients would receive a minimum of one hour of financial counseling through HUD and will try to encourage them to do more. During their financial counseling they will go through their finances and try to help them plan and make the most of what they have to work with and address their most immediate needs. The intent is to provide stability to renters and landlords. Evictions are currently on hold until August 20th, but renters will still owe their rent.

Mrs. Dlugos stated at last month’s meeting Mr. Mullen had suggestions for things that he would like to see with this. One suggestion was to not assist people who were receiving enhanced unemployment. We did discuss with OCR (Office of Community Renewal) and they said we can make it more restrictive, and that is something we could do. If they are getting the enhanced unemployment, we could include that as part of their income or say that they would not qualify. The other suggestion from Mr. Mullen was a forgivable loan. With the well and septic grant we have what we call a deferred grant and we put a lien on the property and if the property is sold within five years they have to pay back a portion which is pro-rated. She stated she is not sure how we would do a loan program for rental assistance as we cannot put a lien on anything. If they were to receive another State or Federal payment for rental assistance, we would want them to pay back what we gave them, but she is not sure of the mechanism to structure that.

Mr. Mullen stated my thought is if the State or Federal government is subsidizing some of this rent and if it comes back it would be good to pay it back. He would think it would be worth the time to do the contract just to have them sign and say they will pay back if they get a State or Federal subsidy, but there is not a good enforcement mechanism. Mrs. Dlugos stated we can do a contract but I don’t know how we would collect. Mr. Mullen stated he doesn’t think there is a good enforcement mechanism, but there is not a lien on the property.

Mr. Maio commented the other thing you may want to make sure is that the rent was up to date before the crisis hit. Would these payments be made directly to the landlord or to the tenant? Mrs. Dlugos replied the payments will be made directly to the landlord and Arbor will also do a visual inspection of the home before they are paid.
Mr. Maio asked is there a way to prioritize those with young children in the home? Mrs. Dlugos replied that is a good question. I am not sure if we can do that or not. Ms. Lattimer asked if they are qualified on income guidelines, wouldn’t dependents play into that figure? Mrs. Dlugos replied yes, the dependents would play into that. Certainly we would try to address the neediest people first. Having children in the home affects the AMI level and it makes it easier for individuals to qualify.

Mrs. Lando asked if Arbor is doing inspections, that means they are going in the homes? If they find something, what happens? Mrs. Dlugos replied that is my question too. Under HUD funding they are looking for lead paint and they do have a program to address that.

Ms. Lattimer asked are they checking the rental units to ensure the landlords’ premises are up to code? Mrs. Dlugos replied that is correct. OCR is asking the landlord to sign an attestation and Arbor wants to do a visual inspection, especially for lead paint. Mr. Van Etten commented that landlords that rent to Section 8 recipients already do that.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked have there been a significant amount of requests for rental assistance? Do we even need to move forward? Mrs. Dlugos replied that the HOME funding has been approved, Arbor is marketing that more. Arbor is covering three counties and they are just starting to market more that if you need assistance to get on the list and fill out the application. As of right now, Steuben County has 697 households and Arbor has just started processing those. We don’t have solid numbers yet on the 60 – 80 percent AMI households.

Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to amend the agreement with Arbor to include up to $30,000 in CDBG funds to be used for rental assistance. Mr. Mullen stated he will move it with the stipulation that if an individual is receiving the enhanced unemployment they would not qualify and if they are receiving a State or Federal rental subsidy they will have to repay it.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH ARBOR TO INCLUDE UP TO $30,000 IN CDBG FUNDS TO BE USED FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING THE ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT WILL NOT QUALIFY AND THAT THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ALSO ARE RECEIVING A STATE OR FEDERAL RENTAL SUBSIDY WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPAY ANY FUNDS RECEIVED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. Accepting Section 5311 Federal Transit Operating Funds – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to accept Section 5311 Federal Transit Operating funds in the amount of $405,020.00. This covers the 2018 funds that have not been reimbursed to us yet as well as the 2019 funds. These are the operating funds for First Transit and Arc of Steuben.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT SECTION 5311 FEDERAL TRANSIT OPERATING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $405,020.00 MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked what have we been doing without these funds for the last two years? Mrs. Dlugos replied with Arc of Steuben, we have been carrying it. We have not paid the 2019 money to the Arc of Steuben yet, but we have paid the 2018. First Transit has been paid their funds. New York State is very behind. The funds for 2020 and Mobility Management will be in a separate contract which is forthcoming.

4. Public Hearings – Mrs. Dlugos stated the committee had previously approved a public hearing for land submitted for inclusion in certified agricultural districts but that was pulled from the March Legislative Meeting and you had also approved a public hearing for the CDBG grant. With the changes due to Covid, we cannot hold in-person public hearings. We do need to have the CDBG Public Hearing this month and we cannot
submit the application without this hearing. This CDBG hearing is relative to the Woodlands project. She stated she spoke with Ms. Mori yesterday and we can take written comments. She requested approval to hold the Public Hearing by written comment this month and to authorize that the public hearing relative to land submitted for inclusion in certified agricultural districts can be held in-person or by written comments.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE CDBG GRANT FOR THE WOODLANDS PROJECT TO BE HELD BY WRITTEN COMMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO LAND SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS BE HELD IN-PERSON OR BY WRITTEN COMMENT MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Ms. Lattimer asked are you publishing or notifying the public on the process in the usual manner? Mrs. Dlugos replied the notice is still getting published and the only change is that the public will have the ability to submit written comments. Ms. Mori stated we are just bringing it back through committee so we have the authority to accept written comments and that will be included in the public hearing notice.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES
A. Steuben County Conference & Visitors’ Bureau
   1. Official Tourism Promotion Agency – Mr. Costello requested that the Steuben County Conference & Visitors’ Bureau be designated as the County official tourism promotion agency. Upon approval of a resolution, this will be submitted for our matching funds grant application.

MOTION: DESIGNATING THE STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE & VISITORS’ BUREAU AS THE OFFICIAL TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY OF STEUBEN COUNTY MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

V. OTHER BUSINESS
A. Animal Cruelty Investigations – Mr. Mullen stated after our last meeting I sent information about the District Attorney being able to require owners of animals seized by the County to post bond or allow the animals to be sold. He is just wondering where that was at. Ms. Prossick stated I did talk to Mr. Baker about it. He is aware of the Agriculture & Markets section, but in this particular situation there was nothing he could prosecute with regard to a civil judgement. He is taking this into consideration when this pops up. Mr. Mullen stated it would allow us to sell the animals and not pay thousands of dollars to care for them. Ms. Prossick stated Mr. Baker explained it as a balancing act between it being evidence for the prosecutorial portion and an evidentiary issue. He stated he knew the County was being billed and he should be factoring that in going forward.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, June 24, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Mr. Wheeler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning
   1. Approving the Addition of Agricultural Lands to Certified Agricultural Districts – Mrs. Dlugos stated this is our annual resolution to approval the addition of lands to certified agricultural districts. She stated this year she is requesting the additional of lands to Agriculture Districts No. 1, No. 3 and No. 6.

MOTION: APPROVING THE ADDITION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Cornell Cooperative Extension
   1. Activity Update – Ms. McKinley stated they have been busy supporting farms. We are also providing free sanitizer and masks to any agribusiness which includes farms, wineries, breweries, distilleries, etc. We have a stockpile, so please let your communities know.

Mrs. Lando asked are the farmers markets open? Ms. McKinley replied some of the farmers markets are open.

Ms. McKinley stated the County Fair is special to our 4-Her’s and this year will be done in a different format. It is looking like we will have an online, virtual event as well as a drive-thru event. Mrs. Lando asked will it still count as being held? Ms. McKinley replied yes, but it will be very restricted. Mrs. Lando asked will you be doing the livestock auction online? Ms. McKinley replied we are hoping to, but may not be able to. We will still
do exhibits at the 4-H building and just have the kids drop them off. The 4-H cake auction is one of their biggest fundraisers and we will see what we can do with that. This is tough on the kids, but we will make it work.

B. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. Activities Update/Business Reopening Update – Mr. Johnson stated I just want to thank Mr. Wheeler because throughout this entire process he has done a wonderful job for the community. He has been there, hand in hand with us at the IDA and has been very forthcoming with information. We have been communicating with businesses in partnership and I just wanted to thank him for everything he has done and continues to do. Because of his work, the businesses understand the rules and expectations of reopening. Mr. Wheeler stated thank you; Mr. Johnson has done great and this is a team effort. Everyone is trying to communicate information. We, Mr. Johnson, me and Mr. Brewer, are on the phone all day, every day trying to figure out what things mean. Everyone is doing a great job.

Mr. Johnson stated I thought it was important to give the Legislature an opportunity to hear where things are and the efforts that are underway. Under Phase IV, most businesses are open. There are some unhappy gym owners and others that have not yet gotten the go ahead. The Governor is relying on a team of scientists to make these decisions. For the most part, it seems that the businesses are trying to figure this out. What we have done and continue to do, is communicate the changes as they come along. We are reaching out to the businesses in each phase; we are giving them two to three weeks before we reach out to touch base with them.

Mr. Johnson stated we have been communicating with our manufacturers on a regular basis and have been checking to see how things are going. Things seem to be going very well; some because they have gone through the inventory and there is demand in the market. If it is sustainable is yet to be seen. A week ago, when the Governor came out with his travel restrictions, that caused some angst among the manufacturers. There is a lot of concern about how that will be regulated and implemented, as well as how quickly the list will change. There is an essential worker exemption, but there is really fear in the manufacturing market that this will have an impact on how business will operate; both large and small. There is also fear in the tourism market.

Mr. Johnson stated our expectation is that after the holiday weekend, we will reach out more formally to the Phase III businesses just to see how things are going. We will contact our Phase IV businesses a couple of weeks from now to see how things are going. Many businesses are doing extremely well. Upstate Niagara is doing well and the economy is starting to turn.

Mr. Johnson stated our biggest concern with manufacturing is with the workforce. The CARES Act additional $600 is expiring at the end of July. There is a shortage of workers with essential skills and talent. In addition, employers are stealing employees from other employers by offering more money. The other struggles are things related to understanding technology, remote working and doing more with less. We may find that we may not need that additional staff. I think as we get through this, we will see a definite difference around workforce development.

Mr. Johnson stated now we have to start thinking about what recovery will look like long-term. Some of the topics have centered on the workforce long-term and broadband. Do we have the ability as a region to attract talent and attract them from other areas where they may be working remotely. If an individual continues to work remotely long-term and can access broadband, we could suddenly become a location for talent that can work remotely. The investment in dark fiber is critical in being able to do that. We hope to be able to advance that as we go forward.

Mr. Johnson stated we are concerned about the State budget and our ability to attract new businesses as well as facilitate business growth. We have been told there is no grant money. If a business is looking for tax credits or loans, then we may be able to do something. We will need to be creative. The State has very little money to put toward that. It will be interesting to see how the State handles that going forward. He stated that he does not see any CFA’s this year. Additionally, the upstate initiative money that was not spent will probably go away. The
Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) will likely not see any future rounds in the near term. This year will be a very tight year. We will need to be creative and look at other ways to accomplish what we do.

a. **Renewable Energy** - Mr. Johnson stated renewable energy has not missed a beat. We have closed on the Dansville and Bath projects. Final approval is in the works for two of three new projects that are on the docket and those are scheduled for fall construction.

b. **Dana Lyons School** – We have word from the State that this funding cycle for historical preservation tax credit will be expedited from October to September. They are working diligently on the design and application packet.

c. **Phillips** – Mr. Johnson stated this is looking good.

d. **Corelle Brand** – Corelle will start their manufacturing process back up next week and anticipate being back up to full capacity by the end of next week.

Mr. Johnson stated we will continue to monitor things. As we move forward we will see additional growth out of this. Unemployment in Steuben County is going down and is trending in the right direction. We still have a high unemployment rate, but it is lower than the State average. It will be a long time before we get back down to the 5 percent level. We hope to be back in the single digits by the end of the month.

Mr. Malter asked how is the revolving loan fund progressing? Mr. Johnson replied this is progressing nicely. He stated that he and Mr. Brewer sit on that committee. We have lent just over $200,000 and I thought we would have lent more than we have. We had a long discussion last week with REDEC and we want to continue to maintain this program. This may become more critical in the fall. If the pandemic worsens, access to capital will continue to be critical and we will have to have a discussion on how to advance going forward. The money that has been lent has gone to a diverse group; an auto garage, a dentist, etc. Mr. Malter asked when does the repayment of the loan start? Mr. Johnson replied it is all timed differently. There is a six month moratorium on repayment, so for a loan taken out in March, the repayment would start September/October. For the ones we just did, they would start repayment in December/January.

Mr. Mullen asked can you give an update on Tyoga Container project? Mr. Johnson stated we have not heard anything from the State that says the funding is going away for those projects that have already received some level of allocation. The size and scope of this project could increase. We made that request and I don’t think it will happen at the level they expect it to. We have not heard back from the State. There is opposition to this project and the Village will hold a public hearing in July. There is concern around traffic, which is not unexpected or unanticipated. A traffic study was done and shows that it can accommodate it. We are working with the Village on the recommended measures to mitigate and we hope to get that in place as the project comes on line once the final approval is given in August. This is a very limited site. It is an industrial site and is right at the intersection of two major interstates. Mr. Mullen asked how many jobs will this produce? Mr. Johnson replied there will be 70 jobs. With regard to the truck traffic, they will be doing two 8 hour shifts six days a week. That will equate to three trucks coming in and three trucks going out per hour. There will not be heavy, heavy truck users. For a 600,000 square foot facility that is a really small amount of traffic. This is a $32 million investment.

Ms. Lattimer asked what is the status on Gunlocke? Mr. Johnson replied I have not heard from them in about two weeks, however, I have been in consistent communication with them through this. One good thing that has come out of this for our organization is that we now have a group of contacts that we never had before. We had always communicated just with the plant manager, and now our list includes other individuals. HNI (Gunlocke) remains committed to this location. They will continue to operate and have ramped up operations again. I feel comfortable as we move through and come out of this, they will remain in Wayland. Their employment will ebb and flow based on the market.
Mr. Van Caeseele asked in Phase IV they are not opening halls, movie theaters, gyms, etc. Has there been any work on a decision to move forward? Mr. Wheeler replied no. Every day we keep pressing and asking for them to set a date. We brought up specifically gyms/fitness centers, movie theaters and bowling alleys. We have been told that the State, specifically in regard to gyms, is working with the YMCA on developing guidelines. I have been talking to the Hornell YMCA and they do not have to do any of the filtration system upgrades that malls will have to do. We will let you know when we hear something.

Mr. Johnson commented with regard to malls/retail stores, there has been discussion in our economic development circles that a lot of the national chains will go away. Everyone is more accustomed to online shopping and curbside delivery. How that impacts our downtown and main street business remains to be seen. I think it will ultimately benefit our downtown and main street business as we move away from large, big box retail. A year from now when there are discussions about the recovery and retail, I don’t know if people will come back. With movie theatres he doesn’t know if there will be a big push on direct pay per view. There will be more fall-out over the next several months.

Mrs. Lando stated she and Mr. Hanna attended the SCCVB (Conference & Visitors’ Bureau) board meeting and they discussed that CMOG (Corning Museum of Glass) will be opening today. The welcome center will be closed, but they will be running the shuttle. They will start with 150 people and will go slowly. They did a soft opening yesterday. Mr. Wheeler stated I went to the soft opening and have been working closely with Bill Gilbert who is their Operations Manager. They have it set up great and have a good process. They have limited the amphitheater to 50 right now. Mrs. Lando stated CMOG has not received matching funds from the State and they are cutting expenses as much as possible. They were hoping to purchase a mobile visitor center, but will put that off until next year.

Mrs. Lando stated that the SCCVB also reported that wineries are no longer requiring reservations and hotels are seeing an increase in rooms for local travel. The Best Western in Hammondsport is opening back up. Mr. Johnson commented individuals are traveling close to home. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Finger Lakes Wine Country and it is important to know that they spend a fairly significant amount on advertising and marketing which is more for the northeastern region of the United States. We have made the decision to bring all of the marketing budget within a two-hour radius. The feeling is that individuals are staying closer to home this year and we want to promote that we are a safe region and welcome visitors to come.

Mrs. Lando stated the offices for SCCVB are very small and they have concerns with the space. With the remote work they have been doing, that has solved some of those problems, but they will need to gear up for long-term remote work.

Mr. Hanna commented sales on the lake are pretty active. Inventory is low and they are moving quickly. The rental properties are very active this year. Usually you have to reserve a year ahead of time and we are getting calls from people looking last minute. The cost on those rentals is going up.

Mrs. Ferratella stated we have an agreement with Airbnb for room tax collections; what about the other rental groups? Mr. Wheeler replied he had reached out to NYSAC prior to COVID about this and he will follow up with them. Ms. Lattimer stated VRBO/Home Away is doing more rentals on Keuka. Mr. Van Etten stated Yates County has a pretty strict agreement with the Village of Penn Yan that if rentals are within the village the County gets a portion of the proceeds. When first instituted, the law was contentious. Now that is just part of the rental fee.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, July 29, 2020
**MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Robin K. Lattimer, Chair  K. Michael Hanna, Vice Chair  Hilda T. Lando
           Aaron I. Mullen  Paul E. Van Caeseele

STAFF:    Jack K. Wheeler  Christopher Brewer  Brenda Scotchmer
           Amy Dlugos  Jennifer Prossick  Andy Morse

LEGISLATORS:  Scott J. Van Etten  Carol A. Ferratella  Kelly H. Fitzpatrick
               John V. Malter  Frederick G. Potter  Gary B. Roush

OTHERS:   Tess McKinley, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension
           Mary Perham

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked Mr. Hanna to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION:  APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. MULLEN, SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. **DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS**

A. Planning
   1. Accepting 5311 Federal Funding for Mobility Management Services – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to accept the 2019/2020 5311 Federal funds for Mobility Management Services in the total amount of $837,345.00 and to adjust the capital project account to reflect the funds.

   MOTION:  AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT A TOTAL OF $837,345.00 IN FEDERAL 5311 FUNDING FOR MOBILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND ADJUSTING THE CAPITAL PROJECT ACCOUNT MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

   Mrs. Lando asked is it normal to receive the funds so late? Mrs. Dlugos replied these funds were received a little quicker than normal. There is a lag and that is why we advanced funds to the Institute for Human Services Mobility Management Program.

   VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:  ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

   2. Approval of Contract with Institute for Human Services – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to contract with the Institute for Human Services for the allocation of the $837,345.00 in 5311 Federal funding for Mobility Management Services.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE $837,345.00 IN 5311 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR MOBILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES
A. Cornell Cooperative Extension
   1. Update – Ms. McKinley stated things are going well in agriculture. We have sanitizer and masks to distribute and we also are distributing container gardening kits. She stated this year’s fair will be a drive-thru event and there will be no premiums. A lot of kids are still participating. Our 4-H clubs are holding meetings outside and doing activities such as clinics. Mrs. Lando asked will there still be a livestock auction? Ms. McKinley replied yes, that is still allowed.

V. OTHER BUSINESS
A. SPCA Discussion – Ms. Lattimer stated last month Mr. Mullen brought the SPCA discussion to the forefront with regard to animal abuse cases and how to accommodate for care during pending cases. Mr. Wheeler stated the Public Safety & Corrections Committee had a good discussion the other day. Ms. Lattimer asked Mr. Mullen to provide an update.

Mr. Mullen stated I had talked with Mr. Baker about whether he could establish a policy for petitioning the court to require owners of animals to post a bond for the care of the animals in custody or to allow the County to sell the animals pending the outcome of the case. Mr. Baker is working on that and he has said that he will do it. We will need to provide him with more information about our costs for the care of animals that are seized. We talked about, on the care end, of sending out an RFP for services for people to care for farm animals at a rate that would be more efficient than what the SPCA does. There may not be many farmers that would be able to do this, but this will require legwork on our end. We also talked about the possibility of using Farm Sanctuary and others who may be interested.

Ms. Prossick stated she is working with Mr. Mullen to try to come up with an RFP. Ms. Lattimer stated Chairman Van Etten had suggested breaking out the small and large animals. Mr. Wheeler commented we have a contract with the SPCA. Ms. Prossick stated small animals fall under dog control and large animals fall under Agriculture and Markets.

Mrs. Lando stated are we doing this for just the large animals, or all animals? Mr. Mullen replied in the law I thought it allows for pets, but that was not our primary discussion as we were looking at the large animals. That is a good question, especially when you see some of these news articles. Ms. Lattimer commented you never know when a large case will come up and strain our budget. Mr. Wheeler stated that is a cost to the SPCA and then it comes back to the County.

Ms. Lattimer stated can you clarify the piece about the owner posting bond; is that 30 – 45 days after arrest? Ms. Prossick replied in Agriculture and Markets Law that is not authorized directly. The District Attorney can bring this action for posting bond. Someone has to start that ball rolling. Ms. Lattimer asked and that would be the District Attorney? Ms. Prossick replied yes. The SPCA can do it as well, but it has to happen at the time of charge or indictment. After that they can bring the Agriculture and Markets action.

Ms. Lattimer asked at some point are we considering an actual process and policy on this? Mr. Wheeler replied we can put out an RFP. The process will be that of the District Attorney, but you will be involved in the authorization of an RFP so he can access that. Mr. Mullen commented we are already in a better spot because Mr. Baker is aware of and willing to use this right now. One of the primary costs is that he has to bring in veterinarians and other experts to testify in order to establish that he has the right to require the bond.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, August 26, 2020
I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and asked Mr. Mullen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER)

III. **DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS**

A. **Planning**

1. **Commencing the Review Period for Agricultural District No. 1** – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to commence the review period for Agricultural District No. 1. This is the eight-year review and the district is located in the southwest corner of the county.

**MOTION:** COMMENCING THE REVIEW PERIOD FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 1 MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER) Resolution Required.

IV. **OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

A. **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

1. **2021 Budget Presentation** – Ms. McKinley briefly reviewed her PowerPoint presentation with the committee. Steuben County has 1,500 farms; we are the number one producer of hogs and the number three producer of cattle. We have acquired three agriculture teams through Cornell University and now have access to 16 specialists. These specialists are able to provide one-on-one education or classes and are also able to go onsite. Our 4-H Program consists of 17 clubs with 440 total youth. They do a lot of educational classes and the kids make public presentations and participate in community service activities. She stated 4-H is not just about
agriculture. We have STEM education, robotics and sewing. Ms. McKinley stated they have one financial educator who is partly funded by the County and partly funded by United Way. We have other programs that are not funded by County appropriations and those include two nutrition programs; SNAP education and FMAP. Through these programs we were able to support 9,000 people last year.

Ms. McKinley stated during COVID we gave out hand sanitizer and masks that we had received from NYS Agriculture & Markets, to 80 farms. We did everything online and were able to help our farms and agribusinesses with safety support, PPE and Corona Virus food assistance. We still did our farm visits and also did seed giveaways and container garden giveaways.

Ms. McKinley stated I am requesting $409,000, which represents flat funding for three years in a row. We have a $1.9 million budget. I appreciate the County’s support and that is so important because our other funding is regulated. Your funding helps us support the county with what it needs. This $409,000 pays for the agriculture teams, our 4-H program as well as our operating expenses. For 2021 we will be receiving decreased funding from other sources and it is very likely that we will be losing 20 percent of our State funding. We will also see decreased funding for our after-school programs. Ms. McKinley stated we want to continue to grow our programs and we will continue working with people online and via Zoom. We would like to expand our 4-H program into more non-agricultural avenues. She stated we will continue to advocate for increased funding and we have received the same funding from the State for the last twenty years.

Mrs. Lando asked how many schools are involved with 4-H? Ms. McKinley replied 4-H is not at the schools, except for the robotics program. Everything else is led at home. We do, however, have three schools with an FFA Program.

Mr. Mullen asked can you explain the direction that you are looking to move 4-H? Ms. McKinley explained we are not moving completely away from agriculture for 4-H. We want to increase the amount of youth that use our program. We serve all youth and are helping them get ready for the real world. Mr. Mullen asked what types of programs would you be looking at? Ms. McKinley stated we have a robotics and STEM program. There is a dog handling club and also a craft/sewing club. Our plan is to do more STEM and robotics.

Mrs. Ferratella asked what is America Saves Week? Ms. McKinley replied that is a week where we encourage Americans to have more savings. Approximately 40 percent of Americans do not have savings.

Mrs. Lando asked is Cornell University helping with financing? Ms. McKinley stated they are having a lot of issues with funding and have let us know to expect the 20 percent cut from the State. So far our funding from Cornell University is level.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked what is the return on investment? Is this affecting the growth of the economy? Mrs. Lando replied I don’t know how you can quantify that? Ms. Lattimer stated one way is the number of kids that are involved in the 4-H clubs. Ms. McKinley stated it depends on the program. With 4-H, a lot of the 4-H’ers are likely to end up with basic skills that a lot of people don’t have because we help them to be more independent. With our agricultural programs, we have millions of dollars that we support. We do have to look into how to specifically quantify that.

Mr. Swackhamer asked why didn’t you put in a reduction in your budget? The State is reducing our budget. I would have thought you would have reduced your budget. Ms. McKinley replied the reason why is we did ask for a flat budget. Our costs have gone up and we are also getting reductions and our services are very needed. We still need to help children and farmers. Mr. Swackhamer asked what services are we going to cut from the County to support your budget? I would expect that you would come in with a budget that is lower and I would expect that from any outside agency who is presenting a budget request to the County.

Mrs. Lando commented we are very lucky to have 2 skilled specialists that are shared; but two of the 16 specialists are housed here in the county and that is a big benefit for Cornell Cooperative Extension and the
county. Ms. McKinley commented dairy has been a big issue because of the decreased dairy prices and we appreciate having the dairy specialist on site when we get questions.

Mr. Van Etten commented at least Ms. McKinley did not request an increase. I agree that we have an issue with our own internal budget and we will be making decisions. Mr. Swackhame stated I just want to make people aware that we are in the same situation.

Mr. Horton stated with what I do for my own business I always hear people saying “let’s call Cooperative Extension”. People are always calling them and asking questions.

V. OTHER BUSINESS
A. NYS COVID-19 Emergency Declaration – Mr. Van Caeseele stated I was thinking about it and as the days have passed by it seems to me that we are accepting the status quo and there is no definitive end date in sight. It is hard to pinpoint, but at the same time I worry that political bias will drag this out longer than necessary. It is time to put together a resolution to remind people and let them know that we are still moving forward and trying to get things back to how they were before. We need to keep things in perspective with other viruses and the relationship to that. He thanked Mrs. Scotchmer for her assistance in preparing this. Mr. Van Caeseele read the following proposed resolution into the minutes:

TITLE: URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO TERMINATE THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in March 2020 demanded an ability for the Governor to respond quickly to a rapidly changing crisis through the issuance of Executive Orders to set restrictions and regulations to help protect the health and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, these Executive Orders included New York on Pause mandating the closure of all non-essential businesses throughout New York State on March 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, after flattening the curve on new infections, the Governor implemented New York Forward in May 2020, beginning the process of reopening non-essential businesses utilizing a regional, phased-in approach based upon each particular region’s ability to meet and maintain seven key public health metrics; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County was assigned to the Southern Tier Region by the Governor which includes the counties of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins; and

WHEREAS, New York State has maintained infection rates below 1 percent for over three straight weeks with the Southern Tier Region maintaining an infection rate below 1 percent since May 2020; and

WHEREAS, while COVID-19 is still present in New York State, it can no longer be considered a threat to the extent of having to continue under a declaration of a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Legislature believes its residents can continue maintaining low infection rates in the County through its own governance and oversight, working in conjunction with its local municipalities, without further encroachment on the constitutional rights of Steuben County’s citizens by New York State under the guise of a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County residents and businesses would like to get back to their normal lives, not a “new normal” or “reimagined” life yet to be determined through the extension of the New York on Pause Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED, the Steuben County Legislature urges the New York State Legislature to reconvene as soon as possible to terminate the Emergency Declaration established to address COVID-19 and, by concurrent resolutions, terminate the Executive Orders issued by the Governor during the Emergency Declaration; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Steuben County Legislature urges the Governor and New York State Legislature to restore the rights of local governments and their residents and allow counties to complete the reopening of New York under guidelines set by each individual county rather than through the Governor’s Executive Orders; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, the leadership of the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Mr. Mullen seconded Mr. Van Caeseele’s proposed resolution.

Ms. Lattimer stated the intention was to advance this resolution to the Full Legislature for consideration so she wanted it to go through committee. She stated she had not seen it prior to this morning, but you did a very good job of being diplomatic while pressing the issue in the interest of representing our constituents so we can govern ourselves. We are not New York City or the North Country and we have demonstrated that we have done a pretty good job of flattening the curve. Our small businesses need the latitude and flexibility to save their livelihoods.

Mr. Van Etten stated this was very well written. I agree basically with what it says to let local municipalities manage it and the Governor needs to take a step back. Ms. Lattimer stated two months ago the State Legislature introduced legislation to rescind the Governor’s Executive Orders under the emergency. They wanted to be able to rescind and go back to local control. Nothing has happened and the legislation languished in committee. Mrs. Scotchmer stated Senator O’Mara introduced legislation and there were four bills from assembly representatives and two bills from senators trying to do just that, but the leadership will not allow the bills to reach the floor. There are four watchdog groups that collectively signed a letter requesting the Legislature rescind the Emergency Declaration. That all happened in May so perhaps they should try again.

Ms. Lattimer commented your silence means your acquiescence.

Mr. Mullen stated I would like to add that I agree and I believe this is not only an economical issue, but an issue that is related to our fundamental freedoms.

Mrs. Lando stated I am in favor as we have proven that we can get through this. Political it may be, but this is also Federal. We are much better now as the kids are going back to school and things are opening back up and it is time to do this. Before hundreds of people were dying and I would not have wanted to have been in the Governor’s shoes. Now we are at a point where we can say we did it.

Mr. Swackhamer asked will you send this to other counties? Mrs. Scotchmer replied yes.

Mr. Mullen stated I appreciate Mrs. Lando’s comments. As to people’s decisions, we do know that people in this room did it better as Mr. Wheeler was instrumental in getting the nursing home policy changed. Ms. Lattimer commented the fact is that we, at the local level, could have done better job, but we were stymied by the State. Mr. Wheeler was the one who brought the nursing home issue to a head. Mr. Wheeler stated Mrs. Smith was also instrumental in that.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I agree with this resolution and I believe that the economic impact will be felt for such a long time and we will have a difficult time recovering from this virus. Yes, they are working on a vaccine, but the virus will be here forever. We need to move forward and give local people the tools to function in a normal life. Thank you Mr. Van Caeseele for putting the effort into this.
Mr. Van Caeseele stated at the beginning we did it so we wouldn’t have a flood of ER patients, but now we want to eradicate this and that is impossible without a vaccine. We need to get back and take things in perspective with other viruses that are out there.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER) Resolution Required.

VI. PRESENTATIONS (Cont.)
A. Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
   1. 2021 Budget Presentation – Mr. Parker stated his two-page budget breakdown and 2021 general operation budget were linked to the agenda. With not knowing what will happen at the State level and because the Federal grant is ending in September and we have had no luck in getting them to renegotiate, we had to cut our budget $158,869. Currently we have two employee positions that have not been filled and we are planning on not filling them next year. There is one position that I can fill and I am hoping that State funding will help with that. We have not been able to hire anyone due to COVID. We have four staff that are dealing with the operations on a day-to-day basis; myself, Velynda, a communications assistant and a district assistant. A year ago we had six staff members.

   Mr. Parker stated some of our grants will cross over from 2020 into 2021. Most of those are construction grants with a little administrative funding attached. We are down to a bare bones budget as much as we can. We are not purchasing any new vehicles or any new equipment. There are no special projects planned without State grant funding. At this point we will sit tight and see what happens. Mr. Parker reviewed the budget breakdown for 2020 and 2021. We cut our general operations budget for 2021 and we left the funding for the District Streambank Program the same. With that program, there are some projects that are not getting done this year. With the District Streambank Program, the budget is $75,000 and there is a cost share for the individuals. There are no administrative funds that come out of this or any employee salaries. Our Board of Directors is asking the County to keep our budget flat at $164,676 with the funding for the District Streambank Program remaining at $75,000. The total County appropriation would be $239,676. He stated the district came up with $650,000 to cover our $817,000 overall budget and we are hoping to be able to do it with some of the cuts we made and with the money that we know we are receiving from the State through the ag program at this point.

   Mr. Van Etten stated Mr. Swackhamer had made an earlier comment that when outside agencies come to the County with their 2021 budgets, he expects they will come in with a decrease in their request because we, as a County, are seeing decreases in our revenues. Mr. Parker stated I understand, but without any guidance and without knowing what is going to happen, I was just basically trying to maintain what we had.

   Mr. Wheeler commented the Legislature has not provided specific guidance to outside agencies to reduce their budgets by a certain amount, which is why they are submitting a flat budget. Mr. Parker explained we reduced our budget by $158,000 so we are looking at an overall reduction, but that reduction was not to the County appropriation.

   Mr. Van Etten stated my personal opinion is you guys do a heck of a lot of work with a little money and every municipality benefits and I would be more inclined to protect this budget.

   Mr. Swackhamer stated I had a hard time hearing a lot of that, could you please summarize? Mr. Mullen stated Mr. Parker was not really sure what the State was going to do, but he has cut his program thinking the State will have less money and without guidance from the County, he held the County appropriation flat. Ms. Lattimer stated Mr. Parker is not cutting positions, but is leaving them vacant until things shake out.

   Mr. Mullen asked Mr. Swackhamer, do you think the County should cut the Soil & Water appropriation? Mr. Swackhamer replied we will have to look at the budget and discuss it.
Mr. Potter commented originally there was no guidance from the County on a reduction. If the State and Federal governments come through with more money, since they presented a lower budget, will the County reinstate those funds in Soil and Water’s Budget or just leave it?

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS’ LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.F. THE MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CREDIT OR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION, OR MATTERS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL OR REMOVAL OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR CORPORATION MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER)

MOTION: PRESENTATION OF NAMES OF PERSONS SELECTED FOR INDUCTION INTO THE STEUBEN COUNTY HALL OF FAME AND CONFIRMATION BY THE STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER)

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. VAN ETTEN. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER)

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. (MR. VAN ETTEN VOTING MEMBER)

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Lando stated I would just like to clarify that I had asked about Mr. Swackhamer about the Soil & Water appropriation and why he didn’t have the same reaction as he had when Cornell Cooperative Extension presented their budget.

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020, MEETING AS AMENDED MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Appointing a Certifying Officer for CDBG Projects – Mrs. Dlugos stated with CDBG projects we are required to appoint a Certifying Officer for review and because I am retiring, she would recommend appointing Matt Sousa.

MOTION: APPOINTING MATTHEW SOUSA CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR CDBG PROJECTS MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

The committee congratulated Mrs. Dlugos on her retirement.

2. Extension of Housing Study Contracts Terms – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to extend the terms of the housing study contracts from September 30, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Due to COVID, there was a delay. She anticipates they will be making a presentation of the study in November. This extension will
give the contractors, Susan Payne and MJ Lawrence Consulting, time to wrap things up and get everything into
the Appalachian Regional Commission for reimbursement.

MOTION: EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE HOUSING STUDY CONTRACTS WITH SUSAN PAYNE
AND MJ LAWRENCE CONSULTING THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 MADE BY MR. MULLEN.
SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. Transportation Plan – Mrs. Lando commented the Corning City Council approved a $10,000
grant to work with the County on the plan for transportation. Mrs. Dlugos stated yes, that is the Local
Government Efficiency Grant from last December and the County and the City are paying the local share. We are
doing some things and looking at how to do operations more efficiently on the administrative side. Mrs. Lando
asked what was done in the past? Mrs. Dlugos replied we had looked at the coordination of the actual services,
but we haven’t looked at the contract and grant administration side of it.

B. County Manager
   1. License Agreement with Steuben Centers – Mr. Wheeler stated we received a request from
      Steuben Centers for a license agreement and Ms. Prossick sent everyone the draft license. Ms. Prossick explained
      Steuben Centers contacted us. They are required to have numerous egresses. There is an egress out the back
door, but the last couple of steps go into the public safety building’s parking lot. They are asking to use that for
emergency evacuation purposes. The space that they would be using is about 400 square feet. We had asked if
they wanted to have an easement and they said no, that this was just for their use and a license would be
sufficient.

   Mr. Mullen stated I think this is a good idea. Will we be able to revoke it at any time? Ms. Prossick replied yes,
with sixty days’ notice.

MOTION: APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH STEUBEN CENTERS RELATIVE TO USING A
SMALL PORTION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PARKING LOT FOR EMERGENCY
EVACUATION PURPOSES MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO FOR DISCUSSION.

   Mr. Wheeler commented part of the line are pretty close to our property by the impound yard and the back Jail
parking lot. I don’t see any operational issues for us. He commented Centers is now actually constructing the
independent living center now.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES
A. Steuben County Conference & Visitors’ Bureau
   1. 2021 Budget Presentation – Mr. Costello shared a PowerPoint presentation with the committee.
   He reviewed the 2020 Room Tax Allocations and the 2020 Estimate of Room Tax Revenues and Room Tax
   Expenditures versus Revenues. Additionally he provided percentages of estimated Room Tax for 2021. He
   stated that the revenue for 2021 is difficult to forecast, however a conservative estimate is $550,000 unless
   containing COVID happens.

   Mr. Swackhamer stated thank you for the time you put into this and for asking for a reduction and not looking for
the pie in the sky. Great job on your report. Mr. Costello stated his approach was very conservative and the
Room Tax revenue is just an estimate. He stated in his organization they have taken the necessary steps to cut
expenses and manage within budget constraints. He is asking for funding in the amount of $412,500.

   Mr. Mullen stated with the room tax revenues, it was hard for a lot of people, however, lake rentals are booming.
Have you seen a lot of room tax revenues from that? Are hotel revenues down? Mr. Costello replied room tax
revenue through September 25, 2020, was $409,000 compared to $830,000 at the end of September 2019. That
did include the receipts from the Air B&B contract that the County has. We have not gotten the September report
yet and hopefully we will see a little online growth in September/October. If we are lucky, next year we will see flat or a little incline. Mr. Costello stated we are definitely seeing people traveling into the area and staying at short-term rental properties. We should see an increase in Air B&B revenues. Mr. Mullen asked should we be doing something to try and collect on other short-term rentals? Mr. Costello replied my personal opinion is yes. Other counties have enacted room tax on short-term rental properties. Every year something goes before the State Legislature and nothing has been passed yet. Mr. Van Etten commented Yates has room tax on short-term rentals and it was very contentious initially.

Mrs. Lando asked what about VRBO? Mr. Wheeler replied we have reached out to VRBO to get a similar agreement to what we have with Air B&B. We are also working with NYSAC on this. Mrs. Lando commented it would be great if VRBO signed on. Ms. Lattimer commented I would be more inclined to pursue voluntary compliance.

Mr. Van Etten stated I appreciate what Mr. Costello did with his presentation, but the fact that you recognize the room tax is way off, this was a responsible way to do it. I would hope that the other outside agencies recognized that, but it will be up to us to determine.

Mrs. Lando stated as a board member, the percentages are the way to go as it is fair, although the other agencies may not think so. I appreciate Mr. Costello and his staff for their work on this.

B. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

1. Steuben County Industrial Development Agency – Mr. Johnson provided the committee with a PowerPoint review of 2019 activities.
   - COVID Response – Mr. Johnson stated I cannot say enough about the County’s response to COVID, particularly the work of Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Smith. With the Governor’s recent announcement about starting to look at zones and hotspots, we wanted to make sure that we let our businesses know that it is not occurring here, but that it could.
     - Steuben County Emergency Loan Fund – Mr. Johnson stated this did not get as much interest as we had originally thought. Our program came out after some of the Federal programs. To-date we have approved 11 loans and two are pending. We have disbursed $148,500 in funds. He commented the funds are administered by REDEC and they have done a phenomenal job of partnering resources. I believe we will see an uptick in demand as we go into fall and winter.
     - Primary Point of Contact – We have served as a primary point of contact for the business community through COVID. Mr. Johnson stated I believe we will see a lot of our businesses struggle through the coming months.
     - Workforce – Mr. Johnson stated workforce is a large issue. We have a 9 percent unemployment rate, so many businesses are saying they cannot find employees. A couple of reasons for this is the economic assistance stimulus package kept people from going back to work and childcare is also a huge issue as now kids are home in a virtual learning format at least part-time. He commented another issue is do the needs of the businesses align with the skills of the workforce.
     - Repositioning – Mr. Johnson stated we are working closely with the Village of Bath and Erwin on projects. We have received a proposal for the Philips site to do a redevelopment plan. This election year is causing havoc with the economy as well as COVID and the uncertainty of what the future will look like from a political standpoint.
Business Retention, Repositioning & Expansion Strategy – Mr. Johnson stated this is a collaboration between our agency and Three Rivers to identify opportunities for business growth and repositioning, new business development and investment and potential joint initiatives between regional business. We are looking at targeted business such as healthcare, manufacturing and advanced manufacturing. We have met with six businesses and this has been very well received. We are very excited to keep meeting and roll this out.

Projects

Dana Lyons Redevelopment – Providence Housing has submitted a $17 million redevelopment plan to the State which would provide 47 apartments and 8,659 square feet community arts space.

IDA Park – We are looking at a new healthcare complex, Finger Lakes Community Health, to begin construction in 2021.

Solar – Mr. Johnson stated we have investments in the Town of Bath, Troupsburg and Dansville. There are six new solar projects in development.

Wind – Mr. Johnson stated Baron Wind and Canisteo Wind will begin construction in 2021. Eight Point Wind will begin construction in 2022. Another 10 projects have gone through the approval process. We expect 2021 and 2022 to be big years for renewable energy.

Infrastructure – Mr. Johnson stated J.C. Smith continues to work on various infrastructure projects in the County. The Hammondsport Sewer project is now where it needs to be and the engineering is underway. By the beginning of next year they will be going out to bid. The Prattsburgh Sewer project is for the municipal sewer system for the downtown area. Mr. Smith has secured EDA funding and they are lining up the remainder of the local match. The other project is the Town of Bath Water Quality Study. We are working with Hunt Engineers and the Town to make sure they do it in a manner that is thoughtful and smart.

Mrs. Lando stated you had said at a prior meeting that the Prattsburgh Sewer project was almost an emergency because of Empire. Is the timing of the project okay for Empire? Mr. Johnson replied that continues to be a concern and something that we are very cognizant of. There is a $400,000 gap and we are looking at creative and unique ways to fill that gap. This is very concerning to Empire and others that they do not have sewer there, but there is a financial gap and we are trying to figure out a means to close it.

Mrs. Lando stated there is a shopping center that borders right on Corning into Riverside. Are you involved in any of the rehabbing of that or replacing it? Mr. Johnson replied if you are talking about the old dry cleaner that is under demolition, yes. I have had a number of conversations with Mark Ryckman and Corning Enterprises have committed Fred Arcuri to help with that. We have shared some of our ideas and contacts about what could go there. We are serving a support role. Mr. Maio commented I know with that particular property the City of Corning had some tax incentives? Mr. Johnson replied any incentives that the property developer could access would be dependent on the use. There is the possibility to look at other tax incentives. The fact that the property is under demolition and the DEC issues are worked out is positive. There is so much uncertainty around COVID that does make it a little challenging.

Mr. Mullen stated I have a question regarding banking in the County. Avoca and Bath both lost Five Star Bank branches and Community Bank just took over Steuben Trust. There are two Community Banks in Bath and I’m assuming there are some other ones that are coming in or may be at risk of going out. Do you know if there has
been any buzz about other banks coming in or are we looking at losing a lot of brick and mortar banks? Mr. Johnson replied when a bank closes, they have some restrictive covenants or non-competing clauses to keep other banks from coming in. I think the banking market is such that we will see a lot of brick and mortar on the market for development. I don’t think brick and mortar banks will be the future of banking. COVID has put that over the edge and the days of people walking in and seeing a teller are largely over.

Mr. Potter stated with regard to the solar project in Troupsburg, there have been issues with one of the projects and the town is considering a moratorium. Are you working with the town and developer to resolve that? Mr. Johnson replied no. There are several communities that are concerned about solar development and many are not prepared. We are working with our partners and Southern Tier Central to make sure that communities are prepared for this. Ms. Staats stated with the Abundant Energy project she has not heard anything. My understanding is that project is almost complete. I can reach out to the town and see what is going on. Was there a particular item of dispute? Mr. Potter replied it is the way it was built; very sloppy, very unsightly. The town is considering a resolution to put in place a moratorium because of this project. Mr. Mullen commented a lot of towns are working on solar laws right now.

Mr. Malter stated there was an article in the paper that Gunlocke is laying off more people and that one of the production lines is going out of Wayland. Is this a sign of things to come? Mr. Johnson replied what the article in the paper references is something that has been in planning for over a year. They had discussed moving the chair division to a plant in Iowa and they are slowly doing that. The focus of HNI is to establish centers of excellence focusing on specific types of furniture. Gunlocke is the center of excellence for box and wood operations. Anything not related to a table or desk is being moved out. The removal of the chair division will impact 27 employees. There has been a little bit of an extension because during COVID they used those employees to make PPE. This was in the works for a while. I can tell you that this is one of those businesses that I get concerned about and that is why we keep in constant communication over the future of that facility. In fact I had a conference call with them two weeks ago. The upside is they are looking now at other divisions and how they can bring work that is wood related in from other divisions. So that was promising to hear. Corporate is telling us that this is part of their corporate restructuring. The Center of Excellence is a new direction/trend. They will be the Wayland Center of Excellence for Wood Products. Mr. Malter commented you would have thought that HON would have made a statement to the effect to satisfy the people in Wayland. Mr. Johnson stated we are hopeful they will be better communicating to the public in the future.

Mr. Hanna asked how much acreage is required for a solar site? In real estate we are seeing they are looking at a range of about 50 acres. Ms. Staats replied it depends on the size and scope of the solar farm. Community projects that are 5 megawatts are generally in the 5 – 30 acre range. If you are seeing 300 acres, that is pretty large. Typically 5 – 7 acres is about 1 megawatt. All of the projects we have been seeing, with the exception of one, have been 5 megawatts. There is a project in Allegany County that is 93 megawatts.

Ms. Lattimer stated you said that with respect to workforce development, employers are struggling to upgrade skills for the unemployed, with COVID that has been much more exacerbated? Mr. Johnson replied correct. When you are below 5 percent unemployment, you are almost fully employed. The challenges with upscaling are more difficult than when you are at 9 percent unemployment. Child care is an example. How many are not going back to work because of virtual learning? Those without flexibility have to stay home as there is no other choice. I think we really need to understand what these challenges are before we can put forth any recommendations for how to battle it. The information we get from the State is one month behind. This is a huge issue right now and how we better it is a big question. We cannot predict what will happen with COVID and the State. Ms. Lattimer stated what worries me is even if you define the challenges and come up with a plan, where will the money come from? Mr. Johnson replied that in and of itself is part of the challenge and I would think there is some opportunity to work with some of our area industries. There may be an opportunity if we can find a solution, they could be a partner in that. Mr. Mullen stated child care was an issue before COVID. Even if COVID is gone in 2020/2021, we will still have child care issues. Mr. Van Caeseele asked how much of this is related to or blamed on COVID? Mr. Johnson replied COVID exacerbated the issue. This presented different challenges, but the
issues are the same. Instead of needing after-school care, it is needing in-school care. For the most part COVID just exacerbated the issue.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented hopefully we can leverage and put ourselves in a position where we have to address issues such as broadband, child care and harness that and use that to our advantage and tackle these big issues. Mr. Johnson stated for the most part every manufacturer we have met with in the past month have said they are busy, really busy. They are very reluctant to add employees to meet the increased demand. This is a good sign as there is pent up demand in the economy. The prolonged shutdown of the economy could evaporate quickly.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Animal Cruelty RFP – Mr. Mullen asked what is the status of the RFP for housing animals seized as a result of animal cruelty cases? Ms. Prossick replied she has not heard anything back from District Attorney Baker but she will follow up.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature
CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Van Caeseele to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Presentation of Steuben County Housing Demand Analysis – Mr. Sousa introduced the consulting team of Susan Payne and Margaret Lawrence who are here to present the Steuben County Housing Analysis. Ms. Lawrence stated there were eight factors that they focused on which are the dynamics in the population, workforce retention and recruitment issues, economic factors, challenges to home buyers, challenges to renters, local and national trends, existing housing stock and community and neighborhood issues. Steuben County’s population is 95,000 and that number has decreased 600 people each year since 2010, however, the City of Hornell is the second fastest growing city in New York State.

The primary workforce consists of individuals 20 – 50 years old and we will need to be able to meet the needs of people retiring in the next five to ten years. We looked at workforce retention and recruitment and after two decades of declines, Steuben County is looking at higher growth in manufacturing and healthcare. One asset to the community is the proximity of jobs via the Interstate. In looking at economic factors, we look at household incomes and the capacity to pay rent or buy, along with the cost of living. The average weekly wage is among the highest at $1,150 per week. The medium income for renters was $30,000 per year while the median income for
homeowners was $61,783. The greatest financial burden occurs among renters in the Painted Post, Addison and Hammondsport areas.

Ms. Lawrence stated challenges to prospective home buyers is that 70 percent of the housing stock was built prior to 1970 and the realtors and financial institutions are saying that there are shortages at all price points and that is leading to a competitive market. People buy and then have to make an investment in the home. Additionally, the property taxes are perceived as high. A challenge to renters is the lack of market rate rentals and that is an issue to employers. The vacancy rates are 5.5 percent which is low. There are 670 rental units and rent ranges from $596 for a studio to $1,105 for a four-bedroom and most of the market rate rentals are in the cities of Corning and Hornell. The median home value in Steuben County is $98,200; Chemung County is $106,000; Schuyler County is $121,000 and Allegany County is $73,900. Another issue is the conversion of single-family homes to multi-family homes and that is something to keep an eye on.

Ms. Lawrence stated Broadband is a concern and there are 9,000 people in the County that do not have access to wired or fiber optic internet. The Southern Tier Network (STN) has made great progress over the last ten years, but we will need more formal resources to make sure that trend continues.

Ms. Payne stated from a buyers and renters perspective, workforce retention and recruitment and long-term financial viability of communities are housing dependent. Buyers and renters are both attracted to attractive and stable neighborhood, updated/modern and well-maintained houses and apartments, and they want to have choices in competitive price points. They are also looking for quality options for market rate rentals as well as access to quality healthcare and schools, vibrant and attractive community centers, close access to the outdoors and open spaces, close access to services and reasonable property taxes. These are the criteria not only for people who are already living here, but those that are moving into the area permanently for work.

Ms. Payne stated there are a number of challenges relative to single-family housing. The median age of individuals looking for single-family housing in our area is 59 years compared to 37 years nationally. Thirty percent of those looking are less than 45 years old. Only 70 housing units have been constructed since 2014 and the houses that are on the market are structurally old and have outdated interiors. There is limited move-in ready homes for both new and seasoned home buyers moving to the area and for existing residents that wants to move up. There is a lack of inventory for prime buyers and there are four categories of prime buyers. First are first time home-buyers looking for homes in the $90,000 - $175,000 range. Second are young professionals moving to the area looking for homes in the $175,000 - $250,000 range. Third are middle-income buyers moving up and they are looking for homes in the $275,000 - $325,000 range. Lastly are the seasoned professionals with equity moving to the area and they are looking for homes in the $325,000 and up range. There is a gap in demand and that is due to a lack of quality housing and lack of new construction. A conservative estimate of the demand over the next three to five years is 200 – 300 units for first-time home-buyers; 200 – 300 units for middle-income; both new and move-up and 75 – 150 units for previous homeowners with equity relocating from outside of the region.

Ms. Payne stated we are recommending four strategies to address the single-family housing demand. The first is a county-wide owner-occupied housing rehabilitation initiative to increase stock of $90,000 - $175,000 inventory, stimulate investment in older neighborhoods, increase property values and reverse the potential for depreciation. The second strategy is to bundle vacant lots with demolition to create buildable lots and collaborate with local contractors and developers for new construction of $275,000 - $300,000 in targeted neighborhoods. The third strategy is to reverse the trend of conversion to multi-family and to capture and revitalize single-family houses in the $30,000 - $75,000 price range. The fourth strategy is to support construction in approved subdivisions. Ms. Payne stated with regard to our local contractors and developers, the demand is not great enough to attract new developers to come in and build new subdivisions. The vast majority do not have the capacity to build out specialty housing and our buildings are customized housing. There are existing subdivisions that are owned by local contractors and there is the potential to continue building them out.

Ms. Payne stated with multi-family housing the challenges are that much of the pent-up demand has been met in Corning and Hornell, however, the unmet demand county-wide over the next three to five years is 110 – 150
units. The other challenge is the number of single-family houses being converted to multi-family, both low-
moderate income and market rate. The majority of the new construction for multi-family homes is in the $1,500 -
$1,800 per month range. The overall demand is not being met for the upper income empty nesters, the
professional workers being recruited to the area or the young professionals and middle management people
entering the job market. Market rate apartments built between 1980 – 2000 require upgrades to meet consumer
expectations; however, there is an opportunity to convert vacant upper stores to market rate housing in community
cores. The demand forecast for multi-family housing does not show an overwhelming gap. Over the next three to
five years, the 55+ age group that are selling their local home and planning to remain in the area is forecast at 30 –
40 units. For young professionals; those between 25 – 35 years of age, both current and returning natives, the
forecast is 30 – 40 units and for professionals relocating to Steuben County for employment purposes the demand
forecast is 50 – 70 units. We are recommending three strategies to address the market rate housing demand. The
first strategy is new construction of market rate housing to fill the remaining demand. The second strategy is to
renovate and upgrade existing apartment complexes and the third strategy is to convert upper-story spaces for
market rate apartments in mixed-use properties, particularly in downtown cores.

Ms. Payne stated there are four keys to a strong housing market and they are to upgrade basic infrastructure, offer
broadband internet service, maintain strong community cores and offer dynamic and attractive gateways. The key
to success is neighborhood revitalization and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock; single-family and
market rate. The multi-dimensional strategy that we are proposing focuses on maintaining and increasing the
population base, supports talent attraction and retention of a quality workforce, targets removal of blight and
revitalization of neighborhoods, and positions communities for paced renewal and economic sustainability. It
also increase property values, stabilizes the tax base and leverages assets such as the Steuben County Land Bank,
Arbor Development, Steuben County IDA, Southern Tier Regional Planning Board, Three Rivers Development,
realtors, local contractors and financial institutions. Additionally it takes advantage of the shifting consumer
priorities resulting from COVID; which is a healthier, less dense place to live that offers access to the outdoors,
healthcare, schools and open space.

Mr. Mullen stated he has talked with a developer of a subdivision and one of the concerns of the smaller
developers is opening up the subdivision and being taxed on it before they sell anything off. Are there any
incentives to get the subdivisions opened up and working before starting to collect taxes on those? Ms. Payne
replied yes there is, however, not so much in New York State. Talking almost exclusively in the Town of Erwin,
there is also the issue of infrastructure; roads, water and sewer have been very high cost and the town has worked
very hard to share the costs, but it has been a hurdle. It is difficult to ask New York State for any kind of housing
development or infrastructure assistance for housing developments.

Mrs. Lando commented in Corning, many people showed interest in the Northside Blodgett building project in the
beginning, but now the price has increased and that is a concern. Ms. Payne stated it is a concern and we have
included that in our detailed report. They have been slow in their goal of fulfilling that project and the cost for a
unit at the bottom level is $250,000. These units do not have basements and are located on very small lots. That
is why we place such an emphasis on revitalizing the existing stock. That is also why housing developers are
responding to one home at a time. The demand is not large enough in the County and it is forcing them to do one
house at a time and that is driving up those costs.

Mr. Sousa stated I would like to thank Ms. Payne and Ms. Lawrence for presenting. This is very interesting data
and a lot of it is not terribly surprising. Having the numbers behind it really emphasizes and drives home the
point. The major takeaway is we don’t want this to be a plan that just gets shelved. This is just the tip of the
iceberg of what I would like to do with the Legislature going forward.

Mrs. Lando asked what is the next step? Mr. Sousa replied now we have a plan that we can use as a jumping off
point for finding grants. The Land Bank does address a lot of these issues and gaining momentum on that front
would be helpful. With regard to the strategic revitalization effort, Bath is undertaking a project. The main
takeaway is that we consistently hear about Corning and Hornell, and that is not surprising, but the other parts of
the county could see some attention that could attract market rate homes for people moving up or buying up. Stepping out of the Hornell and Corning shell and addressing the rest of the county is a nice start.

Mr. Van Caeseele commented research showed that there needed to be lower cost alternatives in the future. Two major developers in Hornell were a little bit on the higher side and some of the people that moved in realized they could get comparable housing at lower pricing. One thing I do question is I still think that on the low end, the cost of housing seems a little high. I don’t know where you populated your information from. Ms. Payne replied we did consider that carefully and we did point out the rentals of the new construction are all on the high side and that the demand has been filled. There is a significant demand for rentals in the $750 - $900 per month range. Single-family housing has a significant demand but there is a lack of inventory and a lack of inventory of houses that have been renovated. When people are looking at housing, they are looking at the block, the neighborhood and the community core to make sure they get a return on their investment and that the neighborhood investment will continue and they will not see depreciation three houses down. We keep emphasizing the fact that targeted neighborhood revitalization is important. In the Town of Bath, their economic revitalization has a focus on the historic district and the I-86 exit area. The City of Hornell recently received DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) funding. Other communities will need a lot of assistance with economic development strategies in their downtowns as well as neighborhood revitalization; that is just as important as new construction.

Mr. Swackhamer stated in the discussion it was stated that apartments were overpriced. Why would I not want to take an older house and turn it into two apartments when I could rent them almost immediately? Ms. Payne replied that becomes an issue if an entire neighborhood does that. The concern is the momentum of housing being converted in a particular neighborhood. It is just a caution that those should not become a large portion of a neighborhood. Mr. Swackhamer asked how do you suggest controlling that? Ms. Payne replied there can be restrictions on the number of apartment units a house can be divided into. Also, capturing some of those older houses that are vacant and in extraordinarily poor condition and capturing them by local owners and developers because we know that if a housing unit is owned by a local developer or someone who lives in the area, the odds are that the quality of that conversion will be significantly higher than if an out of town, or out of county; for example an absentee landlord from Long Island. That is the issue. Mr. Swackhamer commented like you said before, these people moved into new apartments and found out that they either cannot afford them or that they could rent something bigger for less money. As you had stated before, these are overpriced.

Mrs. Lando commented we need to be able to use code enforcement for the absentee landlords to hold them accountable. I don’t think the local enforcement officers have enough teeth to make it happen, and that is a big part of it as well. Ms. Payne stated one of our recommendations was to have stronger code enforcement.

Mr. Swackhamer commented the City of Hornell is basically a one-pony city. We have Alstom and when the contracts are down, why would people come in and continue to build when the housing and the people are on contract? If Alstom doesn’t get contracts, then the people will not be there. That is a very important thing to consider. Ms. Payne commented we cannot predict what Alstom is going to do or what Corning, Inc. is going to do. That is a risk that a developer takes. What we don’t know is whether or not those companies can guarantee “x” number of units to be rented.

Mrs. Ferratella stated in the past there were CDBG funds which were a source for local municipalities. Are there other grants available for municipalities and for individual homeowners? Ms. Payne replied no there is nothing other than the block grants. It is not necessarily just about the housing revitalizations, but the community core which is just as important as the neighborhood revitalization and the individual homes. Many of the State grant programs are on hold and we are not sure where that will go in terms of community revitalization. We do know when those grant funds become available we want to have projects ready to go.

Mr. Johnson stated funding for housing is a very tricky thing because many of the programs we see are not dedicated to housing, or housing is not allowed under the grants. Housing is a tricky type of investment when you are trying to identify public resources. Ms. Payne stated there are a number of federal programs available to low
and moderate income families for housing improvements/upgrades and in our region they are administered by Arbor Housing.

Ms. Lattimer commented the Steuben County Land Bank has moved toward the redevelopment of the older housing stock. Your study melds well with what we are trying to do for the Bath economic redevelopment.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated code enforcement needs to have more teeth and there need to be more rules and regulations for landowners. However, what about tenants who are destroying property and then that falls on the landlord? It is difficult to evict someone who is a problem. We should be addressing those concerns as well. Mr. Van Etten commented as a former landlord, I had 38 rentals in the City of Corning and City of Elmira, and it is really aggravating for landlords who are often given a bad rap; there are a lot of landlords who are good. It is frustrating when we do a development project to build a wonderful facility and give incentives and start charging rent at $1,200 per month when the locals don’t get any breaks except for increased code enforcement. We penalize our local guys and reward the Reidmans of the world that come in and spend multi-million dollars on projects.

Mr. Mullen stated I had heard of multiple landlords in Hornell that complained about that; landlords that do a nice job of keeping their places up and they are saying that they put all this money in and then Reidman gets all these breaks and comes in and does this. Mr. Van Caeseele stated I heard the complaints as well.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. HeatSmart FLX South Program – Erica Herman from Schuyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension presented a brief PowerPoint presentation on the HeatSmart FLX South Program. We are a community-based heat pump campaign serving residents and small businesses in Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben and Yates counties. Our goal is to encourage and enable people to install heat pumps for heating cooling. Heat pumps decrease heating and cooling costs, increase comfort, health and safety and cut out fossil fuel use to lower our footprint. The two steps to doing this are to weatherize your home and install a heat pump. Ms. Herman explained the eligibility for this program is based on gross annual income. We have both a low-income and moderate-income program. The low-income program has two components; EmPowerNY and WAP and both of these programs provide insulation and air sealing safety. The EmPowerNY also provides refrigerator and energy efficiency such as LED lights. The WAP program provides repair or replacement of windows and doors along with traditional heating. The moderate-income program is the Assisted Home Performance and provides insulation, air sealing, heat pump water heater and more. This is a 50/50 matching grant. Ms. Herman explained heat pumps cost approximately $1,000 per year to run compared to $3,000 per year for propane. There are two types of heat pumps; air source and ground source (geo thermal). Incentives are available for both types of heat pumps. Our goal is to make heat pumps accessible to all income levels. Mrs. Lando asked are you working with ProAction? Ms. Herman replied yes and we are looking to streamline the application process and we are excited to work together.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, November 25, 2020
I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lattimer called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. and asked Mr. Malter to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2020, MEETING MADE BY MR. MULLEN, SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Authorizing Public Hearing on Eight-Year Review of Agricultural District No. 1 – Mr. Sousa requested authorization for a public hearing on the eight-year review of Agricultural District No. 1.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 1 MADE BY MR. MULLEN, SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE, ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. 2021 Contracts – Mr. Sousa presented his 2021 contracts for approval. The amounts remain the same as last year. Mr. Mullen asked weren’t some adjusted during the budget process? Ms. Fitzpatrick commented the dollar amount for the Conference and Visitors’ Bureau is not right. I think these have to be looked at again. Mr. Sousa stated that is my mistake and I will go back through and adjust them to the budgeted amounts.

Secretary’s Note: Mr. Sousa provided an updated contract list with correct budgeted amounts following the meeting and those amounts are reflected below.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS TO BE PAID OUT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND: STEUBEN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY - $75,000; AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS TO BE PAID OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND: BATH SNO FLAKES - $17,000; FIRST TRANSIT - $24,233; MARVIN RETHMEL (CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER) - $20.00 PER HOUR; QUAD COUNTY SNOWMOBILE CLUB - $8,300; SOUTHERN TIER
LIBRARY SYSTEM - $79,600; STEUBEN COUNTY FEDERATION OF CONSERVATION CLUBS - $4,000; ARC OF STEUBEN D/B/A STEUBEN AREA RIDES - $110,000; TEN TOWNS SNOWMOBILE CLUB - $15,500; SOUTHERN TIER SNOW RIDERS, INC. - $5,000; AUTHORIZING THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS TO BE PAID OUT OF ROOM TAX: ARTS OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES - $29,400; BATH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - $4,000; FINGER LAKES TOURISM ALLIANCE - $15,600; FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY - $84,000; GREATER CORNING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC. - $16,000; GREATER HAMMONDSPORT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - $12,000; HORNELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL - $5,960; HORNELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - $4,000; STEUBEN COUNTY DAIRY FESTIVAL - $1,000 AND STEUBEN COUNTY CONFERENCE AND VISITORS’ BUREAU - $412,500 MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Mullen asked Ms. Prossick if she looks at the actual contracts to verify the amounts? Ms. Prossick replied we double check with the budget to make sure they match.

Mrs. Lando asked what do the Bath Sno Flakes do? Mr. Sousa replied they are a snowmobile club and make and maintain snowmobile trails. They apply for grant funds for trail maintenance and we pass those funds through to them. Ms. Lattimer commented this is a good thing as it provides a formal traffic pattern to certain spots and makes it safer. Mr. Van Etten stated the license fee that snowmobilers pay goes toward that.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Buildings and Grounds

1. 2021 Contracts – Mr. Rose presented his 2021 contracts for approval. He stated they remained the same except for slight increases with the contracts with Davis Ulmer, Danforth and SDS Disposal.

MOTION: APPROVING THE FOLLOWING 2021 CONTRACTS FOR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: AFP GROUP - $1,190; DAVIS-ULMER SPRINKLER - $9,835; EASTERN SECURITY - $1,919; EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEMS - $895 FOR 911, $595 FOR CIVIL DEFENSE AND $595 FOR COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING; FIRE ALARM SERVICE TECHNOLOGY - $3,762 FOR MAINTENANCE AND $300 FOR MONITORING; IMPERIAL DOOR CONTROLS - $555 - $185 PER OPERATOR; JOHN W. DANFORTH COMPANY - $24,122 COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX AND 911, $8,830 PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, $2,941 COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX AND $1,681 NEW RECORDS BUILDING; SDS OF NY - $893.52 HORNELL DMV, $784.20 CORNING COURTHOUSE, $1,101.84 CORNING MENTAL HEALTH AND $1,710 BATH MENTAL HEALTH; SOUTHERN TIER FIRE EXTINGUISHER - $500 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, $70 HORNELL MENTAL HEALTH, $70 CORNING MENTAL HEALTH AND $300 BATH MENTAL HEALTH; AND WEST FIRE SYSTEMS, INC. - $900 MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Van Etten asked are these amounts covered by the budget? Mr. Rose replied yes.

Mr. Mullen stated I like what they did on the Balcom House and I’m impressed with what Buildings and Grounds is doing. Ms. Lattimer stated you are doing a great job. Mr. Rose thanked the committee and said that he has a good mix of people working.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Ms. Lattimer commented everything across the board is looking good.

Mr. Malter asked what about the property where the bowling alley was. Are we doing anything to make that look decent? Mr. Rose replied we are leaving that open for the contractors to use now and in the spring we can talk about what to do with it. Mr. Van Etten stated the thought was to leave it for the contractors to park their trailers. Mr. Rose stated sometimes the contractors need to be closer to the building and we are trying to make it easier on them as well. Hopefully they will be done soon and we can shore up the footprint they are currently taking.
C. County Manager

1. 2021 Inter-Municipal Agreement – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to renew the contract with Livingston County for providing Weights and Measures services. We have been doing this for the past seven years. Due to budget constraints, we did not propose an increase to Livingston. He requested authorization to renew for 2021 at $60,000 plus we will get reimbursed for mileage.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH LIVINGSTON COUNTY FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SERVICES FOR $60,000 ANNUALLY PLUS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Cornell Cooperative Extension

1. Fundraiser – Ms. McKinley informed the committee they held a fundraiser for new bathrooms at the fairgrounds. We thought we could raise $12,000 to put a bathroom by the beef and sheep barn as there is currently no bathroom. We ended up raising, in one day, $25,000 by the community being so generous. There are still donations coming in and now we are at over $27,000. I would like to say a big thank you to the community. Construction on the new bathrooms will start in the spring. Ms. Lattimer asked will any leftover money after construction be put toward improving the existing bathrooms? Ms. McKinley replied yes. We are hoping we can get some materials donated by the local building companies.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. COVID – Mr. Mullen stated I have looked at the data that we received regarding COVID and the breakdown of age groups; those testing positive, those hospitalized and deaths after they have had it; those testing positive in each county does data collection and reported yes. We are currently not reporting, but we have some insight into that, but we get more granular with ours just because we have it in real time. All counties should have that. Making that request through NYSAC would be the place to start at least. I am not sure what the NYS Department of Health would or would not release to us.

Ms. Lattimer stated my understanding is that your intent is to try to put together ultimately an analysis based upon real data from all counties; to ideally, with NYSAC as an overseer group, make more fact-based policy recommendations? Mr. Mullen replied yes. Ms. Lattimer asked is this something that NYSAC has, or are they already doing this? Do you have any knowledge of this being done? Mr. Wheeler replied not necessarily. Each county does data collection and reporting differently. We are one of the more aggressive in terms of the information that we disseminate. We obviously do a great deal and Lorelei Wagner and other staff do a phenomenal job getting information out. To Mr. Mullen’s point, I think requesting maybe some action or an analysis by NYSAC is kind of the appropriate place in my view to request that information from.

Mrs. Lando asked there is one system, a State system that information is being entered into right? So the data is being collected right? Mr. Wheeler replied the State certainly has that data. Again, we don’t have insight into their internal tracking. Certainly we report all positive cases and they know about hospitalizations as well as we do because that is in; positive reports are in what is called ECLRS. That is the State laboratory tracking system. Hospitalization reports are in HURDS; that is the State system that hospitals use. We have some insight into that, but we get more granular with ours just because we have it in real time. All counties should have that. Making that request through NYSAC would be the place to start at least. I am not sure what the NYS Department of Health would or would not release to us.

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Agriculture, Industry and Planning Committee
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
Ms. Lattimer stated that’s my point. I don’t think we are necessarily getting the data that we need and I think the ultimate goal here is that the Governor constantly hammers away at fact-based decisions and policy making, well let’s put our facts together. I think what Mr. Mullen is trying to say is that the death rates at the younger age groups is not as impactful as some might want you to believe. So policies are being made across the board regardless of age group and he doesn’t feel that it is appropriate or correct. Mr. Mullen stated yes, it looks that way from Steuben County’s data and we could be an anomaly. Also the death rate was higher than I thought it would be for people who were over 60. There may be things we can do in the community to help older people shelter and continue to avoid contact while allowing some of the economy and the schools to open up more. I think there would be a lot of health benefits for people and economic benefits if we were able to do that, so it would be good to have more data to talk about.

Mrs. Lando commented I agree. Ms. Lattimer asked can we initiate that and go from there? Mr. Wheeler replied yes. You can do a memorialization to NYSAC requesting that or we can just handle it through the administrative chain and have myself and Mrs. Smith work on that. Ms. Lattimer commented I would rather do it administratively. We want other counties to be invited into the fact gathering process.

Mrs. Lando commented we can bring it up at Inter-County. Mr. Wheeler stated Inter-County is a great idea. Mrs. Scotchmer stated my only concern is Inter-County will not be meeting again until February. Ms. Lattimer asked could it be done via email chain to Inter-County? Mrs. Scotchmer replied it would probably have to go to the President of Inter-County and then see if they could handle it. I could check into that and see. Ms. Lattimer suggested maybe an email to the President of Inter-County that we are making a request to NYSAC. Mrs. Scotchmer stated Inter-County would still need to do an action to join in and that is an issue because they will not be meeting again until January or February.

Mrs. Ferratella stated it makes sense to talk with NYSAC to see if they are collecting data. Mr. Wheeler stated I can reach out to NYSAC today.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated I agree with Mr. Mullen. We will see more consequences other than health effects as we move into 2021. There are still businesses and professions that are not allowed to be open right now and they are unable to generate revenue. At what point does the unemployment system start to fail? It is a problem when people cannot generate funds to pay their bills. I am not trying to lessen the sympathy for how serious an issue this is, but we are creating hundreds of other issues. We need to do something about it.

Mrs. Lando commented a local restaurant was shut down for two weeks because a member of the staff tested positive. No one wanted to shut down, but they had to. It is all about saving lives.

Mr. Van Caeseele stated I don’t think we have full seen the economic impact at the County, State or Federal level and I think that is still yet to show itself.

B. Industrial Development Agency Update – Mr. Van Etten commented Mr. Johnson was supposed to provide an update this month but had a conflict and we pushed that update out to January. Ms. Lattimer stated the IDA will be issuing their annual report on December 11th and we will all receive that via email.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, January 6, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, December 30, 2020