I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 3, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MRS. LANDO, SECONDED BY MR. RYAN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. Authorization to Bid Wi-Fi Units for Public Transit Buses – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to bid for Wi-Fi units for the public transit buses. We have State and Federal funding to put Wi-Fi routers on buses across the County. Once the Wi-Fi routers are installed, that will allow for the integrated fare boxes and bus tracking.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO ISSUE BIDS FOR WIFI UNITS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT BUSES MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. RYAN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

2. Authorizing Sub-Recipient Agreement for 2019 Well & Septic Grant – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to enter into a sub-recipient agreement with Arbor Housing and Development to manage the 2019 Well & Septic Grant. The amount of the grant is $198,000.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH ARBOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT TO MANAGE THE 2019 WELL & SEPTIC GRANT MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

3. Commencing the Review Period for Agricultural District No. 6 – Mrs. Dlugos requested authorization to commence the review period for Agricultural District No. 6. This district is located in the towns of Addison, Bath, Cameron, Campbell, Caton, Corning, Erwin, Hornby, Lindley, Rathbone, Thurston, Tuscarora and Woodhull.

MOTION: COMMENCING THE REVIEW PERIOD FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 6 MADE BY MR. RYAN. SECONDED BY MR. MULLEN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

4. Appointing a Certifying Officer and Commencing Environmental Review – Mrs. Dlugos stated with the Well and Septic Grant we are required to appoint a Certifying Officer. For Project No. 1115WS301-19 she requested the Legislature appoint a Certifying Officer and declare the project a Type II Action for the purposes of the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act.

MOTION: APPOINTING AMY DLUGOS AS CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR STEUBEN CDBG PROJECT NO. 1115WS301-19 AND DECLARING THE PROJECT A TYPE II ACTION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE NYS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MRS. LANDO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
   1. 2020 Budget Request – Ms. Kimble informed the committee that the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the oldest regional designation market in the nation and we are celebrating our 100th anniversary. She presented a short video and PowerPoint presentation outlining activities, their 2020 outlook and how funding was used. In January 2019, they released the results of their research project. Some of the key points of interest include that during 2018 there were approximately 5.56 million visitors to the Finger Lakes; 81 percent of those were overnight visitors with an average stay in the area of 3.4 days and average daily spending of $430.00 per day. She stated that our website, fingerlakes.org is posting a 27.9 percent increase over the prior year and is the top Finger Lakes website for organic search. We produced 129,000 travel guides in January and as of the end of June, 79,189 have been distributed. Traffic at our thruway information centers is down, as is travel due to construction. Ms. Kimble stated looking toward 2020; we are developing our three-year strategic plan. Based on current sales tax revenue reports and other considerations, it appears that tourism will continue to grow for 2020. We are looking at the release of a one-hour documentary on the Finger Lakes which is being produced by WXXI and will be released on all NYS public television. Ms. Kimble stated she is requesting $19,500 which is a $1,000 increase from last year. However, this is the first increase since 2014.

Mr. Malter asked what is your total budget? Ms. Kimble replied $1.1 million. Mr. Mullen asked where do we compare with other counties in terms of our contribution? Ms. Kimble replied Yates and Monroe counties both have a significant investment. Out of the 14 counties, you are probably ranked number 9 in terms of investment.

B. Soil & Water Conservation District
   1. 2020 Budget Request – Mr. Parker stated his proposed 2020 budget is $901,260.07 with the County’s appropriation proposed at $164,676.00. He is asking for a $3,000 increase. The District Streambank Program is budgeted at $75,000 and those funds are spent on materials. They have had 45 streambank projects totaling $364,000.

Mr. Malter asked with the District Streambank Program, did we appropriate additional funds? Mr. Wheeler replied we did a one-time additional appropriation of $75,000 in 2018.
Mr. Parker stated the remainder of their budget is contracts, grant funds and State reimbursement. The State reimbursement has increased to a point where he can use some of that money for projects. He stated he will be doing a municipal training on streambanks using grant funds that they received. We will also be doing an emergency streambank intervention program this fall for the highway departments.

C. ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes

1. **2020 Budget Request** – Ms. Sullivan-Blum thanked the committee for their support. She stated they currently receive an appropriation of $36,700 from the County and she is respectfully requesting the same appropriation for 2020. There are two important initiatives they are working on. The first is emergency preparedness for arts organizations. We received a Performing Arts Readiness grant to establish a community-based network of arts and culture organizations that can assist each other during times of emergency. In November we will be hosting a workshop in which artists will meet with professional fire fighters who will discuss ways to safeguard their studios. The second initiative is the Points of Inspiration, a driving trail of cultural heritage sites. This year we added a third trail highlighting innovation in science and technology in our region. There are 27 new sites on this trail, including 6 in Steuben County. The sites in Steuben County are Costa Flying Service, Glenn Curtiss Aviation Museum, Little Joe in Corning, the time capsule at Corning Incorporated building, the Rakow Research Library and the Spencer Crest Nature Center. Ms. Sullivan-Blum reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining their activities, 2020 outlook, and how funds were spent.

Mr. Malter asked for those organizations that you award grant funds to, is there an application form? Ms. Sullivan-Blum replied yes. The application is on our website and it is an online process.

D. Finger Lakes Wine Country

1. **2020 Budget Request** – Ms. Hale informed the committee that she is the Chair of Finger Lakes Wine Country Board of Directors. We are celebrating our 20th anniversary. During 2018 we did our strategic plan and as a result of that plan, our mission statement is to establish Finger Lakes Wine Country as the top-of-mind brand. Our vision statement is that the potential visitor will have a clear image of Finger Lakes Wine Country, what it offers and how to participate in its experiences.

Mrs. Ward stated there are three reasons people come to visit; nature, small-town charm and locally-crafted products. Our primary target groups are young travelers, age 22 – 34 without kids and affluent travelers with an annual household income over $100,000. We have found that the interest of young travelers age 22 – 34 without kids align with the variety of our offers. They are explorers who want a bit of everything. They specifically travel for outdoor, wine and culinary experiences and love visiting wineries and breweries or distilleries. This age group typically takes a small trip two to four times a year, tend to be single and most have undergrad or graduate degrees. Affluent travelers skew older, 55 – 66, are more established in life and don’t mind spending more on their trips. Similarly, most like to take a small trip two to four times a year. They enjoy the finer things in life and are excited to try new things. Mrs. Ward stated 82 percent of people who visit Finger Lakes Wine Country are repeat visitors and 54 percent of those visitors return five or more times. She reviewed the list of top ten things driving recent visitors to return, which include it is easy to get to, welcoming community, agricultural activities, artisanal products, home to quaint small towns, budget friendly, excellent vineyards, they feel safe, it is a versatile place they can go with anyone and there are a variety of activities to do and see.

Mrs. Ward stated they are requesting the same budget of $105,000. She noted Corning Enterprises matches public funding dollar for dollar. Ms. Hale stated on August 15th our five year annual report for all of our investors will be available.

Ms. Lattimer commented your report mentions that the total number of tourism employees is 2,200 and she would have expected that number to be a little higher. Mrs. Ward stated that is a reflection of how they quantify tourism employment. She does not believe they are counting every hotel staff or restaurant. Mr. Costello commented employment at wineries and farm businesses are classified as agriculture. Mrs. Ward stated they are mostly counting museums and direct tourism.

Ms. Lattimer thanked the agencies for holding the line on their budget requests.
V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. 1-86 Innovation Corridor Update – Mr. Arcuri provided copies of the quarterly report that was sent to investors. One of the statements he made the first time he came before the committee was that the County, the region and the nation has a labor force participation problem. The US Census Bureau does an annual time use survey; asking people how they spend their day. People are not participating in the workforce. With women, one of the main reasons they are not in the workforce is because they are taking care of a loved one. He stated that he has met with all of the major child providers. He has put together an application for the Southern Tier Child Care Now Grant for $3.6 million. The idea is to create more adaptable and accessible care for homes in rural areas. It needs to be center-based or it will not be viable. If successful, we will be providing assistance to center-based care and not duplicate effort. A lot of women are taking extended leave or family medical leave to care for loved ones.

Mr. Arcuri stated in terms of supply and demand, there are 32,000 school-aged children that need care. The supply is only 16,000. Home-based care is more affordable; our goal is to establish as many as possible, but we are creating a new business. These would be operated through a child care resource network and the network would do group purchasing and management. He stated his focus is to get this set up, set up rules, get it funded and reach out for matching funds and then let the child care professionals deal with it. Ms. Lattimer commented statistical data on the cost of child care, whether subsidized, in-home or corporate sponsored, is that the cost alone is more than college tuition. Mr. Arcuri commented the average cost of child care is $15,000 per year, per seat. He stated that ideally he would like to have this program set up and ready to be operational next spring. Mr. Arcuri stated there were many reasons why men are not working and he and Mr. Wheeler are working on some projects to address this. We are holding the funding the same as last year, with the understanding that if there are special projects, then we will come back to discuss those. Additionally, there are people on disability who would be employable. Our goal is to get down to the national average. Currently Steuben County has 11 percent of employable individuals on SSDI, Chemung has 14 percent and the national average is 7 percent.

Mr. Ryan asked how did the Fort Drum job fair go? Mr. Arcuri replied it was very successful. A lot of service people tend to swarm around the tables for public safety and the NYS Police. Ford had a full wall for mechanics and Corning and Siemens each had a tent. At some point we would like to bring the Fort Drum T.A.P. team down for a day to meet with local companies. We are really establishing a relationship and that is invaluable. Mr. Malter asked how many people signed up to go to the job fair? Mr. Arcuri replied we had four businesses from our region and we were three for three hours. There were 300 servicemen and servicewomen who cycled through every hour. Most of them had no job prospects. Fort Drum’s transition service provides a six-month, cost-free internship to any business interested in considering a serviceperson and we would only have to provide housing. It will take some time to develop that. Also in attendance were CDL schools, welding schools, etc.

Mr. Arcuri stated another initiative is developing a compliance based training program. The concept is to get to the bottom of what is meant by a title. We are working on that with the hospitality and tourism industries and then we will be looking at manufacturing. We need to look at the basic profile for job descriptions.

B. Call Hill – Mr. Ryan stated we have 300 acres on Call Hill and there is no access road and there is private property on either side. Mr. Wheeler stated we have an easement. Mr. Ryan stated there are 5 – 10 acres that already have been clear cut. Mr. Wheeler stated we knew that it was logged in the past; that was about 10 – 12 years ago. Mr. Ryan commented another piece was select cut. Do people in the County benefit from that asset? Mr. Wheeler replied if any money is made, it goes to the department or the general fund. Ms. Lattimer commented generally we were saying to investigate the marking of trees. Mrs. Lando asked is the only thing we have access to the tower? Mr. Mullen stated there is another piece that the County owns that is on the road. Mr. Malter asked will Public Works be putting out an RFP? Mr. Wheeler replied yes, for tree marking. Mr. Mullen stated that he knows that his dad and brother have ash trees on nearby property and this would be the last year to take them because of the ash borers.

C. IDA Summer Outing – Mr. Johnson stated tomorrow night, August 8th, is the annual Legislative outing. If you have not RSVP’d and would like to attend, please call the office.
MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. MULLEN. SECONDED BY MR. RYAN. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Legislative Committee Room
9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, September 4, 2019