

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM #318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Addonizio & Scuccimarra**

**Thursday**

**6:30PM**

**April 16, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Addonizio, and Scuccimarra and Chairman Gouldman were present.

**Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes- March 9, 2015**

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item # 4 – Presentation/Spring & Summer 2015 Events/Visitor’s Bureau/Director Libby Pataki**

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to waive the rules and accepted the additional; Seconded by Chairman Gouldman. All in favor.

Visitor’s Bureau Deputy Director Frank Smith stated a lot more people attended the Egg-stravaganza than anticipated; which resulted in the Visitor’s Bureau being a victim of their own success. He stated the Egg-stravaganza took place on April 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated the full accounting of the Event has not been completed as of yet. He stated approximately 5,000 Easter Eggs were hidden in the lower field of Tilly Foster Farm (“Farm”). He stated the Visitor’s Bureau had a recap meeting today to discuss certain aspects of the Event such as the traffic. He stated the need to mitigate the traffic for future events was discussed. He stated one idea to alleviate traffic is to sell advance tickets to control the amount of people that come to the Farm. He stated another idea was to stagger the event with different times with several hours in between each time to allow people to have time to visit the farm and leave. He stated the summer event the Visitor’s Bureau is planning will occur at the Farm and will be scheduled to take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July which coincides with the Town of Southeast’s Fireworks event. He stated nothing is officially planned yet but, the Visitor’s Bureau would like to open up the Farm to families and have a picnic event to watch the fireworks. He stated the Visitor’s Bureau is assisting with other initiatives in the County. He stated the Visitor’s Bureau has been successful in sponsoring events and helping with the promotion of events opposed to organizing their own events; which has produced exposure to the County without incurring an expense. He stated some examples of the events the Visitor’s Bureau supported in the 2015 Spring were the Hudson Valley Wine and Chocolate Festival, Putnam St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and the Putnam County Golf Course Television Commercial. He stated the Visitor’s Bureau does their best to use the resources available to them to help organizations and plan events.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she is aware that the Visitor’s Bureau assisted Main Street in the Village of Cold Spring with certain events.

Deputy Director Katie DeMarco stated the Visitor's Bureau assisted with the Hudson Valley Map as well as the Village of Cold Spring Christmas Lights and decorations for the holiday season.

Legislator Addonizio stated Deputy Director Smith mentioned that it is planned to stagger the Egg-stravagaza Event next year. She questioned how the Visitor's Bureau would ensure that the people and the cars would leave before the next Easter Egg Event.

Deputy Director Smith stated it is believed that if there was enough time, such as three (3) hours, in between each session the people would leave on their own.

Legislator Albano stated the Visitor's Bureau also assisted in the Town of Carmel Christmas decorations.

Legislator Gross stated he will be receiving information from the Sheriff's Department on the costs for the patrol of the Fireworks Event at the Town of Southeast. He stated the numbers do not include the opening of the Farm. He stated it may be beneficial for the Visitor's Bureau to contact the Sheriff's Department to see the cost to utilize the Deputy Sheriffs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Event.

Deputy Director Smith stated the Sheriff's Department is aware and Sergeant Christian was present at the meeting today where the proposed plans to open up the Farm for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July were discussed. He stated the Visitor's Bureau would like to use the Event to test out the use of tickets to assist in limiting the amount of cars at the Farm.

Legislator Gross stated Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> was looked into for the Southeast's Fireworks Event, which would not cost time and a half.

Legislator Nacerino questioned how the Visitor's Bureau planned to generate the sale of tickets and collect the tickets for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Event.

Deputy Director Smith stated there are two (2) proposals; (1) first is to sell the tickets online or (2) go online to register and then pick up the tickets at the County Office Building. He stated in his opinion it is best to sell the tickets online and then similar to Egg-stravaganza, have a table at the top of the Farm entrance to be the main point of entrance.

Legislator Nacerino stated it seems a little cumbersome for individuals to come to the County Office Building to pick up tickets. She stated at the Brewster High School tickets for events are sold online and it is very successful.

Deputy Director Smith stated for the Pumpkin Palooza it was advertised in numerous ways, including the radio and there was a high turnout for the event. He stated the Egg-stravaganza was more targeted and the same amounts of people attend the event. He stated the selling of tickets is something that is needed to be considered. He stated the Visitor's Bureau welcomes any suggestions with the sale of tickets.

## **Item # 9–Other Business**

**a. Verbal Update/Industrial Development Agency (“IDA”)/IDA Chairman Richard Ruchala**

IDA Chairman Richard Ruchala stated he would like to thank the Legislature for approving the Resolution that opposed Part W of Governor’s Proposed 2015 Budget. He stated Part W, which would severely restrict the ability of the IDA to respond to the needs of business by removing home rule decisions was pulled out of the budget. He provided the Committee with an update on recent activities within the IDA. He stated the Fox Ridge Motor Inn (“Motor Inn”), a Best Western Affiliate, located on Route 121 in Brewster has a closing schedule for April 20<sup>th</sup>. He stated the Motor Inn will create 16 to 20 full-time jobs. He stated Unicorn Contracting, also known as Butterfield Redevelopment were induced by the IDA on March 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated the Butterfield Redevelopment will be taking sales tax and recorded tax less than 31,000 square feet. He also updated the Committee with potential applicants for the IDA; a bakery, freight company and concrete company. He stated the IDA has been working very closely with the Red Carpet Team. He stated the Red Carpet Team’s objectives are to; enhance communication with the business community; encourage and coordinate access to available programs, resources and benefits; and provide professional advice and direction to help solve business issues. He listed the various organizations that are part of the Red Carpet Team such as the IDA, Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (“EDC”), and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce.

Legislator Scuccimarra made a motion to waive the rules and accept all the additional; Seconded by Chairman Gouldman. All in favor.

IDA Chairman Ruchala stated there has been cohesion missing within the four (4) main organizations that create development within the County; IDA, EDC, Red Carpet Alliance, and the Visitor’s Bureau. He stated each organization has different funding needs. He stated the Red Carpet Alliance usually needs no funding. He stated the Visitor’s Bureau receives funding from the State and the County. He stated the EDC receives their funds from the County. He stated the IDA makes their own funding. He stated it is now challenging to fund the IDA on its own because of the unfunded mandates. He stated he is aware that the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce put out a correspondence that lists the minimum qualifications for the EDC President. He stated the qualifications have been lowered after Former EDC President Meghan Taylor left. He believes that the salary for the EDC President can be lowered since the qualifications were lowered. He stated the money that would not be used for the new EDC President can go to the IDA. He stated the IDA needs an employee that provides office support and conducts visitations.

Chairman Gouldman questioned if IDA Chairman Ruchala could provide a written proposal to the Committee.

IDA Chairman Ruchala facilitated discussion in how the IDA cannot be disbanded until 2048 due to the annual PARIS (Public Authorities Reporting Information System) Reports that need to be conducted until all of the bonds in New York are paid for. He stated before he provided the Committee with a written proposal, he wanted the Committee’s opinion on the amount to request; however he believes that it would be ideal to fund the IDA approximately in the amount of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated a written plan is really needed before one can proceed.

Legislator Albano questioned if it is possible to merge the IDA and the EDC; especially with a secretary.

IDA Chairman Ruchala stated there was a merge between the two (2) organizations in the past.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she is aware of other counties that have merged the EDC and IDA.

Legislator Gross stated the old property 34 Gleneida Avenue Property had allowed the EDC and the IDA to work very closely with each other.

IDA Chairman Ruchala stated that would have been a great opportunity to continue to utilize that space.

Legislator Gross questioned what hotel brand name will be at the Motor Inn.

IDA Chairman Ruchala stated it is a Best Western. He stated reservations for rooms will begin around May and the Motor Inn should be open in October. He stated he wanted the Legislature to be aware the Jehovah Witnesses purchased a property in Putnam County, which means that that the property will no longer be taxed. He then listed other organizations and not-for-profits that purchased properties; which who do not have to pay property taxes. He stated a lot of not-for-profits are purchasing property in the County because it is affordable without paying the property taxes. He stated it is important for the County to watch their budget.

Legislator Nacerino stated this matter also affects the schools.

Legislator Albano stated it is important to note that approximately 25% of property in Putnam County is owned by New York City Watershed.

**Item # 5 – Discussion/Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission**

**a. Approval/Amend Resolution #173 of 2014**

**b. Approval/Appointment/Commission Member/Dr. Stephen J. Baranowski**

Legislator Nacerino stated the Legislative Office received a letter of interest from Dr. Stephen J. Baranowski to join the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission (“Commission”). She stated Dr. Baranowski would be a valuable person to the Commission. She stated as Co-Chairs, Legislator Scuccimarra and herself believe a change from an 11 member board to a 12 member board would not have an impact on the Commission; especially there is generally never 100% attendance.

Legislator Albano stated he is in support in approving both items. He believes Dr. Barabowski would be a great asset to the Commission.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated sometimes it is a challenge for the Commission Members to attend each meeting as some do work during the day. She stated to be successful in accomplishing tasks it is beneficial to have more people attend the meeting. She stated she is thrilled that people are requesting to be on the Commission.

Legislator Nacerino stated the Commission has a good group in how there is a big variety of expertise.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she would like to remind the Legislature that the Commission meeting is public.

IDA Chairman Ruchala questioned if it was a non-partisan Commission.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is a non-partisan Commission.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve to amend Resolution #173 of 2014 to make the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission a 12 member board; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Stephen J. Baranowski to the Fiscal Vision & Accountability Commission; Seconded by Legislator Addonizio. All in favor.

**Item # 6 – Approval/Memorialization/Dutchess County Resolution/Requesting Federal and State Representatives Publically Oppose and Repeal FERC Capacity Zone Plan**

Legislator Albano stated there is a shift in passing the burden to our County to pay for the energy.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she supports the memorialization of this matter.

Chairman Gouldman made a motion to approve the memorialization that supports a Dutchess County Resolution that requests Federal and State Representatives publically oppose and repeal FERC Capacity Zone Plan; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

**Item # 7 – Unemployment Report- FYI- Duly Noted**

**Item # 8 – Foreclosure Report- FYI- Duly Noted**

**Item # 9–Other Business**

**b. Announcement/Shop Putnam Expo/Putnam County Chamber of Commerce President Bill Nulk**

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce President Bill Nulk stated he would like to remind the Legislature about the Shop Business Expo this Sunday. He stated the event will be held at the Mahopac High School. He stated it is an opportunity to see many vendors in the Putnam Business Community.

**Item # 10 –Adjournment**

There being no further business at 7:21 P.M. Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.