



PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: WebEx and 74 Ontario St., 2nd Floor Committee Room 213

July 24, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

In Person: Supervisors David Phillips, Fred Lightfoote, William Namestnik, Christopher Vastola, Mark Venuti, and Andrew Wickham.
Necessarily Absent: Supervisor John Marren.

OTHERS PRESENT

In Person: BOS Chairman Todd Campbell, Supervisor James Kennedy, Deputy County Administrator Alissa Bub, County Attorney Holly Adams, Finance Director Mary Gates, Economic Developer Ryan Davis, Sustainability & Solid Waste Director Calra Jordan, Planner Regina Sousa, Planning Director Tom Harvey, Sr. Planners Betsy Landre and Thomas Lyon, Sr. Fiscal Manager Michael Wojcik, Visitors Connection President Valarie Knoblauch, Visitors Connection Director of Operations Steve Laros, Cornell Cooperative Extension Director Tim Davis, Casella General Manager Brian Sanders, Soil and Water Director Megan Webster, Reporter Dave Shaw, Nancy Yacci, and Clerk to the Board Kristin Voss.
Via WebEx: Grant Coordinator Sharon Decker.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Planning & Environmental Quality Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Phillips.

MINUTES

Supervisor Namestnik made a motion to approve the minutes of the Planning and Environmental Quality Committee meeting held on June 12, 2023. Supervisor Vastola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TEAM AGENCIES

- ♦ *Cornell Cooperative Extension*

Mr. Davis noted that the freeze event in mid-May damaged many crops, but they feel grapes will have a close to normal production this year. Due to the damage the frost caused the Farm Service Agency did a Secretarial designation for crop damage and has presented it to the State. If the State accepts it then they can present it to the USDA at the national level. Additionally, they held a webinar on what farmers should know about crop insurance. They are now focusing on crop disease, due to the flooding and it being such a wet year, and drift management of herbicides. He also noted that it is County Fair week. The 4-H kids are doing very well in all categories and they will be holding their livestock auction on Friday.

♦ *Soil and Water*

Soil and Water Director, Megan Webster, let the committee know that they have been assisting farms that sustained structural field damage from the recent flooding. They are continually applying for grants to provide resiliently projects to help protect field from structural field damage that occurs after large scale rain events. They have just received noticed that they will be awarded \$300,000 in federal grant funding that they will put towards these projects. They have just hired a new conservation district technician position that is scheduled to start on August 28th. She will be focusing on agricultural environmental management programs and projects.

CASELLA

♦ *Update*

Mr. Brian Sanders presented the following updates:

- Construction is going well, but they have lost several days due to rain
- The site has been holding up well even with all the rain
- Getting material for the site has been a challenge
- They will have to reduce the amount of final cap placed this year by two acres. They will add this to the final cap placed next year
- He showed a map of where they would like to strip and stockpile top soil

Discussion ensued on the striping and replacement of soil and vegetation at the site shown on the map. There were some unanswered questions and a special PEQ will be scheduled for August 3rd at 6:15.

**SUSTAINABILITY AND
SOLID WASTE**

♦ *Department Update*

Sustainability and Solid Waste Director, Carla Jordan, presented to the committee the following:

- They had 110 participants at the Saturday paper shredding event. This was the first time they had people register for a paper shredding event and it worked out well. There were no long lines and the truck didn't run out of room. They plan to continue having people register for future paper shredding event.
- The tire event collected 750 tires
- They next mattress recycling event will be held on August 25th in the Town of Geneva
- They are working with the stores at Eastview Mall to collect and recycle plastic film and packaging that clothes are wrapped in
- They are working with local breweries and cideries to collect four pack tops. These tops are too light and flat to be sorted out with other plastics. They are working to come up with a program to rinse and reuse them or collect them to be taken in bulk to Casella

♦ *Resolution*

Sr. Planner, Regina Sousa, presented the following resolution entitled, “Authorization to Accept Municipal Waste Reduction and recycling Program Grant Funding from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation”.

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve this resolution. Supervisor Wickham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

♦ *Budget*

Ms. Jordan talked about the 2024 AA8160 landfill budget. This budget met budget guidelines and is covered by the Casella lease payments.

Ms. Jordan reviewed the 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan Budget. This budget meets the 2024 budget guidelines. In the 2023 budget employee wages that were previously covered by the landfill lease payments were shifted to being County funded. This allowed for more funds to be placed in the solid waste reserves. The solid waste reserves are for programs that will assist with recycling, diversion, and disposal of waste post landfill closure in 2028. Ms. Jordan asked committee, if they would similar desire, to move the programs currently funded by lease payments to being County funded. This would continue to increase the solid waste reserves. Committee supported moving program funding to be County funded. Finance Director, Mary Gates, also noted that the monies from the lease payments that have been going to the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), roughly 1.4 million, will no longer be going to the CIP. They will be going directly into solid waste reserves. Staff will add an expense line to the budget to show this transfer to reserves.

Supervisor Wickham motioned to approve both budgets that Ms. Jordan presented as a block. Supervisor Vastola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

♦ *Department Update*

Economic Developer, Ryan Davis, provided the following updates:

- The department continues to focus on housing, infrastructure, and workforce development
- Staff has started to review housing incentives being used in other counties. Once the housing study is adopted, they will have recommendations for the OCEDC and OCIDA to consider for changes to their Uniform Tax-Exempt Policy
- They are continuing to work with Empire State Development on infrastructure funding opportunities

- They are working on establishing a partnership between FLCC and the County for workforce development
- They have submitted a FAST NY application to Empire State Development. This is for an expansion at the Akoustis Technologies site
- They are looking to reschedule the airport tour that was canceled due to rain
- The 2nd and final round of VISIT Ontario Safely funding has been sent out. This program has helped about 2 dozen business across the county with roughly 1.2 million in funding. It has also created about 60 jobs

TOURISM

◆ *Resolutions*

County Attorney, Holly Adams, presented the following resolution entitled, “Adopting Local Law No. 4 (Intro.) of 2023”.

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve this resolution.
Supervisor Wickham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Visitors Connection President, Valarie Knoblauch, presented the following resolution entitled, “Ontario County Four Seasons Local Development Corporation, d.b.a Finger Lakes Visitors Connections, Ontario County, NY - Designation Tourist Promotion Agency and Authorization New York State Tourism Grant Programs”.

Supervisor Namestnik motioned to approve this resolution.
Supervisor Vastola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

◆ *2023 Mid-Year Update*

Visitors Connection President, Valarie Knoblauch, presented a mid-year update on the Visitors Connection’s activities. She also reviewed what tourists spent in 2021 while in the County and how that impacts sales and occupancy tax revenues. They have just recently sent the 2022 tourism numbers to the State, but in 2021 Ontario County was number three in New York State’s tourism economic impact report. This includes employment, direct, and indirect impacts of tourist coming to our County.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

◆ *Resolutions*

Planning Director, Tom Harvey, presented the following resolution entitled, “Negative Declaration of the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the 2023-2024 NYS Snowmobile Grant Application”.

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve this resolution.
Supervisor Venuti seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Planning Director, Tom Harvey, presented the following resolution entitled, “Adoption of Bylaws for the Ontario County Agriculture Enhancement Board”.

Supervisor Wickham motioned to approve this resolution.
Supervisor Venuti seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sr. Planner, Thomas Lyon, presented the following resolution entitled, “Acceptance of Local Government Efficiency grant from the New York State Department of State”.

Supervisor Ventui motioned to approve this resolution.
Supervisor Vastola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

◆ *Informational*

Sr. Planner, Betsy Landre, let the committee know that per the new purchasing guidelines, the annual contract with Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council for water quality monitoring doesn’t need a Board resolution. This is the tenth year of the contract and it is paid out of FL-LOWPA (Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance) funding.

◆ *Budget*

Planning Director, Tom Harvey, presented the 2024 Planning Department budget and CIP budget. These budgets meet the 2024 budget guidelines. New items in the Planning Department budget are:

- Matching funds for a Unified Planning Work program project to create and adopt an official County map for County highways
- A project cost estimating consultant
- A Black Brook drainage study

Supervisor Lightfoote motioned to approve both budgets that Mr. Harvey presented as a block. Supervisor Wickham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

◆ *Resolution*

Deputy County Administrator, Alissa Bub, presented the following resolution entitled, “Funding Source for Tourism Promotion in Ontario County”.

Supervisor Venuti motioned to approve this resolution.
Supervisor Wickham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

◆ *Update*

Deputy County Administrator, Alissa Bub, provided the following updates:

- County Administrator DeBolt is with FEMA and NYS DHSES reviewing the July 9th flooding damage

- They are looking to see if the community would be granted individual assistance (IA) funding from FEMA. It is looking like the community won't meet the threshold to be eligible for those funds, but the municipalities will meet the public assistance (PA) funding threshold for the public infrastructure that was damaged
- Individuals will be able to apply to the Small Business Administration for low interest loans to help repair their homes
- The Flood Information Center is open at the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce and people are encouraged to speak with them
- The ARPA Community Arts, Cultural, and Recreation grant applications are being accepted through August 11th

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Venuti seconded by Supervisor Wickham, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristin A. Voss, Clerk to the Board

Approved