

**Economic Development Committee Meeting
Held In Room #318
Putnam County Office Building
Members: Chairman Birmingham & Legislators DiCarlo & Tamagna**

Tuesday

April 23, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Birmingham. Legislator DiCarlo led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Tamagna, DiCarlo, and Chairman Birmingham were present.

Item #3) Approval/Minutes from March 19, 2012

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4) Discussion/State Sales Tax on Clothing under \$110.00

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to accept the additional for this meeting. Seconded by Legislator Tamagna. All in favor.

Chairman Birmingham stated that the County Executive has sent us a memo dated April 3, 2012, requesting that we put this item on the Agenda.

County Executive Odell stated that very few Counties have opted into this program.

Chairman Birmingham went on to state that he feels we should use this as a fall back to discuss later on, if the special legislation doesn't go forward.

County Executive Odell suggested that we get some numbers on just what the impact would be.

Chairman Birmingham stated he agrees with County Executive Odell, but is not sure that we would be able to do that from a County perspective.

County Executive Odell stated it would be a good idea to track this.

Chairman Birmingham agreed.

Legislator Tamagna stated if we do not have Sales Tax as it is right now, the burden is going to fall on to the Property Taxpayer. Many people may come from outside of the County to shop, and we have the benefit of collecting those sales dollars as well. He cannot see or support making any shift. We need to develop a marketing plan to enable us to have people go to the cash registers. As we start to track this, and if it has an positive impact, then we may want to consider perhaps two "Sales Tax Free" times, which would be something that he would consider. He feels that we need to hold on to those dollars, as it certainly helps us in the long run keep Real Property taxes down.

Legislator Oliverio stated a lot of that sales tax comes from people out of our County. That is money being brought in which is subsidizing and supporting our residents in keeping their land and property taxes down. He would be totally against this New York State proposal. He is in favor of a tax free week, but anything other than that he would be uncomfortable with.

Legislator DiCarlo directed his comment to County Executive Odell stating that it is a great idea. If we are going to go ahead with the holiday at the end of August, we should notify the school districts and their PTA's at the end of this year to let them know.

County Executive Odell stated that they will definitely use any tools that they can if this is granted to us.

Item #5) Discussion/Scenic Hudson/Hike-Bike Trail State Route 9-D

Chairman Birmingham stated that County Executive Odell had sent a memo to the committee, along with a letter from Scenic Hudson. The letter lent itself to hoping in some way to make Route 9-D more bicycle friendly/Tourism/Economic Development Project.

County Executive Odell and Legislator Birmingham shared more dialogue regarding the Hike-Bike Trail, making suggestions to the Committee.

Legislator Tamagna made a suggestion that certain hours be designated for just bikers.

County Executive Odell stated she could certainly have a conversation with Supervisor Shea regarding that.

Item #6) Correspondence from County Executive Odell dated 3/19/12/Consideration of two Resolutions

6a) Approval/Resolution supporting the New Direction of Tourism Promotion in Putnam County

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution.

County Executive Odell stated that Ms. Pataki will be asking each of the Legislators for an appointment to discuss what their wants and needs may be pertaining to Tourism.

6b) Approval/Resolution to improve Notice of Local Contractors of Economic Opportunities

Chairman Birmingham added the final Resolve Clause as follows:

“Be it further resolved that this Resolution is merely a memorializing Resolution expressing the broad Policy & Goals of the County Legislature. Any specific programs or measures, and any cost associated in connection there with, must come before the County Legislator for approval.”

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to move the Resolution as amended. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

Director of Consumer Affairs, Ms. Jean Noel, addressed the Committee with information on contractor renewal procedures, which was duly noted.

Director of Purchasing, Alex Mazzotta also addressed the Committee regarding how to get the information out to the contractors in a more expansive manner, in order to make it easier for them to register etc.

Item #7) FYI/Foreclosure Report
Duly Noted.

Item #8) FYI/Unemployment Report
Duly Noted.

Item #9) Other Business
There was no other business to discuss.

Item #10) Adjournment
Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant