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

Members: Chairwoman Scuccimarra, Legislators Gross & Wright

Monday 5:30PM July 28, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairwoman Scuccimarra who asked Legislator Oliverio to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Gross, Wright and Chairwoman Scuccimarra were present.

## Item #3 – Approval of Minutes- June 23, 2014

Legislator Gross made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

# Item #4 – Putnam County Economic Development Corporation/President Meghan Taylor a. CFA Update

Economic Development Corporation ("EDC") President Meghan Taylor stated the submission for the Consolidated Funding Application ("CFA") deadline has past. She stated the State and the EDC Regional Council are now in the process of scoring the CFA Applications that were received. She stated in the Hudson Valley Region there were 111 CFA Priority Project Applications that were submitted. She stated there were 389 CFA Applications that were submitted throughout the State. She stated there were three (3) CFA Priority Projects that were submitted from Putnam County, which were the Butterfield Redevelopment Project, the Expansion of Green Chimney's, the Therapeutic Equestrian Center Sensory Trail. She stated the CFA Priority Project designation does not guarantee money, however it shows that these projects have been selected as a regionally significant project. She stated if the Hudson Valley Region scores above the other ten (10) Regional Councils, the Hudson Valley Region is rewarded more money.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra confirmed with President Taylor that the project has to fit a certain criteria to be awarded money.

President Taylor stated yes, the Priority Projects are interviewed and voted on. She stated the Priority Project has to be regionally significant, meaning the project has to create a substantial amount of jobs, substantial amount of capital investment, or be a PARC's project. She stated the CFA Priority Projects Award announcement is scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> and the CFA Award announcements will be in the Fall. She stated historically the CFA Announcements are made in the first week of December.

Legislator Gross questioned the status of the Butterfield Project. He stated he is aware that there have been several issues regarding the Planning Board and the Village of Coldspring Mayor.

President Taylor stated at a village level Butterfield Project has gone through the approval process. She stated environmental approvals still need to be completed. She stated there is an overall agreement on the site plan.

Legislator Gross questioned when it is anticipated to start building.

President Taylor stated the Butterfield Project cannot begin construction until the CFA Awards are announced.

Legislator Oliverio stated he will not support a lease for the Butterfield Project. He stated he will support a lease if there is an option to buy the property after the expiration of the lease. He stated having a lease is not a good option for the County because if the lease becomes too expensive, the County cannot just stop using the Butterfield Building and create challenges for the Seniors.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated she agreed with Legislator Oliverio and stated there are certain guarantees that need to be made.

President Taylor stated to clarify, the EDC was neutral in regards to leasing the property when assisting with the Butterfield Project CFA Application.

Legislator Gross stated the Legislature has not discussed the Butterfield Project. He stated there is a cost factor when looking into the future use of the Butterfield Project. He stated further discussion needs to take place in regards to this matter.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated the matter of the Butterfield Project will be discussed in the August Physical Services Committee Meeting. She stated there will be a presentation and a discussion about the finances.

Legislator LoBue stated the Butterfield Project is entitled to move forward in applying for a CFA Award regardless if the County decides to do business with them.

Legislator Wright stated he attended an update on the Butterfield Project and it his understanding the Butterfield Project is not underpinned for the County to commit to.

#### a. Project Update

President Taylor stated there are a few projects that the EDC and IDA have been collaborating on. She stated the EDC has signed confidentiality agreements for some projects and will go into detail when she is permitted to. She stated one (1) project is a non-profit organization that focuses on the rehabilitation industry. She stated the organization is looking for a 30,000 square feet building, which would be creating approximately 30 jobs in Putnam County. She stated the

EDC will introduce this client to the IDA. She stated this organization is moving along quickly and has identified a site. She stated this organization is moving from another county within the Hudson Valley Region for more space. She stated there are also two (2) manufacturing companies that are working with the EDC. She stated there is a construction services company, and a family recreation facility working with the EDC. She stated the recreation facility is working with the IDA to receive some benefits. She stated the recreation facility would create approximately ten (10) full-time jobs. She stated in regards to unemployment, in June 2014 Putnam County was at 4.6%, which is the fourth lowest in New York State. She stated Putnam County has the lowest unemployment rate in the Hudson Valley Region. She stated the EDC will be holding a recognition breakfast on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Fannizzi, Southeast Resident, questioned if the Revitalization Plan for the Village of Brewster was in the preliminary stage

President Taylor stated the Village of Brewster is in the process of updating their comprehensive plan. She stated the Village of Brewster is also holding public meetings and updating their zoning.

Ms. Fannizzi questioned the stage of the BOS Development, which was discussed last month.

President Taylor stated the land developer would like the building to become a medical facility. She stated the building is looking to be annexed from the Town of Southeast. She stated there has not been any marketing conducted because the owner wanted the annexation to be completed first.

# Item #5 – Approval/Designation/Putnam County Visitors Bureau Inc./Tourist Promotion Agency

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated this is something the Legislature conducts ever year.

Legislator Oliverio stated he would like to see the Visitors Bureau's 2014 financials at the next Economic Development Committee Meeting. He stated he is curious about the consultants that were hired for the Visitors Bureau.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that she will request the financials for the next meeting.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to approve the designation of the Putnam County Visitors Bureau Inc. /Tourist Promotion Agency; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

# Item # 6 – Approval/Putnam County Tourist Promotion Agency "I Love New York" Matching Funds Program

Legislator Gross made a motion to approve the Putnam County Tourist Promotion Agency "I Love New York" Matching Funds Program; Seconded by Legislator Wright. All in favor.

## **Item #7 – Putnam County Industrial Development Agency**

# a. Update on Annual Financial Reports

Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if all of the financial reports and other reports have been submitted.

IDA Chairman Richard Ruchala stated yes, all of the financial reports other reports have been submitted. He stated the IDA is no longer in violation. He stated the IDA is now in compliance with reporting requirement of the General Municipal Law 859 and is working closely with the EDC.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated there were four (4) reports that were listed as incomplete, the Audit Report, the Annual Report, the Procurement Report and the Investment Report.

CFO Wolfson provided the printout of the overview to show that the reports have been submitted. He stated the printout provided illustrates that each report has been certified.

## b. Project Update

IDA Chairman Ruchala stated President Taylor gave a very comprehensive update regarding the projects in Putnam County. He stated one (1) project that was not mentioned was MT Comprehensive. He stated the IDA is waiting for the Bond Counsel to approve of the bonds. He stated this project will be approximately a \$13 million deal. He stated this will provide funding for the IDA as well.

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

# Item #9 – Unemployment Report-FYI- Duly Noted

#### **Item # 10 – Other Business**

#### a. Update/Farm to Table

Putnam County Chambers of Commerce President Bill Nulk stated there is a push to create more businesses with farmers in Putnam County. He stated there is outreach to educate the young farmers in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra questioned if the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce ("Chambers") is working with the Keep Farming Program.

President Nulk stated the Chambers is working with the Keep Farming Program.

President Taylor stated there are a lot of organizations, such as Cornell Cooperative Extension that are involved with the outreach to the farmers in Putnam County.

Chairwoman Scuccimarra stated that this is a great initiative because New York State is losing farms at an alarming rate.

President Nulk stated the Chambers is trying to encourage farming as a business.

# Item # 11 – Adjournment

There being no further business at 5:50P.M. Chairwoman Scuccimarra made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.