

REGULAR MEETING

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APRIL 12, 2017

The regular meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the Supervisors' Room of the Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building, 111 Main Street, Delhi, New York, Chairman Tina B. Molé presiding.

The Clerk called the roll and all Supervisors were present.

Mr. Marshfield offered the invocation.

Mr. Taggart led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

The Clerk noted that all communications received have been referred to their respective committees for review.

Chairman Molé granted privilege of the floor to Mr. Triolo who introduced Director of Economic Development Glenn Nealis to discuss the disbursement of occupancy tax funds.

Mr. Nealis gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Tourism Advisory Board's (TAB) proposal to the Board of Supervisors for the disbursement of occupancy tax funds received in 2016.

The occupancy tax was created to provide a dedicated funding stream to support the promotion and development of the tourism industry. The law stipulates that funds be allocated upon the recommendation of the TAB with the approval of the Board of Supervisors. The TAB is a seven-member group consisting of two Supervisors, Mr. Merrill and Mr. Triolo, four industry representatives, Liz Callahan, Leland Ploutz, Teresa Allen and Robert Nash and the Director of Economic Development.

The TAB is proposing that the \$77,098 of net occupancy tax funds raised in 2016 be allocated equally across two programs; Tourism Promotion & Development Grants and Tourism Promotion Agency Grants. Tourism Promotion & Development Grants will provide funding assistance of up to \$5,000 for local tourism marketing initiatives, and up to \$1,000 to support community celebrations. Applications will be accepted from municipalities and certain non-profit entities. Projects must seek to attract new, non-county visitors.

The Tourism Promotion Agency Grants will provide funding assistance to initiatives proposed by the Tourism Promotion Agency for Delaware County that are in the furtherance of their mission to grow the economy and create jobs by dramatically increasing visitors, visitor frequency, and visitor spending in Delaware County. Applications for funding assistance will be accepted for specific program activities that are separate and distinct from the agency's operating budget.

Mr. Nealis explained the next step is to solicit proposals, review and make funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Molé thanked Mr. Nealis for an informative update.

Chairman Molé granted privilege of the floor to Mr. Triolo. Mr. Triolo stated that the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) has played an important role in supporting agriculture and forestry in the watershed regions. He introduced WAC Executive Director Craig J. Cashman and WAC Chairman Sally Fairbairn.

Mrs. Fairbairn introduced farmers in attendance and explained that farmers wanting to keep both the regional landscape and their way of life founded WAC in 1993 in response to New York City watershed regulations imposed upon the upstate watershed communities. Today WAC's focus is on four significant programs, a Forestry Program, a Conservation Easement Program, Outreach and Economic Viability programs and the Pure Catskills' Buy-Local campaign.

Mr. Cashman referenced the informational packet placed on each Supervisor's desk and shared WAC's mission "to promote the economic viability of agriculture and forestry, the protection of water quality, and the conservation of working landscapes through strong local leadership and sustainable public-private partnerships." He pointed out that the packet details specific Delaware County statistics in addition to the Catskill/Delaware Watershed as a whole. He noted that since its inception WAC program dollars spent in agricultural, easement, forestry and economic viability programs in Delaware County totals \$105,279,752.56.

Mr. Cashman introduced Economic Viability Program Manager Kristan Morley, Acquisitions Coordinator for the Conservation Easement Program Josh Gorman, Forestry Manager Tom Pavlesich and Program Operations Coordinator Brian LaTourette and asked the representatives to speak to their area of expertise.

Ms. Morley shared that 50,000 *Pure Catskills* guides are printed and distributed annually. The guide along with other funding and local events support the buy-local campaign and represent farm- and forest-based businesses, lodging, restaurants, local artisans and other non-profit organizations. There are over 270 farm and forest members, 108 of whom reside in the County. She noted that two new programs will be offered this year a business planning and farm transfer planning assistance program and a micro/matching grants program.

Mr. Gorman said that working landscape easements allow for farming, timber harvesting, bluestone mining, stream work and new rural enterprises. He pointed out that the easement land remains on the tax roll and there are over 180 families in the County with WAC Conservation Easements.

Mr. Pavlesich pointed out that the Forest Management Planning Program has provided more than \$630,000 to help 600 landowners conserve more than 70,000 acres of forestland in the County. The Best Management Practices (BMP) Implementation Program has paid loggers in the County over \$880,000 to stabilize 280 miles of logging road on more than 300 logging jobs.

Mr. LaTourette spoke about the Agricultural Program saying that 237 County farms participate in the Agricultural Program. Since 1992, \$72,001,806.61 has been spent in the County on agricultural programs. WAC works with watershed landowners along with collaborating agencies to protect clean water by the implementation of BMP through Whole Farm Planning (WFP). WFP is a holistic approach to farm management and used to identify and prioritize environmental issues. He noted that an invitation to attend the WAC 2017 AG Tour on Tuesday, May 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. is included in the informational packet.

Chairman Molé thanked Mr. Triolo for inviting WAC and thanked all for an informative and long overdue presentation.

For standing committee reports Chairman of the Social Services Committee Wayne Marshfield invited Supervisors to attend the official Delaware County Purple Heart sign unveiling at the American Legion Utsayantha Post 1379 in Stamford at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5. He added that the public is also encouraged to attend.

For standing committee reports Chairman of the Public Works Committee Sam Rowe provided the Supervisors with a draft resolution seeking the Board's support in seeing that the Public Works Highway Facility is a critical facility that would not be located or constructed within any 500-year flood zone.

He noted that since the March 22 presentation the Public Works Committee has amended the search criteria to include locations outside of Delhi. Using the extended search area, four possible locations became available two in Hamden, one in Kortright and one in Stamford. Once these sites are vetted, the Committee will request privilege of the floor to update the Board.

Mr. Davis pointed out that critical facility status is not an issue since the County and Towns have listed their highway departments on their critical facility list in their All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. With the critical facility status, the County will have opportunity to apply for grant funding.

Mr. Rowe said that siting the highway facility at the Solid Waste Management Center in Walton has been ruled out as the Committee is in complete agreement that taking land from the landfill would jeopardize its footprint and hinder future growth. In addition, the site located toward NYS Route 10 is not large enough for the proposed facility.

On another matter, Mr. Rowe advised that the first evidence of the Emerald Ash Borer has been found on County Route 3 in the Town of Middletown. He noted that a survey initiated by Commissioner of Public Works Wayne Reynolds indicates that there are approximately 4,000 ash trees in the County's right-of-ways. A meeting has been set up with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to discuss the best way to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer.

Mr. Hynes offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 68

**TITLE: 2017 BUDGET AMENDMENT
TRANSFER OF FUNDS
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Acting Planning Director has requested and the Planning, Recreation, Culture and Community Committee in conjunction with the Finance Committee and Budget Officer, have agreed that additional funding of appropriations is needed at this time to purchase a server for the Geographic Information System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 Budget be amended as follows:

FROM:

RESOLUTION NO. 71

**TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CLOSEOUT OF THE
2014 DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAM
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL GRANT
ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Delaware County was awarded a Microenterprise grant program through the Office of Community Renewal in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County made the grant funding through this program available to agriculturally based businesses in Delaware County; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding received under the Community Development Block Grant Program has been fully disbursed; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Office of Community Renewal requires that the governing body of the recipient provides opportunities for community engagement and feedback through the hosting of a public hearing to obtain citizen's views.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing on this matter shall be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 12:45 p.m.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Ellis and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Merrill offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 72

TITLE: PAYMENT OF AUDIT

WHEREAS, bills and claims submitted and duly audited by the Clerk of the Board's office in the amount of \$1,080,349.74 are hereby presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of payment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Treasurer be directed to pay said expenditures as listed below:

General Fund	\$784,896.20
OET	\$14,287.17
Public Safety Comm System	\$18,123.50
Highway Audits, as Follows:	
Weights and Measures	16.16
Landfill	\$39,478.05
Road	\$44,220.90
Machinery	\$93,354.57
Capital Road & Bridge	\$83,506.49
Capital Solid Waste	\$2,466.50

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Spaccaforno and adopted by the following vote:
Ayes 4799, Noes 0, Absent 0.

Mr. Marshfield offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 73

TITLE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware County Board of Supervisors convene in executive session to discuss the proposed acquisition of real property, as publicity would substantially affect the value of the property.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Spaccaforno and Mr. Davis and unanimously adopted.

The meeting reconvened in regular session with all Supervisors present.

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.