

Economic Development / Strategic Planning Committee
Meeting of September 16, 2009

Members Present: Mark Bellardini, Committee Chairman Sam Burns, Jason Clark (arrived at 7:15 PM), Wade Davis, Kim DesChamp, Brad Mintener.

Others Present: Natalie Sweatland

Meeting called to order by Chairman Burns at 6:15 PM.

- **Chairman Burns** shared information provided by County Treasurer Robert McNeil. The County's 2009 retirement costs are \$2.9MM. The County's retirement costs for 2010 are projected to be \$4.9MM, an increase of \$2MM.

- **Tribal-State Compact: Funds Application (draft) document**

Attendees reviewed the most recent (2009-0915) draft of the Tribal-State Compact: Funds Application document, especially the sections regarding the evaluation of the projects and entity reporting requirements. Requested changes have been incorporated into the draft document. Motion by Mintener/second by DesChamp and Davis, to approve the document as drafted for submission to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators. No further discussion. Approved unanimously. Mrs. Sweatland will incorporate the Committee's changes and will forward the document to the ED Committee.

- **Tribal-State Compact: Resolution (draft) for Approval by Legislature**

The Committee discussed the draft resolution and suggested two additions before approval. Motion by Bellardini/Second by Davis to approve the resolution as drafted, for submission to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators. Approved unanimously.

- **Tribal-State Compact: Allocation Request to State**

Chairman Burns distributed to the attendees copies of the most recent revenue plan request forwarded to ESD. The \$518,671 request and the plans for the remainder of the \$1,262,507 allocation were discussed by the Committee.

Committee members then discussed the County's current financial condition, and wished to make clear to the Legislature their desire to ensure that the Tribal-State Compact funds would be used in the true spirit for which they were intended. As a result of this discussion, the Chairman heard a motion by Mintener/seconded by Bellardini to amend the previously-approved resolution with wording that clearly reflects the Committee's wishes. After significant discussion, the first paragraph

is amended to read “*Whereas, it is the intention of the St. Lawrence County Legislature to create an Economic Development Fund to receive the resources made available through the Tribal-State Compact, and provide direction for the commitment of these funds ~~for economic development~~ only for job creation opportunities.*” The resolution, as amended, is approved unanimously.

Mr. Burns urged quick processing of both the document and the resolution to ensure readiness for the necessary future approval by the Legislature.

- **Northern Corridor Transportation Working Group**

Mr. Clark reports that the Working Group discussed the need to solicit member items, and requests that this Committee support the Working Group’s efforts. The Working Group will be requesting that Senator Griffo redirect a previously-approved appropriation (\$20,000 for the [now-defunct] North Country Jr Hockey Association) to the Working Group. The Working Group will ask all representatives for a minimum of \$20,000 to help offset hard costs associated with this effort. Mr. Clark volunteers to draft correspondence supporting the Working Group’s effort, for signature by Chairman Burns. Motion by Clark/second by Bellardini to approve the Working Group’s request. Approved unanimously.

- **Economic Development and Community Planning Visioning Summit**

Ms. DesChamp reports: The three-day (September 24-26, 2009, Ogdensburg) summit will focus on housing and economic development, and will provide the public and stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the visioning of Ogdensburg.

The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28. Representatives from the agricultural community will be invited.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.