

*St. Lawrence County*  
**BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
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***Economic Development/ Strategic Planning Committee***

*Hon. Sam Burns, District 1*  
*Chair (cell 323-7496)*

***May 27, 2009***  
***Minutes of Meeting***

Members present: G. Hart; J. Clark; K. Deschamp; T. Richards; D. Peck; M. Bellardini; R. Frank; E. Labaff; C. Coffin; D. Girard; Chair Burns.

Others in attendance: L. Rodriguez, R. Fountain; L. Bomyea; M. Mortimer; R. McDougal; R. Orton; B. Hammond.

Chair Burns opened the meeting at 6:07 P.M. and asked each in attendance to introduce themselves. Mike Mortimer from Sen. Aubertine's office arrived and made an attempt to connect the projector with the computer. In the meantime, Agenda Item # 4 (Update on 4-lane highway) was discussed.

Jason Clark gave an update on the number of resolutions that the Northern Corridor Transportation Group has received to date- (80). Several resolutions have been coming in from Clinton and Jefferson counties. Jason informed the group that he has been in contact with Sen. Gillibrand to try and free up the funds for the environmental impact study. Mark Bellardini asked if there was any confusion on the part of some regarding the limited access nature of the proposed highway and the exact location. A short discussion was held regarding the proposed location not being just an upgrade to U.S. Route 11.

Mike Mortimer from Sen. Aubertine's office gave a handout to all in attendance on the Upstate Regional Blueprint Fund. After a 15 minute presentation, Mike took questions. Ray Fountain questioned the complexity of the forms needed for the grants and explained that if the forms were easier to complete than maybe more companies would apply. Kim DesChamp also explained that while the forms are difficult she has completed one and asked Mike about the possibility of submitting another one from the same community. Mike answered that there were no restrictions on where or how many requests are submitted from any community.

Agenda Item # 2- Leigh Rodriguez gave detail on what her job with the Office of Economic Development consists of since she came to work for the county. She told the group that due to the downturn issues in the Massena area she has spent a great deal of

time working on that area. She has reached out to over 200 companies and all parts of the county with all ranges of employees. Laura Bomyea from the newspaper asked if Leigh felt that companies in the county were aware that she was available? Greg Hart commented how much he liked the fact that Leigh was out there working and making contact.

Agenda Item # 3-Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy- Ray Fountain handed out the 2009 updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Chair Burns asked for any comments by each committee member to be sent to him. The intent is for the plan to be presented to the Board of Legislators Operations Committee on June 8<sup>th</sup>. (Chair's note-committee member Tim Richards submitted comments that will be sent on.)

Agenda Item # 5-Tribal Compact Funds- After discussion by committee members on restoring the items that were originally recommended to the full BOL; member Don Peck moved, seconded by Dan Girard and Mark Bellardini a motion to amend the proposal to redistribute the \$265,329 to the Phase II section of the Gouverneur Industrial Park. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item # 6- Update on Empire Zones- committee member Kim DesChamp talked about the new regulations the State has put in place and how these affect the two zones in St. Lawrence County. Committee members asked if Curran's project in Massena ever received approval? A resolution was introduced by Mark Bellardini and seconded by Ron Frank to oppose the State's reorganization of the Office of Empire State Development and the adverse effect it will have on the North Country. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6P.M. in the Board room. Chair Burns asked the group if they wanted to invite firms that were considering using alternative fuel sources? The decision was made to invite Newton Falls Paper, Alliance Energy and Curran's.

Chair Burns adjourned the meeting at 8:35 P.M.