

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

The annual meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on September 15, 2016 at Alfred State College, Wellsville Campus. There was a tour of the Zero Energy Home.

Board Members

Kier Dirlam, Vice Chairman
Craig Clark
Debra Root
Jerry Scott
Robert Keis, Chairman
Chuck Couture
Jay Gould, Secretary
Vince Horrigan
Kevin Sanvidge

Representing

Allegany County
Allegany County
Allegany County
Allegany County
Cattaraugus County
Cattaraugus County
Chautauqua County
Chautauqua County
Chautauqua County

Others Attending

Jill Koski
Michelle Denhoff
Richard Zink
Sarah Phearsdorf
Kimberly LaMendola
Susan Avery
Halley Kottwitz

Representing

Congressman Reed's Office
Allegany County
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

Chairman Keis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Annual Meeting Business

1. Election of Officers

Chairman of the Nominating Committee Chuck Couture reported that the Committee recommended the new officers as follows: Chairman, Robert Keis, Cattaraugus County; Vice Chairman, Kier Dirlam, Allegany County; and Secretary, Jay Gould, Chautauqua County. Jerry Scott moved to accept the new officers, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Audit

Ed Bysiek of Bysiek CPA presented the FY2015/16 audit report to the Board. Jay Gould made a motion to accept and approve the 2015/16 Audit, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report

Richard Zink highlighted STW's 2015/16 Annual Report. Kier Dirlam made a motion to accept the Annual Report, Vince Horrigan seconded the motion and it carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Jerrys Scott made a motion to accept the July 21, 2016 minutes as distributed. Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

The Town of Ashford created a water district inside the hamlet of West Valley. Letter from Richard Bernstein, Councilman, Town of Ashford to Richard Zink, asking for STW assistance with creating an emergency fund to help residents who are unable to afford to replace their services lines at a moment's notice.

A Committee was formed: Richard Zink, Main Contact from STW; Jerry Scott from Allegany County; Joe Galati from Chautauqua County; and Chuck Couture from Cattaraugus County to discuss this issue and come up with more criteria and guidelines for this service, which will be brought before the Board at the October Board meeting.

Project Review Report

Kier Dirlam moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report, Jerry Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

1. National Comedy Center Funding

The National Comedy Center (NCC) was provided a Non-Binding Commitment (NBC) letter from the Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$1,642,000 under their Public Works Program.

2. State Archives Records Administration Grant

The NYS Education Department informed STW that their grant submitted for LGRMIF Funding 2015/16 was funded in the amount of \$62,768. The total number of images being scanned in this project is 182,386. Municipalities participating in the grant include the Towns of Alfred, Allen, Caneadea, Cuba, Ellery, Ellicott, Ellington, Franklinville, Mansfield, Mina, Perrysburg, Wellsville, Yorkshire, and the Villages of Brocton, Celoron, and Ellicottville. Staff has been assisting with records preparation for scanning.

3. Congress Grapples with Spending Deal to Avoid Government Shutdown

Congress returned from a seven-week recess this week. The House and Senate are only scheduled to be in session for a month before recess again and with the current fiscal year ending September 30th, action will need to be taken soon on a Continuing Resolution to keep federal programs operational and avoid a government shutdown. This week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell floated a measure to extend current funding levels until December 9th followed by a FY2017 omnibus spending package negotiated before the end of the calendar year. House Republicans are divided on a strategy with some advocating for a continuing resolution that maintains current spending and polity into 2017 rather than a deal during a lame-duck session after Election Day.

4. New York State Agricultural Working Group (NYSAWG)

Staff received all the paperwork and tax information and has started determining the next steps in utilizing this not-for-profit in our efforts to best serve our regions farmers and entities looking to support local food.

5. CEDS Approval

The 2016 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (“2016 CEDS”) is a strategic plan for economic development for New York State’s Southern Tier West Region, prepared and published by Southern Tier West.

The CEDS provides the framework by which economic development projects in the Southern Tier West region qualify for grant funding from EDA. The CEDS is developed by the Southern Tier West CEDS Strategy Committee, which is comprised of a broad range of public sector, regional economic development, business, civic, education and workforce development professionals.

The purpose of the CEDS is to create an economic environment that fosters job creation, a more diversified economy, and improves the quality of life for the residents of the three county Southern Tier West region. The CEDS provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of local governments, private industry, organizations and individuals concerned with economic development.

Southern Tier West annually prepares the CEDS per a contract with EDA. EDA recently has changed its requirements for the CEDS planning process, document format, and document content. This CEDS conforms to these revised requirements with respect to planning process, document format, and document content.

A motion was made by Vince Horrigan to formally approve the 2016 CEDS Document to be submitted to EDA as required; with the following amendment: remove the “Comedy Center Project” and make the “Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Project” the number one project for Chautauqua County. Jay Gould seconded the motion and it carried.

Southern Tier West Program Report

Executive Director Richard Zink reported on the following STW programs: Local Government, Local Foods, Broadband, ARC Process, NYSERDA – Clean Energy Communities, STEDO, Baseline, and the 4th Annual Stormwater Conference.

Committee Reports

Southern Tier Extension Rail Authority Committee

Richard Zink reported that the Rail Committee will meet on October 3, 2016.

Public Comment

Vince Horrigan reported that Chautauqua County was in appreciation of STW’s assistance in getting the Comedy Center Grant funded.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Audit Abstract

Jerry Scott made a motion to approve the July/August 2016 Audit Abstract, Deb Root seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Southern Tier West Board of Directors will be held on October 20, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the STW Offices in Salamanca, NY.

Adjournment

Jay Gould made a motion to adjourn, Chuck Couture seconded the motion and it carried.

Sjp