

Economic Development Committee (EDC)
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Committee Members Present: Martin Donnelly; James Eisel; Tina Mole; Richard Parete; Michael Triolo; Michael Meyer; Thomas Snow, Jr; Alan Rosa

Committee Member(s) or Staff Absent: Ursula Basch

Committee Member(s) Calling In:

Staff Present: Barbara Puglisi; Timothy Cox; Jason Merwin; Lynn Kavanagh

Guest(s) Present:

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes from the EDC meeting of November 7, 2017 were moved and passed without comment; *all in favor.*

NEW BUSINESS

Loan Update

Barbara presented an update of loan activity, which showed the following:

CFF Loan Activity through 12/20/17 staff indicated there is \$5,969,834 committed so far of the \$10,000,000 budget for 2017. There are currently no loans in process.

Regarding the Hospital Health-Care Fund, staff indicated a current balance of \$4,518,842 from our original balance of \$5,000,000, with no loans in process.

The Municipal Sewer Flood Business Retention Program, has \$151,373 committed with a balance of \$98,627 left in the budget.

Barbara informed the committee that she would like to eliminate the reporting of the Hospital Health-Care Fund in the future pursuant to the rule change that occurred last month and the Municipal Sewer Flood Business Retention Program, since we receive one payment annually, and it is being reported monthly. She added that the committee would only hear reports on these loans if there were payment issues.

Barbara presented a chart showing CWC's collateral position of defaulted and delinquent loans as of 12/20/17. The total Default and Delinquent rate is currently 11% and is separated into two categories to show the difference between the two. The Default Risk Rate is at 6% and the Delinquent Risk Rate is 5%.

Barbara presented a chart showing a breakdown of CWC Loans that have been “written-off” as of 12/20/17. The total dollar amount of the write-offs is \$2,468,294.79. The chart showed that 59.80% of the total amount written off were loans located in Delaware County. Additionally, 35.31% of the write offs occurred in Ulster County and the remaining 4.89% were located in Sullivan County. There have been no write offs in Greene or Schoharie County.

Barbara presented an updated CFF County Fund Allocation chart showing where and how the CFF has been spent. The chart included how much each county has left to spend. She indicated that Ulster County has about 3,300,000.00 in the county allocation. She made the committee aware that there was a discrepancy between Jim’s numbers and hers, but that they worked together and found the discrepancy and have since corrected it.

Collections Counsel

Barbara indicated that there is a resolution going to the board for approval for CFF’s collections council. She stated that CWC has had a contract with them since 2008, and that the fee goes up ten (10) dollars a year. She made the committee aware that it’s less than a 3% raise. The current contract is for \$75,000.00 a year and that only about \$30,000.00 has been spent in 2017. Martin asked if any others firms have been solicited, Tim stated that no other firms have been solicited. Tim suggested we could solicit other firms in 2019, the committee thought that it would be a good idea.

Innes Kassinof made a motion to pass, Jim Eisel seconded the motion. All in Favor.

DEP Recreational Boating

Barbara presented the budget for the recreational boating program, she stated that the budget is \$30,000.00 and that she felt comfortable leaving the budget at that amount. She let the committee know that DEP plans on changing their recreation rules which would extend the boating season from May 1st to November 1st and that the new rules must go through the public hearing process and should be approved by March. She stated that the extended season would cause additional cost on the port-a-lets since they charge by the day. Additionally, there is a need for another steam cleaning vendor for the Pepacton Reservoir, as the one vendor in Arkville often times is not available or his equipment is down, this vendor has been sending boaters to Andes to get access permits and/or have their boats steam cleaned. Staff has had conversations with Becky Manning, Director of the Catskill Recreation Center, located on the crossroads in Arkville, next to the CWC building site. Becky has expressed interest in offering this service as a steam cleaning vendor. The business is open 7 days a week and adequately staffed. They have computers and will be available to assist visitors with DEP assess permits. Staff asked Becky to get estimates for a washing pad and steam cleaner. Innes asked if adding this vendor is included in the budget, Barbara stated yes, it is under miscellaneous. Innes then asked if CWC would be providing the equipment, Barbara said yes we would be and that there would be a contract stating that they had to provide this service for three years, as we did in the past. The committee asked if a motion needed to be passed, Alan stated no motion needed to be made as it is already in the main budget. Alan stated that some more boat racks may need to be purchased.

Barbara provided the committee with the end of year report she provides to the DEP, and let committee know that staff had a meeting on November 15th with the DEP and the boating vendors. The DEP

informed the group of the new recreational rules that are in the process of being passed. It was mentioned that trolling motors were not included in the rules, which most likely would terminate that program. She stated that they the DEP would like to do away with this pilot program due to the fact that there is no easy way to track if motors are being moved into different bodies of water. Barbara indicated that there were 130 trolling passes issued for the 2017 season. Barbara stated that the vendors from the Cannonsville Reservoir were upset by this information. Several suggestions were made, including continuing the trolling motors on the Cannonsville only and eliminating the 3 day,7 day and seasonal pass for trolling motors, requiring that the trolling motors be cleaned daily and issued a one day pass only. A discussion ensued. Alan stated that the sporting advisory committee didn't seem to think the trolling motor program should continue. Barbara reminded the committee that the rules have not yet been passed that they have to go through a public comment period and that once they are out for comment she would share that information with them.

Other Business

NYS DEC Grant - Wayfinding Signage/ Catskill Park Stewardship

Barbara indicated that she just issued two (2) payment requests to the DEC. The Wayfinding Signage reimbursement request is \$9,273.38 and the Catskill Park Stewardship Grant request is \$131,776.1. With regard to the Catskill Park Stewardship grant, the funds were used for to pay Tahawus Trails for their work on the Shandaken/Belleayre mountain bike and ski trail system, Alta Planning for the Comprehensive Recreational Plan for the Greater Catskill Region, and materials for the Overlook Parking Lot. There is a meeting scheduled on January 18, 2018 at 7 pm at Belleayre for public comment on the Shandaken Wild Forest/Belleayre Mountain Plan. Alta Planning is continuing to review existing plans and collect GIS mapping data with regard to the Comprehensive Recreation Plan for the Greater Catskill Region. The Overlook Mountain Parking Lot is complete, and ready for use. In the Spring the DEC will plant some greenery and have the grand opening. Alan asked if Peter Manning had things moving forward, Barbara said she has not spoken to Peter but she thinks things are moving forward. She stated she had to contact Dylan Walrath about an extension because the cut-off date is June 18th. She indicated she is also waiting on specs from DEC, about the projects they want completed. Barbara let the committee know that there is a public meeting on January 18th at Belleayre about the mountain bike and ski trail system.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.