

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**KENNEDY, OBERACKER, MARIETTA, FARWELL, SHANNON**  
**April 9, 2019**

Absent: Representative Oberacker

**OTSEGO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- BARBARA ANN HEEGAN**

Barbara Ann Heegan gave updates on the 2018 Start Up Smart Otsego Small Business Training Series including but not limited to the following:

- the series is designed to provide cost-effective programs that help entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow
- both Chamber members and the public can attend
- this year the series targeted start up businesses and existing businesses that struggled to make ends meet
- the series was held from October-December
- Topics included: business planning, finance options, strategic planning, marketing, legal issues, MWBE certification process, digital communications
- 10 businesses were assisted in their process to become MWBE certified
- 50 entrepreneurs accessed this training
- 120 small businesses were referred to the online Business Resource center that helps provide information on regulatory processes and permitting
- training sessions were kept complimentary this year for attendees to remove any cost barriers and provide a comfortable learning environment
- how the series was marketed: weekly electronic newsletter, quarterly print newsletter, social media channels, email, radio and newspaper print advertising, media releases
- since starting this program 5 years ago, the Chamber has assisted 325 small businesses

Representative Shannon asked about specific training for farmers. The committee discussed CADE and Cornell being good resources as well as the Farm Bureau.

Representative Kennedy stated that it made it more accessible by having the training sessions be complimentary.

Barbara Ann Heegan distributed and discussed the 2018 Otsego County Chamber Business Seminars budget.

Barbara Ann Heegan discussed the allocation from the County for 2019 and what the funds will be used for including but not limited to:

- Healthy Otsego- employee wellness program
- host an Otsego County Health and Wellness Week to focus on healthy work places in the fall
- prepare and distribute a list of healthy dining options- work with area restaurants to give a list of examples of some of their healthy food choices
- coordinate community supported Agriculture and Farmers Markets- encourage bulk buying to employees, give \$5 certificates to use at local farmers markets
- offer wellness training courses: yoga, walking, biking, mental health
- substance use disorder support groups, offer training to employers to become a workplace recovery friendly environment
- advance how businesses can be recovery friendly and hire people in recovery- this is special and important as there is a stigma
- \$3000 of the \$7000 from the County will go toward this initiative

Representative Farwell suggested that the restrictions on the farmer's market vouchers be the same as the WIC vouchers.

Representative Farwell moved to release the \$7000 as budgeted in the 2019 budget to the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce for the programming as discussed. Seconded, Marietta. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Barbara Ann Heegan distributed a flyer on an Eye Opener Networking Breakfast to be held at the Richfield Springs Community Food Cooperative 140 Main Street, Richfield Springs, NY on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

## **PLANNING - KAREN SULLIVAN/TAMMIE HARRIS**

Karen Sullivan requested approval to accept the low bid from Delaware Engineering and establish a contract for the Highway 28 Corridor Study- RFP# 19-OTS-001 at a cost of \$50,000. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Shannon. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan gave an update on the timeline for this noting that the Resolution will be presented in May, contract will be signed, then a working committee will be established.

Karen Sullivan and Tammie Harris discussed renewing the intermunicipal agreement with the City of Oneonta for Rt. 28 Corridor Public Transportation that ends in June 2019. Karen Sullivan and Tammie Harris discussed the following including but not limited to: changing the maintenance part of the agreement, it is a 5 year contract- 1/1/19-12/31/24, the City supplies the driver, logistics,

dispatch and fares, the County purchases the buses and pays for the maintenance, it is a 55/45 cost sharing (County-55, City-45), it is State and Federal funded- there is no county tax dollars used. Representative Shannon moved for approval to renew the inter-municipal agreement with the City of Oneonta for Rt. 28 corridor public transportation route. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Tammie Harris requested approval to purchase two (2) 35 passenger buses off of State Contract OGS Lot M for a total cost not to exceed \$757,340 with 80% Federal funding and 20% State funding. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Shannon. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval for a 19R Agreement between the County and Leatherstocking Trolley for STOA Funding. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Shannon. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Representative Farwell gave an update on the Energy RFP, noting the draft is done; they are fine tuning it, and looking at other potential funding sources.

Karen Sullivan discussed the 2019 Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD) 2019 dues noting that around budget time this comes up for discussion on whether or not to continue the membership. Karen Sullivan stated that discussions need to continue before deciding for the 2020 budget.

Representative Farwell requested that Steve Smith from MVEDD come to the May IGA Meeting.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to pay the 2019 MVEDD membership dues at a cost of \$5,000 as budgeted. Representative Shannon moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to drive the Planning Department's County vehicle to Oneonta for the purpose of a car inspection. Representative Kennedy asked for Karen Sullivan to confirm that Enterprise does not use Kevin's Royal Ford here in Cooperstown first. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Shannon. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan stated that there will be a meeting on the Healthcare Consortium Thursday, 4/11/19 at the County Office Building at 1:00 p.m.

Karen Sullivan discussed seeing what County Reps want to participate in the I-88 Corridor Study. Karen Sullivan stated she will send an email to all the Board Reps to see who may be interested.

Eve Bouboulis entered the meeting.

Karen Sullivan discussed there being ESD- Main Street Grant program funds remaining in the amount of \$54,604. Karen Sullivan stated that she spoke with the State and they said the money can be used for any purpose that the County decides.

Eve Bouboulis discussed that the homeless numbers are rising each year, more space will be needed over time, and housing is a problem nationwide. Eve Bouboulis stated that the Tiny Homes Community Center could be used for a Code Blue warming center, house the geo-thermal heating unit, have a kitchen area, and be a place to hold workshops.

Karen Sullivan and Eve Bouboulis requested that a portion of the \$54,000 Main Street Program be allocated to the Tiny Homes Community Center to afford the baseline construction, plumbing, and electrical work. Karen Sullivan and Eve Bouboulis presented 3 different options for the committee to consider, with allocation amounts of \$20,000, \$29,000 or \$41,000. After discussions, Representative Marietta moved for approval to allocate \$20,000 out of the ESD money to the Tiny Homes Community Center project. Seconded, Shannon. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Representative Marietta stated that the rest of the ESD money could be earmarked to fund the County Administrator position.

Eve Bouboulis left the meeting.

Karen Sullivan stated there will be a Public Hearing held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. in Milford to advertise the next round of CFA funding.

Karen Sullivan requested approval to move forward with putting in an application for the next round of CFA funding. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Shannon. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan stated that the Planning Department has an intern that has done a lot of detailed work on updating the housing document and asked that he present at the May Board Meeting.

Representative Marietta discussed Bassett Medical Center conducting a survey on housing; they had around 900 respondents, with individuals stating they would move to this area if there was housing available.

Karen Sullivan requested an executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation.

Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 1,859; Absent: 534-Oberacker. Motion carried.

The committee reconvened.

Representative Kennedy stated that the committee reviewed the documents regarding the Polar Scoops agreement and decided they will not be changing the repayment agreement.

The committee, Karen Sullivan, and Jody Zakrevsky discussed economic development in the County including but not limited to:

- Planning Department does a lot with economic development now, used to focus just on housing grant programs
- Grant money has to go through the County
- What direction is Economic Development going in this County?
- Discussion on OCDC (Otsego County Development Corporation), CRC (Capital Resource Corporation), IDA (Industrial Development Agency), REDC (Regional Economic Development Corporation), Mohawk Valley Edge and the different focuses they have
- Jody Zakrevsky stated that he wants Otsego Now to be the economic development center for the County- they are a one stop shop now with CADE, Southern Tier East, Small Business Development Center, and the Chamber under one roof
- CDBG and Empire State Development are two funding sources for IDA
- Lack of affordable housing is a big issue

Jody Zakrevsky stated that the Broome County IDA does advertisements everyday focusing on a different business and jobs that are available, noting that we need to do a better job in Otsego County getting people to know there are jobs here.

The committee discussed the contract with Destination Marketing and the possibility of moving it to 5 years and keeping the same process of approval of such contract, contingent on the 2020 budget.

Representative Kennedy stated that Representative Lapin has requested that the OCCA Intern come to the next meeting on 4/23 to present.

Representative Kennedy stated that Carl Gustafson from Montgomery County will also be coming to the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned until Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building.