

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 13, 2007

6:00 p.m.

Conf. Rm. E, 4th Floor, Legislative Office Building, Oswego, NY

1. Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Legs. D. Chalifoux, Chairman, J. Proud, V. Chair, J. Beckwith, C. Brewer, P. Natoli,
F. Beardsley

EXCUSED: Leg. P. Vasho

GUESTS: Michael Treadwell, John DeHollander, Margaret Weigelt, Steven Share, Kathy Kintz,
David Bottar, Paul Forestiere, Rod Abbott, Leg. Leonard Ponzi, and Leg. Barbara Brown

STAFF: Phil Church, Deb Wise

2. Agency Requests in 2008 Budget

a. Central New York Regional Transportation Authority

Chairman Chalifoux gave the floor to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority. Mr. Steven Share introduced himself as the chief financial officer with the CNY Regional Transportation Authority. Mr. Share introduced Kathy Kintz, as the manager of Centro – Oswego. Mr. Share gave a brief history of the authority. Mr. Share stated the operating expenses for the Centro-Oswego is \$3,000,000, the vast majority of that is New York State funding, the County mandated portion is \$90,573. Centro-Oswego is part of the larger Centro organization, which still has a back up for vehicles and staff. Mr. Share stated the budget request for 2008 is \$90,573, which is the state mandated amount, which is the same as it has been for the last 13 years. Motion by Leg. Proud second by Leg. Beckwith to authorize the 2008 budget request of \$90,573 to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority. All were in favor.

b. Operation Oswego County

Mike Treadwell from Operation Oswego County was the next to present the budget request for 2008 for that agency. Operation Oswego County's role in economic development to the county, projects that they have financed, contributing to the revenue in sales tax, real property tax, pilot payment and the economic impact. Mr. Treadwell stated the amount recommended by the budget officer is \$430,000 this is the same amount that was received for 2007 from the county. Mr. Treadwell stated that constitutes about 54% of their proposed operating budget. Mr. Treadwell went on to say that we appreciate the support the county has given us in previous years. Motion by Leg. Beckwith, second by Leg. Brewer to support the recommended budget of \$430,000 for 2008 for Operation Oswego County. There was some discussion. The vote was five in favor in support of the \$430,000 budget for 2008 for Operation Oswego County and one opposed.

c. Oswego County Library Council

Margaret Weigelt stated that she is the president of the Oswego County Library Council, which includes 11 libraries in the county. Ms. Weigelt stated that their original request to the county was \$110,000, in the past couple of years we have received \$0 from the county, there were some years that they did request \$110,000 and they were funded for that amount. Ms. Weigelt stated that last year, \$55,000 was their funding and the county's budget officer recommended \$55,000 for the 2008 budget. Ms. Weigelt stated that a lot of the libraries are struggling financially, the county money means a lot to them. Motion by Leg. Beckwith second by Leg. Proud in support of funding the Oswego County Library Council for \$55,000 for the 2008 budget. All in favor.

d. CNY Regional Planning and Development Board

David Bottar stated that he is the Director of the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board. Mr. Bottar stated that this board was established 40 years ago, we work with 5 member counties in CNY. Currently, some of the program areas are economic development, environmental management, comprehensive planning, and a new energy assistance program recently designated by the New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA). The State is providing them with funds, so they have a staff person to help individuals, businesses and municipalities to try to tap into a range of financial resources. Mr. Bottar stated that this year they are asking for a level budget request from Oswego County in the amount of a little over \$35,000, each of our member counties provide financial support for our operation. The proposed budget for 2008 for the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board is just under \$1.4 million. Mr. Bottar also stated that the total contributions from their 5 member counties is about \$185,000, including Oswego County. This really provides a financial base for our organization. This allows us to leverage more state and federal grants to help carry out our programming. Motion by Leg. Beardsley second by Leg. Beckwith in support of the \$35,000 budget request for 2008 to the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board. All were in favor.

f. Soil and Water Conservation District

John DeHollander, District Manager spoke on behalf of the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. DeHollander stated that the budget amount from last year was \$136,500, we have requested for 2008 the same county appropriation as last year. There have been recent changes to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation District Law that affects the 38 districts around the state. Due to some of the changes there will be additional requirements of individual soil & water districts. Other revenue state aid, this has been capped for the last 5 or 6 years, we were not allowed more funding from the state. This increase will be based on performance standard, to receive. Mr. DeHollander stated that the state of New York in order for them to be competitive one of the performance standards is that they would like to see the county appropriation to increase. Mr. DeHollander stated that all that has to be done is the appropriation of \$1 be added. Leg. Proud motioned to increase the amount appropriated to Soil and Water Conservation District to \$136,510 an increase of \$10, second by Leg. Beckwith. Phil Church stated that this sounds similar to what the state did with the County Attorney's budget. Motion by Leg. Beckwith second by Leg. Brewer to ask the question, to increase the soil and water conservation district budget for 2008 by \$10. All were in favor.

g. *Oswego County Sportsman's Federation*

Chairman Chalifoux introduced Mr. Roy Abbott of the Oswego County Sportsman's Federation. Mr. Abbott spoke about the sportsman's club in the county. The largest project that they spend their money on is the children of the county. We have a list of what was spent last year, which adds up to \$4700. We appreciated what we could do last year, without the county funding we would have operated on a \$2,000 budget. We feel that children are a lifeline of this county. Chairman Chalifoux asked for a motion? Motion by Leg. Beardsley second by Leg. Beckwith for the Sportsmen's Federation proposed budget for 2008. Phil Church asked is the motion for what was recommended or the \$5,000? Leg. Beardsley stated the \$5,000. All were in favor.

h. *Cooperative Extension*

Paul Forestiere spoke regarding the requested budget for 2008 for Cooperative Extension of Oswego County. Mr. Forestiere stated that this is an increase of about 4% in our operating budget for 2008. We would like to renew a \$45,000 request that was granted to us, this was originally set up by Steve Lyman, this is a spend the money first program. This is for an ag-economic development position, which this county desperately needs. So, we would hire someone and then be reimbursed for the persons salary. This salary is not included in the appropriations asked for from the county. Mr. Forestiere stated that the Director of Cooperative Extension is not always responsible for everything that happens at Cooperative Extension. Motion by Leg. Beckwith to move the Cooperative Extension budget of \$457,000 second by Leg. Proud. Leg. Beckwith stated that the development of this type of agency plays a big part in this county due to the agriculture in New York State. Leg. Beckwith stated that he would like to urge his fellow legislators to pass this budget. Leg. Natoli stated that we are still leaving out the \$17,000 deficit, if you don't receive the extra \$17,000, will you still be able to hire this person? Paul Forestiere stated that the \$17,000 additional money requested, was to provide some salary and wage increase for their staff. Mr. Forestiere stated that when factoring his budget, he factors in some kind of an increase for the employees. Leg. Natoli stated he will make a motion to raise the Cooperative Extension budget for 2008 by \$17,000. This will put the total that Cooperative Extension is asking for to \$474,000. Amend to increase Cooperative Extension budget for 2008. Chairman Chalifoux asked Mr. Forestiere what money do they get from Cornell Cooperative Extension? Mr. Forestiere stated that they receive no funding from Cornell for salaries, but they do cover the benefits, administrative services (payroll), all teaching and research. Mr. Forestiere also stated that the majority of their money comes from the county and there is state dollars that are driven by a formula, also federal formula for extra funding. Mr. Forestiere stated that when their appropriations go up, then it is automatic the state dollars will increase. Leg. Beardsley stated that this is a wonderful organization, but if we do this for them (Cooperative Extension) then others will want more. Leg. Natoli made a motion to call the question second by Leg. Beardsley. Chairman Chalifoux stated, roll call vote to ask the question. All were in favor. Chairman Chalifoux asked for a roll call vote to amend the budget for an extra \$17,000. Leg. Natoli-yes, Leg. Proud-no, Leg. Beardsley-no, Leg. Brewer-no, Leg. Beckwith-no, Leg. Chalifoux-no. The vote for the amendment was 1 yes and 5 no. The motion failed to increase the Cooperative Extension budget by \$17,000. Chairman Chalifoux stated we are back to the original budget of \$457,000. The vote was 5 votes for and 1 vote against. Original budget request of \$457,000 for Cooperative Extension was passed.

2. *Adjournment*

Chairman Chalifoux adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Motion by Leg. Natoli second by Leg. Brewer. All were in favor of adjournment.

