

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes –January 5, 2011

The Ulster County Planning Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. – Surrogate Courtroom, 3rd Floor
County Office Building

The Executive Committee did not meet

Mr. Wilkin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and asked Mr. Doyle to read the roll call

- 1. ROLL CALL - Present:** R. Pecora, J. Katz, P. Hakim, J. Konior, T. Marion, T. Hokanson, H. Grant, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, F. Greitzer, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, J. Constable, A. Yuran, A. Zlatkin, R. Elwell, D. Doyle, M. Gallagher, R. Leibowitz **Absent:** T. Natale, L. Biggin, S. Frederick **Excused:** R. Kinnin, S. Finkle
Guests: Lynn Woods – Ulster Publishing

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that Mr. Benjamin, who was an alternate on our Board representing Town of Saugerties, has resigned in order to serve on the County's Reapportionment Committee. Jeremy Kane, who was our regular member for Saugerties has also resigned. The Supervisor is aware of the situation and is working on finding a replacement.

- 2. PREVIOUS MINUTES** The December minutes were approved. Motion made by Ms. Pecora, seconded by Ms. Elwell. Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Baden and Mr. Constable abstained. The rest were in favor.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Doyle stated that our 2011 budget was increased by the County Executive and Legislature. We have an additional \$50,000 in our "Fees for Professional Services" line in order to support the Reapportionment Committee. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that we received \$75,488 from FHWA as reimbursement for transportation work. He added that we are waiting for approximately \$9,000 in reimbursement from FTA from our last Transportation billing. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that FHWA and FTA were now paying separately as opposed to one payment coming in from NYSDOT. These numbers were not reflected on the financial report.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT –** There was no comment from the public

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Mr. Baden informed the board that DEC is updating SEQRA forms. Mr. Wilkin stated he felt that the 30-day notice to adjoining municipalities needs to be handled better. He gave an example of a Town Clerk receiving notification, but the Town's Planning Board was not informed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wilkin asked if any seminars were planned yet for this year. He requested a Planning Board Design Seminar. Ms. Hokanson stated that CCE will conduct Complete Streets training in February at New Paltz Fire Station 1. She added there will be a fee of \$30. Mr. Doyle asked her to e-mail him the information and offered to pass it along.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Board Membership/Contact Information

Mr. Doyle noted that the Contact information sheet was not collated properly and would be redone before the next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2011 Work Program

Greenway Work - Mr. Doyle stated that we have an existing Greenway Grant that requires identification of priority growth areas. Mapping is in draft format for most communities and we are approximately 3/4 of the way through. Once completed, we should be able to hone into priority growth areas. Mr. Doyle stated we have had a good reception from the communities we've worked

with. Mr. Doyle added that we have had discussions on opportunities for possible economic development sites in Esopus and Plattekill. The meeting in Shandaken was filmed for TV. Mr. Doyle thanked the board members who attended the presentations. He added that he was grateful for the support of the town board members as well. Mr. Doyle stated that we need to work toward a County Greenway Compact where communities pledge to incorporate greenway principles into zoning and comprehensive plans.

Countywide Farmland Protection Plan - Mr. Doyle stated that we've been having discussions with Cornell.

Regional Waterfront Revitalization Plan – We have a State contract with DOS to see what build outs would look like in various communities. Some work will be done by consultants and we are looking to purchase software.

Mr. Doyle added that we would also like to look at regional infrastructure needs. Ms. Gallagher has done some work as to the need for Broadband.

Housing (Consortium) – Mr. Doyle stated that we contract some work out, but we do a lot of work in house. We need to initiate some response to 3 county housing study. Mr. Doyle spoke about a lawsuit in Westchester County regarding enforcing affordable housing requirements. We are providing support for the "Give Housing a Voice" program. We are also developing housing friendly language, providing support for housing rehabilitation and homeownership program.

Farmland Protection Board, Open Space Recreational Program - \$50,000 was added to the budget for this program. We are interviewing consultants for the Kingston Rail Trail (to Hurley), water quality program participations (concerns on lower Esopus and other watersheds), and serve on "Healthy Places for Healthy Ulster" project.

Land Use Referral Process – Our department sponsored training courses have been remiss, but we are working on getting seminars together, and are developing planning guides on sustainability, transportation and subdivisions. We would like to expand recognition of the Gateway Agency concept (pre-referral meetings). Mr. Doyle encouraged the Board to send applicants to meet with staff, and other entities (County Health Department, DOT, DPW, etc), as soon as possible. Ms. Elwell asked to have a description of the process on the website. She added that this process is a good way for the local boards to improve their own procedures. Mr. Doyle stated that we need our board members' help in order to get the local boards to participate. He added that staff will travel to the municipalities but he prefers to meet here.

2010 Census Block Data (population, housing units and race) is coming out in February or March.

Transportation Council – Mr. Doyle stated that the Transit Development Plan work has just been awarded to a consulting firm. It is a \$175,000 contract. The Transportation Improvement Program continues to plan funding and make amendments. Mr. Doyle stated the Traffic Count program will be signed with a company out of New Jersey. The Transportation Council's Operating Procedure is being updated. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) needs to be adopted by April 1st. Mr. Doyle stated we are looking at highway pavement conditions, safe and efficient transportation systems, mobility – we had a request from Village of New Paltz for an intermodal center, Priority Incident Locations (PILs). Mr. Doyle stated that we are looking to establish a Transportation Land Use Linkage Program – which would fund local land use work with regard to transportation.

Mr. Doyle stated Ms. Gallagher would go over the Economic Development portion of the work program.

b. **Economic Development – 2010 Accomplishments and Outlook for 2011**

March Gallagher introduced herself to the board and described her job, what she encountered and assisted with in the local business world in 2010. Ms. Gallagher stated she is looking at Tourism as a business service department; to make Ulster County more Business Friendly; provide Direct

Business Counseling; and she is also a liaison with other Economic Development agencies and organizations.

Ms. Gallagher stated that a recreation based map is being worked on to be included in the Open Space guide. Ulster County will register on Hudson Valley Municipal Purchasing Group to be a more conscientious purchaser. She added that we are looking at how we have done business in the past and how we can do it better. Ms. Gallagher stated that Ulster County is hosting a workshop in Phoenicia for communities affected by flooding in Ulster County and added that we have the ability to bring all the resources together for a single workshop. Ms. Gallagher gave several examples of new businesses in Ulster County. She also gave many examples of assisting business owners with finance, permitting and other issues.

Ms. Gallagher serves on many boards for the Development Corp, she also works with staff at the Office of Employment and Training and is on the Empire Zone Board. Ms. Gallagher gave examples of municipalities she has been working working with. Ms. Gallagher is also in contact with Empire State Development, HVEDA, HVADC and NYSERDA to help get things done.

c. **CDBG Award of \$40,000 - Planning Grant for a Shovel Ready Smart Growth Plan**

Ms. Gallagher said she will be spending a lot of time on shovel ready activities. We have won a \$40,000 community planning grant to create a Strategic Pplan for Ulster County. She added that the plan will have multiple parts. One of the things we'll be looking at is money already spent on extending water and sewer and where the value of the affected parcels was never evaluated. There will be model codes for communities that want to do Shovel Ready planning. The Plan will partner with a Shovel Ready case study project. It will look at 3 to 5 sites around the county and obtain site plan approval for a 40,000-80,000 SF spec building. We will put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) and have a committee review the applications. The Case Study Project will be funded by Central Hudson, the IDA and the private sector. The property owner will be expected to pay one third to one half of the cost for of the site plan approval. We will be looking for sites that meet stormwater and parking requirements, have proper zoning, have approximate water and sewer, and we prefer to be in an area where there is GEIS. She added that we have a deficit for buildings of this size in this area.

Ms. Gallagher stated that we have done much with Ulster Tomorrow. Priority growth zones was an infrastructure strategy, easy points of economic development, getting a shovel ready plan, coordinated review by the Planning Department. Ms. Gallagher added that the Planning Department has been "front and center" in getting most of this work done. We want to get the word out to the community once we get some of the catalog work done. The plan is driving what we focus on. Ms. Gallagher stated she is focused on growing and retaining jobs. Ms. Gallagher stated that if the board had any ideas or leads or know of any businesses that are experiencing problems should contact her.

Mr. Doyle mentioned that there is a NOFA out for CDBG to help with housing needs.

- d. Environmental Notice Bulletin – *No Member Comment*
- e. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.