

SOUTHERN TIER WEST REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES – AUGUST 21, 2008

The regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board was held on August 21, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Regional Excellence in Salamanca, New York. The following persons were in attendance:

Board Members

Sue Myers, Secretary
Ted Hopkins
Jerry Scott
Brent Reynolds
Robert Keis, Vice Chairman
Joseph Eade
William King
Crystal Abers
Jim Cooper, Chairman
Bill Daly
Allan Hendrickson

Representing

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

Others Attending

Robert Iszard
Sharon Turano
Donald Rychnowski
John Buzzard
Brian Paschen
Sarah Phearsdorf
Ginger Malak
Eileen Weishan

Representing

Empire State Development
Post Journal
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff
Staff

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

Minutes

Mr. Eade made a motion to accept the June 28th as distributed. Mr. Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Project Review Report

Mr. Eade moved to acknowledge receipt of the Project Review Report. Mr. Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

Executive Director's Report

Donald Rychnowski reported the following:

News & Notes

1. Allegany County Wireless Project

Southern Tier West received word from officials that the contract for \$630,000 for the Wireless Project in Allegany County has been released and the agreement will be in place on August 22, 2008.

2. Railroad

Don informed Board members that there has been a change in the management of rail operations. Carl Belke has taken the place of William Burt as President and Chief Operating Officer.

3. Memo to Board Members

Mr. Rychnowski reported that he sent a Memorandum to Board members regarding the future of Southern Tier West. A Board Special Committee Meeting was scheduled for September 29th to discuss these issues.

4. Wind Energy

Mr. Rychnowski reported that an overview on the economic benefits of Wind Energy Development was included in the Board packets.

Actions Necessary

1. NYS Archives Grant

Authorization was needed to enter into an agreement with NYS Records Management to administer a grant in the amount of \$8,402 that will be distributed for website work with the Villages of Belmont, Gowanda, Randolph, East Randolph, Celoron, and Brocton; and the Towns of New Albion, Randolph, and Villanova. Mr. Eade so moved, Ms. Myers seconded the motion and it carried.

Authorization was needed to enter into an agreement with the Town of Little Valley to administer the Court Records Program for the involved communities that include the Towns of Allegany, Portville and Perrysburg. Mr. Reynolds so moved, Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.

2. 2010 Census

Authorization was needed for Southern Tier West to enter into an agreement with NYS Department of Economic Development in the amount of \$7,500 to continue its support of the 2010 Decennial Census. Mr. King so moved, Mr. Keis seconded the motion and it carried.

New Business

1. Energy Conservation Program

Brian Paschen reported that Southern Tier West is currently working with the City of Jamestown BPU to help them move forward with their goal of implementing an energy conservation plan. The plan will cover three major areas: education, technical assistance, and implementation.

Education would be accomplished with the development of white papers that can be distributed to customers advertising the benefits of energy efficiency

improvements; Southern Tier West would help organize an energy forum in the City of Jamestown that would educate attendees about the benefits of implementing energy efficient improvements; and Southern Tier West would also provide building performance training for select BPU employees.

Technical Assistance will be provided with the development of an approved list of energy efficient improvements that will be eligible for rebates; also Southern Tier West is looking into purchasing a thermal imaging camera that will be used to photograph buildings and detect points of heat loss; and thermal photography will be conducted for all city owned buildings, and any residents who complete the self audit on the BPU website.

For implementation, Southern Tier West will assist the BPU in implementing upgrades to be conducted at municipal buildings. The upgrades will be chosen on the basis of which will cut the electrical consumption and provide the greatest cost benefit ratio.

2. Workforce Retention and Development Initiative

Ginger Malak reported that over the past several months, Robert Shane of Performance Development Consulting Corporation and Richard Zink have been visiting various agencies in the region to discuss workforce issues. These issues are vast and encompass areas including brain drain, brain gain, career awareness, entrepreneurialism, workforce preparedness of employees, workforce retirement issues, employment recruitment for specific needs, etc. Questions were raised as to how schools (BOCES, primary, secondary and technical), Chambers of Commerce, WIB's, foundations, and other associations fit into the picture.

These meetings started with the intention of investigating what role, if any, the Southern Tier West Development Foundation may play in this area. The Foundation Board agrees that any project that they initiative should be tangible in nature with specific goals and objectives. The following areas were identified as to which the Foundation could focus: marketing of the region, working on brain drain/workforce preparedness issues, and entrepreneurial enhancement.

Collaboration with other organizations will provide the most return from any dollars the Foundation invests. Creating a clear set of goals and objectives will allow the Foundation to inform potential partners not only of their willingness to collaborate, but also the direction they aim to move. These goals and objectives will also assist in dictating the budget the Foundation is willing to commit to the Workforce Retention and Development Initiative.

Old Business

1. Energy Conference and Exhibition

Bill Daly reported that Chautauqua County will hold its first Energy Conference and Exhibition on November 14 – 15, 2008 at the Conference Center in Mayville. The event will include 25-30 panels on energy throughout the day, residential sponsors, and a keynote speaker.

2. Broadband Development Initiative

Bill Daily reported that the Town of Whiteville in Chautauqua County is working with Southern Tier West to get total broadband connectivity working between local businesses and give Chautauqua County redundancy.

Committee Reports

Rail Authority

Don Rychnowski reported on the change in administration as mentioned in his Director's Report.

Transportation Committee

Brian Paschen reported that the Committee met with TVGA Engineering and discussed the draft form of Route 62 Corridor work.

Audit Abstract

Mr. Eade made a motion to approve the June and July 2008 Audit Abstract. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion and it carried.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board will be held on September 18, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Regional Excellence, Salamanca, New York.

Adjournment

Mr. Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Scott seconded the motion and it carried.