

**Economic Development Committee Meeting
Held In Room #318
Putnam County Office Building
Members: Chairman Birmingham & Legislators DiCarlo & Tamagna**

Monday

August 27, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Birmingham. Legislator Oliverio led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Tamagna, DiCarlo and Chairman Birmingham were present.

Item #3) Approval/Minutes from July 30, 2012

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Item #4) Discussion/Letter of Support/Grant Application/Arts Westchester/Joyce Picone/Putnam Arts Council

Chairman Birmingham called upon Ms. Picone of the Putnam Arts Council to speak to the committee, regarding her August 13th e-mail requesting a letter of support, and asked how the committee could help.

Ms. Picone stated that Janet Langsyne, C.E.O of Arts-Westchester has reached out to her personally, including eight other Counties to co-promote and co- sponsor a Grant to Nisca, which is a Tourism oriented Grant. Ms. Langsyne is applying for \$300,000.00. She is not asking for any funding from the Putnam Arts Council. Ms. Picone does not know what Ms. Langsyne' s arrangements are with other Counties. Next summer this Grant will be promoting "Music in the Air Program." This is in partnership with eleven Counties along the Hudson River. There are ten Tourism Agencies within those Counties, and Nine Arts Councils. It was suggested to them to consider integrating Culture Card, which is something that she always wanted to do. This would give discounts on Hotels, and will be co-operative advertising if approved.

Legislator DiCarlo asked if there was anything that was needed from the Committee to help this Grant application.

Ms. Picone stated she would like a letter of support, supporting the initiative of the cooperative.

Chairman Birmingham gave Ms. Picone two options regarding the support letter, one of which is a letter from the Chairwoman of the Legislature, or a Memorialized Resolution type of document. A letter from the Chairwoman will need to be approved at the next Full Legislative Meeting.

Ms. Picone stated that a letter would be fine, as there is no urgency at this time, it will be fine to wait until the next Full Legislative Meeting for approval.

Chairman Birmingham made a motion to authorize a letter from the Chairwoman to Ms. Picone on the Legislators behalf.

Seconded by Legislator De Carlo. All in favor.

#7) Other Business/Update/Kevin Bailey/EDC-IDA

Mr. Bailey stated we have a lot of things happening at this time. Although the economy has hurt our businesses very much, he is hopeful that this is just temporary,.

On the other side of the County, Mr. Paul Guillaro is working on the old Butterfield Hospital site, and has filed several applications to do work in the building. It is believed that he will be changing some things, and will be possibly using our services. This is not written in stone at this time, but Mr. Bailey is hopeful that it will come to pass.

Mr. Bailey went on to state that there is now a business plan for the old Watson Pharmaceutical Building that is located along Stoneleigh Avenue in Carmel. Everything is being remodeled inside of the building, and should be done within six months to a year. The old small brown office building behind McDonalds has been sold, and they are bringing in fourteen Dental technicians. The building will be completely remodeled, inside and out. The developer for the property across from Meadowlands on Route #6 is still in negotiations with Penera Bread. Hopefully the negotiations will be settled soon. Olympic Sporting Goods has now been located in the Putnam Plaza Shopping Center along Route 6. The Paladin Group, along Seminary Hill Road in Carmel, which everyone has been waiting for, is still trying to raise the financing. They need signed contracts to go to the State, before they can go ahead with their plans. They have only verbal's at this time, and the feeling is that it is going to drag on a little more than originally thought. Mr. Bailey does not see anything happening until January of next year. Once they receive the signed contracts, and the State comes through with what was promised, then it will be able to go ahead with their plans.

Legislator De Carlo asked if there is any interest in the old A &P building that has been closed since last year.

Mr. Bailey has been told, but cannot verify the information he was given, it was said that a CVS Pharmacy will be going in that shopping center. Mr. Bailey also stated that he and his department are working on twelve to fifteen projects at this time.

Eric Gross questioned the timeline for Patterson Crossing to open.

Mr. Bailey stated that the developer has asked that he not speak about this at this time, as he is in serious negotiations and cannot engage in any information. It has been

stated that the company that the developer is dealing with, will be making an announcement shortly.

Legislator LoBue questioned what the construction was next to Friendly's.

Mr. Baily stated that the Hudson Valley Credit Union will be going into that location.

#5) Foreclosure Report/FYI

Legislator Tamagna stated that the numbers for June had shown an increase, while the numbers for July seem to be reversing. Hopefully the trend will continue.

#6) FYI/Unemployment Report

Legislator DiCarlo stated that the unemployment rate is still at 9.1 and that is not acceptable. Last year in 2011 it was 8.3. That just echo's the sentiments as he stated before and believes it is just the same analogy. The rate for the price of gas is rising and this has become very difficult for a lot of people and there is a lot of anxiety out there, although the information received from Mr. Bailey is very promising.

Chairman Birmingham stated that this 9.1 unemployment number is only 1/10th below the all-time high going back twelve years. This is something to keep in mind as we do our Budget for this year.

#8) Adjournment

Being no further business to discuss, Chairman Birmingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Claire E. Muller
Administrative Assistant