

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

10:05 a.m.

*Legislative Chambers, 3rd Floor, Annex Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Aaron I. Mullen, Chair Hilda T. Lando, Vice Chair Carol A. Ferratella
James Kuhl Paul E. Van Caesele

STAFF: Jack K. Wheeler Christopher Brewer Jennifer Prossick

LEGISLATORS: Scott J. Van Etten Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Wendy Lozo
John V. Malter Frederick G. Potter Gary D. Swackhamer

OTHERS: Tess McKinley, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mullen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2023, MEETING MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MRS. FERRATELLA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

A. Planning

1. **Commencing the Review Period for Agricultural District No. Five** – Mr. Brewer requested authorization to commence the eight-year review period for Agricultural District No. Five.

MOTION: COMMENCING THE EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW PERIOD FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. FIVE MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. KUHL. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Comprehensive Plan** – Mr. Mullen stated they are close to having a final draft of the Comprehensive Plan ready to submit to the Legislature at the end of this year. He asked the committee their thoughts on whether it should be submitted to the entire Legislator or just to the AIP Committee. Mr. Kuhl asked will this be for review or comment? Mrs. Lando stated they will be sending this out and asking for comments for the last time. Mr. Van Etten stated he would like to see it go through committee first. Mr. Mullen stated the committee might have the draft of the plan in December. Mr. Brewer stated the plan will also go through the SEQR process and that will entail a public comment period.

B. County Manager

1. **ProAction Lease** – Mr. Wheeler informed the committee that ProAction leases the old hospital building that we own. They currently pay us \$1.00 per year and they do all the maintenance, heating, cooling, etc. ProAction is in the process of applying for a grant to do handicap accessible building modifications and need a five-year lease to show the grantor. Mr. Wheeler stated the current lease ends at the end of 2024 and he would propose a five-year lease from the end of 2024 through the end of 2029.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING A FIVE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PROACTION COMMENCING THE END OF 2024 THROUGH THE END OF 2029 AT A RATE OF \$1.00 PER YEAR MADE BY MRS. FERRATELLA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Finger Lakes SPCA and Hornell Humane Society Payments** – Mr. Wheeler requested authorization to process payments to both the Finger Lakes SPCA and the Hornell Humane Society for the boarding and care of animals relative to ongoing cruelty cases. The total payment due to the Hornell Humane Society is \$31,705.71 which is separate from the \$10,000 retainer. The total payment due to the Finger Lakes SPCA is \$7,927.43, which is over and beyond the original retainer agreement. His recommendation is to use the remaining \$29,000 in the Animal Control budget for 2023 and then take the remaining \$10,600 from the Animal Cruelty Capital Project.

Mr. Mullen asked what do we get for the retainer agreement? Are the fees reduced? Mr. Wheeler replied the rates are reduced. Both organizations also utilize the pro bono services of veterinarians and others that we do not get charged for.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ALLOCATE \$29,000 FROM THE 2023 ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET AND \$10,600 FROM THE ANIMAL CRUELTY CAPITAL PROJECT TO PROCESS PAYMENTS TO THE FINGER LAKES SPCA AND THE HORNELL HUMANE SOCIETY FOR THE BOARDING AND CARE OF ANIMALS RELATIVE TO ONGOING CRUELTY CASES MADE BY MRS. LANDO. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. *Bar Curfew* – Mr. Van Caeseele stated he was approached by one of his constituents, a bar owner in the City of Hornell, regarding possibly extending the bar curfew from 1am to 2am. This would allow bar businesses to continue to serve food and alcohol until 2am. Surrounding counties have a 2am curfew and he believes this will lead to increased income for the bar owners and increased tax revenue for the County. Ms. Prossick stated she will need to look at the process for doing that and will get back to the committee. Mr. Van Caeseele stated he thinks this is something the County should consider.
- B. *4-H Press Release* – Mrs. Lando asked if there were any questions regarding the press release that went out regarding changes to 4-H for the County Fair? This was a huge step to take and a big decision that had to be made. Mr. Kuhl asked do you have any leads on where 4-H will end up? Ms. McKinley replied we have three leads. We will hold the 4-H competition July 25th – 28th and we do not want to compete with the County Fair. Mr. Malter commented that he thinks this is a mistake and that 4-H should have been left at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked what was the problem that led to this decision? Mr. Van Etten stated people could not get along. Ms. McKinley stated we want 4-H'ers to have the opportunity to show at a place where they can follow County and State policies and show in a safe and friendly environment. After years of working with the Agricultural Society, that was no longer able to happen at the fairgrounds. There are several situations that have happened, and our board and insurance provider have reviewed those incidents. Based on those incidents and the work done to remedy those, that is why we have decided to leave. Mrs. Lando stated this decision has been in the works for the past two to two and a half years.

Mr. Van Caeseele asked what will happen with 4-H and fair participation? Mrs. Lando stated this is for one year. Mr. Van Etten stated the Agricultural Society has started their own agriculture program. Mrs. Lando stated that will be in direct competition with 4-H. Mr. Van Etten stated the Agricultural Society has said that children will be able to participate in both programs. Mr. Potter stated the problem comes with the sale of the animals and the Agricultural Society is doing things to circumvent 4-H rules that have been in place for years.

Mr. Malter asked will there still be a program at the fairgrounds? Mr. Van Etten replied the Agricultural Society will hold their program at the fairgrounds. Mrs. Lando stated the Agricultural Society had already created their own program and they were in competition with 4-H. Mr. Potter stated the Agricultural Society is their own entity. Mr. Van Etten stated this is not the only county where 4-H is not held at the fairgrounds. Ms. McKinley commented she has had three directors of CCE reach out to her to do the same thing in their counties for similar reasons. The Agricultural Society is a 501-C-4 non-profit organization that is not governed by the public. They

do not hold public meetings and they can do what they like with their rules. I personally think that is why this is happening across the regions.

Mrs. Lando stated we wanted to make sure you heard the reason why this is being done from us. Ms. McKinley stated the youth are already purchasing their animals now for next year. We wanted the youth to know that we were still doing something. This change affects the weight requirements of the animals. Mr. Malter stated I hope you will reevaluate things. Mrs. Lando stated the kids will still be able to show at fair, they just will show under an open class, not under 4-H. Mr. Mullen commented it is not up to us here at the County, but it is nice to let people know.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. KUHL. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
9:30 a.m.**

**Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office
NO LATER THAN NOON
Wednesday, November 29, 2023**