

# ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## *Minutes –October 5, 2011*

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

### **The Executive Committee Did Not Meet**

Mr. Wilkin called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Leibowitz to read the minutes.

**1. ROLL CALL - Present:** J. Konior, T. Marion, K. Lovelett, M. Calimano, T. Wilkin, M. Baden, F. Greitzer, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Elwell, R. Kinnin, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz, B. Samuelson  
**Absent:** R. Pecora, J. Katz, P. Hakim, L. Biggin, G. Matichuk, E. Hooper **Excused:** H. Grant, P. Economos, M. Maclary, S. Finkle **Guests:** Robert M. Smith-Rosendale Apts.

### **2. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(The vote was taken after the Financial Report when Mr. Watkins arrived and a quorum was reached.)  
The September minutes were approved. Motion by Ms. Elwell, seconded by Mr. Baden. All were in favor.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT - 2011**

Mr. Doyle stated we have no issues with this year's budget. We continue to do contractual negotiation with two sets of consultants – one set is working so we are spending down some line items. The MPO will seek 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter reimbursement soon. The County Executive announced the 2012 budget this morning. Mr. Doyle informed the board that our departmental budget was recommended by the County Executive as it was submitted. There will be cuts in programs to Mental Health, DPW and Consumer Affairs. Mr. Doyle explained the County Executive's proposal for the sale of the nursing home. He added that it will be up to the Legislature to act. Budgets for mandated programs at DSS and Mental Health will rise steeply. The County is looking for some relief from mandates from the State.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

### **5. COMMUNITY REPORT**

Mr. Holmquist stated his community was still recovering from the most recent flooding. They have had their 5<sup>th</sup> 100-yr flood since 1996. He spoke of some of the road and walkway damage in the Hunter area as well.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Doyle informed the board of a training seminar at Deyo Hall in New Paltz on October 25<sup>th</sup>, regarding Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) – (f). Training credits are available for this seminar.

### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

#### a. NYS Dept Environmental Conservation (DEC) Wetland Seminar –October 19th

SUNY Ulster Student Lounge 7:00-9:30pm (m)

Mr. Doyle stated there will be three speakers at this seminar – Laura Heady from Hudson River Estuary Program, Brian Drum and Bill Rudge from DEC and we have invited Willie Janeway (also DEC) to make opening remarks.

Mr. Doyle apologized for the late notice but, tomorrow at 4:00 pm Scenic Hudson has set up an hour long presentation with the Trust for Public Land on protection of open space in difficult fiscal times at SUNY Ulster in the Student Lounge. Notice was sent out earlier today to the Board via email.

KEY: (f) = handout will be in folder at meeting  
(m) = handout included in the mailing

Ms. Elwell mentioned that on November 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a Trail Conference at the Terrace at SUNY New Paltz from 9:00 am to 2:30. A networking event will follow at the Gilded Otter. Ulster County Planning, Hudson River Valley Greenway and Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association are sponsoring the conference. Two main emphases are trail use and bicycle use on trails. The economic benefits of trails for tourism will also be discussed.

Mr. Budziak asked if staff was still working on the Greenway Compact. Mr. Doyle stated we had our last interview with a municipality 2 weeks ago, mapping efforts are almost done and we just have some internal work to complete. Once this is finished we can show the Board what Priority Growth areas look like within the county. Then we will start the analysis phase. Mr. Doyle added this is a much delayed project and he is unhappy with the delay, but, we are continuing to move forward. By the end of the year we should have a fairly finalized look at Priority Growth areas. Mr. Doyle stated that we are on-going with the Main Street program. We just got the request for proposals back on a Regional Waterfront Plan and we have a Transit Development Plan kicking-off. He added that we are doing the best we can with a large work load. Mr. Doyle noted that the Wallkill River has been designated as an inland waterway by statute; so all of the communities along the Wallkill are designated as coastal zones and are eligible for coastal zone funding.

b. 2011 Ag District Inclusions were certified Sept 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Doyle stated the work done through our office and the Farmland Protection Board has been certified by Ag & Markets and letters have been sent to the assessors. Mr. Doyle added his congratulations and respect for Virginia Craft who does this work for our office and keeps things on track every year with very little oversight. Mr. Doyle noted that Ag Districts on the parcel viewer are not working properly due to mismatches in data bases. We have had discussions with the Information Services department regarding the parcel viewer. Please call Virginia Craft if you have questions about Ag Districts.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Support Letter from Department to Office of Sustainable Housing & Communities for City of Kingston's Community Challenge Planning Grant**

Mr. Doyle informed the Board that the department wrote a support letter for a Sustainable Housing Grant from HUD for the City of Kingston, who is looking for additional money for its Comprehensive Plan effort. We have done some work in the city & our letter says we have a commitment for the City's Transit Development Plan for approximately \$95,000. The City can use our letter as part of its challenge grant.

b. **Consolidated Funding Application for Multiple Grant Sources Released—Deadline Oct 21<sup>st</sup>**

Mr. Doyle stated that the way grants are done in NYS has changed as of August. We now have a Consolidated Funding Application that handles millions of dollars worth of grants that used to be done separately (Parks, housing, economic development, etc.) Mr. Doyle stated that the process is somewhat confusing for grant writers and agencies. Scoring is also different. We are now part of a seven county regional council - the Mid-Hudson Region (Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland and Sullivan). March Gallagher is serving on several committees and monitoring the activities. Mr. Doyle stated that in the last grant announcement through NYSERDA there is a cleaner, greener sustainability grant for \$8.9 million available (one million per region). It was suggested to take a look at governance prior to deciding on what to apply for by having a discussion amongst the municipalities before talking to the non-profits. Mr. Doyle added that there is no match required for these grants.

Mr. Doyle stated the County Charter can be revised every five years. He was asked by the Charter Revision Committee to testify as to what should be changed in the Charter with respect to Planning Department and the Planning Director. He added that the Board is welcome to submit comments to the Committee. Mr. Doyle stated that his comments included saying that it is not clear what the powers and duties are for the Director and the Board. Mr. Doyle also brought up the Board's unease with commenting on the Capital Program, he added that the Board would like to make comments but not be responsible for the Capital Program. Mr. Doyle stated he felt the

responsibility – plans, programs and policies with respect to the Capital Program, should fall to the Planning Director. The Planning Director reviews and comments on the Program during its preparation, but it is prepared by the Budget Office. We do not want to change that. Mr. Doyle added the reason for there not being a tentative Capital Program is it won't be out until Friday so it will be voted on in December. Mr. Doyle stated that with the Referral Review Process – there needs to be a way to delegate certain reviews to staff. The inability to achieve a quorum leaves communities in limbo. Other counties delegate the responsibility of review to the agency, not the board. We'd like to find a way to allow the Planning Board to delegate power back to staff on certain items that need review but not by the Board. Right now we couldn't have such an agreement unless the Charter is changed. Mr. Doyle stated that we'd like to incentivize the process of Gateway meetings where we meet with the applicant and community prior to referral. Mr. Doyle stated that in most other counties the Board reports to the Planning Director. Mr. Wilkin stated that when the Charter was being written, our Board, at that time, fought to keep their powers and duties. The Legislature agreed to this and added other duties that were not being done before. Mr. Wilkin added that by delegating certain referrals we could do more policy work. Mr. Doyle added that by having the Board review only the more important reviews, they would be able to devote more time to them.

- c. Environmental Notice Bulletin & Grant Opportunities– *No Member Comment*
- d. Zoning Referrals – *See Separate Zoning Minutes*

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40.