General Services Committee
March 19, 2019

Legislative Committee Members present: Legislator King, Legislator Osborne, Legislator LaChausse, Legislator Moroughan, and Legislator Burns. Other Legislators present: Legislator Kulzer and Legislator Chartrand.

Others present: County Manager Ryan Piche, County Attorney Joan McNichol, Probation Director Mary Jo Burkhard, Building & Grounds Supervisor Matt O’Connor, Planning Director Frank Pace, Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director Jackie Mahoney, Fire & Emergency Management Director Robert Mackenzie III, Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw, Economic Development Director Eric Virkler, Human Resources Director Chris Boulia, and media representatives Nick Altmire & Julie Abbass.

The meeting was called order at 1:59 p.m. by Legislator King.

Presentation by B.O.C.E.S. Representatives Mallorie Putia & Lori Gallo
Mallorie introduced Lori Gallo as a current Community Based Training trainer (CBT). This program is designed to allow students with disabilities to gain job experience so they are employable in the Community after graduation. There are approximately 1 to 3 students per Job Coach. B.O.C.E.S. holds the certificate of liability and takes responsibility for their students, very minimal liability exposure for the county. The student’s gain CDO’s for hours worked instead of wages, therefore there is no cost to the county. There are currently 3 students training at the hospital, and a few more at other local businesses. Transportation is provided through B.O.C.E.S. and the students usually work anywhere from 2 to 5 days a week for a few hours in the morning or a few hours in the afternoon each scheduled day. Building & Grounds Supervisor Matt O’Connor believes his department could use the students to wash windows, vacuum, and do other light cleaning tasks. There could be other departments who would be able to utilize a student or two for some different tasks. Legislator King asked that information be put together from Matt describing the work that would be performed and other details pertaining to the contract so it can go to the whole Board for a vote.

Presentation by Fire & Emergency Management Director Robert Mackenzie III
The end of January had severe blizzard conditions that closed roads and caused several accidents. The Hospital had a “code gray” which means no one is allowed to leave their shift until a replacement arrives. There was a “ROC” (Regional Operation Center” established in Jefferson County which deployed Rangers out on snowmobiles to “sweep” State Route 177. Luckily a Ranger called Robert Mackenzie to let him know what was going on and he was then able to notify the State DOT of the situation to alert the plow drivers to watch out.

The beginning of February was met with some Mid-winter thaws which caused water to rise and back up onto the Waters Road here in Lowville. Although the house was up high enough that it was affected the heifer barn had water running through it. Bob pointed out that the Highway guys out on the roads are able to see these situations and notify him so they can be addressed. The Highway used their trackhoe to move some of the ice jam in Mill Creek which alleviated the problem and made the road passable. There was a similar situation on the Salmon River in the Town of Osceola where an ice jam occurred and water was backing up.
Towards the end of February was had another blizzard which closed roads, caused accidents, and even had Towns pull plows off the roads due to zero visibility. Bob explained that there were several Advisories issued in January and February, two of which were blizzard warnings where “R.O.C.” set up in Watertown. There have been a few Advisories for March already most of which are high winds. If there is a situation in which our county needs more help with equipment there is a website New York Responds that requests can be made. Bob proudly stated that there are volunteer firemen who are always willing to help out in situations as well as our “neighbor helping neighbor” attitude of local residents. The NYS Mesonet is a Metrological Station in New York State that is being used more for weather instead of relying on the National Weather Station. In conclusion Bob stated that here in the North County we are used to inclement weather and are prepared to deal with it so warning and watches don’t slow us down too much.

**Presentation by Economic Director Eric Virkler**

The three goals of Economic Development for Lewis County are to support the growth of existing business, support the creation and development of new local businesses, and creating a business friendly environment for outside business to come to Lewis County. Economic Development impacts and is impacted by community development, workforce development, quality of life, healthcare, education, market capacity, business climate, and infrastructure.

The Center for Business is creating infrastructure that is business friendly with approximately 152,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space and 8,000 sq. ft. of office space. The Commerce Park is also doing this with 5 shovel ready sites ready for development. The Lyons Falls Mill property is in the final phase for redevelopment, once complete this will be another location for potential businesses.

Black River Valley Natural is a good Lease-to-own example. This business was assisted from the start up point with finding a location and funding. They are now ready to expand their operations. Skewed Brewing is another Lease-to-own example as the LCIDA owns the building/equipment and has a 10 year lease-to-own agreement with them. Arborcare Tree Service in Harrisville was able to expand and grow in 2017 with a Small Business Loan. There is currently $129,800 in active loans, with each loan up to a maximum of $25,000 comprised of 50% county funds and 50% USDA Rural Enterprise Grant Funds.

Johnson Lumber is a good example of a PILOT agreement. They invested $3 million to expand their Pre-Finished Pine product line which created 5 new jobs and possibly more jobs in the future. They were able to do this in part because the LCIDA assisted with a PILOT agreement, Sales & Use Tax exemption and a Mortgage Tax exemption.

The Wind Projects are a form of Economic Development in Lewis County. The Copenhagen Wind Project has 40 wind towers that created 200 jobs during the construction phase and between 5 and 10 permanent jobs when the project was completed. Other Wind Projects in development are Roaring Brook located in Martinsburg which has recently received its tax exemption through NYSERDA; Deer River Wind which is located in the Towns of Pinckney, Harrisburg & Montague; and Number Three Wind which is located in the Towns of Lowville and Harrisburg.

There are three main “partners” in Economic Development. The first one is the Economic Development Department through the County which Eric Virkler is the Director, the second is the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency which Eric Virkler is the Executive Director, and
Lastly is the Lewis County Development Corporation which is a non-profit entity with a separate board of directors. They each can offer different types of assistance to new businesses but all work towards the same Economic Development goals.

**Presentation by Planning Director Frank Pace**

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a municipal energy procurement model that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity for virtually all homes and small businesses within an area. This allows decisions of choosing an energy supplier to be in local hands. It helps to secure lower energy prices, allows more control over energy resources, and allows for better percentage of renewables in the fuel mix. This helps support local renewable energy projects by creating more demand for their product while emphasizing our Clean Energy Community designation.

National Grid will still remain as the utility who delivers the power as they control all of the infrastructure. The Towns and Villages would give permission to create the Consortium for buying power in bulk for a large group, therefore securing lower rates. The Consortium can then leverage local sources who produce renewable power to supply a portion of the energy purchased.

The County has taken several steps since being the first county in the North Country to have the designation of Clean Energy Community. They have adopted a policy to report the energy usage of buildings, Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 10%, install electric charging stations, streamlined the approval process for solar, and train compliance officers in energy code best practices.

The county can act as the Administrator but are not allowed to create the Consortium. This can only be done by the Towns and Villages. Residents would not be required to participate but would have the option to join.

Legislator King voiced his concern over the belief that there is a savings for participants, citing that green energy is more costly. Frank responded by explaining that it would have to be a negotiated pricing for the renewable energy purchased. There was some discussion on local Renewable Energy Projects that are no longer operating due to lack of demand, which the Consortium might have been able to alleviate some of that problem. The price and savings have to do with the negotiated rate of energy purchased. The Administrator of the Consortium would be very similar to MEGA. It was suggested that Frank Pace invite a representative of MEGA to the table to better explain what an administrator does.

Legislator Burns made a motion to have a representative of MEGA, at no cost to the county, come and present to the committee to get a better idea of what the administrator does with the Consortium, seconded by Legislator Moroughan. Motion carried.

Legislator Moroughan made a motion to accept the General Services Committee minutes from February 19, 2019 as recorded, seconded by Legislator Osborne. Motion carried.

The following dockets were read and approved:

1. Resolution to rescind Resolution No. 79-2019 due to incorrect figures; and authorize appropriations in the E911 Accounts for additional PSAP grant funds.
2. Resolution to transfer funds in the Buildings & Grounds accounts from Contingency for the purchase of a dump trailer in the amount of $10,525.00.

3. Resolution for LC Planning Department to work cooperatively with the Tug Hill Commission to apply for a CBDG grant to study the regional approach by combining the re-use plans of the Town of Martinsburg and the Village of Port Leyden with respect to the Glenfield and Port Leyden Elementary School facilities. The LC Planning Department will be the applicant and administrator of the $50,000 grant if awarded; and the LC Planning Department will utilize Community Development funding of $2,500 for the required match.

4. Resolution authorizing the Director of Emergency Management to incorporate the proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, inclusive of all Annexes thereto, as required by New York State and the County’s particular needs, and prepare and publish the final updated plan deemed revised on this date.

5. Resolution authorizing extension amendment to agreement between Lewis County and Bergmann Associates under the Department of State’s Brownfield Opportunities Area Implantation Strategy Grant (Village of Lyons Falls) – Step 3.


7. Resolution to appropriate insurance recovery funds for damage to Highway truck in the amount of $3,630.01.

8. Resolution authorizing Shared Services Agreement by and through the Lewis County Highway Department, (“County”) and the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”) to exchange or lend materials or equipment which shall promote and assist the maintenance of State and County roads and highways and provide cost savings by maximizing the effective utilization of both parties’ resources pursuant to Section 99-r of the General Municipal Law not to exceed $10,000 from 2/23/2019 to 2/22/2023.

9. Resolution authorizing the filing of two 2019 Small Cities Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Applications to secure funding to assist low and moderate income households with home ownership assistance and manufactured housing replacement within Lewis County, in an amount not to exceed $1,000,000 and other such related activities as may be determined.

10. Resolution to authorize Agreement between the County of Lewis, by and through the Probation Department, and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for a Pre-Trial Release Program/Alternatives to Incarceration in the amount of $1,688.00 from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

11. Motion to award bids for hot asphalt mix to Barrett Paving, Hanson and Paverite; and to Gorman and Midland for paver-placed surface treatment, based on the type of job or project location, in accordance with the tabulation of all bids prepared by the Highway Superintendent and placed on file with the Clerk of the Board, for the period 4/1/2019 to 3/31/2020.

12. Motion to authorize Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw to fill two (2) Permanent Full-time MEO positions, effective immediately.

County Attorney Joan McNichol handed out a draft copy of the resolution to submit comment to the DEC on Pepperbox Wilderness Draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Committee to look over.

Legislator Kulzer asked for an updated from Building & Grounds Supervisor Matt O’Connor on the DMV, Community Services and Office For the Aging moves. Matt responded that the DMV
is all set just waiting for the State to schedule when they can send a tech out to move the computer/electronic equipment. His staff are working long hours to get the Community Services and Office For the Aging space ready up at the Social Services building before the end of the month. Joan was fairly certain that the leases does not run out on their current location until the end of April but she will double check.

Committee Chairman Legislator King handed out a document titled “Space Study with New Office Complex on the hill” to be reviewed by the rest of the committee members for discussion at a later date.

County Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw reported that he had received 4 responses to the RFQ that was put out for the Highway Fuel Tank project. Only 3 of these companies met the specs. His recommendation is Stantech because they were all very similar but Stantech was also listed on the OGS, so they may have a possible price advantage. The general consensus among the committee members was to have Stantech come in and present to the General Services Committee (for design only) as soon as possible and then recommend them to the whole Board at the April meeting. Warren Shaw and Legislator King both have heard that there are some school districts that are purchasing gasoline busses because diesel isn’t as efficient as it had been in the past. There was discussion about either having one Highway tank changed into gasoline or a third smaller tank put in. It is something that will need to be looked into further.

Legislator LaChausse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m., seconded by Legislator Burns. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Legislators
Encl.
Lewis County Emergency Management Winter Briefing

High Wind Warning
Winter Weather Advisory
Blizzard Warning
Flood Watch
January Snows....

Å January 30 Whiteout conditions Zero visibility St Rt. 26, Rt. 177 and portions of Rt. 12 closed due to zero visibility and whiteout conditions
Å Multi car pile-up 26 at Shack rd., 2nd 26 410 and Bostwick St.
Å LCGH “code grey”, No personnel allowed to leave... Continued to 1/31
Numerous calls for vehicles off road
11:06 St. Rt. 177 closed
11:30 Meeting County Manager, Emergency Management, and County Highway at EOC.
15:10 Town of Pinckney pulling plows
15:45 Re-open Rt. 177, quickly closed again due to snowing and blowing.
16:00 Pre Shawn LCGH still on “code grey” till 7am.
16:20 Black River backing up in Mill creek...
19:32 received call from Rangers, they will be “sweeping” St. Rt. 177 ??? “Command” by Operations at “ROC” in Jefferson County.
State DOT contacted, had no knowledge, will notify drivers plowing to be aware.
21:42 State reports still zero visibility on 177
23:10 Rangers complete with “sweep”, State DOT reports Rt.177 passable, will need widening however is open now.
Less than 1 hour

Feb. 5, 2019  11:23am
The Peebles Residence
Salmon River Osceola
Feb. 5th 16:43
Snow Storm 2/25

• Multiple vehicles off road, minor MVS’s starting at 08:00am
• Constableville and West Leyden called out to shut down St. Rt. 26 10:04 am
• 13:32 North State St. @ Lewis Lanes head on collision Tractor Trailer and State DOT Plow, all cleared 14:30.
• 15:00 Constableville pulls fire crews blocking St. Rt. 26 for safety, barricades placed at 26 and West Road
• West Turin Pulled plows at 15:30 due to Zero visibility, resumed operations at 17:30.
• West Leyden released by State DOT at 19:51 10hours later Rt.26 now open.
Advisories

- Jan 30th Blizzard warning
- Jan 31 Wind chill warning
- Feb 5th Winter weather advisory
- Feb 5th Aerial flooding
- Feb. 6th Winter weather advisory
- Feb. 7th Wind advisory
- Feb. 8th Winter weather advisory
- Feb. 10th Winter storm warning
- Feb. 12 Winter storm warning
- Feb. 15th Winter weather advisory
- Feb., 19th Winter weather advisory
- Feb. 21st High wind watch 30-40 gust 65 mph
- Feb. 22 High Wind warning
- Feb. 23 Winter storm watch /Upgraded to Blizzard warning
- Feb. 24th High wind watch 30-40 gust 70 mph
- Feb. 25 “Blizzard”
- Feb. 27th Winter weather advisory

ROC in Watertown
Advisories/Warnings March

- March 4th Winter weather advisory
- March 6th Winter weather advisory
- March 7th High wind watch
- March 9th High wind advisory/ upgraded to warning
- March 10th Winter weather advisory
- March 14th Wind advisory
What if we need help?
NYR open events Lewis County
Prediction ???

Lewis Counties definition of “warnings” and “watches” fit more into the nuisance category

Å NWS vs. NYS Mesonet

Å Seemingly routine events will be classified as a “warning” or “watch”
Lewis County Economic Development
Mission Statement

“Our mission is to attract and enhance industrial and economic development, help create jobs and maintain economic stability within Lewis County. We work to promote and enhance the economic conditions, recreational opportunities, prevent unemployment and economic deterioration, and ensure the prosperity of our businesses, industries, communities, and citizens, leading to an overall better quality of life”

Goals

1. Support the growth of existing businesses
2. Support the creation and development of new local businesses
3. Creating a business friendly environment for outside businesses to come to Lewis County
Center for Business

- Creating Infrastructure/Business Friendly
- Multi-Tenant Facility
- Approximately 152,000sq.ft of manufacturing space & 8,000sq.ft. of office space total
Lewis County Commerce Park

- **Creating Infrastructure/Sites**
- 5 ShovelReady Sites
- Full Infrastructure
- Ready to develop!
Lyons Falls Mill Redevelopment

- *Creating Infrastructure/Sites*
- Four-Phase demolition of Lyons Falls Mill
- Currently on last phase!
- Brownfield Opportunity Area
Black River Valley Natural

- Lease to Own Example
- Guided BRVN through entire business start-up process
- Assisted with finding location & funding
Skewed Brewing

- *Lease-to-own example*

- LCIDA owns building & brewery equipment, currently on a 10 year lease to own agreement with Skewed Brewing
Small Business Revolving Loan Fund

- Business Resource/Business Friendly
- Currently $129,800 in active loans
- Up to $25,000 in loan funding
- 50% County Funds / 50% USDA Rural Enterprise Grant Fund
- We helped Arborcare expand and grow in 2017 with a Small Business Loan that they may have not otherwise received
Johnson Lumber

- *PILOT Example*
  - Johnson Lumber invested $3 million to expand their Pre-Finished Pine product line
  - LCIDA assisted with a PILOT, Sales & Use Tax & Mortgage Tax Exemption
  - Created 5 new jobs, more jobs in future
Wind Projects

• Copenhagen Wind Project
  • 40-tower wind farm
  • 200+ Construction Jobs; 5-10 Permanent Jobs

• Other Wind Projects in Development:
  • Roaring Brook – Martinsburg
  • Deer River Wind – Town of Pickney, Harrisburg & Montague
  • Number 3 Wind – Town of Lowville & Harrisburg
COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM - HIGH IMPACT ACTION
Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a municipal energy procurement model that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity for virtually all homes and small businesses within your jurisdiction. CCA puts control of choosing an energy supplier in local hands.

- Secure lower energy prices locally
- Exercise more local control over energy resources
- Increase the percentage of renewables in the fuel mix
CCA programs may be used to develop Distributed Energy Resources (DER) including local renewable energy projects, shared renewables like community solar, energy efficiency, demand response, energy management, microgrid projects and other innovative Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiatives that optimize system benefits, target and address load pockets/profile within the CCA’s zone, and reduce cost of service for participating customers.
Clean Energy Communities Program - Lewis County Designated First in North County 2017

What we have accomplished to date:

Benchmarking - Adopt a policy to report the energy use of buildings
Clean Energy Upgrades - Achieve 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from buildings
Clean Fleets - Install electric vehicle charging stations or deploy alternative fuel vehicles
Unified Solar Permit - Streamline the approvals process for solar
Energy Code Enforcement Training - Train compliance officers in energy code best practices
Community Choice Aggregation - Put energy supply choices in your community’s hands

Special Note: IN 2018 LEWIS COUNTY WAS AWARDED $100,000.00 FOR NEW LED LIGHTING in County Buildings and Parking areas.
Program Requirements

Demonstrate completion of the CCA action by submitting the following documentation:

Submit a copy of the adopted legislation authorizing the municipality’s participation in an opt-out CCA program.

Submit a copy of an executed electric service agreement between the applying jurisdiction and an Energy Services Company (ESCO) to supply electricity to participating customers on an opt-out basis.

Date of Completion
Date of completion electric service agreement or addendum is fully executed.

Recommendations
Consider teaming up with other nearby municipalities and allowing a local or regional group to administer the CCA program.
Three types of municipalities under New York State law eligible to form a CCA are:

- Villages
- Towns
- Cities

County governments may act as CCA administrator but are not authorized to create a CCA independently of villages, towns, and cities within the county. Another example of an administrator is MEGA (Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance).

The bottom line - local government officials that implement Community Choice Aggregation can expect to:

- Be well positioned to secure lower energy prices locally
- Exercise more local control over energy resources
- Increase the percentage of renewables in the fuel mix.
- Special Note: Kruger Energy of Lyons Falls has expressed an interest in this program.