



Sullivan County

Planning, Real Property and Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes - Final

Chairman Ira Steingart
Vice Chairman Michael Brooks
Committee Member George Conklin
Committee Member Nadia Rajsz
Committee Member Nicholas Salomone Jr.

Thursday, October 5, 2023

10:00 AM

Government Center

Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ira Steingart call the Planning, Real Property and Economic Development Committee to order at 10:03AM.

George Conklin was not present at roll call.

Roll Call

Present: Chairman Ira Steingart, Vice Chairman Michael Brooks, Nadia Rajsz and Nicholas Salomone Jr.

Arrived Late: George Conklin

Comments:

Note

Joseph Perrello, Luis Alvarez

Joshua Potosek, Michelle Huck, Michael McGuire, Thomas Cawley, Chris Knapp, Dan Hust, Heather Brown, Laura Quigely, Nancy Buck, Ken Walter, Lou Setren, Lise Kennedy, Herb Clark, Jen Flad, Diane M. Gene Benson

Reports:

1. Division of Planning

[ID-5837](#)

Attachments: [September 23](#)
[August 23 AG report](#)
[Beginner Farmer Program Schedule](#)
[September Demo Flyer](#)

Commissioner Heather Brown gave an update on the Planning Division.

2. Division of Community Resources [ID-5827](#)
Monthly Report
October 2023

Attachments: [2023 PCD DCR October Report](#)

Commissioner Laura Quigley gave an update on the Division of Community Resources.

At this point, George Conklin arrived at the meeting at 10:16AM.

3. County Treasurer

County Treasurer Nancy Buck gave an update on the Treasurer's Office.

4. Real Property Tax Services [ID-5835](#)

Attachments: [Real Property Tax Services Monthly Report for 8.2023](#)

Real Property Tax Services Director Chris Knapp gave an update on the RPTS dept.

5. Visitor's Association [ID-5842](#)

Attachments: [EDC September Report.docx](#)

Herb Clark gave an update on the Visitor's Association.

6. IDA [ID-5840](#)

Attachments: [09-23 IDA Activity Report.docx](#)

Executive Director Jen Flad gave an update on the IDA.

7. Partnership for Economic Development

Chairman Steingart stated that no one was present from Partnership as they were preparing for their event this evening.

8. Chamber of Commerce

No one was present from the Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion:

Public Comment

Ken Walter made a public comment. (see attached)

Ken Walter public comment.

[ID-5859](#)

Attachments: [KenWalterOctPubcomment](#)

Resolutions:

1. To authorize the Division of Planning, Community Development and Environmental Management to apply for Federal Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (“BRIC”) funding to update the County’s Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (“HMP”) [ID-5834](#)

NR to move 1-2 block, seconded by MB, all in favor

A motion was made by Committee Member Nadia Rajszyk, seconded by Vice Chairman Michael Brooks, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 10/19/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Steingart, Vice Chairman Brooks, Committee Member Conklin, Committee Member Rajszyk and Committee Member Salomone

2. TO CORRECT THE 2023 TAX ROLL OF THE TOWN OF FALLSBURG FOR TAX MAP #39.-1-88.6/1901 [ID-5836](#)

A motion was made by Committee Member Nadia Rajszyk, seconded by Vice Chairman Michael Brooks, that this Resolution be carried at Committee to the County Legislature meeting on 10/19/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Steingart, Vice Chairman Brooks, Committee Member Conklin, Committee Member Rajszyk and Committee Member Salomone

Proposed Resolution (failed)

At this point in time, Ira handed out a resolution to ask Robert Doherty to resign as the Chairman of the Legislature.

The following resolution was moved by Nadia Rajszt and seconded by Ira Steingart.

Ira Steingart expressed his opinion.

Nadia Rajszt expressed her opinion.

George Conklin expressed his opinion.

Ira Steingart made a comment.

Nadia Rajszt made a comment.

Joseph Perrello expressed his opinion.

Nadia Rajszt made another public comment.

Nicholas Salomone expressed his opinion.

Ira Steingart made another comment.

Deputy County Attorney Tom Cawley made a comment.

Michael Brooks expressed his opinion.

Nadia Rajszt made another comment.

Ira Steingart then read the resolution out loud.

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY LUIS ALVAREZ, NADIA RAJSZ, JOSEPH PERRELLO
AND IRA STEINGART**

Whereas without conferring with fellow legislator Luis Alvarez, and

Whereas without referring his alleged concerns to the Commissioner of Human Resources, and

Whereas without discussing the content of its decision with John Kiefer, then the Chair of the County Board of Ethics or with any other member of that Board, and

Whereas without seeking the assent of the County Attorney or this body for issuing his press release, and

Whereas on January 22, 2021, Robert Doherty issued a press release in the name of this body and then further had it publicized on the County's website and falsely claimed therein as a fact that Mr. Alvarez directed a vile term toward then Commissioner Brown and further defended this claim by repeatedly writing that this claim was "founded" when he knew that it had never been founded or even investigated

by either Julie Diescher, the Commissioner of Human Services, or the Ethics Board,

Whereas after a full and fair trial, which itself followed extensive discovery, a jury of his peers has unanimously determined that Mr. Doherty lied and defamed Mr. Alvarez in claiming that he made any such statement to Ms. Brown and in asserting that this claim has been “founded”, and

Whereas after the trial and jury verdict, Mr. Doherty issued a press release in which he continues to stand by his false claims, re-defaming Mr. Alvarez with his lies.

It Is Now Hereby Resolved that:

1. Mr. Doherty shall now, and is hereby immediately removed as Chairperson of the Legislature;
2. This body condemns Mr. Doherty for the making and publication of false statements, particularly such statements which relate to matters which should have been subject to private investigation and review pursuant to the processes established in and by this County, and
3. This body apologizes to Stephanie Brown for Mr. Doherty’s unauthorized publication and to Mr. Alvarez for the public humiliation and disgrace which Mr. Doherty intended to and did cause by and through said publication.

Chairman Steingart called the question on the resolution, the resolution failed 2-3 with Michael Brooks, Nicholas Salomone and George Conklin opposed.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Nadia Rajsz moved to adjourn, seconded by Michael Books. the Planning, Real Property and Economic Development Committee adjourned at 10:53AM.