

June 18, 2015

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 8

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR MILLS PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 9D-4 (2015)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE: "Documents Related to Proposed State Transfer of Former US Route 219 Bridge Over Cattaraugus Creek to Erie and Cattaraugus Counties"
(6-0)
 - b. COMM. 9M-1 (2015)
VILLAGE OF SPRINGVILLE: "Letter to Regarding Proposed State Transfer of Former US Route 219 Bridge"
(6-0)
 - c. COMM. 11M-4 (2015)
VISIT BUFFALO NIAGARA: "2015 First Quarter Report"
(6-0)
 - d. COMM. 12M-2 (2015)
NFTA: "April 23, 2015 Board Minutes"
(6-0)
2. INTRO. 12-4 (2015)
BURKE AS AMENDED
WHEREAS, a fiber optic broadband network does not exist throughout the County of Erie in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, not having a fiber optic broadband network limits the region's economic development opportunities in the growing technology market; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that communities with 1 gigabit fiber optic broadband access have on average 1 percent increase in GDP growth compared to regions without this access ; and

WHEREAS, a fiber network could prove to be a regional asset that improves the quality of education, public safety, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, as a regional asset, a fiber broadband network could be used to attract businesses and talented people to our region, especially, those from the burgeoning technology market of Toronto; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature unanimously supported the exploration of a fiber optic broadband network in Erie County which resulted in the formation of the Erie County Municipal Broadband Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Committee produced a document highlighting the benefits of a municipal network as well as the challenges associated with such a network; and

WHEREAS, after consulting with telecommunications professionals it is the Committee's opinion that a feasibility study is the next step toward making a fiber optic network a reality as well as the needed creation of an asset map of the fiber cables that already exist in our region.

WHEREAS, the State of New York has made 500 million dollars available to public and private entities for the purpose of making broadband internet accessible to all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive in his Initiatives for Stronger Communities has publicly committed to the goal of increasing broadband access; and

WHEREAS, any delay in this feasibility study could impair the County's competitiveness for State Broadband funds

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature encourages the County Executive to move forward with a feasibility study for a fiber optic broadband network as soon as possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to the County Executive, Department of Law, Department of Environment and Planning, Division of Information and Support Services, and the Division of Budget and Management.
(6-0)

EDWARD A. RATH, III
CHAIR