

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

NOVEMBER 18, 2008

8:30 A.M.

BORG WARNER ROOM – TC PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESENT: B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, D. Bradac, D. Chadwick, M. Coldren, C. Haynes, D. Herath, D. Huston; J. Little, K. Luz Herrera, L. Leonard, P. McKee, B. Myers, E. O'Donnell, L. Patz, M. Talarski, M. Turnbull, J. Wesche

EXCUSED: R. Bantle, L. Holmes, J. McPheeters, M. Opperman, M. Stamm, N. Zahler

ABSENT: P. Carey, L. Dillon, P. Gardner, D. Marsh, R. Pass, S. Sammis

GUESTS: J. Mareane, Tompkins County Administration; M. Hughes, NYSDOL

STAFF: J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pedersen called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Mr. Bohman, seconded by Mr. Little and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the minutes of September 30, 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bradac distributed materials related to the Green Collar Job Fair.

Ms. Herath announced Seconds on Court is a great way for individuals to do their Christmas shopping and at the same time benefit the community.

Mr. Pederson welcomed Mr. Joe Mareane to Tompkins County. Mr. Mareane is replacing Steve Whicher as the Administrator for Tompkins County.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

It was Moved by Mr. Wesche, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approve the appointment of Dan Huston to the Board. Mr. Huston is the Senior Director of Human Resources at Advion.

WORKFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN – FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL EMPLOYERS

Mr. Mareane stated the Governor's mid-year budget correction proposal will have the greatest impact on schools, community colleges, and healthcare. He stated the State is in a financial crisis and Tompkins County as well as other municipalities is advocating strongly that cost not be shifted to municipalities as this is a cost shift and will only create higher local taxes. He noted that at this point the budget proposal has not reduced funding for mandated programs. He stated that due to the current political climate, he does not expect a lot to happen in Albany over the next few weeks. He noted that the County's 2009 budget has been set up well to weather the storm and there is currently 5 percent in reserve. He stated that it is important not to diminish services in these difficult financial times but rather work collectively to reduce overall costs.

Dr. O'Donnell spoke on the impact to local schools. She stated that in the TST BOCES region a 4.7 million dollar cut is proposed with 1.9 million being proposed for the Ithaca City School District. She stated that mid year adjustments on schools are extremely difficult because they have already budgeted so tightly that they do not have the reserves available to absorb cutbacks.

Dr. Myers stated that in the Groton School District, 82 percent of the overall budget is salaries. She stated that schools couldn't go out of business and therefore have to find ways to make the adjustments. Those adjustments have a direct impact on the services and programs that are provided. She stated that with the current proposal, Groton Schools would have to borrow money to make their December payroll.

Mr. Pedersen stated the healthcare industry is looking at significant cuts as well as freezing Medicaid payments. He stated Cayuga Medical has been somewhat fortunate because they were able to anticipate some of the changes that would be proposed as well as the Medicaid population is small in Tompkins County. He stated at this point it is too soon to tell what all of the impacts will be.

Mr. Pedersen stated that given the economy and as businesses begin to restructure he asked what the WIB could do to look at talent preservation in the community and providing bridges for individuals so the talent pool within the County is not lost. Ms. Mattick stated Borg Warner is a great example of how the community came together when Borg recently had lay-offs. She stated the job fair that was held had great representation from community employers who were able to help those laid off get reemployed. Ms. Blanchard stated the WIB was concerned a year ago about losing machinists in the community and asked if this is still a concern. Ms. Mattick stated hiring of machinists is still occurring within the community. She did note that Borg Warner did not lay off a high number of the skilled machinists.

Ms. Mattick stated she and Mr. Stamm have been meeting with key employers. To date they have met with both Cornell University and Borg Warner. Cal Organ at Borg Warner has indicated he is very optimistic and he spoke about the production lines that Borg will continue to grow. They are also committed to continuing their investment in the community. Mary Opperman from Cornell has indicated that Cornell will be continuing to fill key faculty positions. They will also be looking at departments to see where efficiencies can occur and any staff impacts will be after a very thorough and thoughtful process has occurred.

Mr. Haynes stated that in terms of the community college, TC3 is seeing an increasing in both credit and non-credit training. The college is also expecting an increase in enrollment in both the spring and fall semesters. They have an increasing need for faculty and they are looking at areas where efficiencies can occur and the cuts to college funding can be absorbed.

Mr. Pedersen asked what strategies could be used to be more effective to help with both the short and long term needs of the community. Ms. Mattick stated that training funds would continue to be an issue. There is an increased need for training as layoffs occur and the unemployment rate continues to increase. Mr. Bohman suggested a conversation with the County to see if they can help. He stated that when departmental budgets were prepared it was a very different climate than now due to the increased number of layoffs. Ms. Mattick stated that the County, for the first time this year, has provided target funding to both the WIB and the Office of Employment and Training. Ms. Blanchard, speaking as a former County legislator, noted that to get target funding is a very big step on the County's part. The return on investment needs to be clearly shown when moving toward a request for funding in the 2010 budget.

On the State DOL level, Mr. Hughes stated that he is hearing that Ithaca may be getting an additional labor services or employment services representative. This will help with assisting jobseekers. Ms. Mattick stated she has met with individuals from State DOL and they have indicated they have funding that can be used to refill various positions and officials are talking to locals to see where needs exist.

On the Federal level, Ms. Mattick stated President Elect Obama has historically been supportive of the Workforce Investment Act Programs and reauthorization as well as a green job focus. She noted that Senator Kennedy has traditionally been the key author of WIA and his health is a concern.

WIB/SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Mr. Coldren stated he spoke with Mr. Pedersen and Ms. Mattick about forming a smaller group to look at the WIB/School collaboration. That group will consist of himself, Dr. O'Donnell, Dr. Myers, Mr. Pedersen, Judy Pastel and Leslie Myers from ICSD, and Ray Ackerman of the Model Transition Program. Additional members from the WIB will be asked to join the group at a later time. The group is scheduled to meet on December 9, 2008.

WIB DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BORG WARNER RAPID RESPONSE

Ms. Mattick reported a job and career fair was held in November in response to the recent layoffs at Borg Warner. Over 150 jobseekers and 20 employers attended. The event was very successful and the One-Stop staff did a phenomenal job pulling the event together within 3 to 4 weeks.

UPSTATE NY BIOCAREER CONNECTIONS

The Upstate NY Biocareer fair is scheduled for March 25, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel. The event will be geared toward recent college graduates and college students and will provide an opportunity for individuals to explore the many career options available in upstate NY in the field of bioscience.

HEALTH CARE CAREER FAIR

Ms. Mattick reported the regional healthcare career fair is being scheduled for the fall of 2009. A group of collaborators is being identified and the fair will be patterned after the one held in Binghamton with United Health Services.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Ms. Mattick reported the TANF Summer youth Program was a huge success. The program served 180 youth and \$185,000 was expended in youth wages. She noted this summer there was more anecdotal feedback from youth that they needed to contribute their wages toward their families needs. Ms. Turnbull stated she had an opportunity to use a couple of youth this summer and it was very positive. The youth were well prepared and it was a wonderful experience.

ONE STOP MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Bradac distributed her report. She also noted that the One-Stop is utilizing Incentive funds to make several upgrades to the Center. A computer lab has been created, wireless connections have been installed and adaptive equipment and reception furniture is being purchased. The funding has also been used to increase training dollars to serve more individuals.

BOARD OFFICERS/NOMINATIONS

Mr. Pedersen stated he is appointing Mr. Little as Chair of the Nominations Committee. He reported Mr. Wesche, current Vice-Chair, is unable to step into the Chair role in 2009 and Mr. Pedersen has offered to continue on as Chairman until March 2009 when elections will occur. He asked any board member wishing to participate on the nominating committee to contact Mr. Little directly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m. The next WIB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.