

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
Human Services Development Complex  
Minutes from 1-27-10

*Present:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine          | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix                   | <input type="checkbox"/> William F. Mullaney-Town of Orange              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Bishop-Town of Tyrone           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donna Kelly-Village of Montour Falls                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Village of Odessa      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Phillips-Village of Watkins Glen    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Schuyler Co. Legislator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator         |  |

Call to order – 7:00pm

*Welcome*

**Local Census Office** – Vaughn Neiley, Local Census Office Manager was available to share about their new office location at 161 Lake St., Elmira 735-5540 which is available during the 2010 Decennial Census. His office will provide assistance during the Census. There will be scheduled times available at the Human Services Complex to provide assistance to persons who have questions on filling out their Census questionnaire. Mr. Neiley is also available to speak at local municipality board meetings regarding the Census and what that could mean to your particular area. He can be reached by calling 607-735-5540.

**Health Officer** – Dr. Winkler spoke on how the H1N1 Virus number has decreased. Flu shots remain available at no charge and he recommends that all should receive to protect against getting the virus.

**Officers for 2010** – Judy Phillips nominated the following slate:

- President – Ben Dickens
- Vice President – Donna Kelly
- Secretary – Peggy Tomassi

Motion to accept the slate as nominated – Tom Gifford; Seconded by Dennis Fagan. Unanimously approved.

Meetings dates for 2010 are April 28<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, and October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Complex.

**Energy Task Force** – To prepare municipalities on what they could be facing as natural gas drilling enters into our area, the Task Force will present their findings to date:

Brett Chedzoy: using a quadrant analysis, Brett is researching what neighboring counties are doing primarily with natural gas drilling.

Kate Bartholemew: DEC has held a public hearing and have approximately 15,000 public comments to review.

Rocky Kambo: Presented a slide show and description of how drilling for natural gas has and will impact our areas economically & socially.

Tim Hicks: spoke about how drilling will impact the environment. Federal Regulation states that a Flood Plain Ordinance needs to be in place.

Bill Kennedy: in terms of public & health safety, the increase in population due to drilling services means an increase in services.

Jerry Verrigni: spoke on road & infrastructures in terms of budgets. Damage to roads as a result from drilling could cripple municipality budgets. Discussed creation of driveway permits prior to issues. Uniformity of ordinances/permits can strengthen its value.

Delta Engineering – Steve Mesmer (handout) spoke on road use agreement services.

The Task Force Committee will continue its research to ensure municipalities are informed of what may occur and how to prevent potential issues.

Rental Housing Legislation – tables until next meeting

Health Insurance – Ben Dickens shared that if you are a member of the County's Health Care Consortium and would like information on an HSA, please let him know.

*Around the table –*

Fred Hall shared that WFLR 101.9 is back.

*Next meeting:* April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
Human Services Development Complex  
Minutes from 4-28-10

*Present:*

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine          | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector           |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator         |  |

Call to order – 7:00pm

*Welcome*

Dr. Winkler, Health Officer – NYS DOH Alert regarding outbreak of ecoli with severe cases of diarrhea. Dengue fever is a high fever that increases the chance of pertusus (whooping cough in children & 100 day cough in adults).

**Energy Task Force** – Danielle Hautaniemi represented the Energy Task force at the Council Governments. Danielle addressed the Council with information from the past executive committee meeting of the energy task force. Danielle expressed the need for increased participation from members of the council of governments with the various sub-committees of the energy task force. She re-iterated the goal of the task force is to prepare and guide municipalities and their municipal officials in dealing with large scale energy development. Without the participation of the council of governments members it would be difficult for the energy task force to come up with an applicable guide, or grouping of resources that would be most beneficial to the municipalities of Schuyler County. The goal of the task force is to develop a handbook for the municipalities to have as a resource to utilize to help them through the hurdles they face with the impending Marcellus Shale development, as well as other areas of energy development that we will be facing for the next 30-40 years.

Danielle felt there were two potential ways for added participation. That would be to establish a sub-committee of the Council of Governments to deal with this issue. This would be in similar format to the sub-committee that in the past dealt with Land – Use, and Code Enforcement. The second alternative would be to appoint at least one if not two members to the executive committee. This would allow for direct oversight, and guidance that could lead to an improved product.

Jerry Verrigni addressed the Council on behalf of the roads and infrastructure sub-committee of the Energy Task Force. Jerry let the Council know that Delta Engineers had a meeting with Hunt Engineers to discuss a possible joint effort in the engineering services to prepare and protect the municipalities roads and infrastructure. Although a formal agreement was not signed, Chris Bond said he understood the value of the municipalities acting in uniformity on this issue. Jerry also stated that Chris said he realized the margins Delta was working under for what was provided was very marginal. Jerry said that Hunts felt like they needed more details on the exact system that Delta has put together before signing a formal deal to work collaboratively on this effort. Jerry said that Chris

also mentioned that he would make sure that any municipality in Schuyler County that contacted understood the merit and importance of doing this uniformly.

Jerry discussed the pre-Council of Governments meeting that took place on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Jerry said that the Town's of Hector, Montour, Catharine, and Reading are all going to try to pass using Delta and this process during their May board meetings. Ben Dickens, explained all of this more thoroughly. Ben said that the Town of Hector official signed with Delta this morning. Ben said that the Town of Cayuta's supervisor would bring it to his board in a positive manner. It seemed it was just a matter of coming up with the funds to do this. Ben said that Delta would hold a meeting for Dix, Tyrone, and Orange for them to ask questions and become more understanding of the importance of the uniformity and the understanding of the system being offered by Delta. Jerry said that he would attend as many board meetings as possible in May to support the Town supervisors in expressing this opportunity to their boards. Jerry and Ben both expressed their hope to have a majority of the Towns signed up no later than the end of the June Board meetings. Any municipality not signed up after the June Board meeting will have those Town Supervisors, Jerry, and other members of the roads and infrastructure sub-committee to attend the July board meetings to make one last attempt at complete uniformity.

***Rental Housing Legislation*** – tabled until next meeting.

***Sales Tax Update*** – Handout. As there was an error in last years figures given to us by the state.

***Around the table*** –

***Next meeting:*** July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
Human Services Development Complex  
Minutes from 7-28-10

*Present:*

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|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis.         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator      |  |

Call to order – 7:00pm

*Welcome*

**Dr. Winkler, Health Officer** – (Handout) Overview of the bed bug.

**Dog Licensing** – Sheriff Yessman met with the Town Clerks as NYS will be placing all dog licensing responsibilities to the Towns potentially beginning January 1, 2011. Fees should be uniform across the county. This will create an issue with current agreements and payments. In 2009 the county paid the state \$1,844.80 for dog tax. \$3.00 of each license had gone to the state for unneutered dogs and is recommended these funds go towards our current neutering program. Education & stricter enforcement need to occur to assure legal licensing of dogs take place.

**Energy Task Force** – Danielle Hautaniemi explained the task force continues to obtain information. The Energy Task Force website continues to have valuable information <http://www.schuylerenergy.org/>. Teams will visit each Town/Village Board meeting to present a Power Point presentation.

Dominic Frongillo, NYSEDA Energy Smart Communities Southern Tier Regional Coordinator spoke on how the Federal Government recognizes that fuel generated has to change for clean energy. There are monies available to businesses, municipalities for energy efficiencies as well as energy audits.

**Rental Housing Legislation** – As the housing assessment dictates the need for higher standard of housing, support is needed to ensure standard vs substandard rental housing. It would be most beneficial to have uniform rules across the county.

**Private Fireworks Permits** – In 2009, state law dictated that permitted private firework displays are now allowed. The resident would need to provide proof of having a licensed pyrotechnic in order to be given a permit.

**Sales Tax Update** – Handout. In 2009, there was an error in the sales tax figures given to the county by the state. Recovery in 2010 is holding steady. Third quarter sales tax earnings are generally the best. Tim O’Hearn suggests Towns & Villages hold their budget flat in terms of revenue from the sales tax.

*Around the table –*

Judy Phillips – The Village of Watkins Glen is requesting resources for the Canada Geese issue they are experiencing.

Tim O’Hearn – Joe Starks of ECT Technologies is partnering with 6 counties utilizing stimulus funding for expansion of broadband capabilities. The benefits would be increasing broadband & wireless connections and will open doors for future economic development. A formal announcement in August is expected. There is a 30 month build out period. Also, ***Schuyler County Transit*** is expected to roll out very soon. To market the system, there may be a period where riders will be able to utilize the system for free. Schedule of 12 stops is set. The link to the Schuyler Transit will be sent to each municipality in hopes that they place it on their website and offer the system to their residents. A Kick Off Celebration will be forth coming.

***Next meeting:*** October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
Human Services Development Complex  
Minutes from 10-26-10

*Present:*

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine                 | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix               | <input type="checkbox"/> William F. Mullaney-Town of Orange            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Froebel-Town of Orange         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Bishop-Town of Tyrone                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Kelly-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett     |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |

Call to order – 7:00pm

*Welcome*

**Dr. Winkler, Health Officer** – Flu shots. Current recommendation is for everyone to get a flu shot. There is no significant flu activity at this time. No rabies activity noted in the county. Ben Dickens shared that Hector gave a flu clinic for a donation. They made enough to pay for the vaccine as 99 animals were vaccinated.

**Energy Task Force** – Rocky Kambo shared that the Task Force is continuing their research relating to gas drilling with a focus on quality of water.

**Code Enforcement/Rental Housing Legislation** – Charles Bliss, State of NY Division of Code Enforcement and Administration presented info on the importance of code enforcement & the responsibilities thereof. He can be reached for questions at 585-437-5534 or by email at [cbliss@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:cbliss@dos.state.ny.us). There is no difference between a Code Enforcer and Building Inspector. It depends on what the Municipality names this position. A training for Justices will be available in the near future.

**Sales Tax Update /2011 Budget** – State has decreased aid per property parcel. A staff member of the Real Property Office is planned and they will not be replacing that person. Election costs should be cut in half unless a primary is held in 2011. The County is changing health insurance carriers and going with Chemung County. It is essentially the same plan with lower premiums beginning January 1, 2011. Current costs are exceeding budgeted figures. Enrollment will be in December if towns are interested in joining the plan. Contact Human Resources for more information. 535-8179.

Sales tax figures should hit the projected budget. If trend holds true, we should see an increase by years’ end. Tim O’Hearn suggests Towns & Villages budget the same as in 2010. Room tax is running 14% ahead of projection. Clothing sales tax projection is \$225,000 for 2011. Economic Development & Planning is 4% off the top of the overall county sales tax figure. Towns & Villages will no longer need to budget for Economic Development in their respective budgets.

**Aerial Photography** - Mark Watts from Chemung County Soil & Water presented an opportunity for the County (Towns & Villages) to receive digital imagery. Chemung County shared the expenses between their IDA, Economic Development, Emerg. Mngt, Fire Protection, Police Enforcement & Code Enforcement. Do the Towns & Villages (minus V of WG & V of MF as

they have already committed) want to commit to a portion of the remaining \$41,000? This opportunity is only available every 5 years (see letter from Jerry Verrigni, Schuyler County Soil & Water).

***Around the table –***

Peggy Tomassi – The Village of Odessa will have 2 informational sessions regarding the dissolution of the village on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the Village hall and at 7:00pm in the auditorium of the Odessa Montour School. A representative from NYCOCM will be present on the panel. The dissolution vote will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Harold Russell – the informational meeting on fracking held at the WGCS discussing the various chemicals used in this process and how there are new ways for this process that do not include invasive chemicals. He would like local legislation so that the pipelines would be required to go around wooded lots & swamps rather than through them.

***Next meeting:*** January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.