

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Human Services Development Complex

Minutes from 4-26-2017

Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John VanSoest-Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alvin White-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Pinkard -Town of Orange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Conklin-Town of Reading | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John King-Village of Montour Falls |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Letteer – Village of Odessa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sam Schimizzi-Village of Watkins Glen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Carroll – WG Area Chamber of Commerce | |

Other: Joe Hammond, Town of Dix; Sue Brill, Schuyler County; Shawn Rosno, public; Jim Ryan, Village of Montour Falls; Barb Halpin & Jim Howell, Schuyler County

Call to order – 7:02PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

John King, President added SCOPED Update & MF Vacant Property Legislation to the agenda. SCOPED Update will continue to be added to each meeting agenda.

Health Officer Report – Dr. Winkler shared an ‘*Active Shooter Preparedness Update for Hospitals*’ live webcast opportunity for Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 by Everbridge Care Conserve. He recommends taking part in this webcast. Influenza A is on the way down.

SCOPED Update – Don Desrochers shared that SCOPEDs Annual Meeting was held. The Business Park project is on schedule for completion.

Vacant Property Legislation in Montour Falls – (Handout) Jim Ryan shared that due to vacant parcels not being kept up in terms of house & lawn maintenance, the Village of Montour Falls put in legislation a local law creating a mandatory registry of homes that are vacant which enables permissions to access & inspect 1-2 family homes. There is a 90 day window to notify the village that a house will be empty. Fees are applied to inhibit vacant properties. Violations will continue and unpaid fees placed on the houses tax roll if not paid in full. The theory is to force landowners to maintain their property while it is vacant.

Shared Services Panel – The 2017-2018 Enacted State Budget resulted in new legislation designed to generate property tax savings by facilitating operational collaboration between local governments. This initiative establishes a Shared Services Panel (SSP) in each county which is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the County. The panels will work to help develop, and ultimately vote to adopt, a Countywide Shared Service Property Tax Savings Plan(s), structured around actions to share services; eliminate duplicate services; reduce back-office administrative overhead; and find new opportunities for inter-governmental coordination (R. Rosado, Sec. of State). The Council of Governments, having been put in place in 2005, largely fulfills the requirement of a panel. From now thru August, the Panel will work to develop and approve a Countywide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan(s). By September 15th the SSP must approve the plan. The Panel, made up of the chief elected officials of each Town/Village, will be required to vote on the plan. Tim O’Hearn as CEO, will create the plan, certify it, and submit to the Schuyler County Legislature prior to August 1st. The Legislature may make recommendations subsequent to their receipt of the plan. Upon successful adoption of a plan, it must be submitted to the Department of State. Documentation to quantify efforts and dollars saved will be done.

This meeting is to brainstorm shared services currently being done in terms of shared services and explore opportunities for additional services. The expectation is to lower local expenses which ideally will lower property taxes.

Shared Services Currently Being Done Between Municipalities (Not County) –

- Highway equipment & manpower (cost avoidance)
- Towns of Reading & Starkey sharing Code Enforcement
- Town of Montour & Village of Montour Falls sharing Court
- Villages of Watkins Glen & Montour Falls Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (Sewer)
- Town of Catharine & Village of Odessa and the Town of Reading & Village of Watkins Glen share mowing services & maintenance.
- Towns of Reading & Dix share water
- Town of Montour, Villages of Montour Falls & Burdett, and Schuyler County – MEGA
- Town of Hector & Village of Burdett share water
- Landfill Commission

Shared Services Currently Being Done Between Municipalities (Including County)

- Consolidated Weights and Measures Department (Schuyler, Chemung, Yates)
- Shared Records Management Facility (County, WG Schools, Village of WG, Town of Hector)
- County Assisted Assessing
- Shared Legal Counsel for Certiorari Defense (large challenges)
- Shared Fuel Facility (County, Towns, Villages, NFP's)
- School Resource Officer (Village of WG/WGCSD)
- County Information Technology Department outsourced to BOCES
- IT Services IMA between County and Town of Tyrone
- Shared Public Works Facility (County, School, Village WG)
- 911 Dispatch between Schuyler County & Village of Watkins Glen includes Records/Administration
- Consolidated Transportation Department - Watkins Glen & Odessa-Montour School District
- Watkins Glen & Odessa-Montour Athletics merged sports teams
- Economic Development – SCOPED (public / private partnership)
- Schuyler/Chemung Health Insurance Consortium
- Combined Staff Development Position DSS (Schuyler/Steuben)
- Shared Assistant District Attorney (Schuyler/Steuben)
- Central Garage – Vehicle Maintenance & Repair County/Towns/Villages
- STN Dark Fiber Open Access Network (Schuyler, Yates, Chemung, Steuben, Broome, Tioga, Tompkins)
- STC Regional Planning (Schuyler, Steuben, Chemung)
- Court Security (County, Hector, Reading)
- Code Enforcement (Schuyler, Yates)
- Mental Health Clinical Services (Schuyler, Yates)
- WGI – IMA for law enforcement coverage w/ 9 counties
- Dog Control (County provides for Towns)
- Summer Youth Recreation Program
- PH Shared STD Clinic (Schuyler/Chemung)
- Radio Consortium (Interoperability) 9 County
- HazMat Response Team (Schuyler, Chemung, Steuben, Tioga)

New Shared Services Opportunities (as offered by the SSP)

- Highway Administration
- Tax Collection-Consolidation and /or Privatization
- County Role in Tax Foreclosure Extended to Villages
- Health Insurance Consortium
- Property & Liability Insurance Consortium
- Workers Compensation Consortium
- Legal Services – County to Provide to Municipalities
- Centralized Code Enforcement
- Consolidated Courts
- Combined Custodial and Buildings & Grounds Department
- Shared PH Emergency Planner (Schuyler, Yates)
- County Wide Enhanced Recycling/Composting/Curbside Pickup
- Libraries
- Franchise Agreements (Administration/Negotiation)
- Public Transit Expansion
- Sharing / Consolidation of Municipal Facilities
- Joint Purchasing
- Fire Departments: Administration/Equipment/Consolidation/Procurement
- County Wide Law Enforcement Agency / Police Consolidation (Introduced after mtg by Mayor of WG)
- Planning-Economic Development/Grant Writing
- GIS
- Human Resources & Payroll
- Central Business Office
- Financial Audits & AUD – Accounting Support
- Centralization of Issuance of Licenses – Dog, Birth, Death, Hunting
- Consolidated / Central Board of Assessment Review (Grievance Day)
- Web Hosting
- Shared Water Operator
- Municipal Consolidations
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All ideas above are not meant to imply that the county oversees all but rather municipalities sharing services in general. When considering any other ideas, view as if you were starting from scratch serving 18k people. Would we have 8 Towns, 4 Villages, & 3 School Districts?

In response to questions concerning the new legislation O’Hearn clarified that a referendum is not required as this is not tied to aid. A detailed accounting of the meetings will be recorded. If a plan is not approved in 2017, it must be considered again in 2018. Three public meetings are scheduled for the purpose of soliciting public input: May 17, 2017 at 1pm, June 21, 2017 at 1pm, and July 12, 2017 at 7pm. These meetings will be held in the Legislative Chambers 105 Ninth Street, Watkins Glen, NY 14891.

The Association of Towns is conducting a meeting around this Initiative to be held on May 15th from 10am to noon at the Corning Radisson. Alvin White plans to attend and offered carpooling.

The next SSP panel was scheduled for Thursday May 25th at 7pm at the HSC.

Around the Table-

Alvin White – Where are we at with the Summer Rec Program discussed at last month’s meeting? Gayle Sedlack from Watkins Glen School District stated that Cargill donated \$15 and through efforts made with our Government Representatives, the program will receive funds through 21st Century Grant Funding. Funds from the local municipalities are appreciated and will help sustain the program for years to come.

Next meeting: July 19, 2017.

Adjourn 9:12PM