

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Rural Urban Center - Auditorium

Minutes from 1/17/2007

Present:

~Roy Craver-Town of Montour
~Chuck Franzese-Town of Dix
~Dennis Fagan- County Legislature
~Ben Dickens-Town of Hector
~Judy Phillips-Village of Watkins Glen
~Peggy Tomassi-Village of Odessa
~Tom Brace-Town of Catharine
~Tim O'Hearn-County Administrator
~Dale Walter-Village of Burdett
~Tom Gifford-County Legislature
~Donna Kelly-Village of Montour Falls

Call to order – 7:05pm

Moment of silence for the memory of Monty Stamp.

Habitat for Humanity- Sara Rockwell, student of WGCS explained her efforts to promote a Habitat for Humanity effort in Schuyler County. Would benefit those who are homeless and promote efficient housing. Would appreciate partnering with local government for letters of support as well as being a resource for this effort. Sara can be reached at mand15y2@aol.com. Sara will formulate a template letter which will be sent out to the municipalities. Motion made to send out letter on behalf of the COG. All approved.

Next meeting for the Habitat for Humanity will be on March 15th, 7pm at the St. Pauls Parish House in Montour Falls.

Selection of Officers for 2007-

Nominations: President - Dale Walter, Mayor for the Village of Burdett
 Vice President - Ben Dickens, Supervisor for the Town of Hector
 Secretary - Peggy Tomassi, Trustee for the Village of Odessa

Tom Gifford asked if there were any other nominations? None stated. Motion closed. All in favor. None opposed. Slate carries as stated.

Selection of Steering Committee for 2007 - Current members:

- Tom Brace, Supervisor, Town of Catharine
- Judy Phillips, Mayor, Village of Watkins Glen
- Chuck Franzese, Supervisor, Town of Dix
- Jim Frame, Superintendent, OMCS
- Schuyler County Legislative Chair
- Schuyler County Administrator

Unless there are other nominations, Tim suggested the slate of the Steering Committee remain the same. Motion made by Tom G. to keep the current slate, second by Ben D. All in favor. Slate carries as stated.

New Business

SWEAP (Sheriffs WeekEnd Alternative Program) – Sheriff Yessman provided an overview of this new initiative. Inmates that are sentenced for a period of time will be conducting work for Schuyler municipalities during the weekends. This program will begin February 10th and will be held from 7:30am until 3:30pm. Jobs that can be done will include picking up trash, painting, waxing

floors, washing Fire Department trucks, etc. Tools & equipment will need to be furnished and they program will supply the manpower determined by how many persons are available. Municipalities will need to contact Sheriff Bill Yessman or Deputy Steve Lawton to discuss utilizing this program.

Health Officer - Dr. James Norton discussed how Health Officers are becoming harder to find. The law still exists and he believes that there are still requirements for jurisdictions to have a Health Officer. The problem being is there is a deficiency of doctors to fill the spots. He suggests the COG to look into the legal requirements of having Health Officers and to look into collaborating with the County Public Health to fulfill the needs of this position. Dr. Norton suggested Dr. Winkler as a potential Health Officer. Marcia Kasprzyk, PH reiterated the need to look at the legality around the requirements of having a Health Officer. There was general agreement that research through the County Attorney's office would be requested to determine if this could or should more appropriately be a county function.

485 Real Property Exemptions – Tim O'Hearn reminded the COG of the existence of the 485 exemptions and the current status of the County-wide enacted exemptions. This can be used as a significant economic development tool if adopted by all taxing jurisdictions for affected properties. If additional information is needed for town or school board discussions please contact Tim.

Shepstone Project – Supervisor Dickens stated that as the grant funding from the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan nears the end of its time frame, the committee is suggesting utilizing the remaining funding to update the plan. Shepstone Consultants will take on this project.

Code Enforcement – Supervisor Dickens stated that new regulations by the NY Department of State around the governance of inspections of all non-residential buildings by town officials. They were to go into effect on January 1, 2007 but do not have language available giving direction to the requirements. (Handout given) Advice to towns to not inspect farm buildings until after a formal solution has been reached.

2006 Accomplishments –

~ The great collaborations that occurred between the towns/villages/county in a number of areas throughout the year. Better communication and collaboration in general.

~Shared Records Management Facility

~County Assisted Assessing

~Re-evaluating of property more accurately reflecting a uniform and equitable tax rate will now be possible.

2007 Goals –

- Assessment of Code Enforcement practices
- Assessment of Land Use Planning
- Coordination of Member Item Funding Requests
- Ecological Master Plan/Joint Landfill

The steering committee will schedule a meeting prior to the next COG meeting to begin to address the aforementioned goals. An update will be provided at the March meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 21st 7PM in the auditorium of the Rural Urban Center.

Around the table~

*Hotel in WG progresses.

*Town of Hector closed on water project & will soon go out for bid.

*Shared Records Management Facility was awarded \$100,000.

* Schuyler in partnership with Steuben and Yates County was awarded a grant for \$300,000 for a paint striper which can be utilized by all municipalities in Schuyler County.

*Catharine Valley Trail received additional funding from NYS to complete the County and Village of Watkins Glen portions connecting with the trail at the High School property. Thanks extended to Danielle Hautaniemi for her assistance in obtaining this funding.

Motion to adjourn: 8:39pm.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Rural Urban Center - Auditorium

Minutes from 3/21/2007

Present:

~Chuck Franzese-Town of Dix
~Dennis Fagan- County Legislature
~Ben Dickens-Town of Hector
~Judy Phillips-Village of Watkins Glen
~Tim O'Hearn-County Administrator
~Dale Walter-Village of Burdett
~Peggy Tomassi-Village of Odessa

Call to order – 7:09pm

American Farmland Trust - John Brennan, Farmland Protection Specialist from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets presented a funding opportunity of state funds to municipalities to develop local agricultural economic development and farmland protection plans. Funding amounts are up to \$25,000 or 75% of the cost of developing a local protection plan and will be available early summer 2007. The Guidelines and application will be posted on the Department's website, www.agmkt.state.ny.us under "Funding Opportunities". Additionally, municipalities can evaluate new markets and business development opportunities specifically tailored to address the needs of their farm community. John can be reached at (518)457-2713 or by email at john.brennan@agmkt.state.ny.us.

EMC (Environmental Management Council) Representation - Kate Bartholomew would like to be a resource for municipalities. The Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Earth Day will be held on April 21st from 10am till 2pm at the Schuyler Youth site on Meads Hill Rd. This years theme is "**Global Warming: Earth in Crisis**".

Certiorari Reserve Fund – All towns should participate or should not be pursued. Re-evaluation would be a huge expense to the towns.

Questions asked:

- Can schools take part in this?
- What does an area do if they no longer want to take part?

Would an inter municipal agreement be beneficial for this? Legal opinions should be gotten.

Will revisit this at next meeting.

Steering Committee – In moving forward with concerns around Land Use and Code Enforcement goals, do we look at a regional approach or find consistent structure & language? Suggestion of having a Task Force in place to pursue this. The following offered to be on this Task Force:

~Gordon Wright, Village of WG
~Danielle Hautanemi, CCE
~Chuck Franzese, Town of Dix
~Kate Bartholomew, EMC
~Dale Walter or Ruth Given
~Jerry Verrigni, Soil & Water
~ Legislator

Danielle & Peggy will compile a survey to get a better understanding of what each T & V are spending for code enforcement services.

Around the table –

Tim thanked all who came to meet Colleen Anderson, Regional Representative from Governor Spitzers office. She was well received and appeared to have an honest interest in our county.

Health Officer- Dr. Norton will be retiring very soon. The county has language that it could provide this service but would be at an additional cost.

Jamee Coleman was suggested as a potential candidate for the Health Officer.

2010 Census – Municipalities are being asked by US Department of Commerce to take part in the LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) program. This will be discussed more in depth at the next COG meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 20th at 7pm in the Rural Urban auditorium.

Motion to adjourn: 8:59pm.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Rural Urban Center - Auditorium

Minutes from 6/20/2007

Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Brace-Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Franzese-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cedric Stewart-Town of Orange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Bishop-Town of Tyrone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Dennis Fagan-Schuyler Co. Legislator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Gifford-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legislature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O'Hearn-County Administrator | |

Call to order – 7:07pm

Code Enforcement/Land Use Planning- The Task Force met to discuss what is occurring in each municipality. Some municipalities do not allocate enough funds to adequately fulfill the code enforcement obligations. What is the goal of the group? Is a regional approach the way to having consistency around code enforcement county wide? Full support by all municipalities would be desired if we are to do anything. It was discussed that the judicial systems hinder efforts of finalizing complaints & issues. The Task Force will re-convene to look at code enforcement around property maintenance and coordinate a plan.

Violence In The Workplace Legislation- 2 handouts were given around the laws and resources for Workplace Violence Prevention Requirements for NYS Public Employers. The County Human Resource Director, Gail Hughey, can assist towns & villages in fulfilling the workplace violence prevention legislation. Phone the Human Resource Office at 535-8179 with questions.

Towns & Villages Websites- Stacy Husted, Clerk to the County Legislature was present to ask if the Towns & Villages wished to have their websites added to the CTV (blue book) as well as the County website, to notify her office. This will be a great avenue for communities to access additional information. Legislature Office 535-8100.

Political Party Listed In The CT & V Book- Stacy added that it has been requested to have individuals political party listed in the CTV Book. After discussion, it was determined by the group that this was not necessary to list in the book.

NIMS Requirements- As Towns & Villages are required to be NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant, Bill Kennedy, Coordinator of Emergency Services Schuyler County has offered to be the single point of contact for collecting each municipalities information to address ongoing preparedness needs. A sample resolution and the Matrix for Local Jurisdictions was distributed. Once the T/V decides that they will designate Bill Kennedy as single point of contact, he will then work with the T/V to complete the Compliance Metrics and submit to its destination. Resolutions should be returned to Emergency Services by September 1st. Federal funding & grants are based on NIMS compliancy. If the T/V decides to designate someone else to be the point of contact, please give Bill this persons contact information by calling 535-8200.

Shared Purchasing-Jamee Mack, Purchasing Specialist for Schuyler County shared information around a survey that was sent to each municipality and school district for interest of shared purchasing. Responses continue to be received. This could mean a cost savings to the T/V and school districts. More information will follow but in the mean time, should you have any questions, Jamee can be reached at 535-8188.

EMC (Environmental Management Council) - Kate Bartholomew explained the EMC position of the proposed Padua project and its potential effects on the county as it is not in the vision of the county government, comprehensive plan, and can potentially be harmful for the low lying areas. Public comment on this project ends June 25th. The EMC is looking for backing in requesting an extension of the comment period by the DEC.

Health Officer Position-As Dr. Norton, County Health Officer will be resigning in the near future, a replacement must be sought. Ben Dickens will speak with an interested party and respond with a name for consideration.

Around the table –

Judy~ Village of WG is experiencing problems with their sewage plant due to the smell. They are trying various measures to eliminate the odor. Relocating & updating the plant would be the most feasible. Also looking at potential space in the existing County Building for the Court System once space becomes available.

Tim~ County office building project is moving along very well and are pleased with the contractor and work being done.

Next meeting: *Thursday, September 27th at 7pm in room 303 in the Rural Urban Center, MF.

***Note change in day and space for meeting.**

Motion to adjourn: 8:59pm.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Rural Urban Center - Auditorium

Minutes from 9/27/2007

Present:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Brace-Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> David Reed-Town of Cayuta |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Franzese-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Dickens-Town of Hector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cedric Stewart-Town of Orange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Bishop-Town of Tyrone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" 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. Legislature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O'Hearn-County Administrator | |

Others in attendance: Gail Hughey, HR Director of Schuyler County, Jessica Everet of Review & Express, Bob DeNardo of Town of Dix, Dr. James Winkler.

Call to order – 7:00pm

Health Insurance Consortium – Gail Hughey, Director of Schuyler County HR shared that 6 Towns are currently participating in the County Health Insurance and discussed the current & 2008 premiums rates. A sample agreement was distributed with discussion on #7 – Discontinuing Clause. This portion of the agreement states a 3 month current premium amount will be expected if a decision to leave the plan occurs.

Task Force on Code Enforcement/Land Use Planning – General census is that Code Enforcement can be better represented in Schuyler County. While growth is being experienced, a focus should be presented on the structure of Code Enforcement. The fee structure is under valued & inconsistent. We would need full participation from the Towns & Villages for a consortium to move forward. There were concerns from Town & Villages that they would lose their individuality. There is the potential to utilize the SMSI grant offered by NYS. Where do we go from here? A focus on fire inspections needs to occur as this is an area that is hard to maintain. The Task Force will meet to continue discussions. Figures on how many inspections each T & V has can be compiled & review an approach to move forward. Structural issues will need to be reviewed.

Water/Sewer Update – Hunt Engineers is utilizing Harris Beach, LLP to view the various structures in place. The final report will be published and go out for public sessions. There is a 3 month time frame for this to occur. Cayuta & Orange will be viewed as a stand alone project.

Health Officer Position- There are 7 towns & 3 villages that currently utilize Dr. Nortons position as Health Officer. Dr. Winkler oversees that duty in 1 town & 1 village. As Dr. Norton will be resigning from this duty in the future, Dr. Winkler has expressed interest in taking on the roll of Health Officer for the other areas as well. Dr. Winkler suggested utilizing the COG meetings for his Health & Safety updates to the Towns & Villages. Jamie Coleman will be asked to be a deputy.

SMSI Grant – Applications involving highway & school initiatives will be viewed highly. The due date for this grant is December 14th 2007. Tim explained that although the Local Initiatives by the 9/2007 County Flyer states that we are looking to have a district wide service, that is not the case. The initiative was to lower costs to current fire departments. Due to the COG group, Schuyler County has made a mark and has been noticed at the state level.

LUCA (Local Update Census Addresses) – Schuyler County has submitted the application for the LUCA program. I

Around the table –

Were there any efforts to change the voting system? It has been a Federal focus. The optical scan has not been the most optimal system.

Senator Schumer will be in town to meet the Community Leaders. This meeting will be held on October 9th at 9:00am in the Watkins Glen Community Center. Please forward any topics for discussion to the County Administrators Office or directly to Senator Schumer's Office. Topics might include Immigration issues, waste water, voting machines (HAVA), having a single language for this country.

Tyrone has had the first assessment evaluation. Mailers will go out from the Real Property Tax Office in a couple weeks. The Town of Orange will follow. The Town of Hector will be assessed in 2008.

Next meeting: January 17th at 7:00pm in large conference room of the Schuyler County Human Services Complex, 323 Owego St., Montour Falls, NY.