

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
Human Services Development Complex  
Minutes from 2-25-2009

*Present:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix                   | <input type="checkbox"/> William F. Mullaney-Town of Orange              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Bishop-Town of Tyrone                    |
| <input 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         |  |

Others in attendance: Kate Bartholemew, EMC; Bob DeNardo, T of Dix; Del Bleiler, County Legislator;

Call to order – 7:00pm

*Welcome*

**Health Officer** – Dr. Winkler presented (handouts) information regarding the common cold versus the flu and what the soda tax has to do with Public Health. Raising taxes on unhealthy foods or activities to discourage consumption is recognized as a public health strategy.

***Slate of Officer for 2009:***

***President – Dale Walters***

***Vice President – Ben Dickens***

***Secretary – Peggy Tomassi***

*Judy Phillips made the motion to approve the slate of officers, second by Tom Gifford. Unanimously approved.*

***NYS Environmental Facility Corporation – James C. Smith, Environmental Project Manager: Funding of Waste Water Infrastructure*** – Offered information around grant programs for consolidated waste water/sewer infrastructures. Quality project planning is key to being awarded grant funding. More information can be found at [www.nysefc.org](http://www.nysefc.org).

***Recycling in Schuyler County*** – Jenna Hicks of Cornell Cooperative Extension discussed the issues around recycling in several municipalities in terms of costs. As costs continue to rise and municipalities are forced to look at their processes currently in place, Jenna will research a regional approach to reduce overall costs.

***County Wide Communication System –***

***Review of Goals for 2008*** – Tabled until next meeting.

***Set Goals for 2009*** – Ideas initially discussed were recycling, land use, and code enforcement. Tabled until next meeting.

***Consolidated Water District Update*** – Dan Bower of Hunt Engineers stated that the Consolidated Water District study is now complete. Grant opportunities become more readily available upon larger areas serviced.

***Central Tax Collection Data Base Grant*** – Grant funds are still available to Towns & Villages to upgrade computer systems/software to have better access when doing the tax collection entry to the Centralized Data Base.

***County Assisted Assessing/Property Revaluation*** – Grants funds were spent for the study on County Assisted Assessing & Property Revaluation. Randy Deal will be retiring near the end of March 2009.

***Federal Stimulus Package*** – Tim O’Hearn will be meeting with the Governor’s staff on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in Rochester to gain knowledge on funding opportunities for Schuyler County.

***Around the table*** – None.

***Adjourn*** – 9:45PM

***Next meeting:*** April 22, July 22, and October 28 at 7:00pm in room 120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Human Services Development Complex

Minutes from 4-22-2009

## *Present:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix                   | <input type="checkbox"/> William F. Mullaney-Town of Orange              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour              | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Bishop-Town of Tyrone                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading                      | <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. Legis. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator         |  |

Others in attendance: Kate Bartholemew, EMC; several Building Inspectors from Schuyler T & V’s. Danielle Hautaniemi, Director of Planning and Community Development.

Call to order – 7:00pm

## *Welcome*

**Health Officer** – Dr. Winkler presented (handouts) information regarding rabies & how to eliminate and control it. Scheduled Rabies Clinics will be emailed to each T&V.



**Schuyler County Housing Needs Assessment** – A presentation by Danielle Hautaniemi, Planning Coordinator on the results from the Needs Assessment conducted by EPR Economic & Policy Resources, Inc. It was determined by the study that there is a lack of housing for management and mid-level professionals as well as seniors and disabled residents (age 60 +). Improvements to the housing stock can be made by focusing on weatherization and rehab, adding new units, and use of the Housing Opportunities Index. The study will be made available to each municipality when it is released and will be available at [www.sc-landuse.org](http://www.sc-landuse.org). There will be additional opportunities to hear about the results of the study. The project will assist municipalities prepare for housing development & will better position them for funding opportunities.

**Sales Tax Distribution/Economic Development** – Conversation on how to improve financial support to enhance an economic development system in Schuyler County.

Motion to move forward with research to restructure Sales Tax Distribution to enhance economic development efforts: Donna Kelley, Mayor for the Village of Montour Falls, Seconded- Chuck Franzese, Town of Dix Supervisor. Judy Philips, Mayor for the Village of Watkins Glen opposed.

Task Force on Economic Development includes: Dennis Fagan, Chuck Franzese, Dale Walters, Ben Dickens, Tim O’Hearn. This group will report at the next meeting.

## *Review of Goals for 2008* –

-  Land Use Initiative
-  Building Inspections
-  Health Officer – Complete

✚ Tax Collecting Process - Complete

***Set Goals for 2009 –***

✚ Land Use & Housing Initiative

✚ Building Inspections

✚ County Wide Recycling

A Task Force around Code Enforcement is comprised of Gordon Wright & Dale Walters with additional participants welcomed.

***Around the table*** – none shared.

***Next meeting: July 22, and October 28*** at 7:00pm in room 120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Human Services Development Complex

Minutes from 7-22-2009

*Present:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Brace-Town of Catharine           | <input checked="" 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"/> Fred Hall –Town of Dix                | <input type="checkbox"/> William F. Mullaney-Town of Orange              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour           | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Bishop-Town of Tyrone                    |
| <input 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 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      |  |

Others in attendance: Kate Bartholemew, EMC; Danielle Hautaniemi, Planning; Brett Chedzoy, several Town Supervisors and public.

Call to order – 7:00pm

*Welcome*

**Health Officer** – Dr. Winkler discussed the Swine Flu and the plan for vaccinating the ‘at risk’ population this fall season. The vaccination will not be available to private physicians and only to Public Health Departments. Chuck Franceze shared that 3 checks #997, 1001, and 1012 totaling \$75 were written from the Consolidated Board of Health to Frank Ganung and were returned un-cashed. These checks are from 2007 and 2008. A new check was written & given to Mr. Ganung for \$75.

**Gas Drilling/Highway Road Maintenance** – Brett Chedzoy, CCE and Danielle Hautaniemi, Planning, and Jerry Verrigni, Soil and Water, gave an overview on the need to prepare for Natural Gas drilling that will be occurring in Schuyler County. How should we endure the impacts in changes that will occur? Local Municipalities should be prepared to protect your respective areas infrastructure by strengthening local legislation while respecting private landowners’ rights. In Tioga, Cortland, and Broome Counties, their County Attorneys are working together to prepare for what lies ahead. They are open to County Attorneys who are interested in working with this group. The Schuyler County Attorney’s office will be asked for participation of this group.

A Marcellus Shale Task Force is being considered. A sample of what Sullivan County developed from their task force was made available. The Empire Pipeline entered into a specific area and information was shared on the cost the municipality had to endure to repair the damage to the roads. Discussion of a local level approach to developing a plan utilizing regional resources was had. Tim O’Hearn offered his office to coordinate an initial meeting for the task force. David Reed discussed his desire to have the drilling as long as gas drillers are responsible and local trucking businesses are not penalized.

**Sales Tax Distribution/Economic Development** – Conversation on how to improve financial support to enhance an economic development system in Schuyler County. (Handouts) Tim O’Hearn explained the structure of having a consistent process to maintain and fund economic

development activity. This new prospect would be in effect for 2010. Each town and village board meeting will be visited by a representative of COG to share this concept. For budgeting purposes, the next COG meeting will be on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the HSC.

Tom Brace will coordinate a meeting with the Town Supervisors to speak on supporting Soil & Water with Jerry Verrigni.

*Around the table* – none shared.

**Next meeting:** September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in room #120 of the Human Services Development Complex.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
 Human Services Development Complex  
 Minutes from 9-23-2009

**Present:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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 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"/> Harvey Bishop-Town of Tyrone         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marvin Switzer-Town of Reading           | <input 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         |  |

Others in attendance: Sue Brill, Marie Stevens, Cliff Yaw  
 Call to order – 7:00pm

**Welcome**

**Health Officer** – Dr. Winkler discussed the Swine Flu and the plan for vaccinating the persons in Schuyler and statewide. (Handouts) It remains unclear how much of a pandemic this could potentially be.

**Sales Tax Distribution/Economic Development** – Conversation on how to improve financial support to enhance an economic development system in Schuyler County. Tim O’Hearn explained the structure of maintaining and funding economic development activity by utilizing a percentage of the overall sales tax revenue vs each municipality budgeting individually utilizing property tax. (Handout) The subcommittee met with each municipality board to present this concept. The process would allow for up to 4% (determined by the Legislature) off the top of the sales tax revenue minus the county share. The remaining amount would be distributed between the townships to fund Economic Development. Criteria would be set for a cap while monitoring by performance measures. There were concerns of the towns losing more controls. Chuck Franzese explained that the County Legislature shares the sales tax with the towns but is not mandated to do so and felt that taking Economic Development out of sales tax makes more sense than from property tax. Ben Dickens agreed. Sales tax may be put back on clothing to generate additional revenue.

Motion to endorse an up to 4% of sales tax revenue to fund Economic Development by Chuck Franzese; seconded by Tom Brace. Tim O’Hearn took a roll call of those municipalities present:

Village of Burdett – not present	Town of Dix – Yes
Village of Montour Falls – not present	Town of Hector – Yes
Village of Odessa – Yes	Town of Montour Falls – No
Village of Watkins Glen- No	Town of Orange – not present
Town of Catharine – Yes	Town of Reading – Yes
Town of Cayuta – not present	Town of Tyrone – Yes

***Inter-municipal Agreement with Towns for Health Insurance*** – A projection of a 17-20% increase in premiums is anticipated for this coming year. Prescription drug use continues to be the largest use of funds. CanaRx program is not highly used at this time. As there is a significant savings by using this program, it is hopeful that use of this program will increase. Inter-municipal agreements will be reviewed and language changed to reflect projections.

***Election Charge Backs*** – Schuyler County did not receive ample funds to cover HAVA requirements. Therefore, we recognize an increase to accommodate these requirements. These requirements were in software, licensing and state fees equaling \$100K. Town should plan on an increase of \$1,500 plus personnel costs. Villages have the option of utilizing the new scanning machines through Elections or doing a paper ballot on own. Lever machines are no longer legal to use for elections. Minimizing election districts is an option of minimize additional costs. This process can be done between municipalities.

***Around the table*** – none shared.

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