

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Human Services Development Complex
Minutes from 1-24-2018

Present:

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

Other: Rick Hendricks, Town of Orange; Sue Brill, Schuyler County, Judy Cherry & Amanda Arnold-Rodriguez-SCOPED

Call to order – 7:01PM

Tim O’Hearn led the meeting as President John King & Vice President John VanSoest were not present.

Health Officer Report – Dr. Winkler stated, the Influenza A is the primary strain in NY. There is evidence that the virus has peaked. Recommendations are to give treatment prior to results of test. If the test came back negative then the treatment could stop. The Zika Virus is transmitted through sexual contact or mosquito bite. Mostly found in the Miami & S Florida & SE Texas areas. The Zika Virus is on its way out. NYS is seeking to lower the state alcohol standard from .08 BAC to .05 BAC. E-cigarettes are safer than tobacco cigarettes. They are a reasonable option for adults to quit smoking although bad for young people as they use the e-cigarettes because it’s cool often leading them to smoke tobacco cigarettes.

Nomination/Election of Officers 2018 – Nomination by Alvin White for current slate to continue in 2018. Second by Dennis Fagan. Unanimously approved. Therefore, the slate for 2018 is:

President – John King
Vice President – John VanSoest
Secretary – Peggy Tomassi

Elect Town & Village Representation for SCOPED Board – Nomination by Alvin White for Town of Tyrone Supervisor, Don Desrochers & Village of Burdett Mayor Dale Walters to continue for 2018. Second by Dave Scott. Unanimously approved.

2018 CFA Discussion & SCOPED Updates – Judy Cherry, Executive Director of SCOPED. Judy introduced Amanda Arnold-Rodriguez from SCOPED whose primary job is grant writing. Amanda’s experience is in downtown redevelopment. SCOPED’s Strategic Framework & Organizational Goals was handed out to those present. The CFA round will be back in May to be submitted by July and is a 50/50 share unless the community is designated as a low-income area. If so, the share would be 75/25. The funds are State Park funds. Any grant being proposed, the municipality should start getting the preliminary work done now. Such as local share, engineering, letters of support, etc. SCOPED will allow 17 hrs. of work to each town & village. As there is power in groups, Judy presented an idea for all the towns & villages to come together and create a string of parks. Compiling this as a group could possibly see \$500,000 and up from the CFA. The NYS Parks like the idea. Is there interest from those present?

Yes, by all present. Small Business loans are available through SCOPED. Contact Judy Cherry for more information.

Waste Water Treatment Update – Road work has begun and construction slated for 2019. Project Seneca is moving forward. There was a \$300,000 gap in required funding which was met with a grant & Congressman Reed discretionary funding. Bids are scheduled to be opened on February 7th. The CDC Committee is seeking grant dollars for housing & small business development. A business is ready to break ground in March and the completion date is slated for September. Federal dollars used to create the Business Park guide what types of production can be in the park. If the Business Park was purchased by a private person, it would eliminate the strict guidelines and open more uses for the park. Dave Scott explained to Judy Cherry that the Town of Montour is willing to donate 30 acres. Judy Cherry stated that her door is always open.

DRI Update – Tim stated that he has reported to Regional Council. There is a local planning committee that is really engaged. Judy Cherry & Laurie DeNardo are spearheading the committee and the community is involved. Public Meetings have been well attended and it is pleasant to see the engagement. The gatherings have been positive & respectful. Fifty plus applications for the DRI funds have been submitted. Some do not rise to the goal of the DRI unfortunately. Once the applications have been reviewed, the expectation is to submit \$15-\$20 million proposal to NYS. The States expectation is to see results. All DRI projects can be viewed on the [FLX Gateway](#) website. All projects must live by the DRI requirements. These are exciting times!

Budget Update – Tim is not seeing anything that causes alarm at this point. Raise The Age will have a huge impact on county funding. Keep Tim apprized if you hear any pertinent information from NYCOM. The Real Property & committee have conducted interviews for an Assessor. It is being considered to hire two Assessors if the Towns agree & are willing to amend the agreements in place currently. Most support the idea. We have been at 100% assessment for 10 years. Some towns that were not in on the interviews would like a chance to interview the chosen candidates.

Around the Table-

Alvin White – Thanks Judy Cherry as the Town of Hector received a \$500,000 grant through UDSA to expand the water system.

Jim Howell – As the Public Works Committee Chair, 2 bridges are slated to be rebuilt in 2018: N. L’Hommedeu bridge over Johns Creek in Montour Falls & CR 16 bridge over Tributary of Meads Creek in the Town of Orange. The Mill Street Bridge over Chequaga Falls in the Village of Montour Falls in 2019. 2017 bridge projects were Searsburg Rd., Cty Rd 13, Cty Rd 18. Most funds came from Bridge NY.

Harold Russell - Would like to get a tank at the KOA to alleviate issues with WGI.

Dale Walters – New firehouse was awarded funding through the SAMS Grant.

Greg Kelahan – WGSD appreciates the vision of SCOPED.

Dennis Fagan – In reflection of local economy, there was no increase in tax representing a decrease of .30 per thousand. Has there been any feedback from constituents about the lowering of taxes? The 2018 budget represents a strong economy.

Dr. Winkler – As of January 1st, he has retired from his private practice. He now works 2-3 days at CMC in the Wound Clinic. His office in Montour is available for rent by February 1st.

Judy Cherry – the SCOPED Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 27th.

Next meeting: April 25th, July 25th, October 24th

Adjourn 8:18PM