

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Development Complex

Minutes from 1/23/2020

Present:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Leszyk -Village of Watkins Glen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer/Tom Letteer – Village of Odessa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joanne Randall -Town of Orange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Miller -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"/> Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John King-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County |

Other: Amanda Rodriguez, SCOPED

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Health Officer Report – The new respiratory virus, the Coronavirus, is stemming from China with an initial 540 cases worldwide. There is no vaccine or treatment and it has spread to America. The CDC is determining whether to call this an epidemic at this point. The flu has struck much sooner this year. All persons aged 6 mos. and older should get the flu vaccine. All Healthcare Workers should be vaccinated against the flu. NY now has 4 vape related deaths.

Nominations/Election of Officers 2020 – Nomination for Alvin White for President by Tim O’Hearn; second by Luke Leszyk. Nomination for Gerry Messmer for Vice President by Luke Leszyk; seconded by Tim O’Hearn; and Peggy Tomassi for Secretary; all were unanimously approved.

Town & Village Representation for SCOPED – Nomination for village rep for Gerry Messmer by Alvin White. Nomination for town rep for Alvin White by Don Desrochers; seconded by Brandon Theetge, unanimously approved. Each represents all towns & villages respectively.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Judy Cherry updated that Biochar is now open & producing in Odessa. The Lucky Hare is now canning & creating beer. Handouts. Amanda shared examples of how SCOPED seeks out projects. Clean energy accreditations opens doors and is designated funds. NYS is moving towards Historical Preservation for CFA funding projects. Contact Amanda at SCOPED with questions or assistance. Federal funding is available through CDBG-USDA initiatives. Inform SCOPED as soon as possible if your municipality has a project in mind through these funds. SCOPED will place your project on a list for potential applications.

SCOPED is awaiting response from the towns as to their desires for solar as they are trying to obtain the best deal for the towns. If towns have not yet completed the ‘opt out’, then the entity does not pay taxes. The towns agreed for the IDA will negotiate the rate per megawatt on their behalf. The Town of Orange is an opportunity zone & is tax free. There are concerns on where the storage batteries & panels will go after use. SCOPED will research opportunities for recycling solar.

Wastewater Treatment Update – The Administrative Building is built. Headworks Building is not being built. SVR tanks are in place. The plant goes into service on March 21st. Montour Falls will be cut over first due to lower load. Watkins Glen will go into service mid to late April. \$23 of \$32 million has been spent to date.

State Budget Update – Tim shared that an email went out to the towns & villages for record of vote for the reason of your vote for the 2020 Shared Services Plan. The Governor’s message was clear with a \$6.1 billion-dollar deficiency. In 1965, NYS allowed counties to be collecting sales tax. Cumulatively, the counties Medicaid are now \$80 billion a year. In 2013, a cap was placed on Medicaid spending. In 2016, local Medicaid was flat. Counties have no say in how Medicaid dollars are spent and there are major concerns with future budgets. NYSAC will represent on our behalf.

Around the Table-

Dale Walter- Burdett changed out their streetlights to LED.

Luke Leszyk – WG has a new business registry.

Gerry Messmer – The village clerk will be reaching out to the municipalities for funding to assist with finances related to the Summer Rec Program. Flyers will go out for staffing of program. USDA grant has been submitted.

Brandon Theetge – the Town of Cayuta has lost their post office. They are trying to connect space with the town office to keep it in the town.

Alvin White – Request from Burdett to get water. Process of approvals are going into place. Code Enforcement discussions need to continue for uniformity in the region. Tim stated the county will offer any support needed for this effort and does not need to sit within the county.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 23rd 7:00pm

Adjourn 8:00 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Development Complex

Minutes from 7/23/2020

Present:

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Leszyk -Village of Watkins Glen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer/Tom Letteer – Village of Odessa |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Cherry, SCOPED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joanne Randall -Town of Orange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Miller -Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Carroll – WG Area Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John King-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County |

Other: Michael Lausell, Mark Rondinaro, Jim Howell, Georgie Taylor, Caitlyn Hanlon

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Health Officer Report –

Dr. Winkler stated that the hope is that well child visits do not diminish due to the pandemic as vaccinations are so important. Lyme Disease continues to be the most prevalent tick-borne disease in NY. Local COVID testing requires a doctor slip and some insurances do not cover the test costs. Continue to wear masks & be social distant.

Dog Control and Sheltering for Municipalities –

Caitlyn Hanlon, NYS Ag & Mkts Inspector gave presentation defining Article 7 and how it relates to municipalities. Contact info: Caitlyn.Hanlon@agriculture.ny.gov 1-315-907-7634 Article 7, Section 113 states that each municipality in which dog licenses are issued shall appoint one or more dog control officers (DCOs). Any other village and any county may appoint a dog control officer. The DCO is responsible for assisting, within the appointing municipality, with the control of dogs and the enforcement of Article 7.

COVID-19 Updates – Tim sent out an email to calm & ease questions. While Schuyler experienced a slight uptick in positive cases, regionally the numbers are good. The increase in numbers are from persons leaving the area & returning. The businesses are doing well. We all need to avoid going backwards and follow the Executive Orders. Schuyler has hand sanitizer & masks for businesses who need it. Employees are required to wear masks with NO exceptions! If an employee cannot wear a mask, they cannot work. There are a lot of misconceptions about having a medical exemption for not wearing a mask. The word is getting out & becoming less of an issue. The Executive Order states those who are coming from out of town must quarantine. It is the persons responsibility to do so. There are no instances of a positive case coming from persons from outside of Schuyler. Complaints are being filtered for legitimacy.

Budget Update/Sales Tax Distribution Briefing – Tim presented a 5-year review of sales tax. All large events are gone for 2020 resulting in a significant shortfall in sales tax revenues. The 2014 sales tax was capped at \$2 million beginning 1/1/2016. It as agreed upon to review the formula every 5 years & adjustments would be based on the data available. Counties are only required to share sales tax with cities which reside in that county. The concern was stated about this year being a zero increase to the towns & villages based on previous years increase in sales tax and waiting until 5 more years to once

again review the formula. The Legislature is fully aware of a verbal agreement with our towns & villages and do not intend to decrease the cap. Alvin spoke of his desire to speak with the Legislators about the formula. It was never foreseen we would be in the position we are in terms of sales tax revenues.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Judy Cherry shared that for over 3 months the staff at SCOPED have been assisting business owners & staff apply for unemployment as well as assisting with business loans. There were 1,500 jobs impacted by COVID-19. Continue to push for affirmations. The business meetings have been very successful. A CFA competition will not occur this year. TAP will depend on Federal dollars available. The unemployment rate is at 11% compared to the national average of 15%. We ask that you please have your residents complete the census. To date, the county is at 51%. Each resident calculates to \$30k per person brought into this county. The light show will happen this year which could be held in December.

Around the Table-

Alvin White- received an email from Seneca Lake Watershed re: 9 element plan for the watershed. Seeing an uptick in recycling. Would like to see if other munis would like to coordinate a shared plan.

Dr. Winkler – hopeful for a COVID-19 vaccine by end of year.

Luke Leszyk – Finished gravity main. Starting to empty the old WWT site. Clute Park development will begin soon. Groundbreaking ceremony on August 4th at 2pm.

Joanne Randall – seeing an increase in recycling as well. Still working on park.

John King – MF work is being done by DOT. WWTP is up & running for the last 3 weeks both in WG & MF. Working well. The bridge is ordered and will arrive in September. Welliver has offered to place it. WWTP official ribbon cutting ceremony being planned for September.

Jim Howell – there has been growth in the WSPA activity. People are coming from all over to buy property & build homes in Schuyler County.

Greg Kalahan – the WGSD is prepared for the go ahead the first week of August by Gov. Cuomo. There are 3 plans prepared for any scenario that may come in place. WG is in good shape. Bus runs will be separated by age. WGSD is having sensitive branding discussions.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 29th at 7:00pm

Adjourn 9:15 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes from 10/29/2020

Present:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Leszyk -Village of Watkins Glen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Gerry Messmer</u> – Village of Odessa |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Miller -Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Hardy – WG Area Chamber of Commerce |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim O’Hearn-County Administrator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County |

Other: Amy Howell, Jim Howell

Call to order: 7:01 PM

Health Officer Report – The press release dated 10/28/20 from Governor Cuomo outlining the proposed regulations regarding cannabinoid hemp products, including CBD, in New York State. The possibility of failure of a drug test if it is contaminated with THC. This has apparently happened several times at Cayuga Medical Center which has a zero-tolerance policy for illicit drug use. "New York is creating a national model for consumer safety, requiring strict labeling and production standards." The governor announced the start of the NY State Department of Health 2021 Open enrollment Period.

Consumers can enroll in a health Plan by:

- Calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777 or
- Logging onto the website at nystateofhealth.ny.gov

The October 2020 "Dear Colleague" letter from Howard Zucker, MD, JD (Commissioner of Health) explaining strategies to minimize spread of COVID-19 as well as the AIDS institute virtual PrEP Aware Week October 25-31. Safety issues surrounding Halloween Trick-Or-Treating from the NYS DOH paper entitled "Halloween should be spooky, not scary".

Stresses the importance of getting Flu shots, especially this year with the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

COVID-19 Updates – Hope to be at the end of the pandemic by June 2021 with the vaccine available in 4-6 weeks. Essential workers will be vaccinated first. This will not be the last pandemic we will deal with. Tim will send out the links for the state statistics. Public Health now has the ability to do the Rapid Testing although DOH states a negative result will need to be followed up by a regular test. A positive result is a positive result. The test will be utilized in cluster areas. The main message is to treat everyone as though they have the virus. Wearing mask is key. The Governor stated the municipalities have a right to enforce masks.

Budget / Sales Tax Update – The county is doing better than anticipated. No word on Federal Stimulus & aid to localities. While sales tax is down 6.2% due to the 2nd quarter, the towns will remain whole for 2020. It is not clear if the state will withhold AIM funds or apply it through sales tax.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Small businesses are hurting due to COVID. Grant funds have been requested to assist them through next year. Tap grants are wait & see. Due to the comparison 2010 Census lack of participation, it effected where business hub zones are located. The Festival of Lights is

still in the planning. Need to await the opening of the borders to move forward. The IDA continues work with Solar Developers. The price per megawatt was settled on \$6,000. The \$25k per megawatt upfront is for host community development. The towns should have a local law in place relating to Solar Development.

2021 Meeting Schedule – Schedule in person meetings but resume with virtual meetings dependent on the situation with COVID. Alvin would like to return to Wednesday meetings. Next meeting is January 27th at 7:00pm in conference room #120 of the HSC.

There is much turnover for Code Enforcement in the towns. This has been a goal of this group to research a larger concept & more efficient structure. Does not need to be held at the county level although the county supports the concept.

Around the Table-

Luke Leszyk – Clute Park project moving along. Ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the water project. Glen Lakes Apartments goal to open the beginning of the year.

Amy Howell, WGSD – Public Health has been working very hard to assist them with COVID related situations.

Jim Ryan – MF street project is winding down & will start again in the spring.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00pm

Adjourn 8:09 PM Motion by Luke Leszyk