

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes from 1-21-2021

Present:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Kelahan, WGSD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alvin White-Town of Hector | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Wood, OMCS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour | <input 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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County |

Other:

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Organizational

Nomination & Selection of Officers

President – Alvin White
Vice President – Gerry Messmer
Secretary – Peggy Tomassi

Motion to approve slate of officers by Carl Blowers; seconded by Luke Leszyk. Unanimously approved.

SCOPED Representatives

Town – Alvin White
Village – Gerry Messmer

Motion to approve representatives slated by Carl Blowers; seconded by Luke Leszyk. Unanimously approved.

Health Officer Report –

Dr. Winkler shared that the flu is almost nonexistent across NYS and may or may not see a rise due to persons wearing masks and social distancing. The COVID hotline can assist any language. 1-888-364-3065. COVID updates can be found at now.ny.gov/page/ask/coronavirus-updates. Those experiencing stress about the virus can contact the health support hotline at 1-844-863-9314.

Pandemic Response Plan Overview –

Tim has sent all the county’s continuity plan to use as a template relating to the state requirement of municipalities to have a plan in place. The labor unions are not required to be a part of compiling the plan but should be shared with prior to approving. The plan is not only tied to the pandemic but any situation relating to any workplace disruption. Contact Kristin VanHorn, County Planner should you have any questions.

COVID-19 Updates –

Chart presented. While the positivity rate continues to be below the threshold of concern, there are potential clusters but are being managed & contained. The focus has been on hospitalizations. Vaccinations continue to be a struggle obtaining them. NYS determined those eligible for vaccines from age 75 to 65 opening up additional persons in the 1A group. The process is ready...awaiting the

vaccines. Notification of clinics are available on the county website www.schuylercounty.us in the alert bar at the top. This link will take you a Public Health page where vaccination info & registrations can be found. Pharmacies assisting in the vaccination efforts will help but are not yet equipped to do the mass and are expected to give the vaccine to the older population. At this point, Quinlans is the only pharmacy joining in the vaccination efforts with a very large existing waiting list. Vaccinations should be primarily done in June. Once vaccines are in hand, the process includes those who need the second dose. When speaking with your constituents, enforce getting the vaccine when it becomes available. The county requests 2,500 vaccines per week but are only getting 100. Those 55 or older can call the Office for the Aging to be placed on a list for vaccines as they arise.

Budget / Sales Tax Update –

Key points for the state budget are as follows:

- Chips funding level
- No winter recovery
- 20% reduction is now proposed at 5%
- State & local assistance is
- Legalization of marijuana although will be county decision
- Grant permanent sales tax authority
- Policy Reform Initiative
- AIM Funding
- County's are required to assist with hospital distress relief. \$93,000 out of sales tax & renewed for 2021-2022.

The sales tax projection is an anticipated loss of \$300,000 or 3.4%.

SCOPED/IDA Updates –

Tim is getting great feedback from the businesses from the assistance SCOPED has been providing them during the pandemic.

2021 Meeting Schedule –

The next meeting will be virtual. How would the group like to move forward with future meetings? Is there another time or day that works best for all? A poll will be conducted.

Around the Table-

Luke Leszyk – Glen Lake Apartments will be opened next month. Clute Park project is on target and projected to be done the middle of May.

Carl Blowers – Appreciates Tim covering COVID so well.

Gerry Messmer – Towns & Villages can create a list of their assets and provide to SCOPED.

Next meeting: Virtual. Wednesday, April 21st at 7:00pm

Adjourn

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes from 4-22-2021

Present:

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|---|---|
| <input 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"/> <u>Gerry Messmer</u> – Village of Odessa |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Hardy – WG Area Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone | <input 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: Michael Lausell, Jim Howell, Mark Rondinaro, Norma Burris

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Clean Energy- Todd Knobbe, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator presented information on grants for municipalities. The NYSERDA Designation Grant of \$5,000 is easily obtained plus other grants as well. Contact Todd at 607.535.7161 x 3225 or tk656@cornell.edu where he can assist you through the process of obtaining NYSERDA grants.

Health Officer Report –

Dr. Winkler shared that the flu is almost non-existent this year most likely due to masks & social distancing. DOH is encouraging persons without health care to sign up by visiting www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov. Encourages persons to sign up at your local DMV to be an organ donor. Blood donations are in great need. Schuyler County is having a blood drive on May 3rd at the Human Services Complex in Montour Falls from 9:30am till 2:30pm. Contact Peggy at 535-8106 to sign up or visit the American Red Cross to view upcoming clinics.

COVID-19 Updates – Tim shared Schuyler County currently have 1 active case, 1 hospitalized and 14 deaths relating to COVID. Forty percent of those eligible for the vaccine have been vaccinated. As projected, the supply is now exceeding the demand. Public Health will continue to hold clinics and provide outreach to certain areas. Please thank a Public Health employee & volunteer for all their efforts vaccinating our residents. Governor Cuomo’s Executive Orders are set to expire May 6th. The J & J vaccine is expected to be available next week.

Budget / Sales Tax Update – The state budget has been adopted without much affect to local municipalities. There is an increase in CHIPS & \$50 million increase for PAVE-NY. Room tax is up for the first quarter. Now that marijuana is legal in NYS, each municipality will have exclusive control on whether it can be sold in their respective area. The revenues generated from the sale of marijuana stays in the host community with 1% coming to the county. Each municipality will have to opt out or you are automatically opted in by year end. Discussion on collection of village property tax. This would be a legislative decision to collect taxes and make the villages whole.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Judy stated the main goal of economic development is improving the economic well being of a community. Presentation on SCOPED activity given. Funding for the American Recovery Protection Act should be known by May 15th. Gerry Messmer will be reaching out to the towns & villages to obtain a list of assets available and provide to SCOPED.

Share Services Review – Is there still an interest in consolidating Code Enforcement? Alvin White stated he is willing to lead in the review of this concept.

Around the Table-

Michael Hardy – presented the chambers new program that tracks tourism trends.

Jim Ryan – much construction in Montour Falls with sidewalk work, an Arbor Day ceremony & canal walk bridge ceremony.

Mark Rondinaro – hopes to bring back discussion on regulating bit coin.

Luke Leszyk – Thank you to those at SCOPED. Many projects have been completed due to Judy & staff efforts. The old WWTP land is available for developer bid submissions. As Michelle Hyde has retired, Craig Bond will assume the Parks Manager position beginning April 26th.

David Scott – Looking to expand the park as they had a banner year in 2020.

Gerry Messmer – Odessa’s sewer system bids open next week. Seeking water upgrade & funding. The bridge on Cotton Hanlon is in need of repairs.

Alvin White- Town of Hector is installing new water meters & will have a new system to read the meters automatically. Conducting a feasibility for a new town garage.

Tim O’Hearn – He is encouraged by all the projects going on in the towns & villages. To clarify some false information going around, Tim retired on March 20th as a budget saving measure. The Legislature agreed to bring him back on at a much lesser rate to continue work in Schuyler County until such time a replacement was found. The Legislature agreed to create a Deputy County Administrator who will transition into the County Administrator position. Fonda Chronis from Schoharie County has accepted the position and begins on June 7th. Mr. Chronis will work with the frontline staff & gain a true understanding of the work being done in Schuyler County. He will also be around to meet you all personally.

Next meeting: July 22, 2021 at 7:00pm in conference room #120

Adjourn

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes from 7-22-2021

Present:

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|---|--|
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kai D’Aliva, WGSD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alvin White-Town of Hector | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Wood, OMCS |
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| <input 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: Jim Howell, Bill Kennedy, Norma Burris

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Introduction - Fonda Chronis, Deputy County Administrator for Schuyler County.

Tim shared information about the Margaret Alice Family Foundation whose goal is to support families who have lost children. They are not seeking funds but want to inform the towns & villages. Additional information will be forwarded once received.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Bill Kennedy, Emergency Management Coordinator, stated the last Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2016 looks at mitigating risks and allows us the ability for funding opportunities. The information submitted by the county, towns & villages is submitted to the state then to FEMA. Once returned by FEMA, each municipality will need to adopt the plan. Funding opportunities are not available in the event of an emergency if not adopted. The funds are for municipal assistance and not private. Updates to the plan should be forwarded to Bill.

Health Officer Report –

Dr. Winkler shared that there is an increase in intestinal infection mostly by contaminated foods and previously by imported fresh fruits. Medical staff are encouraged to do cultures and inform DOH.

Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce/Schuyler County Tourism Promotion Agency – Michael Hardy, Executive Director stated that events being held around the county should be shared with the WGACC (membership not required) where they will be added to the events list. The county has seen a great increase in visitors compared to 2019. Holiday & agriculture events are being planned. Local businesses are experiencing low staffing. Encourage all to take part in the ‘Call Ahead Program’ to see what the winery, restaurant, etc. has to offer at that time. The 2021 Events Calendar could encompass all area events & act as a useful tool to promote room reservations, parties, etc. Events can be uploaded on the Chamber website. Geofence reports are available of who is coming to our area. Contact the Chamber to view & discuss.

ARPA Funds – By July 9th, each town was to relay to NYS if they would be moving forward with requesting allocated funds. Alvin has concerns with the use of these eligible funds. Tim stated the Legislature is seeking to increase broadband in the town and suggested the towns could partner with STN to reach to needed areas. Water & sewer projects are eligible. ARPA’s funding is based on population. Towns can use the Association of Towns as a resource for requesting & use of the ARP funds.

COVID-19 Updates – Tim shared Schuyler County currently have 2 cases with no hospitalizations. Both are fully vaccinated w/ flu like symptoms. Public Health continues to be aggressive with clinics and partnering with the schools to reach out to those eligible to receive the vaccination. Collaborative efforts speak to our numbers. The Public Health website has a wealth of information. Dr. Winkler stated the Red Cross is in desperate need of blood donations.

Budget / Sales Tax Update – Alvin seeks to discuss the extension of sales tax. Carl suggested the towns & villages get together with Tim & Fonda who will bring a recommendation to the Legislative Committee prior to discussing with the full board.

Tim stated the largest contributor to sales tax is gas & auto sales.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Judy stated the CFA is open currently and closing on July 30th except SD Grants which are on a rolling basis. ESD is ready to go projects. \$193 million has been invested in Schuyler County. The IDA host community benefit is 2,500 per megawatt. The current labor shortage is expected to get worse until 2025-2026. The unemployment rate is 4.9%.

Around the Table-

Luke Leszyk – Italian Festival being held on August 13th & 14th. Vintage race is on September 10th.

Brandon Theetge – retail company seeks to purchase a lot on State Route 13.

Jim Howell – the County Highway is busy with storm damage.

Alvin White – new water meters are being put in and extending water into Burdett S., new park office, signs on 414 & speed limit at Cty Rte 5 before the Dandy Mart.

Next meeting: October 28th, 2021 at 7:00pm in conference room #120

Adjourn 8:47 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes from 10-28-2021

Present:

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|---|--|
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harold Russell-Town of Dix | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kai D’Aliva, 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 |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County |

Other: Jim Howell, Norma Burris, Maryann Friebis

Call to order: 7:00 PM

SCCUDD – Chris Rosno & Gretchen Silliman, SCCUDD Representatives, presented (handout) on Marijuana Regulation & Tax Act. Towns & Villages can opt either in or out by December 31st for retail dispensaries in their areas. Once a municipality opts in, they can no longer opt out. If you opt out initially, opting in at another time is an option.

Health Officer Report –

Dr. Winkler shared that marijuana in high doses can alter the psychosis. Legionella can be a potentially related to weather factors. Last years flu shots does not protect from this years strain. Urges getting a flu shot.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Handouts- Judy shared Pilot & Sublease Summary on behalf of the IDA. DRI projects continue to be maintained.

Economic Development Assistance Program Update – Fonda - The process for this program has been put forth by the Legislature. Information & applications can be found on the county website Legislature/County Administrator pages. Completed applications are to be forwarded to Peggy Tomassi. The Legislature will review applications for approval. The Main Street Program (state program) is a 50/50 match & the process can be cumbersome. The Legislature has agreed to provide funds to villages initially. As businesses clean up their buildings, benefits to their bottom line is seen. SCOPED has a loan program of up to \$25,000 to assist with the 50/50 portion of the Economic Development Projects.

COVID-19 Updates – Tim shared Schuyler County is recognizing a drop in cases; now 47 with 3 hospitalizations. Continue to hold 2 vaccination clinics a week. No additional restrictions will be implemented. Schools are experiencing high number of student absences and are seeking to implement the state model of allowing a student to remain in school until symptoms are known.

Budget / Sales Tax Update – The Legislature have adopted a Tentative 2022 Budget and will be voted for final approval on November 8th. No election chargebacks will be expected from the towns for 2022 & forward. The Real Property costs are 75/25. ARPA Legislation is at the Senate for approval.

Poll Site Consolidation – Joe Fazzary, BOE shared how the changes in election law changes the number of election sites required. Consolidation of voting sites makes sense. Seeking towns input. Contact BOE with suggestions & concerns with potential issues with consolidations.

Around the Table-

Steve Miller – seeing an increase in short term rentals & asking for help with how to regulate. The Chamber assists getting businesses with the application to collect tax on rentals. The Treasurer collects the tax on it. Schuyler County has an agreement with AirBnB.

Brandon Theetge-seeing Solar Farm interest.

Luke Leszyk – Ice skating rink will be set up soon.

Kai D’Aliva – thank you for the support of city & villages w/ COVID.

Jim Howell – Soil & Water is working on grants.

Jim Ryan – Thanks to the county they are able to pave. Bricks are going in. Harvest Festival went well. Food scraps laws go in place January 2022. Educator coming in place.

Tim O’Hearn – this is his last meeting after having created the Council of Governments 16 years ago. All stood & congratulated him.

Alvin White – Zoning being proposed. State Rte. 414 will now have a 45-mph zone in a specific corridor where accidents are more prevalent.

Next meeting: January 27, 2022 at 7:00pm in conference room #120

Adjourn 8:30 PM