

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Zoom Virtual Meeting  
Minutes from 1-27-2022

*Present:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominick Smith-Town of Dix          | <input 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                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norma Burris -Town of Orange        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry Verrigni-Soil & Water              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Miller -Town of Reading                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Health Officer       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nigar Hale – WG Area Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legislature   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fonda Chronis-County Administrator       |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi-Schuyler County            |

Other: Bill Kennedy, Kirk Smith, Yvonne Zhao, Jim Howell

Call to order: 7:00 PM

## Organizational –

### Nomination & Selection of Officers:

President-Alvin White nominated by Jim R.; second by Luke L. Unanimously approved.  
Vice-President-Gerry Messmer nominated by Luke L.; second by Norma B. Unanimously approved.  
Secretary-Peggy Tomassi, unanimously approved.

### Nomination for SCOPED Representatives:

Town – Norma Burris nominated by Norma B. second by Luke L. Unanimously approved.  
Village – Jim Ryan nominated by Alvin W. second by Fonda C. Unanimously approved.

**2022 Goals** – Code Enforcement & Shared Tax Collection. Bring number of permits issued & hours CE is utilizing now.

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Winkler shared that the flu is on its way down. Health care workers have to have the COVID booster. An increase in congenital Syphilis is rising. A study on the Delta variant found that hospitalizations were low for those who were vaccinated & previously had the COVID infection. Vaccination is still the safest way for immunity.

**Mitigation Plan** – Bill Kennedy & Kirk Smith from EMO shared that Kirk Smith assumes the role of EMO on April 1<sup>st</sup> as Bill is retiring. Individual town plans will need to be updated by February 14<sup>th</sup>. A draft form of the Mitigation Plan will be sent to FEMA by end of March. The plan is required to be completed & approved prior to any funds being released. EMO will attend the town & village meetings to help with understanding the Mitigation Plan and will follow up via email.

**SCOPED/IDA Updates** – The Annual Meeting for SCOPED is February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Four proposals for the Village Marina have been received. Initiatives with county & downtown improvements opportunities are available. Main goals for SCOPED this year are 1) New year round businesses, 2) Industry cluster support, 3) Workforce & Housing Development, 4) Village Downtown, Historic and Canal Redevelopment.

**COVID-19 Updates** – Fonda shared that the new variant Omicron appears to be peaking. There is movement at the state level on regulations. Those persons who have symptoms of COVID are to

quarantine for 5 days. A self-attestation from persons who have COVID or have had close contact with someone who has symptoms. NYS mask mandate remains in place but set to expire February 1<sup>st</sup>. A state-run test site is available to all at the State Park Gift Shop. Encourage persons to attend Monday thru Saturday from 10am-6pm.

**Economic Development Assistance Program Update** – Fonda shared a Building Facade Program utilizing \$350k in ARP funds. The program assists small businesses to spruce up the fronts of their buildings. The village Mayors developed the boundaries. The application will be available on the county website and will also be emailed to all. This is a reimbursable program and mirrors the Main St. Program. First round will be early Spring.

**Sr. Citizens or Disabled Exemptions on the 2022 Assessment Roll** – Fonda stated all of our towns have completed the waivers.

#### **Around the Table-**

Jim Ryan – Acquiring new fire apparatus & electric charging stations. There will be a food grant focus at the local market to get fresh foods to our community.

Fonda Chronis – Economic Development Fund is available.

Luke Leszyk -Gateway signage, bike path & fencing going in. Phase 3 for Clute Park increasing places from 140 to 180 camping spaces. Water improvement plan moving forward.

Norma Burris – Two bridge projects going on.

Alvin White – Will have a Public Hearing on Zoning Law. Revision of Smith Park is a 5 step plan. Feasibility study for Highway Garage. Water extension to district.

Next meeting: April 28, 2022 at 7:00pm in conference room #120

**Adjourned 8:10 PM**

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 4-28-2022

## 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 type="checkbox"/> Chris Wood, OMCS   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominick Smith-Town of Dix     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kai D'Aliva, WGSD                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Boyette-Town of Hector  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, GST BOCES  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour    | <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Cherry, Associate-SCOPED                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norma Burris -Town of Orange   | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Verrigni, Associate-Soil & Water                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Miller -Town of Reading           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Associate-Health Officer      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone         | <input type="checkbox"/> Nigar Hale, Associate-WG Area Chamber of Commerce            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legislature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fonda Chronis, Associate-County Administrator     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer VP- Village of Odessa       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi, Secretary-Schuyler County          |

Other: Yvonne Zhao, SCOPED; Mark Rondinaro, Legislator; Jim Howell, Legislator; Donna Taber, Town of Montour.

Call to order: 7:05 PM

Secretary Peggy Tomassi opened the meeting. Per the by-laws, inquired about filling the current vacant position of President due to the unfortunate passing of Alvin White. Of the 17 voting members noted in the by-laws, 12 participants were required to vote. Eight voting members were present. As we did not have quorum, filling the position of President will wait until the next meeting.

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Winkler shared that Schuyler County does not currently have any flu cases. Rabies is a virus that affects mammals. The rabies vaccine has proven to be a deterrent against illness due to contact with a rabid animal which almost always is fatal if untreated.

**SCOPED/IDA Updates** – Yvonne handed out SCOPED's 2021-2023 Strategic Plan and summarized the content within. Judy Cherry will expound more on the plan through email. The CFA process opens May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Restore NY-Round 6
- NY Forward for rural villages.

Informational sessions will be made available.

**COVID-19 Updates** – The CDC is ranking communities by risk level and Schuyler County is on a downward slope. The latest variant is less severe although more highly contagious.

**Economic Development Assistance Program Update** – The Schuyler County Legislature established an Economic Development Special Revenue Fund to provide resources for targeted community development and growth. These resources are available to all local municipalities, non-profit and quasi-governmental organizations in Schuyler County and seek to pair county funds with local resources for projects that positively impact the overall county economy. The submitted applications have not met the requirements to be funded. Kristin VanHorn is available for questions.

**Façade Program** - Schuyler County has identified a need for a fund to support small businesses and existing building owners in improving the built environment within the four village centers of Schuyler County. This fund will assist with façade improvements to improve the pedestrian environment and promote continued investment within the Downtowns. The funding will be used to leverage private investment in existing buildings with a preference for projects that improve the overall main street streetscape. Through this fund, the County will welcome applications for façade projects that will result

in a highly visible transformation to the exterior of the building. Round 1 committed approximately \$200k thus far out of \$350k. Round 2 will be made available soon. Contact SCOPED for more information.

### **Around the Table-**

Norma – NYS is working on a proposed sale of Camp Monterey.

Dale – would like COG to continue functioning as is.

Dominick – bidding for a new town hall. Audit reports will be available soon.

Mark R. – Reading has received the study on water expansion. Looking into options.

Luke – Watkins is bidding for signage, Lafayette & 4<sup>th</sup> Street projects.

Dave S. – re: email on Franchise Agreements (Empire & Verizon). Asking if the group could approach the Franchise entities collaboratively to have the fees associated within the agreements reduced.

Kai – working hard to keep the school doors open for in class vs virtual. Working with Watkins has been a great partnership. State legislation states by 2027, school busses will be required to have 0 emission or in other words, electric. The WG grid will not be able to handle the load.

Prior to sending out the agenda for upcoming meetings, an email will be sent to all to inquire about agenda items vs solely asking the President.

Fonda – Broadband accessibility in Schuyler County has underserved & unserved areas. The Legislature has set aside \$1,000,000 in ARPA funds to correct these issues. Will work with the Towns & Villages to seek out the pockets of areas in need.

NYS requires shared services process to include public hearings x 2 & notification of said services. Two Public Hearings will be set for the next 2 COG meetings to fulfill the requirements.

An Animal Control Officer position has been posted and the employee will be a Peace Officer.

**Adjourned 8:42 PM**

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 7-28-2022

## Present:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lou Perazzini -Village of Watkins Glen                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Wood, OMCS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dominick Smith-Town of Dix                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kai D'Aliva, WGSD                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justin Boyette-Town of Hector       | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, GST BOCES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Scott-Town of Montour                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Cherry, Associate-SCOPEd                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norma Burris -Town of Orange        | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Verrigni, Associate-Soil & Water                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Miller -Town of Reading                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.F. Winkler, M.D., Associate-Health Officer  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone   | <input type="checkbox"/> Nigar Hale, Associate-WG Area Chamber of Commerce        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Walter-Village of Burdett      | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legislature        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fonda Chronis, Associate-County Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer VP- Village of Odessa            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi, Secretary-Schuyler County      |

Other: Mark Rondinaro, Legislator; Donna Taber, Town of Montour; Laurie DeNardo & Nan Woodworth, Village of WG.

Call to order: 7:02 PM

Quorum was not present.

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Winkler shared that Novovax vaccine has been approved to be given. A World Health Emergency has been deemed with the Monkey Pox outbreak. There are currently 900 cases in NYC as of July 26<sup>th</sup>. Symptoms are flu like in the forms of rashes & blisters. The cause is yet to be determined. Human to human contact is the transmission of this virus from one to another. No deaths associated at this time. The Smallpox vaccine can be used to avoid becoming infected. Over 98% of those who have contracted the Monkey Pox virus were gay men and those with multiple sex partners. A case of Poliomyelitis is in Rockland County, NY. The person had not been vaccinated against the virus.

Dr. Winkler will be retiring at the end of the year. Dr. Ben Sax is interested in the role of Health Officer for the towns & villages. The towns & villages should reach out to Dr. Ben Sax to discuss the appointment & wage.

**SCOPEd/IDA Updates** – Handout – the NY Forward is now available to villages to assist with Rural & Small Downtown Revitalization. A letter of intent should be sent by the August 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. This will allow for one-on-one assistance. A community who is a previous winner of this funding can apply on own or with another municipality although the geographics must change. The Regional Council can divide the funding for additional community projects. Laurie DeNardo offered her assistance with the process. Contact Laurie with questions. The Planning Committee of any project needs to be identified and must include a small business, major employer, not for profit, person new to area, and a person not new to area.

The RESTORE New York Communities Initiative allows for areas of determined need of vacant & underutilized areas. 90%/10% match. Does not have to be owned by the municipality. Agreement would need to be made between the developer & owner. Cannot be used for municipality owned buildings. Letter of intent is due by August 11, 2022, by 5:00pm. Final application due October 11, 2022, by 3:00pm. Contact Judy for webinar information.

**COVID-19 Updates** – If municipalities need COVID related supplies, contact Public Health.

**Façade Program** – Round 2 is being implemented with approx. \$170,000 remaining. Business centers who are seeking to update the exterior of their building should apply. 50/50 match up to \$25,000.

**New County Planner** – The Legislature have created another County Planner position to better assist the towns & villages with grant writing & initiatives.

**County Wide Code Enforcement** – Don Desrochers is seeking to implement the Countywide Code Enforcement and would like to know the interest & how to go about beginning the process. Assistance from the state is available with the initial costs. Mark Rondinaro stated this would be a great project for the new County Planner. Jim Ryan would like to see a property court established as he is running into local Judges not pushing compliance on the law. Fonda will inquire to DOS on this and get back to the group.

**Around the Table-**

Norma – just submitted their 1<sup>st</sup> grant application for vacant properties.

Kai – debriefing on Friday from their emergency situation.

Laurie – gearing up for NASCAR & Grand Prix.

Justin – Josh Navone is their new judge. Work with NYS on parks.

Dale – thank you to the county for the HHWD.

Jim – 17 grants in motion. Storm water on Owego St., will have revolving loan for sustainable projects, public safety patrol during nighttime hours to observe & deter. Intern from Cornell.

Fonda – Clash race. 300 participants. Committed to Schuyler County for 2 years. Will share the link to view content.

Judy – Clash event discussions began around 2 years ago. These take time to implement. Race touched many areas within Schuyler County. SCOPED is managing 11 DRI projects.

**Adjourned 8:14 PM**

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 10-27-2022

## Present:

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lou Perazzini -Village of Watkins Glen                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta    | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Wood, OMCS   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fonda Chronis, Associate-County Administrator     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gerry Messmer VP- Village of Odessa          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi, Secretary-Schuyler County          |

Other: Nan Woodworth, Kristin VanHorn, Jacob Kettler, Jim Howell

Call to order: 7:04 PM

**.Gov Implementation by 2024** – New legislation is requiring all municipalities who have a Board of Elections, do change their websites & emails to .gov's to be more secured.

**Climate Smart Communities Program** – Jacob Kotler, Planning, presented information on the program where communities can receive assistance from STC across a variety of planning efforts including a comprehensive plan update, an audit of a local zoning ordinance, and technical assistance for climate action and adaptation planning. Contact the Planning Dept. for more information.

**Need for 911 Registry** – Handout of information on the need for 911 voluntary registry for some county residents who may have special needs that require special assistance during evacuations and sheltering. Contact EMO for more information. <http://www.schuylercounty.us/815/Voluntary-Registry>

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Winkler shared that Influenza has begun. Our region is at a low at the time being. Being vaccinated is important. FDA has approved Novovax for initial & boosters regardless of what version you received initially. The Polio outbreak is primarily due to the vaccine received years ago which was a live vaccine. RSV is becoming an issue with infants especially preemies.

**SCOPED/IDA Updates** – handouts. Judy reported that companies are moving to find talent. We need to figure out how to keep young persons here to work. They draw on our new graduates sometimes pulling them out of state. Seeking to bring in farmers to grow chickpeas & brown rice. The DRI private projects are coming to an end. The Restore Grant 2<sup>nd</sup> round opens tomorrow with 3 potential sites. Contact SCOPED asap if you are interested.

**COVID-19 Updates** – Locally, we have some cases although they are relatively low in numbers. NYS does test our wastewater and can determine on the magnitude of cases through this.

**Shared Services w/ Code Enforcement** – Norma Burris is seeking to have further discussion for a shared Code Enforcement Officer. If interested, contact Norma.

**Clute Park Summer Recreation Program** – Nan Woodworth from Village of Watkins Glen stated a letter was sent out regarding resurrecting the Summer Rec Program stating the municipalities & schools could partner. Contact Craig Bond or Nan to discuss further or for more information.

## **Around the Table-**

Jim Howell – Village of MF is one of the top 5 for NY Forward. Housing & Main St. being their focus. The Marina Campground is state owned. The Village of MF is seeking to purchase the property. A Fleet Management Policy is being created to set goals & thresholds. Bio Char in Odessa is seeking to become accredited through the Grow NY Program.

Dave Scott – Solar Farm going in on State Rte. 14.

Steve Miller – Town of Reading now has an attorney from Thayer & Thayer. The town is looking into a water district as wells are having issues. Not seeing pressure from the residents so they will hold off at this time. Seeing a growing rate of sub-divisions.

Don Desrochers – Solar issues due to their current law.

Norma Burris – very interested in the Clean Energy Community Program.

Justin Boyette – interest in joining the water system.

Laurie DeNardo – The Village of WG received a \$5k grant for efficient light bulbs. First DOH approval for water update. Seeking grant for ADA playground.

Nigar Hale – tourism is at a record high. People are choosing local travel vs distance. The Chamber is implementing a program to highlight local businesses.

Fonda Chronis – Sales tax has been disseminated in full to the town/villages for 2022. We experienced a decline due to NYS withholding sales tax from an overpayment in 2018.

**Adjourned 9:13 PM**