

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 1/26/2023

## Present:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Lou Perazzini -Village of Watkins Glen           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta      | <input type="checkbox"/> *Vacant, OMCS  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Dominick Smith-Town of Dix          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Kai D'Aliva, WGSD                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *John White-Town of Hector           | <input type="checkbox"/> *Vacant, GST BOCES   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *David Scott-Town of Montour         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Cherry, Associate-SCOPE                      |
| <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"/> Ben Saks, M.D., Associate-Health Officer          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Donald Desrochers -Town of Tyrone   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nigar Hale, Associate-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, Associate-County Administrator     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer - Village of Odessa              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi, Secretary-Schuyler County          |
- \*Denotes voting member

Other: Jim Howell, Mark Rondinaro

Call to order: 7:00 PM

## Organizational -

### ***Nomination & Selection of Officers:***

President - Nomination for Gerry Messmer by Rick Lewis; seconded by Norma Burris. Unanimously approved.

Vice President - Nomination for Rick Lewis by David Scott; seconded by Norma Burris. Unanimously approved.

Secretary - Nomination for Peggy Tomassi by Norma Burris; seconded by Don Desrochers. Unanimously approved.

### ***Nomination for SCOPED Representatives***

Town Representative - Norma Burris nominated by David Scott; seconded by Brandon Theetge.

Village Representative - Jim Ryan nominated by David Scott; seconded by Norma Burris. Unanimously approved.

## 2023 Goals -

Code Enforcement - Norma Burris

Shared Payroll & HR - John White

Shared Workers Compensation w/ County - Jim Ryan

**Health Officer Report** - What does a Health Officer responsible for? Will share with the group when he learns more. Flu numbers have decreased. If sick, wear a mask, wash your hands, get vaccinated, and stay away from others. RSV cases have dropped. Forty percent have been affected by the XBB.1.5 variance of Omicron. PCR tests are best to determine true results.

## SCOPE/IDA Updates -

Sticker Shops - Discussion on how there is not enough teeth in the law to govern these shops. Enforcement is likely to go up although no knowledge to what extent or when. The lack in authority to do anything about it is of great concern. Code has the authority to apply pressure on the property owner. Seeking regulation and will share with the group when additional information is known.

Three Restore Grants are being submitted. This grant is extremely competitive, and the main focus is housing. Trials for the growth of Chickpeas are being conducted with local farmers - 3 in

Schuyler, 1 in Yates. Final phases of a video being completed with the focus on drawing in workers. SCOPED has a Commercial sites section on the SCOPED website. Succession planning session will be offered to businesses who are experiencing employees who are aging out.

### **Around the Table-**

Nigar Hale – handout-Hall of Fame Process is being revamped with hopes of having a representative from each town & village to review the submissions. The Chamber will promote the program. The Chamber has been made aware that residents don't feel the chamber cares what their concerns are. There will be a short survey created. The group felt this was a good idea and were happy to have the community involved.

David Scott – conducting solar farms host agreements.

Jim Ryan – Completed last energy project. Town of MF's Clerk & Treasurer are now 2 positions. Two new businesses are now on Main St.

Lou Perazzini – New businesses in WG. Skating rink has been a hit. Asking if this meeting can be held any earlier in the day? Group chose 6pm.

John White – learning his new role.

Norma Burris – reminder for summer rec program participation from the towns.

Kai D'Aliva – electronic transportation continues to be a concern. Advocating for a plan. WG is experiencing a decline in enrollment due to the lack of housing, people leaving NY, and persons choosing not to have children.

Brandon Theetge – solar farm local law getting wrapped up in Cayuta.

Fonda Chronis – email from Kelly Anderson, Director of Real Property re: post card being sent out to all taxpayers re: senior exemption. Reach out to Real Property if you have any questions.

Jim Howell – Real Property Director shared that Code is not sending housing updates to RPTO to be taxed appropriately. He feels Schuyler is prime for housing developments.

Next meeting – April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Adjourned 8:43 PM**

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 4/27/2023

## Present:

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Laurie DeNardo -Village of Watkins Glen           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta                 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Tracy Marchionda, OMCS                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Dominick Smith-Town of Dix                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Kai D'Aliva, WGSD                                 |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Stephen Miller -Town of Reading     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Saks, M.D., Associate-Health Officer           |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer - Village of Odessa              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi, Secretary-Schuyler County           |

\*Denotes voting member

Other: Mark Rondinaro, Kristin VanHorn

Call to order: 7:00 PM

**Health Officer Report** – Various types of COVID still exist and the Schuyler rate is at low. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, masks will only be required in certain areas of the hospital. Staffing is getting better at the hospital. The need is mostly with CNA's, LPN's, & RN's. Lyme Disease will be worse this year due to the past light winter.

**Grant Opportunities** – Kristin VanHorn, County Planner, shared that her office has a new staff member, Marian Saks who started in March. There are many grant opportunities available to the T's & V's. The Planning Office will pull together a county wide list of shovel ready & wish list project ideas. Grants are back to being competitive. What opportunities are not available, they can advocate on your behalf & potentially assist with writing grants. The plan is to meet with the towns & villages to discuss projects and grants available. This info will be sent out by email on Monday. Goal is to get to know the municipalities better & obtain information to be ready to move forward when needed and to work together to enhance our ability for more opportunity's county wide.

## SCOPE/IDA Updates –

**Hall of Fame** – Nigar Hale, Chamber, gave a handout for the revised Hall of Fame application & guidelines. A selection committee is needed for 7, not more than 12, persons from the Towns & Villages. Nigar will facilitate the process but does not cast a vote. The committee will review the nominations per the available criteria. All agreed to move forward. Nigar will reach out to the Towns & Villages.

**Assessing Agreement** – Dave Scott stated how meetings used to be held with the towns around assessing. Fonda will reach out to the RPTO Director to begin those meetings again. Franchise agreements end up costing the towns fees and recognize very little profit.

## Around the Table-

Jim Ryan – Nuisance Law is in the works. NY Act paying 4.1% on reserve funds. The Federal Government has given to the state, but these funds are not getting out to the recipients. Will now have a mode to require funds direct from the Feds.

Dave Scott – working on solar farm legislation. Will seek funds for new park bathroom.

Mark Rondinaro – Schuyler County hosted Inter County. The president of the new ambulance service provided a great presentation. Our set up is being recognized by the state.

Don Desrochers – He is really concerned with the rhedoric in the emails being sent to the Towns & Villages by Gerry Messmer which is being done to divide the towns & villages with the county. The constant divide attempts are ridiculous. Don makes the motion to remove Gerry Messmer from the President of the COG. Norma Burris seconded the motion. Others concurred. John White wants collaboration & movement. Steve Miller was not happy that the emails were attacking the Secretary of the COG. The motion was withdrawn by Don as Gerry Messmer was not present. Rick Lewis stated Gerry will submit his resignation based on the discussion. The group decided to await his resignation.

Steve Miller – the Town of Reading needs a water system.

Laurie DeNardo – she does not want to play part in the rhedoric. Would like working groups within the COG.

Fonda Chronis – at any time, if the county can assist, contact him.

Dale – move the meetings to every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:00pm. The other month will be a working meeting. All in agreement.

Next meeting – June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Adjourned 7:16 PM**

# COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 6/22/2023

## Present:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine     | <input type="checkbox"/> *Laurie DeNardo -Village of Watkins Glen            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta               | <input type="checkbox"/> *Tracy Marchionda, OMCS                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Dominick Smith-Town of Dix                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Kai D'Aliva, WGSD                       |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer - Village of Odessa            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Tomassi, Secretary-Schuyler County |
- \*Denotes voting member

Other: Mark Rondinaro

Call to order: 6:05 PM

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Saks presented local potential health concerns.

**SCOPE/IDA Updates** –

**Shared Services** –

**Franchise Agreements** – Discussion on how these agreements work within the municipalities. Does the tax imposed on the resident then get billed by the town/village? If a town drops the agreement, will the residents still have the fee imposed on them? Peggy will inquire to the County Treasurer.

Per Holley Sokolowski, County Treasurer: *There are multiple levels to this. Each town has the option of doing an RFP for franchise agreements within their jurisdiction. The franchise fees paid by the franchise to the town are proportionately reflected on each customers bill, as required by law. I have included Steven on this email as there are a lot of laws and regulations relating to franchise agreements, fees and corresponding deductions. The county only gets involved as the franchises are permitted to take 626 deductions, for the franchise fees paid to the town, against their tax bills. The towns are then responsible for reimbursing this portion of the bill.*

Rick Lewis stated Gerry Messmer will no longer attend anymore meetings. With this being relayed by Rick Lewis, Gerry Messmers resignation was accepted by all present.

Motion by Don Desrochers for Rick Lewis as President. Seconded by Norma Burris. All approved.

**Around the Table-**

Norma Burris – things are going well. Possible interest in the old Camp Monterey.

Don Desrochers – the recycling program was visited unannounced by DEC.

Steve Miller – exploring recycling options. Have a new roller & pick-up truck.

Dave Scott – The towns of Montour & Catharine have a nice recycling program which the Village of Odessa now utilizes. He feels the county should look into a countywide recycling program. Dog agreements are coming due. Should we have Mike Lausell come in to discuss?

Dale Walters – the mayors will have a round table discussion to present into for next meeting.

Ben Dickens – Cassella's fee for recycling is \$1,150 per mo.

Rick Lewis – is anyone having issues with Bergen’s blocking the roadways causing safety hazards? Ag laws protect farming work.

Kai D’Aliva – wrapping up the school year. Electronic transportation is coming our way. Does not feel it will be successful in Watkins Glen. Housing continues to be an issue which inhibits maintaining qualified staff & families. Need a more common-sense approach for future transit.

Ben Saks – Arnot Ogden may also merge with Cayuga Medical bringing in some advantages to our area.

Mark Rondinaro – sales tax has seen a decline the past 2 months. The towns should see their allocated amount while the county may suffer.

Next meeting – August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Adjourned 7:26 PM**

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\*Denotes voting member

Other: Kelly Anderson, Director of Real Property

Call to order: 6:04 PM

**Equalization Rates** – Handout. Kelly Anderson, Director of Real Property, discussed the current equalization rates and how growth & aggressiveness in sales has made it difficult to keep the rate at 100%.

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Saks shared about an organism outbreak coming from salt water along the coast of Long Island/Connecticut. This organism is causing sickness from seafood consumed from these waters. There is an Influenza A breakout that causes the flu in animals as well as humans. As the virus mutates, the vaccine best suited for the outbreak is for the most prevalent strain of virus. Covid – seeing cases although images the common cold. No hospitalizations.

## SCOPED/IDA Updates –

### Shared Services –

### Around the Table-

Jim Ryan - Three of the four mayors met with great discussions on a study grant focusing on mutual needs. NY Forward moving onward.

Dave Scott – Park project underway. Town to work on dog warden contracts. Dave will spearhead this project.

Norma Burris – beginning a Comprehensive Plan. Possible communication tower being placed in Orange.

Dale Walters – Village of Burdett Wastewater study with Hector. Survey to taxpayers soon.

Rick Lewis – Town of Catharine Zoning Law being updated.

Kai D'Aliva – WGSD is getting ready for students to return. Experiencing bus driver shortage. No change in prospective electric bus mandate. Concern continues with enough power in the grid for them. Working with the University of Rochester to gain the vision of the district.

Shawn Rosno – appreciates being part of the table & looks forward to working with the towns & villages.

Nigar Hale – a meeting with Congressman Langworthy & Senator O'Mara will be held on Monday, August 28, 2023, at Hardinge in Elmira. Information will be sent out to the COG. The Tribute Event went very well.

Next meeting – October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Adjourned 6:40 PM**

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**Adjourned 6:40 PM**

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Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 10/26/2023

## Present:

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- \*Denotes voting member

## Other:

Call to order: 6:05 PM

**Health Officer Report** – Dr. Saks shared that on October 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be two Drug Take Back events for persons to rid of unwanted drugs in a safe manner and keep them off the streets. Covid cases recently were worse early on, but we are now past the influx of cases.

**WG Summer Recreation Program** – Laurie DeNardo shared that /23 summer rec program was a huge success. The program ran with a \$90,000 budget with 36 children receiving scholarships. Seeking to ask the towns to support the program. Nan Woodworth will be reaching out to the towns.

**SCOPED/IDA Updates** – No report.

**Shared Services** – No report.

## Around the Table-

Laurie DeNardo – needs a treasurer for the Village of Watkins Glen.

Jim Ryan – congratulations to Hector for becoming a Bronze Community. The Village of Montour received a \$70k grant for electric charging stations. Entering a Clean Water study conducted by NYS with a zero match.

Don Desrochers –A resident conducted a physical altercation with him. There are concerns with not having protections to the town staff. Suggests placing a local law in place for no guns on premise.

Ben Dickens – The new well will soon be ready to be hooked up.

Rick Lewis – Town rec'd \$5k for Green Community.

Dave Scott -Solar Farms are entering into the town. Would like to get together with the towns to negotiate cost of megawatts. Discussions will begin the beginning of the year.

Group discussed cancelling the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as it fell between the holidays. Unanimous decision to cancel the December meeting and hold the next meeting in February.

Next meeting – February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Adjourned 7:26 PM**