

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 2/22/2024

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'Alleva, 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-SCOPE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Heather Waters -Town of Orange | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Verrigni, Associate-Soil & Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Stephen Miller -Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Saks, 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"/> *Linda Arcangeli-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"/> M. Shawn Rosno, Associate-County Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Baker, Secretary-Schuyler County |
- *Denotes voting member

Other: Kirk Smith, Margaret Schimizzi

Call to order: 6:00 PM

Solar Eclipse April 8th – Kirk Smith: Schuyler is more a pass-through county for the event. Some hotels are completely booked. The plan is done and one more in-person session is scheduled for March 11th at 1 pm, in Room 120 at HSC. Email went out 2/22/24. Working closely with Nigar Hale at the Chamber to check on planned events. NASCAR level of traffic is anticipated, but just passing through. Water is a concern, working closely with Sheriff and State Police for lake safety.

Kai D'Alleva: As of right now WGCS is doing a half day. 17 of 21 in GST BOCES are running a half day.

WG Summer Rec – Margaret Schimizzi: Writing grants and waiting to hear back. Nan Woodworth sent a letter to all townships as they contributed last year. The hope is that the towns and county will contribute this year.

Health Officer Report – No report.

SCOPE/IDA Updates – Carl Blowers: The town has a lot of work to do on Meads Hill before the county can do anything. This would help taxes greatly.

Shared Services – David Scott: Talking with Georgie Taylor, next year Ag and Markets is going to make more demands on the Humane Society, and town supervisors need to get together to help them. Need to make sure the Humane Society comes to towns before the budget process is done.

There are grants available if we can come up with a good shared services program.

Around the Table-

Shawn Rosno – January tax was flat. If we've peaked, we'll adjust budgets accordingly.

Property tax/reassessment discussion: be on the lookout for communication from Tax office. New Planner, JoAnn Lindstrom is starting March 18th. New Deputy County Admin, Chris DesRochers, also starting March 18th.

Kai D'Alleva – Thank you for hard work on the resolution. Means a lot for the Legislature and Senators to go to bat for the school. WGCS has worked hard to get programming up to where it needs

to be in the modern world and now we have to make hard decisions. The resolution will get programs and opportunities back in place for kids, at least for the short-term.

Rick Lewis –Election of new officers needs to happen at April meeting. A quorum is needed to do so.

David Scott – Solar farm is moving forward. Hired a grant and project manager for park. Bridge project is ongoing. 2025 should have these three things finished. Just lost our Highway Superintendent after 25 years. Mike Croft is stepping into the position.

Linda Arcangeli – Survey went out – three people want to start up the planning board again.

Margaret Schimizzi – Looking for a superintendent of parks and recreation. Need to get someone in place soon.

Justin Boyette – Awarded grant for septic (with Burdett).

Group decided to try 6:30pm to help participation.

Next meeting – April 25th at 6:30pm.

Adjourned 6:45 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #115

Meeting Notes from 4/18/2024

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'Alleva, WGSD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Justin Boyette -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-SCOPEd |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Heather Waters -Town of Orange | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Verrigni, Associate-Soil & Water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Stephen Miller -Town of Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Ben Saks, 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 type="checkbox"/> *Linda Arcangeli-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"/> M. Shawn Rosno, Associate-County Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Baker, Secretary-Schuyler County |
- *Denotes voting member

Other: Chris Desrochers, Kelly Anderson

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Nomination & Selection of Officers – No quorum.

Nomination for SCOPEd Representatives – No quorum.

Health Officer Report – No report.

SCOPEd/IDA Updates – **Judy Cherry** – 2023 was a very successful year. Information can be found in the [2023 Annual Report](#). There are ongoing goals of developing year-round, living-wage employment opportunities, leverage existing and growing businesses, increasing the exportation of local products, and building a resilient and adaptable population. CFA process is opening in mid-May. Judy can help anyone until it opens, then she has to step back because she is involved in scoring. DRI/NY Forward is open and there are two villages that haven't taken any money: Burdett and Odessa. Hamlets can also apply. There will be a presentation given at the Event Center on May 9 with all of the Southern Tier. Ask Judy for info.

Shared Services – No report.

Property Reassessments – **Kelly Anderson** – Office of Real Property: Reassessments were conducted in Dix, Reading, Catharine, and Montour. The last reassessment was pre-COVID. This is one of the most unique reassessment processes the office has ever gone through because of significant shifts that happened in the post-COVID market. It was important that Real Property took their time, for two main reasons: 1. They wanted good data 2. They were carefully tracking all sales. The basis for reassessment is an inventory of property and the sales market. The process to measure: verify every real property transfer that comes through the office, and once that info is verified, make sure what they know about that property is accurate. For example: square footage, structure type, was it bought and flipped, is it used for rental income, etc. Notices are in the process of going out. Most helpful info: assessment is one thing and tax impact is another. Please tell constituents to go online to the Real Property page of the Schuyler County website and schedule an appointment to talk with the department about their assessment.

Sales Tax Distribution – County gives up to \$2,000,000 in sales tax to towns. The formula being used has been the same for a long time, and there have been questions from a couple towns about the amount increasing. Right now, that \$2,000,000 is 12% of the total sales tax brought in. Most counties don't give sale tax to towns, and Schuyler gives back among the highest percentage in the state.

Villages and Towns Public Hours – Posted times need to be consistent and followed through.

Dog Control Agreement – Georgie Taylor will be at the June meeting. Supervisors might meet to discuss this separately from Council of Governments. NYS has new requirements that George will talk through in June.

Around the Table-

Kai D’Alleva – Watkins Glen Schools are anxiously awaiting a passed budget from the state. There is very minimal info at this moment. The budget was built based on the \$1,900,000 reduction in aid because the school is legally obligated to adopt a budget by a certain date. The kids are doing awesome. At this point student programming is not being impacted by cuts.

Laurie DeNardo – The Village of Watkins Glen is busy and working on budgets. Extremely busy for the eclipse, which should give a good boost to sales tax. Partnering with Burdett on a feasibility study on wastewater which would be a good project for the joint planning committee.

David Scott – If everything goes well, the solar farm should be in by the end of 2025. Bridge won’t be in until probably 2026. Park should be done by the end of 2025. Hired a project manager for the park because there’s a lot of paperwork. Welcome to new Highway Superintendent, Mike Croft, he is doing well.

Stephen Miller – The Town of Reading is working on a short-term rental law, which has proven to be complicated. Also looking at a town law for solar and wind regulations. A questionnaire was sent out last year about creating a water district and got a pretty good response. Of course, water districts cost money, so some are against. Grants all want expansion and improvement, so starting a new one doesn’t quite fit. Thank you to the County for help getting CDL licenses easier to attain.

Carl Blowers – Shared Services – There are grants out there for county/town/villages shared services. Everyone should be looking for ways to apply for that. CDL is a good example of this. Regarding sales tax: we’re getting to the top of the natural curve. Two things to consider: this hasn’t been the greatest spring, and the state is taking more of our sales tax than before. One of the objectives we must have in the county is to move from all tourist sales tax to another stream of income that levels it out a bit and will create some good jobs. Town of Dix and Village of Watkins Glen did a great job getting information together on the gravel pit. The County worked on the first part to get a delay, but now the issue can’t be dropped or forgotten.

Shawn Rosno – Welcome new Deputy County Administrator Chris Desrochers. Chris will be available to help with continued expansion of planning and grants and all the paperwork that goes with that.

Rick Lewis – Received many calls about Kristine Gardner being relieved of her duties at the Veterans Service Agency at Schuyler County. The department is essential for constituents of the county.

Public comment was given.

Next meeting: June 27th at 6:30pm.

Adjourned 8:00 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 6/27/2024

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'Alleva, WGSD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Justin Boyette -Town of Hector | <input type="checkbox"/> *Vacant, GST BOCES |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> *Heather Waters -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"/> *Linda Arcangeli-Village of Burdett | <input type="checkbox"/> *Carl H. Blowers-Chairman Schuyler Co. Legislature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *James Ryan-Village of Montour Falls | <input type="checkbox"/> M. Shawn Rosno, Associate-County Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Baker, Secretary-Schuyler County |
- *Denotes voting member

Other: Chris Desrochers, Georgie Taylor, Mark Taylor, Joanne Randall, Michael Lausell, Chad Henderson, Adam Smith

Call to order: 6:33 PM

Nomination & Selection of Officers – No quorum. Motion made by James Ryan to get consensus of present board to allow electronic voting amongst members who cannot attend. Seconded by Don Desrochers. Unanimously approved.

Nomination for SCOPED Representatives –

Town Representative – Nomination for Don Desrochers by Laurie DeNardo; seconded by David Scott
Village Representative – Nomination for Laurie DeNardo by Don Desrochers; seconded by David Scott.
Unanimously approved.

Health Officer Report – Tick-borne diseases are a problem this time of year. A tick must be on you for more than 48 hours to transmit a disease. Tick population is controlled by deer and frost, and we didn't have frost so prevalence is up. The best way to deter ticks and mitigate risk is proper clothing. Lightweight long sleeve and long pants are best. Make sure to check your body after being outside. Treatment is a course of antibiotics.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Judy Cherry – Poverty Rates by County, 2020 Census handout. Evidence that Schuyler is not the poorest county in the state. There are two sites being reviewed by a site selection company around batteries and clean energy manufacturing: Business Park, Camp Monterey. CFA is open right now, closes July 31st. I Love NY grants are available. Pro-housing certification is not about affordability, it's about inventory. State is trying to get municipalities to do what they need to do to increase housing. A number of municipalities have put in a letter of intent (all villages but Burdett), but all need to be further along in the process.

IDA has an RFP out for building assessment study. IDA will be taking a leadership role in marketing that.

SCOPED has been working with the county's ARPA program: façade improvements have happened in every village. Recent: ROI \$4 private for every dollar of tax money.

Shared Services – No report.

Humane Society – Georgie Taylor – Contracts for Dog Shelter Services. Copy of presentation will be given to all attending.

Around the Table-

Laurie DeNardo – Watkins Glen has received a 4.6 million Economic Development Administration grant for water infrastructure improvements. Tourism is booming.

Michael Lausell – Dave Reed is in Alaska and not coming back until March 2025.

Kai D’Alleva – Long school year with the additional holidays they’re adding and regents exams. School years are going later in June and summer is shorter. A lot of changes coming for graduation requirements. There is a large push for regionalization of schools in NYS. Budget cuts will continue over the next few years.

Chris Desrochers – We have entered the 2025 budget phase at the county. Working with departments now to pass a budget in September.

Jim Ryan – Congrats to Laurie on retirement from Cornell. There are two interns for Montour right now, one graduate from Elmira College, and an engineering student from Cornell. Working 40 hours a week with only a small amount of cost to the village. Board has authorized purchase of marina campground and significant improvements can be made now. Signed a contract 5 years ago for a new firetruck, because of supply demands, it is just now being built. Actual cost to the village was \$825,000, the truck is worth \$1.3m now because the price was locked in 5 years ago. Applying for New York Swim - up to \$10m per request. Looking to put a pool in the marina. Interns are working on submitting for Silver Certification for Climate Smart Community. Lake Water Revitalization Plan won’t be done until 2027, but the project part of that is starting now. Drinking water safety program is coming out. Also applying for a grant for a comprehensive plan for 2027, to start in 2025. Pro-housing: working on it now. Submission due end of July, letter of intent is in.

David Scott – Waiting on engineers, but solar farm should go in soon. Park should be done end of 2025. Bridge done in 2026.

Joanne Randall – Union contract got settled when we got a new supervisor. Feeling hopeful about the future.

Next meeting: August 22nd at 6:30pm.

Adjourned 8:48 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 8/22/2024

Present:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Rick Lewis -Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> *Laurie DeNardo -Village of Watkins Glen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Brandon Theetge-Town of Cayuta | <input type="checkbox"/> *Tracy Marchionda, OMCS |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa | <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Baker, Secretary-Schuyler County |
- *Denotes voting member

Other: Chris Desrochers, Jim Howell, Brian Erway, Lori Stigor

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Nomination & Selection of Officers –

President – Nomination for Rick Lewis by James Ryan; seconded by Justin Boyette. Unanimously approved.

Vice President – Nomination for David Scott by Jim Ryan; seconded by Rick Lewis. Unanimously approved.

Secretary – Nomination for Samantha Baker by Don Desrochers; seconded by David Scott. Unanimously approved.

Health Officer Report – None.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Downtown Façade Program is opening up to towns to be more equitable, not just villages. SCOPED will put together a rubric with qualifications. Match at 50% with \$25,000 maximum. There have been six grant applications for Southern Tier Regional CFA. The Village Marina Restaurant has leased to Lucky Hare Brewing, it should open in three weeks. Four proposals were received for the Camp Monterey study, a vendor will be picked within the next month.

Shared Services – No report.

Property Tax Assessments & Re-evaluations – Assessments: The MOU with the county states that assessors are on the county payroll, but the responsibility of assessment review falls to the municipality.

Meeting Times Discussion – No change.

Excess Supply of Road Salt – The county has an abundance of salt due to warm winters, please help yourselves.

Humane Society/Dog Control - Shawn is setting up a meeting between Town Supervisors, Humane Society, and any Legislators who would like to attend. Tentative date: Sept. 26.

Around the Table-

Jim Ryan – Project updates and steps taken for New York Forward.

Steve Miller – Ongoing water concerns in Reading.

Adjourned 7:45 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 10/24/2024

Present:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> *Gerry Messmer – Village of Odessa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Baker, Secretary-Schuyler County |
- *Denotes voting member

Other: Undersheriff Andrew Zeigler, Joel Pearson, Joann Lindstrom, Brian Ervay, Rebecca Wright, and Thomas Peer

Call to order: 6:32 PM

Planning Commission and Environmental Management Council Member Recruitment – Joann Lindstrom, Director of Planning, Schuyler County – There are some vacancies coming up on the commission/council. If you know of anyone who would like to serve, please reach out.

Countywide Comprehensive Plan Update – Joann Lindstrom, Director of Planning, Schuyler County – It's been 10 years since the County has updated. There is an open line of communication with the towns and Joann would like to have meetings with all of you.

Dog Control – Joel Pearson from Southern Tier Animal Control – Joel's services comply with all Agriculture & Markets laws. He currently serves Horseheads, Corning, Veteran, etc. He will have to meet with the ACO at the County line as the ACO can't transport outside of the County. He provides a detailed monthly report, including a call blotter. He bases each contract on town population, but everything is negotiable.

Health Officer Report – Tick-borne diseases are rampant and curable. Vaccines: If you're at risk, please get your flu vaccine. Lots of RSV happening (no cure), please get vaccine. There are good changes happening at the hospital: affiliation process going on, bringing Arnot into the system. Community benefit is electronic medical record system is very expensive and coming with the affiliation. Arnot and Schuyler/Cayuga records will talk to each other. Health Officer responsibility: He's also here to help with the community. If you have a community member in need, Dr. Saks is available to help. Anyone in Schuyler who doesn't have insurance or has insurance with a high deductible can get screened for three common cancers.

SCOPEd/IDA Updates – Unemployment is down from Sept. 2023 to Sept. 2024. The number of jobs that exist in our county has increased since 1990, while Chemung and Steuben have gone down. Online courses for entrepreneurship are available through SCOPEd. Live classes will start in January. Engineering firm is at Camp Monterey this week to test water. If the water system is good, it can be upgraded, and it will be a viable property to market. It was shown to site selectors. Also took site selectors to a site in Cayuta. County Façade program: meeting tomorrow to launch it again. In the past it's been centered on villages, it has now opened to towns.

Shared Services – Is a shared service for code enforcement a possibility?

Around the Table

Kai D'Alleva – Thank you to the County for partnership with ambulance service. Athletic trainer has been hired. Capital project is out – public info session on Dec. 3. Thanks to County and WGPD for lockdown drills and trainings.

Laurie DeNardo – The new State Park bridge will go in next year, with expected completion by July 2026. It's a \$7.5 million project. Comprehensive plan is starting. Clute Park has a new ADA playground going in.

Justin Boyette – Feasibility study with Burdett for sewer has started

Stephen Miller – RFP for water district went out. Seven proposals were submitted.

David Scott – Solar farm is going in. Bridge done in 2026.

Group discussed cancelling the December 28th meeting as it falls between the holidays. Unanimous decision to cancel the December meeting and reconvene in January, then every other month after that.

Adjourned 8:19 PM