

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 01/23/2025

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 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

Others in attendance: Deputy County Administrator Chris Desrochers, Watkins Glen Village Trustee Margaret Schimizzi

Call to order: 6:32 PM

Health Officer Report – There have been hospitalizations for influenza. Less this year than three previous. The hospital hasn't seen many COVID cases. Vaccines decrease severity and duration. There have been a lot of bad fires. Please be careful of space heaters, propane heaters, etc. Fire risk but also carbon monoxide risk. It doesn't take long to get frostbite, try to avoid long exposure to this kind of cold. The good side of the cold weather is less tick-borne illness. (Kai D'Alleva added: The schools get criticized for not closing or delaying for cold, but kids are safe and warm on the bus and in the schools. Sometimes school is the safer place.)

SCOPED/IDA Updates

- Employment in Schuyler County – December of 2023 to December of 2024 we see 100 jobs added in manufacturing.
- Ovid fire – When you have that kind of loss in a village of that size, the loss is larger than just buildings. Judy was contacted to give insight on next steps.
- Freedom Village – SCOPED has introduced developers to the new owners.
- County ARPA program, façade program, now live for villages and towns for commercial buildings (can be mixed use).
- Investors are coming into the county buying businesses/properties, especially when the owners are aging. They are doing lease-to-own so owners can stay in place. Positive side: our community is seen as good investment. Negative side: our community is aging out and their kids don't want to run the business, and investors are not bringing children for the schools.
- Consulting company completed review of the county, came up with 6-8 sites.
- Water study completed at Monterey.
- Business Park – Hillick and Hobbs is going in, might have another.
- Working on Finger Lakes Rail pilot right now – 6 counties.
- There is a daycare grant that is open right now.
- Craft beverages – there is a movement away from alcohol. Premium spaces are okay, but others are seeing plateaued growth.
- USDA has a forestry and timber grant open right now.
- State Ag & Markets has a “new farming” grant.
- Schuylerpreneur Program is back – above the Chamber in the coworking space.
- Hosting “Neighbors and Newcomers” event – everyone welcome.

- All projections we're seeing is a major demographic cliff in 2026.

Shared Services

- Potential Fire Study – looking at how this could benefit the whole county. There is some money available to help. Problems are not a lot of volunteers and equipment is getting more expensive. Looking at how to minimize cost. Department of State has grant money for the study. Estimate at the moment is \$60,000. The goal is not consolidation, just figuring out how to meet the needs of the community with low resources.
- Code Enforcement – It may be possible to start with two towns. Others can join as their need arises. Possible issue: Zoning laws differ for each town.
- Tax Collection – The county is already collecting taxes 8 months a year, could they help towns? (Tyrone uses Five Star Bank to collect taxes and recommends.) Should we consider one centralized place for town tax payments?

Around the Table

Margaret Schimizzi – ADA playground is scheduled to be completed by spring.

Shawn Rosno – County is doing a housing study for all levels of housing. Comprehensive Plan is starting. Joann Lindstrom will want to meet with several of you. Sales tax – 26 counties had a reduction in sales tax this year (brought in less than expecting), Schuyler was not one of them. County planned for 2025 and were more conservative with sales tax projection.

Kai D'Alleva – In the heart of budget season at the school. The budget cut from last year was restored. People are coming back to teaching and evaluations have returned to local control. There's a timeline for Regents Exams to no longer be required, but they will still exist. Running a survey about the infrastructure project to see feedback and change the plan to try again in the future.

Heather Waters – Would like an assessor on site in Orange once a month. Any ideas for Camp Monterey would be appreciated.

James Ryan – Met with Mayor DeNardo today to talk about the wastewater plant. Discussed budgets for plant – it will be the same this year. DEC just put out new PFAST regulations – could mean more testing and more expense. There's an empty church on South Street, it has been offered to the village. It houses the food pantry, it has a large kitchen. We need to look at our Main Streets, they could be the next Ovid. Would we recover? Could we?

Chris Desrochers – Board of Assessment Review Training – May 1, 2-5 at the Human Services Complex. The County has created a GIS position that we've just hired for. Dog Control – One pickup for the month of January so far. Paperwork went great, Joel was easily reachable, met at county line. Everything went as smoothly as possible.

David Scott – Solar farm will be operational by March 1st. Bridge project is moving along. Park project – Money was awarded a year ago, hoping for movement soon.

Adjourned 8:19 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 03/27/2025

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| <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

Others in attendance: Michael Lausell, Peter Cherock, Dustin Carnes, Joann Lindstrom, Jeri Sarrge, Rich Lasko, Chris Desrochers

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Nomination & Selection of Officers – No quorum.

Reaffirmation of SCOPED Representatives – No quorum.

Introduction of Jeri Sarrge, Schuyler County Real Property Director – No discussion.

Introduction of Rich Lasko, Schuyler County GIS Coordinator – Rich is organizing data that already exists to make it more accessible. Longer term he is looking to update the parcel map viewer and building other maps to make property more searchable. Please reach out to Rich for any maps/mapping needs.

Schuyler County Comprehensive Plan – Joann Lindstrom, Schuyler County Director of Planning – The last comprehensive plan was done in 2015, and the county is now in the process of starting the next one. Joann will reach out to towns to see what involvement they'd like to have.

Procedure for Appointments to Schuyler County Planning Commission – Appointment has to be passed by Town Board, then sent to Legislature for approval. If legislature is saying now to Town's pick... how do towns find people interested? Hard enough to get people involved. Are there requirements that towns should be aware of?

Health Officer Report – In January, are hospitals started a new system called Centralis. Cayuga Medical, Schuyler, Arnot, and others. Pooling resources resulted in an upgrade to Epic, a large EMR. It's consumer oriented. Patients can look at their info much easier. Provider can share info quicker. In the past, when someone went to Arnot or Cayuga for specialty care, the info wasn't shared with Schuyler as easily. Now it's all connected. Medication reconciliation is easier. There was a second case in Reading for a house that was not inhabitable. Worked with APS to relocate the family.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Shared highlights of Annual Meeting report/presentation.

Shared Services – Code enforcement - What towns are interested in a code enforcement shared service? Vision: One or two code enforcers and one or two building inspectors with a centralized location instead of sporadic

hours in towns. Building inspectors could take some of the pressure off the code enforcers and free them up for the bigger projects. Orange and Tyrone are interested in looking at it.

Around the Table

Laurie DeNardo – New ADA, all-inclusive playground is underway. Should be done in 2-3 weeks. Starting the new comprehensive plan.

Jim Ryan – Had a meeting with FEMA. They're doing a flood-risk analysis to remap or rezone flood districts. Montour Falls levy system needs to be certified before 2026, but it's \$1.5 million to fix the levy. Recently cut down 40 trees in the village – mostly in the marina and a few on South Street. Trees will be replaced. Electric meters are going in the marina and renters will pay electric for their site now. Is there a policy or procedure for when condemning a house?

Dustin Carnes – Going to meet with Laurie and Jim for help learning the job. Officially starts April 1.

Stephen Miller – Intermunicipal agreement between school and Reading is in the work. Looking into a new water district, it hurts the expansion of businesses along 14 because there is no water. Thank you to county for help with funding for feasibility study. Looks like the best option is to drill and make own water system from top of hill down through Reading Center and then down 14 toward Watkins Glen. Worked out well to switch from Humane Society to STAC. Reading has already saved \$4,000 this year.

Kai D'Alleva – In budget finalization. We are feeling pretty good about where the budget is going. Tax levy will be below limit. Board is set to adopt on April 9th. Hearing on 6th of May. Vote on May 20th. Thanks to WG Village and County for handling yesterday's situation near the school. Spring sport season is about to begin.

Don Desrochers – Tyrone did a comprehensive plan in 2024.

Rick Lewis – Please spread word of Boys State. Participation is down.

Joann Lindstrom – Housing survey is open countywide. House repair program is open, too.

Heather Waters – Finishing up comprehensive plan. Hopefully done and adopted by June or July. Looking at policies and evaluating. Still looking for buyer for Monterey.

Adjourned 7:50 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 05/22/2025

Present:

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

Others in attendance: Chris Desrochers, Joanne Randall

Call to order: 6:31 PM

Nomination & Selection of Officers – No quorum.

Reaffirmation of SCOPED Representatives – No quorum.

Town Reassessment Services – The Real Property office decided to reevaluate Hector instead of Tyrone and Orange this year. This effects the sales tax amount to Tyrone. Contracts between towns and Real Property office are up in September. A good start will be the towns meeting with the Real Property office to talk about this, and meeting more regularly in the future.

Dog Control Update – 17 dogs from the whole county have been taken in by STAC this year. Most have been claimed by their owners.

Health Officer Report – No report.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Playground at Clute Park is completed. This is the last DRI project to be finished.

Shared Services – Code enforcement, tax collection, human resources have been mentioned as future ideas.

Around the Table

Nigar Hale – What do you want to know about tourism? Chamber has been working with WGI to print and publish a coloring book. Art by Bob Gillespie. All K-4 students are going to receive this in the county. Crayons bought by WGI.

Joanne Randall – Cleaning up from the microburst a few weeks ago.

Chris Desrochers – STC has their Regional Leadership Council June 5th. Deadline is today. Is anyone interested in STC coming to speak at CoG to talk about federal funding after the dust settles with the current federal budget?

James Ryan – NY Forward project will start in June. Two more projects coming: lighting in village and Main Street. New roof for the Fire Academy. New meters on all the marina slips. New level 3 EV charger on Main Street.

David Scott – Solar farm won't be done until fall. Salt storage shed will be done later in the year.

Justin Boyette – Breaking ground on new EV charger at Smith Park at the end of June. SWIMS grant means more lifeguard hours at Smith Park – hopefully 7 days a week.

Dustin Carnes – New DPW started today. District meeting for fire department went well.

Adjourned 7:28 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 07/24/2025

Present:

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

Others in attendance: Chris Desrochers, Peter Cherock, Dennis Trembley, Tony Navone, Jeri Sarrge, Rich Lasko

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Nomination & Selection of Officers – No quorum.

Reaffirmation of SCOPED Representatives – No quorum.

Towns/Real Property Office Contract – Contracts expire soon. Looking at a 6-year contract to match up with assessor appointments. Towns would like to add cost sharing for attorney fees for appeals.

Health Officer Report – No report.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Labor force has increased in the county. We have a large number of businesses in transition – being sold, for sale, some kind of change happening. Helping Watkins Glen to close out the parks grant. Working with Montour Falls to close out the bridge grant. Working with Watkins Glen on EFC grant. Working with Montour Falls on parks grant with Joann Lindstrom. Three (market-rate) housing grant applications in progress. Finger Lakes Rail PILOT closed – checks went out. 10-year extension. Notices for PILOTs ending in two years are going out now.

Shared Services – Town Supervisors would like a separate meeting to review dog control contract data and the Real Property contracts.

The County met with code enforcers. Jeremy Hourihan is going to put together a class for serving warrants to help code enforcers with the enforcement side when there are violations.

Land bank – an option for properties before they go into foreclosure.

Around the Table

Kai D'Alleva– New education laws around maximum classroom temperatures. Can't go above 88 degrees. Cell phone ban. Working on waivers for EV buses.

Heather Waters – Property that was solar farm is bank owned.

Rich Lasko – Housing study – surveys and interviews are complete. Thanks for participating and get in touch if you'd like to participate and haven't yet. County comprehensive plan is underway.

Chris Desrochers – County budget is underway. Sales tax checks will go out Friday.

Adjourned 7:35 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 09/25/2025

Present:

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Rick Lewis - Town of Catharine | <input type="checkbox"/> *Laurie DeNardo - Village of Watkins Glen |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Dustin Carnes - Village of Odessa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Baker, Secretary - Schuylers County |
- *Denotes voting member

Others in attendance: Chris Desrochers, Peter Cherock*, Jeri Sarrge, Joann Linstrom, Darrin Stocum, Gloria Stigers*, Thomas Peers

Call to order: 6:32 PM

Introduce Darrin Stocum – Darrin Stocum is moving into Assessor position in Real Property Tax Service office.

Nomination & Selection of Officers –

- President – Nomination for Donald Desrochers by Gloria Stigers; seconded by Heather Waters. Unanimously approved.
- Vice President – Nomination for David Scott by Donald Desrochers; seconded by Stephen Miller. Unanimously approved

Reaffirmation of SCOPED Representatives –

- Village Representative – Nomination for Laurie DeNardo by Donald Desrochers; seconded by Justin Boyette.
- Town Representative – Nomination for Donald Desrochers by Stephen Miller; seconded by Rick Lewis. Unanimously approved.

Towns/Real Property Office Contract – Coverage of attorney fees is ultimately the responsibility of the town. The contract is written for six years to follow the state cycle of assessor and director appointments.

Dog Control Contract – Various towns are looking into options for the future. Town of Orange brought information from the NYS Animal Protections Federation.

Resolution from Rep. Langworthy's Office – Town of Reading is planning to pass the resolution. Other towns have already done so or plan to.

Health Officer Report – No report.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – No report.

Shared Services – Covered.

Around the Table

Nigar Hale – The big news around the county is NASCAR’s change to a May date. The Chamber is working with the State Park and local lodging to try to get them to open early next year. Every household received a magazine about living in Schuyler County over the summer, the Chamber is hoping for another issue to come out in winter. Please reach out if you have feedback.

Shawn Rosno – In the middle of the 2026 budget process now. The county is looking three years ahead because Medicaid is a county responsibility in New York State.

Samantha Baker – Next meeting is third Thursday in November, November 20th, due to Thanksgiving holiday.

Thomas Peer – Town of Orange is doing a records digitization project. They are updating general codes and putting things online. Filing cabinets have been updated to fire retardant materials.

Joann Lindstrom – The County’s Comprehensive Plan is underway. Public meetings are coming up – online survey is open.

Dustin Carnes – Bridge project is fully funded. Construction starts in 2027. State audit is coming. Meeting with Congressman Langworthy, there is \$250,000 available for Village of Odessa, just have to finish paperwork. Fire district is delayed until June 2026. Food pantry is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – looking for grants for that.

Stephen Miller – An exemption was given for the fire code for the new church.

Peter Cherock – Village of Watkins Glen has been very busy.

James Ryan – Village of Montour Falls is now a Climate Smart Silver Certified Community. This designation helps with grants. NY Forward grant – dentist office and apartments are now in county and IDA hands. Historical Society is breaking ground in about a week. Route 414 lighting project is coming, approvals are in. Fire Department roof project is starting. FEMA is doing flood maps, levies are at risk, need to be certified.

Adjourned 7:49 PM

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS/SHARED SERVICES PANEL

Human Services Complex, Conference Room #120

Meeting Notes from 11/20/2025

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|---|--|
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- *Denotes voting member

Others in attendance: Chris Desrochers (Schuyler County), Peter Cherock* (Watkins Glen), Jeri Sarrge (Schuyler County), Joann Linstrom (Schuyler County), Gail Walker, Dan Walker, Stephen Klemann (Watkins Glen)

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Dog Control Contract – Montour asked STAC to sign a contract for two more years to match with the county/ACO contract. STAC passed NYS inspection.

Comprehensive Plan Priorities – Planning a youth survey and survey of elementary school students. Joann L. handed out a form for mayors and supervisors to fill in town/village priorities.

Health Officer Report – Flu season is here, get your vaccine. A lot of ticks this year. Use repellent and check yourself after being outdoors.

SCOPED/IDA Updates – Façade program is open for last round of 2025, due by Dec. 5th. SCOPED has two loan programs that can also help. Monterey has been shown three times in the last five weeks. Business Park has 31 acres prime for manufacturing. First site in NY to be certified as a Ready Site. In a few weeks – County Infrastructure Grant Program.

Shared Services – Schuyler County Purchasing looking into bulk buying of office supplies to save everyone money. Odessa is looking for 4" pipes.

Around the Table

Justin Boyette – Jane has retired and there is a gathering to celebrate her coming up. Email will be sent with invitation.

Kai D'Alleva – Budget season just started with BOCES. Proud of the food bank work at the school.

Peter Cherock – Decorating for Christmas and getting ready for Village Christmas

Jeri Sarrge – Thanks for sending in budgets. Working on updating website.

Dustin Carnes – New Village Clerk starting Dec. 1st. Dec. 6th – breakfast to benefit the food bank. Call Bucket Bar & Grill to donate directly if you can't come to the breakfast. Dec. 6th at 5:30, tree lighting at new Village Hall.

Samantha Baker – Next meeting is January 22; calendar invite will be sent shortly. New bus shelter at Walmart should be in soon.

Shawn Rosno – New short term rental law has started. County has contract with a company that tracks short term rentals and makes sure they are identified.

Chris Desrochers – Code Enforcers have been notified of new inspection requirements for short term rental law.

Carl Blowers – Please talk to people in community and talk about Façade Program.

Adjourned 7:18 PM