



## **Tioga County Worksession Minutes** **April 22, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

### **Legislators Present:**

Legislator Balliet  
Legislator Hollenbeck  
Legislator Monell  
Legislator Mullen (*arrived at 10:35 a.m.*)  
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey  
Legislator Standinger (*arrived at 10:05 a.m.*)  
Legislator Sullivan  
Legislator Weston

### **Legislators Absent:**

Legislator Roberts

### **Guests:**

None

### **Staff Present:**

Peter DeWind, County Attorney  
Bethany O'Rourke, Personnel Officer  
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk  
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**Youth Deer Hunter Opportunity:** Chair Sauerbrey reported she received correspondence from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) about a new pilot program for upstate counties through 2023 allowing twelve and thirteen year-old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow under the supervision of a licensed adult. Legislator Sullivan inquired as to how this hunting opportunity came about. Legislative Clerk Haskell stated this new deer hunting opportunity was included in the 2021-2022 New York State Budget. The goal is to provide new economic opportunities for local hunting economies. Ms. Haskell stated Legislation requires each county to "opt-in" to the program by adopting a Local Law. Tioga County has until September 1 to opt-in to the program.

County Attorney Peter DeWind reported this program is a PILOT project put in place through 2023. If counties choose to opt-out now, there is a possibility that it may become Law at a later date.

Legislator Standinger reported he is a certified hunter safety instructor. From his experience, he feels youth are safer hunters than adults. Legislator Standinger fully supports this program, as adult licensed hunters will supervise the youth. He received an email from a fellow hunter safety instructor who was also in favor of the program.

Chair Sauerbrey reported Legislator Roberts read over the proposed Local Law and he is fully supportive. Chair Sauerbrey asked the Legislators in attendance if they had any objections to moving forward with the Local Law. There were no objections.

Ms. Haskell reported at the May 11, 2021 Legislative Meeting, a Legislator will introduce the Local Law and a resolution will be passed that sets the public hearing. The public hearing will take place at the Legislative Worksession on May 20, 2021. The Local Law would be adopted at the June 15, 2021 Legislative Meeting.

**Approval of Worksession Minutes:** On motion of Legislator Sullivan, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck, the April 8, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Action Items:** Currently, there are no actions items.

**Other:**

- ***Stimulus Update:*** Chair Sauerbrey stated she still has not received clear guidance on how Tioga County's stimulus money can be spent.
- ***Emergency Communications Update:*** Chair Sauerbrey stated emergency communications in Tioga County are in critical shape and now is the time to address it. Chair Sauerbrey reported she met with Director of Emergency Services, Mike Simmons, representatives from Motorola, and NYSTEC consultant, Kevin Karn. Chair Sauerbrey stated the process for upgrading emergency communications has been complicated and highly technical. Chair Sauerbrey reported Tioga County will apply for grants to help fund the upgrade. She is aware of one grant for \$6 million that will hopefully be awarded by July.

Legislator Weston stated he would be open to hiring someone part-time to help ensure the grant application was done properly. In the past, Tioga County has lost out on grants and he doesn't want that to happen again.

Chair Sauerbrey replied that Kevin Karn and NYSTEC are vital resources as they can also help with the grant application. Chair Sauerbrey reported NYSTEC offered to come assess the County's 911 Center. Chair Sauerbrey anticipates more meetings with Kevin Karn in the future.

- ***Chair Sauerbrey's Visit to Saratoga:*** Chair Sauerbrey reported that she traveled to Saratoga County this week for a press event. The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors developed a leadership program for women in government. NYSAC asked Chair Sauerbrey to attend and represent Tioga County. Chairwoman Sauerbrey delivered remarks about women in government and was proud to represent Tioga County.

- **FCC Transition to Ten Digit Phone Number:** Chair Sauerbrey informed the Legislators that the FCC will require New York State residents to start using an area code when they make a phone call. This will commence on April 24, 2021, but will become mandatory on October 24, 2021.

Legislator Sullivan asked what the reason for the change is. Chair Sauerbrey replied that the change is tied to the Suicide Hotline. County Attorney Peter DeWind reported instead of dialing 911, a person can dial 988 and be connected immediately with a suicide prevention specialist.

County Attorney DeWind stated all equipment that uses phone numbers, including fax machines, will need to update their contacts to include an area code. Beginning October 24, 2021, calls dialed not using ten digits, will not go through.

**Executive Session:** Motion by Legislator Hollenbeck, seconded by Legislator Monell, to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:17 a.m. with Personnel Officer Bethany O'Rourke remaining in attendance.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Next Worksession is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy Eiklor*

Deputy Legislative Clerk