



## **Tioga County Worksession Minutes** **April 4, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.**

### **Legislators Present:**

Legislator Brown  
Legislator Monell  
Legislator Mullen  
Legislator Roberts  
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey  
Legislator Standinger

### **Legislators Absent:**

Legislator Ciotoli  
Legislator Flesher

### **Guests:**

None

### **Staff present:**

Peter DeWind, County Attorney  
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk  
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk  
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer  
LeeAnn Tinney, ED&P Director (*Departed at 1:20 p.m.*)  
Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services for Mental Hygiene (*Departed at 1:25 p.m.*)

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**Meeting with Commissioner Bray – NYS Commissioner of Homeland Security:** Chair Sauerbrey reported that she, along with Director of Emergency Services Corinne Cornelius, and Legislator Flesher, met with New York State's Commissioner of Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Jackie Bray. At the meeting, Commissioner Bray cautioned that the April 8<sup>th</sup> solar eclipse may cause an increase in traffic throughout New York State. Commissioner Bray also expressed concern about safety and the upcoming presidential election. Her office is preparing for the possibility of security threats and cyber-attacks. Commissioner Bray suggested that all local governments throughout New York come up with a safety and security plan in conjunction with Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, and Board of Elections. Chair Sauerbrey asked Commissioner Bray if a law enforcement presence at polling sites would increase safety. Commissioner Bray indicated that a law enforcement presence could possibly deter voters. Instead, she suggested having a backup plan in place in the event that there is

a safety or security issue. Legislator Flesher will begin the process of speaking to and meeting with local officials to come up with a plan for Tioga County.

**County Administrator Update:** Chair Sauerbrey reported the interview committee conducted interviews for the position of County Administrator. The interviews went well and four of the candidates will be asked to return for a second interview via Zoom. After the interviews, the committee is expected to narrow down the candidates to two and ask for a third interview, in-person. Chair Sauerbrey will keep the Legislature updated on the search for a County Administrator.

**Approval of Worksession Minutes:** On motion of Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Monell, the March 21, 2024 minutes were approved.

**Action Items:** Currently, we have none.

**Legislative Support:** Legislative Clerk Haskell will type the Legislative Support minutes and will be sent to the Legislators as a separate document.

**Resolutions:** Ms. Haskell reviewed the agenda and resolutions for the April 9, 2024 Legislature meeting with discussion occurring on the following:

- ***Adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2024:*** Legislative Clerk Haskell explained this Local Law authorizes twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season with the supervision of an adult licensed hunter. Tioga County previously participated in the program by way of Local Law No. 3 of 2021, which had a sunset date of December 31, 2023. The New York State DEC has extended this pilot program to December 31, 2025. Legislator Monell inquired as to why Tioga County could not pass a Local Law making this permanent. Ms. Haskell explained that this is a pilot program through New York State which can only be extended to December 31, 2025. After that date, the program will be evaluated to see if it can be made permanent.

**Other:**

- ***Waverly Mental Hygiene Project Update:*** Director of Community Services Lori Morgan, reported that the Village of Waverly's Mayor, Andrew Aronstam, has signed the lease agreement. Mental Hygiene will be leasing office space within the Village of Waverly. Ms. Morgan stated that Commissioner of Public Works Gary Hammond will be conducting a pre-construction meeting to discuss details of the project. After the meeting, more information will be available on the proposed timeline for the project. Legislator Mullen said that Mayor Aronstam indicated that he would eventually like to have a groundbreaking ceremony. Legislator Mullen suggested acknowledging the efforts of those that helped secure office space in the Village of Waverly by naming a portion of the building after them, or some other form of recognition. Ms. Morgan agreed and stated she would be in favor of a plaque.

- **Spencer Food Pantry Update:** Chair Sauerbrey explained that she met with a representative from the Spencer Food Pantry. The food pantry is experiencing financial difficulties with the increased number of families utilizing the pantry. The representative stated the organization has seen an increase of about 250 families at their food distributions. In the past, Tioga Opportunities partnered with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to purchase food for pantries throughout Tioga County. Over the years, those contributions have dwindled. As a result, the Spencer Food Pantry must use its own funds to purchase food. The cost of food has increased substantially resulting in more families needing help. With such a high number of families, the food pantry is struggling to support all those in need. Legislator Mullen suggested the organization contact Tioga County's Director of Veterans Services as they recently began grocery giveaways for veterans and their families. If qualified, perhaps some families can utilize that grocery giveaway. Legislator Standinger suggested that the Spencer Food Pantry contact the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Candor as they can be a valuable resource and have experience in grants. Chair Sauerbrey just wanted to relay the message as other food pantries may experience the same issue.

**Executive Session:** Six Legislators were in attendance. Motion by Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the financial history of a particular individual at 1:34 p.m. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Roberts, seconded by Legislator Monell, to adjourn. Executive Session adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy Eiklor*

Deputy Legislative Clerk