

Countywide-Shared Services Meeting
Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building
Legislative Conference Room
November 15, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Panel Attendees:

Martha Sauerbrey, Chair, Tioga County Legislature
Barbara Gehm-Jordan, Supervisor, Town of Berkshire
Jim Tornatore, Mayor, Village of Newark Valley
Lesley Pelotte, Mayor, Village of Nichols
Don Castellucci, Supervisor, Town of Owego
Charles Davis, Supervisor, Town of Richford
Gilbert Knapp, Mayor, Village of Spencer
Al Fulkerson, Supervisor, Town of Spencer

Absent:

Donald Foster, Supervisor, Town of Barton
William Strosahl, Supervisor, Town of Candor
Eric Halstead, Mayor, Village of Candor
Esther Woods, Supervisor, Town of Nichols
Mike Baratta, Mayor, Village of Owego
Lewis Zorn, Supervisor, Town of Tioga
Andrew Aronstam, Mayor, Village of Waverly

County Staff:

Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Brittany Woodburn, Tioga County ED&P Deputy Director /Land Bank Director
Christine Curtis, Tioga County IDA Executive Director

Guests:

Dean Morgan, Councilman, Town of Owego
Rusty Fuller, Trustee, Village of Owego
Mark Trabucco, Village of Owego Resident

Welcome & Introductions:

Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. with a round of introductions and welcoming and thanking everyone for attending today's meeting. Chair Sauerbrey especially thanked Mayor Tornatore and the Council of Government members for allowing us to conduct a joint meeting to increase attendance and conduct the business of the Countywide Shared Services.

Update - Chair Sauerbrey:

Chair Sauerbrey reported this is the second and final Shared Services Meeting of 2023. The State requires the Shared Services Panel convene two meetings each year and cast a vote of its members when a new Plan or modification of an existing Plan is not submitted. The purpose of today's meeting is to provide an update regarding the current Shared Services Plan, matching grant funds received on our 2022 Plan, and voting of the Panel members to not submit or modify an existing Plan for 2023.

2022 Shared Services Plan Matching Grant:

Chair Sauerbrey reported the 2022 Plan included two proposals: one from Tioga County and one from the Owego-Apalachin School District. Both proposals centered around healthcare:

- Tioga County's shared service with Broome County Purchasing Alliance for Medicare Advantage Plan/Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage for the County's Medicare eligible retirees and their spouses with an effective start date of January 1, 2022. Due to the outstanding efforts of the County's former Benefits Manager, the County was able to submit a cost-savings plan in 2022 and in return received matching grant funds totaling \$803,000 earlier this year. Chair Sauerbrey reported the best part is that the County's retirees are very happy with the plan coverage, so it was a win-win for everyone.
- Owego-Apalachin Central School District's shared service with Capital Region BOCES for a prescription drug plan and management under the project name of NYS Pharmacy Purchasing Coalition with an effective start date of January 1, 2022. The school district was also able to submit a successful cost-saving plan and in return received matching grant funds of \$378,000 earlier this year.

Mayor Tornatore commended the County and school district on their successful projects, however, stated that this type of project/taxpayer savings would be difficult for the smaller municipalities to achieve.

2023 Shared Services Plan Submission:

Chair Sauerbrey reported the County did not receive any proposals from the municipalities, school districts, or BOCES districts this year. Therefore, the County will not be submitting a Plan or modifying an existing Plan. With no Plan for 2023, the State requires that Panel members acknowledge and vote that they agree that a Plan will not be submitted.

Next Steps: Chair Sauerbrey reported if a municipality, school district, or BOCES district wants to present a proposal for consideration for a 2024 Plan, she asked that the proposal be submitted in a timely manner so that we comply with the State's timeframe for submission. Generally, this should be done no later than September 2024. In addition, the entity submitting the project must submit a detailed, well-thought-out plan showing the calculations for taxpayer savings, as the County does not have the staffing to do this. Chair Sauerbrey stated it takes time to find the right project that generates taxpayer savings.

Mayor Tornatore reported the topic of shared code enforcement has been discussed previously, and at that time it was suggested that a code enforcement study be conducted, but that did not happen. County Attorney DeWind reported the study is pertinent, as it is uncertain to know if there would be taxpayer savings.

Next Meeting: Chair Sauerbrey reported the next meeting will be determined based on whether the County or the municipalities, school districts, or BOCES presents a proposal for consideration for a 2024 Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk