



County Administrator's Office  
County Office Building, Room 213  
7 Court Street  
Belmont, New York 14813  
Phone: 585-268-9217

**Press Release**  
January 14, 2021

For Release: Immediately  
Confirmation: Carissa M. Knapp, County Administrator  
Office Phone: 585-268-9217

**County-Wide Shared Services Plan**

As County Administrator, I convened the County-Wide Shared Services panel to meet in 2020. A quorum of panel members attended the first scheduled public meeting on March 4, 2020. Staff from the Office of Planning & Development reviewed the timeline of the entire project (2017 to current) with panel members and public participants. Information was provided on the process to request reimbursement from the State for projects that were completed as outlined in previous plans. A potential meeting timeline was presented and discussed as a group. Some panel members voiced concern that their municipalities already share a number of services and expressed difficulty naming additional activities to share that would qualify for state reimbursement through the County-Wide Shared Services Plan process.

Within days of the panel's first meeting, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo declared a statewide Disaster Emergency related to the impending threat of a COVID-19 public health emergency. As a result of the public health emergency and the subsequent Executive Orders of the Governor that put "New York State on Pause," the panel discontinued in-person public meetings for the remainder of 2020. Public meetings occurred on September 16 (no quorum in attendance) and September 30, 2020, (quorum achieved) through Zoom, an internet-based meeting platform. On November 4, 2020, the panel convened and determined by majority vote that it was not in the best interest of the taxpayers to revise and update a previously approved County-Wide Shared Services Plan or to develop a new County-Wide Shared Services Plan for Allegany County in 2020. As part of my duties, I will transmit to the Secretary of State this statement that explains why the panel did not approve a plan in 2020, and the explanation below that describes each panel member's vote. This statement will also be released to the public.

Allegany County and its many municipalities have worked diligently to continue serving our residents and taxpayers throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. Collectively, we [the panel] have determined that it is not in our best interest to revise or submit a new County-Wide Shared Services plan for the year 2020. Our municipalities are already sharing services and have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 in many ways. It has taken a great toll on all of us, but we are ready to take the next steps against this pandemic and begin the recovery process.

I intend to convene the panel again in the first quarter of 2021 to continue the discussion and determine whether or not to revise or develop a new plan for 2021. Despite the fact that many of our local municipalities have long-standing histories of cooperation and sharing of services, we will continue to convene the panel annually as required by New York State to explore the possibility of additional cost-saving shared services. Whether or not any additional services qualify for State reimbursement through a County-Wide Shared Services Plan, I have every bit of faith that our local municipalities will continue finding innovative ways to band together, share services when feasible, and do best by our constituents and taxpayers.

The table that follows this letter provides the panel member votes and the reasons for those votes as required by the CWSSI Guidance Document. There are a total of 40 panel members comprised of Town Supervisors, Village Mayors, and the County Administrator. It is important to note that not all members provided a reason for their vote. Only members who provided a reason are listed.

### (Table Below)

Panel Member & Municipality	Vote	Reason				
		We already share services with multiple entities	The match is not a guarantee	COVID-19 impacts	Unfunded mandates	Other
Carissa Knapp, Allegany County	No			X		
Dan Acton, Alfred Town	No	X				
Becky Prophet, Alfred Village	No	X				
John Meehan, Almond Village	No	X				X
Gus Weber, Andover Town	No	X				
David Truax, Andover Village	No		X			
Bob Jones, Angelica Town	No	X		X		
David Jennings, Belfast Town	No	X		X		
Raymond DeTine, Belmont Village	No			X		
Cynthia Gowiski, Birdsall Town	No	X	X			
Rick Gould, Bolivar Town	No	X	X			
Michel Cox, Caneadea Town	No	X	X			
Ron Truax, Clarksville Town	No				X	
Lee James, Cuba Town	No	X	X	X	X	
Michele Miller, Cuba Village	No	X				
Russ Hall, Friendship Town	No	X	X		X	
Alexander Smith, Genesee Town	No	X	X	X	X	
Jeri Reichman, Independence Town	No	X			X	
Bill Shuler, New Hudson Town	No	X				
John Day, Richburg Village	No					X
Kim Demick, Scio Town	No	X	X	X		
Shad Alsworth, Wellsville Town	No	X	X			
Randy Shaylor, Wellsville Village	No		X	X		
Tricia Grover, Wirt Town	No	X		X		