



Allegany County Wide Share Services Initiative Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2019

Present: Ron Staedt, Cynthia Gowiski, Russ Hall, Jonathan Gorton, Peter Wade, Shad Alsworth, Ron Wightman, Phil Stockin, Kier Dirlam, Tim Boyde, Joe Budinger, Tyler Shaw, Carissa Knapp, Michelle Denhoff, and Jodi Adams.

Excused: Terri Ross, Kim Demick, and Lori Ballengee.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04p.m. by County Administrator Tim Boyde.

Mr. Boyde welcomed participants. He informed members that the CWSSI is now an annual process. In 2019, counties are tasked with developing a plan to achieve cost savings. In 2020, counties will implement plan. In 2021, counties will report cost savings to the state in order to be eligible for a return on investment. Counties must document the cost savings in order to receive a return on investment.

Shared services that were included in our 2018 plan submitted to the state include leveraging health care consortia to generate insurance savings, converting streetlights to LED technology, group purchasing of electricity and natural gas, online and county-supported tax collection, centralized bulk purchasing, and joint tax assessment and property revaluation. Tax savings ideas that were included in the plan but were identified as needing further research included collaborating on water and sewer services, evaluating potential municipal reorganizations, and exploring shared highway equipment, offices, staff and contracts.

T. Boyde asked if any town and villages have made any progress with the LED lighting replacement program.

K. Dirlam explained the county doesn't really have a role in this, but he met with a firm last month that specializes in the municipal LED replacement program and thinks it will be helpful. He explained whoever the power company is sends a letter to the municipality and that starts the process. Once the municipality receives the letter, they can make a decision to participate or not. The utility company tells the municipality how many lights they will replace. In the end, the municipality owns the lights. The first step it receiving and then responding to the letter.

The Village of Wellsville already has replaced many lights, so maybe vehicle charging stations in the village or town centers would be of interest instead. This process would involve battery operated car owners users using their debit cards at the stations to receive a battery charge.

K. Dirlam will gather more specific information and will forward it to the municipalities.

C. Gowiski stated that the road plow shared service plans with West Almond didn't materialize this past winter and is hopeful it will in the future.

The code enforcement system that is efficient and cost effective in the Northern part of the county can be applied to other areas of the county.

Members discussed budget concerns including the loss of AIM funding and the loss of Kmart sales tax and stated if we lose sales tax, we have to make it up in property taxes.

How are we going to generate more income? How are we going to become more efficient to reduce costs? Can we combine road crews or Justice Courts? What haven't we done that other counties are doing that is working?

K. Dirlam discussed the comprehensive plan sent to every town and village for their review and comments. Please let them the development and planning staff know if there is other information that you would like to see added to the plan.

P. Stockin asked if the hazard mitigation plan has been completed. M. Denhoff stated they are working with emergency services staff to streamline the process and hope to make the updating process easier for municipalities. The current plan needs to be updated annually. The plan includes municipal improvements to water systems, street signs, and walkways etc.

P. Stockin added that it seems like the Wellsville airport capital improvement projects and renovation needs should be included in the comprehensive plan.

T. Boyde advised in this current cycle for CWSSI, the county has the option to partner with schools and ambulance and fire districts.

S. Alsworth remarked that the Wellsville ambulance may want to participate.

R. Hall mentioned for members in attendance that listen to scanners they may have heard "ALS hot or ALS cold" status this is concerning CMN jurisdiction and MTS transports. Ambulance crews need a certificate and this is based in part on response time. Discussion followed concerning Certified Medical Necessity and it was noted that MTS has county-wide CMN. MTS bills patient and insurance carrier for services provided.

C. Gowiski said her biggest problem is the 35 miles of dirt road and a two man crew to manage the roads in Birdsall. Discussion followed concerning the possibility towns sharing services and crews. It was discussed that this is already occurring for special projects.

Are town and village citizens interested in dissolving or merging?

S. Alsworth stated by September 30th the Town of Wellsville will have completed its tax assessment project.

C. Knapp noted that some towns currently share town justices. Consolidated courts are different. She noted anticipated changes with the cashless bail system that will take place. The state is doing away with bail except for cases involving serious crimes.

It was mentioned that given these changes, does it make sense to explore a county-wide metro police force utilizing the Sheriff's Dept. in collaboration with municipal law enforcement departments?

Discussion followed concerning collective bargaining units and the need for their engagement.

K. Hooker talked about cyber security. He stated he has received and completed several cyber security assessments. NYMIR has a lot of information concerning cyber security.

T. Boyde mentioned maybe its time to implement a new needs assessment in order to ascertain new interests and ideas and advertise future meetings better for greater participation.

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jodi Adams

Assistant to the County Administrator