

**County-wide Shared Services Initiative Panel Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2017**

Present:

Town Supervisors

Almond	Dawn Wildrick Cole
Andover	Gus Weber
Caneadea	Phil Stockin, Deputy Supervisor
Friendship	James Blouvet
Rushford	John Jessop
Scio	Kim Demick
Wellsville	Donald LaForge
Willing	Ronald Wightman

Village Mayors

Andover	David Truax
Cuba	Michelle Miller
Wellsville	Randy Shayler

Local Government

Tim Boyde, County Administrator
Terri Ross, County Treasurer
Jodi Adams, Assistant to the County Administrator
Rick Hollis, Commissioner Board of Elections
Keith Hooker, IT Director
Joseph Budinger, Real Property Tax Director
Bob Budinger, Human Resources Director
Kier Dirlam, Planning Director
Michelle Denhoff, Planning Specialist
Lori Ballengee, Director of Public Health
Tyler Shaw, Environmental Health Director
Richard Haywood, Sanitarian Director
Bonnie VanHousen, Office of Emergency Services

Public

Russell Heslin

Media

No media present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Allegany County Administrator Tim Boyde.

Mr. Boyde welcomed and thanked people for attending the meeting. He summarized the previous meeting and stated topics identified for further cost savings discussion include assessments and water and sewer systems.

Mr. Boyde introduced Bonnie VanHousen from the Allegany County Office for Emergency Services. Bonnie informed the group that the hazard mitigation plan grant requires \$25,000 of in-kind contribution. She plans to collect a majority of the information from the Real Property Tax Director but may have to gather more information from the towns and villages.

Mr. Boyde stated that Legislator Dwight Fanton passed on information concerning the MEGA enhancement program whereby towns and villages participating in the energy alliance can now offer utility savings to their residents. There are nine towns in Allegany County that can participate for a reduction in energy costs including Andover, Centerville, Wellsville, Cuba, Genesee, Independence, Scio, Alma, and Willing. Communities that would like more information, please contact Tim Boyde. He will gladly share the MEGA contact information.

Michelle Denhoff, Planning and Development Specialist attended a Restore NY Grant session. She distributed information about the grant to the group (attached).

Tim Boyde and Kier Dirlam attended the NYSAC conference and noted that several counties submitted shared services plans and presented information at the conference. Some of counties that submitted plans used existing studies and preliminary plans from consolidation and efficiency grants to develop their cost saving plans.

Tim Boyde restated the areas that we have discussed as a group for potential savings include justice courts, health insurance, water systems, code enforcement and assessment, and road plowing between Birdsall and West Almond as a mutual aid agreement. Are there other areas that we would like to explore as a group?

Members noted that the small group discussions have been helpful but action is needed to keep forward momentum. There is a decrease in participation at this meeting. Also, we should be mindful that some towns and villages may want to participate in more than one focus group for scheduling purposes.

Mr. Boyde encouraged participants to continue to complete and return surveys.

The next hour was spent in small groups discussing ideas for shared services including water systems and code enforcement and assessment. Group representatives reported some highlights of their discussions and will submit minutes.

Assessment and Code Enforcement

For the existing code enforcement consortium the local laws are already in place and involved three towns and one attorney when it was formed. This can be used as a model for replication.

Water Subcommittee

Lori Ballengee the Public Health Director and Richard Haywood, Sanitation Director assist the focus group and minutes have been distributed to the group and posted to the webpage.

John Jessup stated recommended exploring establishing agreements with the state for road mowing to be completed by the county or towns and villages to see if there is a cost savings.

Another option for cost savings is moving village elections to November and having county assume responsibilities.

An immediate need concerning local water systems is having certified water system operators, having adequate training, and education programs with the state and BOCES.

We talked about resurveying the group to further areas for cost savings.

For example, in the past due to medical emergencies, the county has collected taxes for towns and villages but this would require further analysis to determine if it would result in cost savings. It was noted that town and village collection hours are often part-time and county operates 8:30am-5pm Monday-Friday.

Phil Stockin noted the Highway Supervisor Association meetings is well attended and might be a good place to determine cost savings ideas.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Belmont BOCES Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Adams
Assistant to the County Administrator