

Tompkins County

2015 Major Accomplishments

Airport

- Engaged airlines to promote increased air service
- With Cornell's Big Red Consulting, developed and refined air service market information
- Opened ground transportation to all licensed providers
- Implemented new work schedule to reduce OT

Airport

- Developed plan for 2016 closure during runway repaving project
- Expanded cooperative agreements with other County agencies (DOER, Highway, Probation)
- Began assisting with mishaps in nearby area

Assessment

- 17th consecutive year at uniform percent of value
- 6,688 changes in assessment (including 611 decreases)
- Total (taxable and exempt) assessments rose 2.58%, to \$11.5 billion
- Cost savings of \$429,653 as compared to a local assessment structure

Clerk of the Legislature

- Maintained quality service during period of transition
 - 3 new legislators and new deputy clerk
- 282 Resolutions and 5 local laws adopted and certified
- Over 150 agendas, sets of minutes, and notes produced
- Continued exploring technologies to increase efficiency and public engagement

County Administration

- Coordinated countywide response to “Tax Freeze” directives
 - Government Efficiency Plan
 - Review of shared services options; municipal courts task force
 - “The Rest of the Story” study by Cornell CIPA and MBA students
- Coordinated Climate Survey and follow-up
- Completed contract negotiations with largest unions

County Administration

- Conducted three department head searches
- Presented budget within tax cap and legislative parameters
- Expanded community outreach events from 6 to 15

County Clerk

- Secured 4th NYS Archives Shared Services Grant
 - Municipal Court Records
 - Archive grants now total \$600,000
- DMV managed new federal requirements for CDLs
- Vacated Old Library for records storage

County Clerk

- Awards from:
 - Laserfiche - Shared Services Initiative
 - NaCo – Top Digital County (2nd year)
 - Harvard University – Bright Ideas in Government
- Launched Facebook, Twitter, and chatting for DMV and Clerk
- “Keep it Local” initiative for DMV

County Office for the Aging

- Celebrated 40th Anniversary of COFA
- Joined AARP and WHO global network of Age Friendly Communities
- Awarded Regional Long-Term Care Onbudsman grant—administer program for 3 counties
- Finalized Strategic Plan for Aging in Tompkins County
- Convened Senior Living Expo with I.C. Gerontology Institute (200 attendees)

District Attorney

- Successfully prosecuted violent and serious crimes:
 - People v. Cayea (murder)
 - People v. Marshall (assault and gun weapons)
 - People v. Taylor (robbery and gun weapons)
 - People vs. Kot (Murder appeal)
- Successfully prosecuted sexual assaults and financial crimes
 - People v. Mesko (burglary and sex abuse)
 - People v. Johnson (TCAT embezzlement--\$250,000 recovered)
 - People v. Alexander (sexual abuse)
 - People v. Leonard (sexual abuse)

Board of Elections

- Updated training manuals for Presidential election year workers
- Increased poll worker recruitment, including new brochures in post offices and municipal buildings
- Attained ADA compliance at South Hill School, allowing it to again be a poll site in 2015

Board of Elections

- Agreements with all school districts to assist with 2016 elections
- Comprehensive update of department's policy and procedures manual

Emergency Response

- 911 telephone system replaced with “Next Generation 911” technology (\$500,000 grant)
- Core radio operating system (consoles) and recording system replaced (\$1.2 million grant)
- Structured Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) processes and call auditing standards formalized
- APCO accreditation for Agency Training Program Certification (1st in NYS)

Facilities

- Completed:
 - Human Services Building expansion and relocation of Day Reporting
 - Court Complex masonry restoration project
 - Old Jail fire alarm system upgrade
- Commenced:
 - Jail improvements
 - Mental Health lobby and 6th floor improvements

Finance

- Maintained County's Aa1 Rating
- Implemented new online bidding system
- Collaborated on adapting room tax to new generation of lodging options (e.g. AirBnB)
- Financed several projects at below-market rates
- Assisted TC₃, TCAT, Soil & Water, and Airport with cash flow needs
- Unqualified audit opinion

Health

- Grant funding for WIC extended through 2020
 - Tompkins has now sponsored WIC for 35 years
- Per national protocol, Health team monitored health status of 9 international travelers potentially exposed to Ebola virus
- Healthy Neighborhoods Program praised by State and recognized in NYSDOH journal

Health

- Partnership with DSS on Safe Care Program for families participating in Drug/Alcohol Treatment program
- Coordinated County's Workplace Violence Prevention assessment

Highway

- Completed:
 - Ellis Hollow reconstruction from Genung to Dodge Roads
 - Newfield Covered Bridge preservation project
 - 20 miles of road resurfacing
 - Authorization and funding for Pine Tree Bike and Pedestrian Trail
 - Inspection and electronic cataloging of 2,000 signs
- Awarded Contracts for:
 - Waterburg Road and Groton City Road Bridge Replacements

Highway

- Initiated design of:
 - Brooktondale Road slope stabilization
 - Red Mill Road Bridge replacement
 - Ellis Hollow Road reconstruction (Pine Tree to Game Farm)
 - Pine Tree intersections safety improvements
 - Coddington Road at Burns/East King Intersection

Human Rights

- Submitted proposed re-draft of Tompkins County's Anti-Discrimination Law
- Rolled out the 28th Annual K-12 Human Rights Arts Competition in partnership with the Dorothy Cotton Institute – with over 550 participants
- Conducted and published an “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice” for the City of Ithaca and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, for the purpose of documenting housing choice barriers for protected groups under the Civil Rights Act

Human Rights

- Provided Teaching-the-Teacher workshops in order to help develop strategies for human rights exploration in K-12 classrooms – in collaboration with TST BOCES and the Dorothy Cotton Institute
- 2nd Annual “What Would MLK Say Today (About A Living Wage)?” Poster Contest in partnership with the Tompkins County Worker’s Center
- Fair Housing Rights Workshops (bi-monthly) for Housing Choice Voucher holders in partnership with Tompkins Community Action

Information Technology

- Office 365 procurement and planning
- New automated budgeting system
- Electronic health and mental health records system
- District Attorney case management system and technology upgrades
- Countywide electronic forms, workflows, and dashboards

Information Technology

- LETTS-Traffic & Criminal software; municipal server consolidations; InSight data sharing
- Disaster recovery, server/data virtualization, wireless access point improvements
- GIS-Expansion of online map shared services, new community base map and aerial photography, website support

Mental Health

- Received NYS approval of \$690,000 Vital Access grant
- Commenced lobby and 6th floor building improvements
- Hired Program Director to lead transition from Continuing Day Treatment to Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS)
- Navigated leadership transition

Personnel

- Negotiated 3-year agreements covering 90% of all County employees
- Expanded diversity recruitment and outreach initiatives
- 3 Smart Work projects to improve efficiency and customer service
- Accelerated efforts to fully comply with various labor laws
- Implemented new Platinum Health Insurance plan

Personnel

- Introduced new Employee Assistance Plan
- Administered Civil Service and personnel support to 50 civil divisions, covering 2,200 positions
 - Reviewed and processed 7,121 applications
 - Conducted 86 civil service exams for 720 participants
 - Coordinated 208 recruitments
- Digitized personnel files
- Coordinated 3 department head searches

Planning

- Legislative adoption of 2015 County Comprehensive Plan
- Achieved EPA Green Power Partner recognition
- Completed and presented draft of Energy Roadmap
- Collaborated with Iberdrola/NYSEG on Energy Smart Community project
- Assisted in establishing PACE financing through Energize NY

Planning

- Provided staff support for Energy and Economic Development Task Force
- Secured 6-year reauthorization of Community Housing Development Fund
- Received \$691,500 in CDBG for Homeownership program
- Completed Ludlowville Flood Management Project
- Awarded grants for Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail and Agritourism

Probation

- Relocated Day Reporting to new quarters in expanded Human Services Building
- New internet-based credit and debit card payment system
- New school truancy pilot in Dryden Middle School
- SWAP helped raise \$41,000 for Cops, Kids, and Toys charity

Sheriff

- Implemented new skills training programs with TST BOCES Adult Education to aid re-entry
- Growing participation in Project Lifesaver
- Awarded STOP-DWI Large Agency of the Year
- Completed outdoor recreational space at the jail

Social Services

- Created adult protective homeless services outreach worker
- Partnered with Advocacy Center to address domestic violence more effectively at intake
- Finalized 33 adoptions
- Handled 1,260 Child Protective cases
- Adjusted workforce by 3% and lowered budget by over \$1 million, reflecting reduced caseloads

Solid Waste

- Expanded food scrap/food waste initiative
 - Began construction of food scrap tipping shelter at Recycling Center
 - Added food scrap drop spot at Cayuga Heights village hall
 - Implemented residential and commercial food waste prevention pilot programs
 - Collected approximately 200 tons of food scraps at drop spots
 - Updated web site to include how-to videos for food scrap and curbside recycling
- Developed new financial tracking system
- Installed three public space recycling stations throughout the County

Weights & Measures

- Assisted statewide search for credit card skimmers
- Completed 239 business inspections, with 1805 devices
- Inspected 133,800 packaged products for proper labeling and contents

Workforce Investment

- Transitioned to new Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including reconstituting Board
- Career Center served 1,600 individuals
- 851 customers placed in jobs, with earnings of \$20.2 million
- Sponsored 2nd annual Career Fair, with 210 job seekers and 35 businesses
- Coordinated 6-part “Sector Series” – 16 local businesses shared career pathways and recruitment needs

Youth Services

- Launched Achieving Youth Results-a community action plan for youth
- Monitored quality of Municipal Youth Service System using Youth Program Quality Assessment
- Awarded \$30,000 from OCFS to become a Safe Harbour training community, raising awareness among youth workers of commercial exploitation and trafficking of children

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