

**2022 County-Wide Shared Services Initiative**  
**Zoom**  
**July 7, 2022 6:00 pm**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance:**

**Panel:** Edward LaVigne, Laura Lewis, Don Scheffler, Mark Witmer, Rod Howe, Joel Gagnon, Jason Leifer, Christie Gifford Robinson, Stephanie Redmond.

**Staff:** Lisa Holmes & Bridgette Nugent

**Absent:** Linda Woodard, Michael Murphy, Miles McCarty, Chris Neville, Ronny Hardaway, Rordan Hart, Michael Allinger, Nancy Zahler, Richard Robinson, Deb Fisher, Jason Cuykendall, Deb Watkins, Dan Lamb, Bill Goodman, Michelle Wright

Lisa Holmes called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

- Bridgette Nugent – Tompkins Deputy County Administrator
- Bridgette introduced herself then the rest of the group took turns introducing themselves.
- Christie Gifford Robinson from the McLean Fire Department joined for the first time because of the invitation extended to the fire districts.

**II. Updates on 2022 Plan Items**

Ed said that creating and submitting a plan may not be the best use of the time of each supervisor/mayor. Many municipalities are still catching up from COVID and may need to focus on that. Using resources for getting back on track. Bridgette said that the plan is not required unless the committee wants to seek reimbursement. Don said that he agrees that the towns work together well and there is no formality to that collaboration and that continuing this way is good for now.

**III. 2023 Plan Requirements (Plan is NOT Required for 2023)**

Bridgette went over the required timeline and steps required to submit a plan. The steps were outlined in the last meeting, they can be referred to for more information. She listed some of the projects that were suggested for the 2023 plan.

- By September:
  - 3 Public Hearings Scheduled
  - Draft Plan
- By November:
  - Legislature review & recommendation
  - Panel Majority Vote to Approve Plan
- By December:
  - Submitted to NYS for approval

- Public Presentation of Plan

#### **IV. Discussion: Areas Identified in 2022 for Further Discussion & Possible Incorporation in 2023 Plan**

- **Back Office Administrative Services (Finance, Purchasing, IT)** -Rod said that TCCOG has a committee looking into this and may put out an RFP for this
- **Code Enforcement** – Rod said that this portion is waiting for more information from the review before a plan can be created for this.
- Cayuga Lake Watershed
- Law Enforcement Shared Services
- Community Choice Aggregation Renewable Energy
- Animal Control
- Municipal Broadband
- Electric Charging Stations

Rod suggested letting some of the projects that are being worked on through TCCOG and other committees that maybe waiting a year to see where these other projects go before deciding what the needs are. Joel and Mark agree. Mark said that TCCOG and the Town of Dryden are working on Broadband and there is a State Initiative and that gathering information from those projects would be more helpful than Shared Services looking at this now.

Lisa said that there is money in the County Budget to do a study of centralized code enforcement but not an interest from the municipalities for the county to take over code enforcement. She went on to say that what the county would propose doing is seeing if there are aspects of code enforcement that would be useful to municipalities such as technology services. If there are municipalities that are having capacity issues or difficulty hiring code enforcement officers maybe they can opt in option for sharing personnel or contracting with the county or other municipalities as the county shapes the RFP to be most useful. Ed said that they are looking to increase their code officer position but that hiring is very difficult now. One suggestion would be that Tompkins County hire a safety inspector because that is a huge load for the code officer is having to do the safety inspections. Joel seconded that suggestion. They have the same issues. Mark agrees. They all pointed out that the building codes are state codes, so they are universal throughout the county.

Lisa said that the study would take time and that the municipalities can work together now to have their code enforcement needs met. Don asked why the county is working to meet NYS code requirements. The benefit is for banks and insurance companies, but the state does nothing to support the enforcement. Joel said that it is an unfunded mandate.

After much discussion Bridgette reiterated that the consensus is that TC will not submit a Shared Services plan for 2023.

#### **V. Next Steps and Meeting Dates**

TCCOG will pick up where shared services has left off. There will not be a meeting in August.

- TCCOG Meetings – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday every other month @ 3:00 p.m. (August 25)

**Purpose:** *The County-Wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI) generates property tax savings by enabling collaboration between local governments across the state. The CWSSI expands on New York State's ongoing commitment to reduce property taxes and modernize local government services by fostering new shared services and enhancing the existing collaborations already in place. The Department of State offers several comprehensive programs to incentivize and aiding local government efficiencies.*