



## **Tioga County Worksession Minutes** **January 7, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.**

### **Legislators present:**

Legislator Balliet  
Legislator Hollenbeck  
Legislator Monell  
Legislator Mullen  
Legislator Roberts  
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey  
Legislator Standinger  
Legislator Sullivan  
Legislator Weston

### **Guests:**

None

### **Staff present:**

Peter DeWind, County Attorney  
Jackson Bailey, Budget Officer  
Mike Simmons, Director of Emergency Services  
Drew Griffin, ITCS Deputy Director  
Cathy Haskell, Clerk of Legislature  
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Clerk of Legislature

**Call Meeting to Order:** Deputy Chair Hollenbeck opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

**Public Hearing: Local Law Introductory No. A of 2021:** Deputy Chair Hollenbeck called the public hearing to order at 1:01 p.m. for Local Law Introductory No. A of 2021, a local law establishing the staggered terms of the Legislators. Public hearing adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

**Shared Service Update:** Chair Sauerbrey reported the Shared Services Committee met via Zoom and voted not to submit a Plan for 2021. She noted this decision needs to be part of the County's Shared Services records and notification of this decision has to be given to the Legislature. Chair Sauerbrey stated a letter would be sent to the NYS Department of Budget to inform them of the vote as well.

Chair Sauerbrey stated that on Wednesday, January 13, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., there would be a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Owego UHS Primary Care. This round of vaccines is for Phase 1A individuals only, which includes those in medical fields. Chair Sauerbrey explained that anyone can go to New York State's website to get more information about the different phases. Per ITCS Director Drew Griffin, the link to the State's website has

already been posted on the County's webpage. Chair Sauerbrey stated more details would be presented to the public in a press release.

**Approval of Worksession Minutes:** On motion of Legislator Roberts, seconded by Legislator Mullen and unanimously carried, the December 22, 2020 worksession minutes were approved.

**Action Items:** None

**Legislative Support:** Legislative Clerk Haskell asked for approval of the December 10, 2020 Legislative Support committee minutes. On motion of Legislator Roberts, seconded by Legislator Mullen and unanimously carried, the minutes were approved.

Ms. Haskell reviewed the following information for the upcoming January 12, 2021 Legislature meeting:

**Recognition Resolution:**

Ms. Haskell reported the following one recognition resolution will just be noted in the January 12, 2021 Legislature meeting minutes, as the retiree will not be in attendance.

- ***Recognize June Sisenstein's 24 Years of Dedicated Service - Department of Social Services***

**Appointments:**

- ***Cornell Cooperative Extension*** - Chair Sauerbrey will appoint Legislator Balliet to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Board for a 1-year term for 2021.

**Standing Committees:** The 2021 Standing Committees are established and remain unchanged from 2020. Chair Sauerbrey will announce at the January 12, 2021 meeting.

**Resolutions:** Ms. Haskell reviewed all resolutions for the January 12, 2021 meeting with discussion occurring on the following:

- ***Resolution to Contract with National Test Systems for Instant Urine Tests and Lab Testing*** - Legislator Mullen explained this is a new vendor, but will save Tioga County a significant amount of money. The company will provide the testing and the lab work at a significantly reduced amount. He commended the Probation Department's efforts on this contract.
- ***Authorize Board of Elections to Purchase New Dominion Voting Machines and Amend Budget*** - Legislator Sullivan asked if there was more than one vendor on the list of New York State approved vendors. Legislator Balliet responded there are two voting machine vendors that are approved by New York State. He believes the Board of Elections chose this vendor as the other New York State approved vendor does not have many sites around New York State and switching would require a much larger expense.
- ***Amend Resolution No. 267-20; Tioga County Legislative Support of Termination of Central New York Oil and Gas Company LLC Payment In Lieu of Tax Agreement and Establishment of Stagecoach Gas Services LLC Payment In Lieu of Tax Agreement*** - Ms. Haskell explained this resolution did not go through the Economic Development and Planning Committee, but it was her understanding that an amendment was discussed without objection. She explained the only change on the resolution is in the ninth WHEREAS statement noting an erroneous year as "Year 200" and should state "Year 2022." Ms. Haskell asked the Economic Development and Planning Committee

members if there were any objections to keeping the resolution in the packet and none were expressed.

**Other:**

- **County EMS Ambulance Issues** - Director of Emergency Services Simmons noted Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services are facing difficulties within Tioga County. Mr. Simmons anticipates these issues getting more serious in the future, particularly in the more rural areas of the County. He reported EMS agencies are running into lack of ambulances, lack of volunteers, and increased cost of operation. Mr. Simmons explained that in some cases, ambulances are taking close to an hour to get on the scene because the EMS agency may be out responding to another call. Mr. Simmons reported some counties have formed regional ambulance services to provide EMS coverage to residents. Mr. Simmons suggested forming a countywide or regional ambulance district, which would have the ability to tax and charge for services. He explained that smaller towns are not able to afford their own ambulance services as the call volume is not high enough to generate revenue from billing. Therefore, EMS agencies are unable to operate with proper coverage and staffing. Mr. Simmons stated this is a countywide issue that needs to be fixed.

Legislator Sullivan reported she is interested in continuing services to the residents, but additional information, cost estimates, and a proposed plan is needed before any decisions can be rendered. However, Legislator Sullivan reported she is interested in Mr. Simmons pursuing available options and presenting a proposal for Legislature consideration.

Mr. Simmons presented information to the Council of Governments (COG) at the December 2020 meeting and they were supportive of forming a committee for further exploration of options.

Legislator Weston agreed to serve on a committee with Mr. Simmons.

Chair Sauerbrey suggested Legislator Mullen, Chair of Public Safety, work with Mr. Simmons and the committee in drafting a proposed plan for further discussion.

All Legislators agreed that Mr. Simmons would construct a proposal and come back later to present his findings to the Legislature.

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Sullivan, to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 1:45 p.m. with County Attorney DeWind remaining in attendance. Executive Session adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy Eiklor*

Deputy Legislative Clerk