

STEUBEN COUNTY SHARED SERVICES PANEL
Organizational Meeting
Wednesday, May 3, 2017
6:00 p.m.
Civil Defense Center
Bath, New York 14810

Present: Attendance list attached

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wheeler at 6:00 p.m. He thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and provided background on the Governor's new requirement for shared services.

II. SHARED SERVICES PANEL FAQs

Mr. Wheeler stated the County-wide Shared Services Panel includes the chief executive officer of the County, who serves as the Chair, along with all the mayors of the cities and villages in the county and the supervisors of the towns in the county. He noted school districts and BOCES may be invited, but their participation is voluntary. The actions that are eligible under the Shared Services Plan include new recurring property tax savings through actions such as, but not limited to, the elimination of duplicative services, shared services such as joint purchasing, shared highway equipment, shared storage facilities, share plowing services, and energy and insurance purchasing cooperatives; reduction in back office administrative overhead and better coordination of services.

Mr. Wheeler stated that the plan requires the CEO of the county to 'regularly consult with and take recommendations from...representatives of each collective bargaining unit of the county and the cities, towns, and villages as well as from the representative of each collective bargaining unit of any participating school district'. He noted he will send a letter to the bargaining units to provide them with an opportunity for input, rather than including them in the panel's meetings. In addition, public input must be allowed, and they are required to host a minimum of three public hearings. A draft plan must be submitted to the County Legislature no later than August 1, 2017 with the final panel vote occurring by September 15, 2017 and public presentation by October 15, 2017.

Mr. Wheeler stated before the final vote of the Shared Service Panel, each Panel Member has an opportunity to remove from the Shared Service Plan any action that affects the unit of government they represent. However, this must be done through written notice of removal to the County Manager. Any action removed from the plan by a panel member only affects that member's unit of government.

Mr. Wheeler noted that it is his intention to utilize the Local Government Efficiency Plan (LGEP) that they created last year; it just makes sense to work off of this plan rather than reinvent the wheel.

III. COMMENTS FROM FLOOR

Mr. Wheeler opened the floor for discussion regarding the panel and plan, and any comments regarding additional shared services that were initiated since they developed the LGEP. The Hornby Town Supervisor expressed his displeasure for having to participate in this panel, noting that they should be concentrating their efforts on getting people off of the welfare system to save money. He announced that the Town of Hornby will be opting out of the panel and plan; and he left the meeting, refusing to sign the attendance sheet.

Mr. Butchko, Wayne Town Supervisor, mentioned they have been sharing a town assessor and code enforcement officer with other towns. Mr. Wheeler commented that if they have an Intermunicipal agreement with those other towns that must be approved annually, it is his opinion that they can include that as a new shared service in their plan.

Mr. McConnell, Prattsburgh Town Supervisor, asked if they could include in the plan shared services with municipalities that are located in another county. One panel member, who attended a Governor's regional meeting regarding the shared services plan in Syracuse, indicated the Governor's representative answered that question by stating that both entities can claim their proportionate share of the savings in each county's plan.

IV. NEXT STEPS

Mr. Wheeler stated the next steps include scheduling another panel meeting before the three public hearings. It is his intention to have a draft plan submitted to the County Legislature by their July 24th Legislative Meeting. If approved by the Legislature, he will schedule a panel meeting for final vote in August. Then they will present the plan to the public in early October.

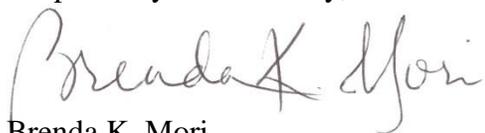
Mr. Wheeler stated with regard to the public hearings, some of his counterparts have scheduled their 3 public hearings to occur all on the same day, just in different areas of the county. He is unsure if the panel members need to attend all three hearings or if the county representatives can attend on the panel's behalf, but he will check into that further.

Mr. Wheeler stated before the next Panel Meeting, he would like everyone to review the Local Government Efficiency Plan and email him (jackw@co.steuben.ny.us) and Deputy County Manager, Mitch Alger (mitcha@co.steuben.ny.us) with any updates or edits. In addition, please send along any new ideas for shared services along with the project savings. Finally, he requested everyone provide him with their 2017 Property Tax Levy and Tax Rate, as well as the name and mailing address for a contact of each of your bargaining units.

Panel members indicated that Wednesdays at 6pm were good for a meeting time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Brenda K. Mori
Clerk of the Legislature
Steuben County