



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **February 24, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Monell
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger
Legislator Weston

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Hollenbeck

Guests:

Jason Shaw, Broome County Legislator
Matt Freeze, Morning Times Reporter

Staff Present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. with a **Public Hearing on Local Law Introductory No. C of 2022** for Legislature consideration of the following:

- A Local Law Repealing and Replacing Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2022 Imposing Additional Surcharges for Telephonic Communication.

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:07 a.m. with regular worksession immediately following.

Introductions: Chair Sauerbrey welcomed and introduced Jason Shaw as a Broome County Legislator, but more importantly a personal friend. Chair Sauerbrey reported she and Mr. Shaw worked together with Senator Libous. Mr. Shaw is also owner-operator of Our Country Hearts.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Standinger, the February 10, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, we have none.

Other: Chair Sauerbrey addressed the following topics:

- ***Personnel Officer Retirement*** – The County’s Personnel Officer has submitted her letter of retirement effective March 18, 2022 with her last working day being March 17, 2022. The committee is in the process of interviewing candidates and will continue to do so until such time a candidate is chosen.
- ***Institute for Advancement (I4A)*** – Today is the kick-off meeting for the 2022 I4A class with 27 county staff participating, which is the largest class to date. This is an all-day training being held at Tioga Downs. The purpose of this program is to develop leadership skills, communication skills, gain an understanding of who the County is and how it works. This program includes a County Government 101 component, which allows employees to gain an understanding of the other County departments and their services. The whole educational process with this program assists staff in learning how the government works and interacts with each other.

Legislator Weston reported this program has been in place for a while and inquired whether this has been deemed successful. Chair Sauerbrey reported she absolutely believes this has been successful, as she has witnessed staff become more confident and gives them the necessary skills. Legislator Weston reported the purpose is two-part; succession planning and informational.

As a 2018 graduate of the I4A Program, Legislative Clerk Haskell concurred this is a very beneficial program. At the time, after working for the County for 25 years, I still learned something new about the County and thought the overall program was enlightening and educational.

- ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds*** – We have not made a public announcement regarding the designation of the ARPA funds. As a Legislature, we have decided how we want to spend the funds. Chair Sauerbrey reported she was in Washington, DC attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference last week and there was significant discussion regarding these funds and the majority of counties across the country have decided to use their funds as an investment of long-term projects that otherwise would never come to fruition and that would have a long-lasting effect. Chair Sauerbrey reported the Legislature designated \$4 million towards our radio communications project, which is a significant project.

Chair Sauerbrey will be giving the State of the County Address at the April Legislature meeting and will release the information on the specifics of the designated ARPA funds at that time.

In regards to the radio communications project, Legislator Weston inquired about the 90% level of coverage due to geographical locations within the County due to valleys, etc.

Legislator Mullen reported the 90% coverage pertains to portable communication and although we will never acquire 100%, this will be close to that percentage for vehicle communication. The plan is for every radio and portable being used by any emergency

responder in this County to have the ability to talk with other responders, which is currently not the case.

Legislator Weston inquired how the 90% coverage was calculated, as there may be several areas on rural roads where there is zero communication availability.

Legislator Mullen reported we hired a consultant, Blue Wing, to work with Motorola and there are maps now that identify where the portable communication and vehicle communication will be available. There has been a lot of work with the towers and it is quite possible we are the only county in the entire State that is going to have a tower in an adjoining State because we have an agreement with Athens Township to fix the communication issues in Waverly and long the Dean Creek Valley up Route 34.

Executive Session: With no confidential topics of discussion, an Executive Session was not necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk