



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **January 18, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Monell
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger – *arrived @ 10:13 a.m.*

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Flesher
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Weston

Guests:

None

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Draft Strategic Plan Review: Chair Sauerbrey thanked Legislator Roberts for all her hard work on the Strategic Plan to move this effort forward.

Legislator Roberts reported that she, Chair Sauerbrey, Legislative Clerk Haskell, with some participation from ED&P Director Tinney are working to make this document more readable. The last draft sent by the consultants has most of the typographical and grammatical errors corrected and at this point, we are looking at all the topics identified in the workplans as FY2024 Priorities or FY2025-26 Long-term Projects.

Legislator Roberts reported she believes the Legislature needs to review the following FY2024 Priorities or FY2025-26 Long-term Projects to determine how to proceed:

Page	Topic	FY2024 Priority	FY2025-26 Long-term Projects	Discussion
5	Department Heads			ACTION ITEM: District Attorney Kirk Martin and Public Defender Thomas Cline need to be added. The DA should have an asterisk to identify him as an elected official.
7	Government Administration			Chair Sauerbrey reported the placement of the County Administrator is incorrect as it appears this position oversees the Department Heads. ACTION: The County Administrator needs to be moved to be with the County Attorney and Legislative Clerk.
9	Tioga County's Core Values			ACTION: Legislator Roberts reported she is going to change the wording for Communication, as all these core values were initially written from a personalized standpoint.
23 & 26	Address Transportation Needs with the Health and Human Services Delivery System (Social Services)	X		Legislator Roberts reported the idea is to try and partner with other outside agencies to brainstorm ideas for transportation that would benefit Veterans, Mental Health, Public Health, and Social Services. Chair Sauerbrey reported they plan to look at existing transportation and explore ways to improve upon the current services. It is not their intent to bring forth a proposal to establish a new Countywide transportation system. ACTION: Decision was made to keep this topic as a FY2024 Priority in the Strategic Plan as proposed.
23 & 26	Creation of a Workgroup for Affordable Housing (Social Services)	X		The description of this topic on page 26 is incorrect as it states this pertains to the preservation of historic records through the County Clerk's Office. ACTION: Legislator Roberts will obtain the correct information from DSS to determine whether this is a FY2024 Priority, FY2025-26 Long-term Project, or should be removed from the Strategic Plan in its entirety.

Page	Topic	FY2024 Priority	FY2025-26 Long-term Projects	Discussion
23, 31	Supplement County EMS Response to Ensure Timely Care (Emergency Services)	X		<p>Legislator Roberts explained the concept proposed regarding fly cars is due to the shortage of EMT and First Responders. Initially, the proposal was to outfit one of the Tahoe vehicles owned by Emergency Services as a fly car with Basic Life Support (BLS) equipment to respond as a backup and fill in the gap, as necessary. This later progressed to more than one vehicle and possibly providing a county ambulance service in the future.</p>
24	Continue to Identify Ways to Supplement EMS Coverage across the County (Emergency Services)		X	<p>Chair Sauerbrey reported this was not in the original proposal. Chair Sauerbrey spoke with Director of Emergency Services Simmons, and he personally is not interested in going out on EMT calls via a county fly car and is conflicted on this proposal.</p> <p>ACTION: Decision was made to remove both of the EMS topics on pages 23, 24, and 31 from the Strategic Plan in its entirety.</p>
36	CSEA Contract is Concluded so Procure Vendor		X	<p>Due to insufficient information regarding this statement and no tie to a specific Department, it was determined to remove this topic from page 36.</p> <p>ACTION: Decision was made to remove this topic on page 36 from the Strategic Plan in its entirety.</p>
36	Heated Heavy Truck Storage	X	X	<p>This topic was moved from FY2024 Priority to FY2025-26 Long-term Projects in the last draft revision. This change is reflected correctly on page 36 but was not removed as FY2024 Priority on page 46.</p> <p>ACTION: Needs to be removed as a FY2024 Priority on page 46.</p>

Page	Topic	FY2024 Priority	FY2025-26 Long-term Projects	Discussion
36 & 43	Town Assessors – Evaluate Opportunities to Support/Collaborate (Real Property)	X	X	<p>County Attorney DeWind reported this was addressed initially as part of the Countywide Shared Services Initiative and there was not enough support at that time to include this in a Shared Services Plan. Legislative Clerk Haskell reported some of the municipalities at that time indicated they would not participate in a countywide assessing service.</p>
51	Explore Options of Providing County Assessing Services to the Towns (Real Property)	X	X	<p>County Attorney DeWind reported one of the advantages of this would be when we have In-Rem properties that we end up paying for, there is no incentive at the local level to properly assess them, so we overpay the taxes. This would give some control back to the County.</p> <p>Legislator Standinger reported he believes the Real Property Director has a plan to offer “a la carte” services to the interested municipalities.</p> <p>Legislator Monell reported he would like to have a county assessing service.</p> <p>Legislator Roberts reported this is listed as a FY2024 Priority and the 1st Quarter milestone reflects additional personnel. We would need buy-in from the municipalities before moving forward with creating the infrastructure to determine whether this is feasible for the County.</p> <p>ACTION: Decision was made to change both town assessing services topics from FY2024 Priorities to FY2025-26 Long-term Projects</p>

Page	Topic	FY2024 Priority	FY2025-26 Long-term Projects	Discussion
36 & 44	Utilize Automatic Grant from the State to Help Salaries of Law Employees	X		<p>County Attorney DeWind reported this is an error and does not pertain to Law Employees. This is incorrectly reflected on page 36 as Law employees but correct on page 44. Page 36 needs to be revised to reflect Veterans employees.</p> <p>ACTION: Change page 36 to Veterans Employees.</p>
47 & 49	Establish a Housing Core Group to Address Housing Shortage Needs (5yrs) (ED&P)		X	<p>Legislative Clerk Haskell reported the previous Housing Study was done in December 2017. Legislator Monell questioned whether the County wants to be involved in the housing/real estate business.</p> <p>Chair Sauerbrey reported this may be appropriate for the Land Bank or IDA rather than the County.</p> <p>Question was raised as to whether this study is necessary to apply for future grant funding.</p> <p>ACTION: Decision was made to change the Housing Core Group to Address Housing Shortage Needs from FY2024 Priorities to FY2025-26 Long-term Projects by continuing to evaluate the current plan to determine how the County should move forward in the future. Legislator Roberts will inquire with ED&P as to whether this study is required for future grant funding.</p>
47	Review Program and Benefits for Tioga County and Adjust Accordingly		X	<p>Due to insufficient information regarding this statement and no tie to a specific Department, it was determined to remove this topic from page 47.</p> <p>ACTION: Decision was made to remove this topic on page 47 from the Strategic Plan in its entirety.</p>

Page	Topic	FY2024 Priority	FY2025-26 Long-term Projects	Discussion
47 & 53	Career Center and School District Partnership (3-4 years) (ED&P)	X		Chair Sauerbrey inquired as to why this topic is listed under ED&P and not the Career Center/Social Services. <i>ACTION: Additional information is required to better understand why this topic should remain under ED&P and not the Tioga Career Center. Legislator Roberts will follow up with ED&P to gain additional information.</i>

Chair Sauerbrey reported the next steps include sending these revisions to the consultant to obtain a 4th draft that will be shared with the Department Heads. Once finalized, the Plan will be presented for Legislature consideration.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Brown, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli, the January 4, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items:

ACTION ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 7, 2023:

ACTION ITEM #2 – 12/7/23 –Strategic Plan Update

Legislator Roberts reported the 3rd draft of the Strategic Plan was received and she met with Chair Sauerbrey and Legislative Clerk Haskell last week to review the draft before bringing forth to the Legislature today. Revisions were identified and Legislator Roberts will convey said revisions to the consultant to prepare another draft. **This action item will be carried forward to the February 8, 2024 Legislative Worksession.**

ACTION ITEMS FROM JANUARY 4, 2024:

ACTION ITEM #1 – 1/4/24 – CCE Lease Expansion Request

Chair Sauerbrey reported she responded to the email request from CCE indicating that the Legislature was not in favor of granting an expansion of the current lease agreement. Legislator Brown reported he brought this up at the CCE Executive Board meeting to determine what accommodation, if any, could be made at the CCE Farm location. **This action item is completed and will be removed from the Action List.**

ACTION ITEM #2 – 1/4/24 – Solar PILOT Proposal

At the January 4, 2024 Worksession, the Legislature agreed to allow ED&P Director Tinney and County Attorney DeWind to further explore this option with the Town of Owego. Ms. Tinney reported if the Legislature is agreeable, she will plan to present an amended resolution for this PILOT agreement in February. **This action item will be carried forward to the February 8, 2024 Legislative Worksession.**

Other:

County Administrator Update: Chair Sauerbrey reported the consultant emailed a survey to the Legislature and she encouraged participation stating whatever input you can provide would be helpful for the consultant in determining the dynamic of the County. Chair Sauerbrey reported your information will not be shared with her or anyone else. Once the consultant gathers the information, he will prepare a document to begin the hiring process.

Executive Session: Six Legislators were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell. Motion by Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss a matter leading to the employment of an individual at 11:02 a.m. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Monell to adjourn Executive Session, seconded by Legislator Brown. Executive Session adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk