



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **February 8, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Flesher
Legislator Monell
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Weston

Guests:

None

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Brittany Woodburn, ED&P Deputy Director
Ellen Pratt, Sustainability Manager
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer
Gary Hammond, Commissioner of Public Works

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

ED&P Plan: At the request of ED&P Director Tinney and Legislator Roberts, ED&P Deputy Director Woodburn presented on the Department's economic development strategy focusing primarily on the existing and proposed organizational charts as they relate to the upcoming staff changes due to ED&P Director Tinney's pending retirement. Ms. Woodburn reported the remainder of the presentation packet provides more in-depth detail on how each of the components of the economic development strategy translates into the day-to-day activities of the staff. Copies of the presentation were distributed to those in attendance noting she has also shared this presentation with ED&P Director Tinney and the ED&P Legislative Committee.

Ms. Woodburn reported with the pending retirement of ED&P Director Tinney, the proposed organizational chart reflects the promotion of Ms. Woodburn from Deputy Director to the

Director position and promotion of Economic Development Specialist Schnabl to the Deputy Director position. Ms. Woodburn reported she has been working very closely with Ms. Schnabl for the last three years to train her on the Department's grant programs and projects. She is an excellent project and grant manager and will do very well in the Deputy Director role. Ms. Woodburn reported this will leave Ms. Schnabl's current position of Economic Development Specialist vacant and hopefully in the next couple of months the Department will begin the recruiting process to hire and fill the vacancy.

Lastly, Ms. Woodburn reported on the Education Workforce Coordinator position. This position was created a couple of years ago with grant funding in place through the Hooker Foundation and Appalachian Regional Commission over the course of three years. Currently, we are in the third year of the grant and the intention was that at the conclusion of the grant, ED&P would look to the school districts or business participation to continue funding the position. Moving forward and learning the difficulties of the school budget process, conceptually working within three BOCES systems, and business participation, it does not seem like a viable or sustainable way to continue the position. Legislator Mullen concurred stating that this position would always be in flux contingent upon school budgets.

Ms. Woodburn reported ED&P wants to retain Mr. Lanning, as is a wonderful employee. Mr. Lanning has been working here for two years and his interest and background experience is in community development and non-profit work. ED&P currently has a vacant Community Development Specialist and there is a resolution for Legislature consideration to hire Mr. Lanning to fill this vacancy. Mr. Lanning will continue to do some of his current work with the Talent Supply Table, which is a group that brings together the school superintendents and representatives from each of the BOCES systems. Mr. Lanning will continue to work with the school districts to identify potential internships and work programs connecting students with our businesses and job opportunities in Tioga County but will also take on some broader scope of the Community Development work, as well. Mr. Lanning has already taken on the Snowmobile Grant Program, which falls under the Community Development Specialist position and naturally has taken on some work with the non-profits noting that workforce development is a function of community development.

The impact for the Department's headcount would be the removal of the Education Workforce Coordinator position and reducing the number from 9 full-time employees to 8 full-time employees. There would be no impact budgetarily, as the Community Development Specialist is already funded.

CSEA Contract Negotiations Committee: Chair Sauerbrey reported she received correspondence from the CSEA Union asking for dates of availability to begin the negotiations process. Chair Sauerbrey will be appointing the following Legislators and staff to the CSEA Contract Negotiations Committee at the February 13, 2024 Legislature meeting:

- Legislator Ciotoli
- Legislator Standinger
- Personnel Officer Parke
- Commissioner of Public Works Hammond
- Deputy Commissioner of Social Services Liz Myers

Following the appointment of the committee, Personnel Officer Parke will contact the union representatives to begin the process.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, the January 18, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items:

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

Legislator Roberts reported the document has been edited to make it more readable. Legislator Roberts distributed copies of the final draft and asked everyone to review. We plan to adopt this Plan via resolution. Chair Sauerbrey reported this is a living document. It is a vision with goals and objectives that the Departments proposed to do for their future and does not bind us in any way. Chair Sauerbrey and the Legislature thanked Legislator Roberts for moving this forward with assistance from Legislative Clerk Haskell. **This action item is completed and will be removed from the Action Item List.**

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

Legislative Clerk Haskell reported she spoke with ED&P Director Tinney yesterday. Ms. Tinney did not come forward with a resolution this month, as she is still waiting for the Town of Owego to determine how they want to proceed. Ms. Tinney asked if this action item could be carried forward for another month. County Attorney DeWind spoke with the Town of Owego attorney just prior to this meeting and concurred it is still in process. There is some input they are looking for from the State agencies and they are not quite ready to decide how to apportion the actual funds. Mr. DeWind reported this is a matter of whether it is going to go through the traditional formula of a third to each taxing jurisdiction or whether this is going to be just through the County and Town with the school district doing their own. **This action item will be carried forward to the February 22, 2024 Legislative Worksession.**

Legislative Support: Ms. Haskell presented her Legislative Support committee report and minutes are documented in a separate document that has or will be sent to the Legislators.

Resolutions: Ms. Haskell reviewed the agenda and resolutions for the February 13, 2024 Legislature meeting with no issue of concern noted.

Late-File Resolution: Ms. Haskell reported she is aware of one late-file resolution that she will present at the Finance, Legal & Safety Committee on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 and for Legislature consideration at the Legislature meeting on this date.

Other:

- ***County Administrator Position*** – Chair Sauerbrey reported the recruiting process began yesterday and we already have a submission that fits the criteria.
- ***Bell of Sessions*** – Chair Sauerbrey reported the Bell of Sessions arrived this week with thanks to Commissioner of Public Works Hammond and his staff for delivering it and to County Historian Sedore for finding it.
- ***Request for Renaming the Public Works Building*** – Chair Sauerbrey reported she received a request from Carol Korba, widow of Robert Korba, who served as the Commissioner of Public Works from 1974 - 2001. She is requesting the Legislature consider renaming the Public Works Building in honor of her husband.

Commissioner of Public Works Hammond reported Mr. Korba was a good man and did a lot of great things for the County but I would be remiss if I did not say that former DPW Commissioner Ken Del Bianco did as well.

The Legislators expressed this is a great idea, but it is setting a new precedent in that we have not named buildings after former employees, only former Legislators. Legislators inquired as to whether there was a compromise where Mr. Korba could still be honored for his good work and years of service.

Commissioner of Public Works Hammond suggested creating a plaque or sign naming all the Commissioners of Public Works and their service dates to be hung at the entrance of the Public Works Building. The Legislators were in favor of Mr. Hammond proceeding with this idea.

- **Waverly Business Closure** – Legislator Mullen reported Ted Clark's Busy Market, a long-time business in Waverly for the past 92 years, is closing impacting 51 jobs in Waverly, including long-time employees with 38 years of service, and the loss of a business that many elderly citizens walked to for their groceries.

Legislator Mullen reported he spoke with ED&P Director Tinney, and they are working with the Clark's and other entities. Furthermore, he spoke with Commissioner of Social Services Yetter and they are going down there next Tuesday to meet with all the employees to assist those who will be unemployed as of March 1, 2024. This has been an absolute shock to my district. Legislator Mullen reported he spoke with the business owner yesterday and told him the County will assist any way possible. Legislator Mullen reported this is a direct result of NYS Government overreach by imposing unfair business practices upon our small businesses.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk