

Tioga County Shared Services Public Hearing

October 25, 2021

10:50 a.m.

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building

Hubbard Auditorium

56 Main Street, Owego, NY

Panel Attendees:

None

Staff:

Martha Sauerbrey, Legislative Chair

Peter DeWind, County Attorney

Cathy Haskell, Deputy Legislative Clerk

Amy Poff, Benefits Manager

Guests:

None

Chair Sauerbrey opened the public hearing at 10:20 a.m. with four (4) people in attendance.

Introductions:

Chair Sauerbrey introduced herself and Amy Poff, Tioga County Benefits Manager, as the presenters for today's public hearing.

Chair Sauerbrey reported this is the 3rd and final public hearing that will be conducted today.

Shared Services Background:

Chair Sauerbrey reported the Governor announced the Countywide Shared Services Initiative a few years ago and the New York State Legislature has since voted to extend the program to 2024.

As Chair of the Tioga County Legislature, Ms. Sauerbrey reported she is responsible for convening a Shared Services Panel consisting of participation from the Tioga County municipal mayors and supervisors. Chair Sauerbrey reported she is required to convene a minimum of two Panel meetings and hold three public hearings annually.

The Countywide Shared Services Initiative is designed to work with our towns, villages, and neighboring counties to collaborate ideas of sharing work and realizing cost-savings in the process. As an incentive, New York State has developed a matching funds grant. This is a two-step process in which counties submit a shared services plan recognizing the savings and a year later if the savings is realized, New York State will match funds up to 95%.

Tioga County submitted a Shared Services Plan in 2018 related to Information Technology (IT) connectivity by providing County Information Technology services to the Village of Waverly, Town of Barton, and Town of Owego. Chair Sauerbrey reported this shared service will be extended to the Village of Owego in the near future.

On August 11, 2021, the Shared Services Panel convened a meeting and at that time determined the Panel would not be moving forward with an amendment to our existing plan or submission of a new shared services plan. However, following that meeting, the Owego-Apalachin Central School District requested to join our Shared Services Panel and submit a proposal for Shared Services consideration. In addition, an opportunity presented itself for Tioga County to recognize a cost-savings for a new shared services plan with Broome County.

On October 20, 2021, Chair Sauerbrey re-convened the Shared Services Panel via a Zoom meeting for consideration of these two new shared services plan proposals through Tioga County and the Owego-Apalachin Central School District both relating to health insurance.

Public Hearings for Two New Shared Services Plan Proposals:

Chair Sauerbrey reported the purpose of today's public hearing is to present two additional shared services proposals from Tioga County and the Owego-Apalachin Central School District regarding health insurance and to gather information from the public regarding these shared services.

Tioga County's Medicare Advantage Insurance for Eligible Retirees and Spouses:

Amy Poff, Tioga County Benefits Manager, presented the following proposal for a new Shared Services Plan for 2021:

Ms. Poff reported Tioga County was approached earlier this year regarding participation in a Request for Proposal (RFP) with the Broome County Purchasing Alliance regarding a Medicare Advantage Plan for our eligible retirees and their spouses.

Ms. Poff reported this RFP resulted in reviewing three potential plans for consideration and through this process Broome County chose United Health Care (UHC) as the vendor. Tioga County chose Plan 1, as this plan closely mirrored Tioga County's existing plan. However, the premium rate proposed was half of what Tioga County's current plan is thus realizing a savings of \$770,000 for Year 1, as well as the opportunity to seek matching funds through the Countywide Shared Services Initiative Program.

Ms. Poff reported the Tioga County Legislature adopted a resolution in September 2021 to proceed with this new plan effective January 1, 2022.

Owego-Apalachin Central School District NYS Pharmacy Purchasing Coalition:

On behalf of the Owego-Apalachin Central School District, Chair Sauerbrey read a brief statement of their new Shared Services Plan proposal.

The Owego-Apalachin Central School District will be partnering with the Capital Region BOCES thus creating a shared service agreement between the two entities.

In order for the savings generated by this new service to be eligible for the Countywide Shared Services Initiative, it must be included as a project in the 2022 Tioga County Shared Services Plan that will be submitted by December 31, 2021.

This new shared service will be operationalized through the execution of a standard BOCES Cross Contract between Owego-Apalachin Central School District and Capital Region BOCES under the New York State Education Department approved CoSer 655, Service Code 665.000

This shared service project will be known as NYS Pharmacy Purchasing Coalition through the partnership with Capital Region BOCES by joining their Pharmacy Purchasing Coalition with a project start date effective January 1, 2022. This shared service is estimated to realize a savings of \$275,000.

Chair Sauerbrey reported the Pharmacy Purchasing Coalition link is referenced for additional information:

<https://www.capitalregionboces.org/programs-services/pharmacy-purchasing-coalition/>

Chair's Remarks: Chair Sauerbrey reported early next year, the Shared Services Panel will reconvene our annual meetings and encourage local school districts and fire districts to join our Panel for possible new opportunities.

With no public in attendance, the public hearing adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Haskell, Tioga County Legislative Clerk