

Countywide-Shared Services Zoom Meeting
Tioga County Mayors and Supervisors
October 20, 2021
12:00 p.m.

Panel Attendees:

Stuart Yetter, Jr., Supervisor, Town of Newark Valley
Jim Tornatore, Mayor, Village of Newark Valley
Lesley Pelotte, Mayor, Village of Nichols
Charles Davis, Supervisor, Town of Richford
Al Fulkerson, Supervisor, Town of Spencer
Patrick Ayres, Mayor, Village of Waverly
Martha Sauerbrey, Chairwoman, Tioga County Legislature

Absent:

Donald Foster, Acting Supervisor, Town of Barton
Keith Flesher, Supervisor, Town of Berkshire
William Strosahl, Supervisor, Town of Candor
Eric Halstead, Mayor, Village of Candor
Kevin Engelbert, Supervisor, Town of Nichols
Barbara Crannell, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Nichols
Don Castellucci, Supervisor, Town of Owego
Mike Baratta, Mayor, Village of Owego
Ken Sutfin, Mayor, Village of Spencer
Lewis Zorn, Supervisor, Town of Tioga

County Staff:

Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Amy Poff, Benefit Manager
Jeremy Loveland, Chief Information Officer
Charles Root, Software Support Liaison

Guests:

Bob Farrell, Owego-Apalachin School District
Art Poulton, Tri-Town Insurance Agency

Welcome & Introductions:

Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 12:03 p.m. Chair Sauerbrey welcomed and thanked everyone for participating today and made the following introductions:

- Owego-Apalachin Central School District Assistant Superintendent, Bob Farrell
- Tioga County Benefits Manager, Amy Poff
- Tioga County Chief Information Officer, Jeremy Loveland

New Shared Services Panel Member Acceptance:

Owego-Apalachin Central School District Assistant Superintendent, Bob Farrell, expressed interest in becoming a member of the Shared Services Panel and was accepted as the newest member of the Tioga County Shared Services Panel. Chair Sauerbrey reported other school districts and fire districts are also welcome to be panel members upon request.

Update - Chair Sauerbrey:

Chair Sauerbrey reported the Shared Services Panel held our last meeting in August 2021 and at that time determined there were no new Plan additions or amendments, therefore, voting to continue with our original Shared Services Plan consisting of IT shared services with our municipalities.

Since that time, we have been presented with two new shared services opportunities related to health insurance realizing significant savings for Tioga County and the Owego-Apalachin Central School District for Shared Services Panel consideration.

Two (2) New Shared Services Plan Presentations:

Chair Sauerbrey reported the Shared Services Panel will not be taking any action today on the two plans presented. Following today's meeting, Chair Sauerbrey reported the next step in the process is conducting three required public hearings, which are scheduled for Monday, October 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hubbard Auditorium of the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, 56 Main Street, Owego, NY. Following the public hearings, Chair Sauerbrey reported the Shared Services Panel will reconvene on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 via Zoom at 12:00 p.m. where a quorum will be required to vote on the two proposed plans, as presented.

Chair Sauerbrey introduced Amy Poff, Tioga County Benefits Manager, to present Tioga County's health insurance plan for the County's Medicare Advantage Plan for our Medicare eligible retirees and their spouses.

Tioga County - Ms. Poff reported that earlier this year Tioga County participated in a Request for Proposal (RFP) through the Broome County Purchasing Alliance for a Medicare Advantage Plan for Medicare eligible retirees and their spouses. The Broome County Purchasing Alliance was hoping to attract many lives in order to achieve a better rate, so we had the opportunity to participate in this RFP with zero obligation. This was a process that did not present information to the County until August thus resulting in a short window to determine whether to move forward.

Through the RFP process, Broome County selected United Health Care as the vendor. They had three different Medicare Plans representing different levels of coverage. Ms. Poff reported Tioga County looked at the richest plan, as Tioga County Medicare eligible retirees and their spouses currently have a Medicare Supplemental Plan and we wanted a comparable plan. The premium through United Health Care is significantly lower than our current premium. Medical comparisons were done, but unfortunately not on the prescription side. The County is putting our faith into this plan in hopes of providing good prescription coverage, but this is unknown at this time.

Ms. Poff reported the Broome County Purchasing Alliance is looking for a three-year commitment thus offering us a three-year rate guarantee. Our intent is to remain in this plan over the course of the three-year commitment, however, in the event the coverage information changes from what was initially presented, Tioga County has the option to revisit.

Ms. Poff reported this change realizes a significant cost savings of slightly over \$770,000 for Year 1 and presents the opportunity to seek Shared Services matching funds.

The County adopted a resolution changing the County's Medicare Advantage Plan to United Health Care through the Broome County Purchasing Alliance for our Medicare eligible retirees and spouses effective January 1, 2022.

Village of Newark Valley Mayor Tornatore reported this is a fantastic opportunity. The Village of Newark Valley retirees drop off the village plan when they become Medicare eligible and for the County to offer this is valuable.

Chair Sauerbrey reported in the future this may develop into a shared service with the town and village municipalities.

Due to only having a couple of mayors and supervisors attending this Zoom meeting, Mayor Tornatore inquired whether Ms. Poff would be available to attend the Council of Governments (COG) meeting tomorrow evening via Zoom to give this same presentation so other municipal officials are aware of this proposed plan. Ms. Poff reported she is available to attend tomorrow's Zoom meeting.

ACTION: Ms. Poff will attend the COG Zoom Meeting tomorrow evening to give a brief recap of today's presentation.

Owego-Apalachin Central School District – Assistant Superintendent, Bob Farrell, thanked the Shared Services Panel for accepting the school district as their newest member.

Mr. Farrell reported health insurance in school districts has been managed mainly by consortiums and Owego-Apalachin was a member of the Broome, Tioga, and Delaware BOCES health insurance consortium for many years.

Over the past few years, the school district has been monitoring the increased health insurance costs with annual increases of 10-12%, which was creating budgetary issues. After much consideration, the school district decided to leave the consortium and become self-funded. In that process, the insurance remained the same; Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, but provided more flexibility in plan management. Specifically, looking at available shared service opportunities for prescription drug plan management. The shared services opportunity that was brought to the school district's attention is through the Capital Region BOCES in Albany, NY. The school district can join this fairly large consortium that currently has 60,000 lives involved.

Mr. Farrell reported this shared service opportunity with the Capital Region BOCES for prescription drug plan and management realizes an estimated cost-savings of \$275,000. Mr. Farrell reported the school district intends to join this consortium and the only way to achieve matching funds through the State Countywide Shared Services Initiative is to be part of a Shared Services Plan and Panel.

Mr. Farrell reported Owego-Apalachin School District is requesting to be a part of the Tioga County Shared Services Panel and for Panel consideration of this proposed plan.

Mr. Farrell reported the proposed Plan would be effective January 1, 2022.

Mayor Tornatore reported the Shared Services Panel initially invited and encouraged the school districts to be a part of our Shared Services Panel for these types of opportunities through consortiums. Again, expressed this is a fantastic opportunity.

Chair Sauerbrey reported we can outreach to the other surrounding school districts in the new year to encourage their involvement.

Schedule Public Hearings:

Chair Sauerbrey reported we will be conducting three public hearings on Monday, October 25, 2021, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Hubbard Auditorium of the Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building, 56 Main Street, Owego, NY. The Shared Services Panel is not required to attend, but is welcome to do so.

Chair Sauerbrey asked Ms. Poff and Mr. Farrell to provide a brief overview of their proposed plans so information is readily available at the public hearings.

Other:

IT Shared Services: Chief Information Officer Loveland reported there is no movement currently on this year's grant. Once we hear more about the grant status, the IT Department will kick off the project in Candor. Information Technology is still working with Greenlight/Plexicomm for the Village of Owego shared services.

Next Meeting: The next Shared Services Meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom to vote on the two plans presented.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Haskell

Legislative Clerk