



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **March 7, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.**

Legislators Present:

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

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Monell
Legislator Weston

Guests:

None

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk
Jeremy Loveland, Chief Information Officer (*Departed at 1:17 p.m.*)
Bryan Goodrich, GIS Manager (*Departed at 1:17 p.m.*)
LeeAnn Tinney, Director of ED&P
Irene Graven, Town of Owego Attorney (*Departed at 1:24 p.m.*)
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

GIS Public Information Responsibilities: Chief Information Officer Loveland introduced Tioga County's GIS Manager, Bryan Goodrich. Mr. Loveland reported Mr. Goodrich received an email from a local business owner requesting detailed GIS data. Mr. Goodrich explained that most data gathered by the GIS division is free and available to the public online. However, this request would require Mr. Goodrich to invest a great deal of time to obtain the specific information. Mr. Goodrich inquired if the Legislature would like the GIS division to honor the request and similar requests in the future. If so, Mr. Goodrich asked if a fee should be charged due to the intensive research involved with such requests. He reported that other counties charge a fee for this value-added service. Mr. Goodrich cautioned that if this service is

available for one business, then other businesses may make similar requests. There is concern that if businesses request and receive specific parcel information, they can turn around and use the information for solicitation purposes. Residents may not appreciate receiving solicitations with information provided by Tioga County. Legislators Ciotoli and Mullen expressed their concerns about private information being shared. On a straw poll vote, the Legislators in attendance agreed that Tioga County will not provide GIS data beyond what is currently available to the public for free.

Farmer Brown Solar PILOT: ED&P Director LeeAnn Tinney explained that Farmer Brown Solar, LLC has submitted a Notice of Intent to the Town of Owego that it plans to build and operate a “Solar Energy System” on a property in the Town of Owego. Initially the PILOT was to include three taxing jurisdictions: Tioga County, Town of Owego, and Owego Apalachin Central School District. The payments were to be equally divided into thirds. During negotiations, the school determined they were not in favor of equal thirds. Instead, the school wanted a greater portion of the payments. The solar company went back and renegotiated independently with the school. The company renegotiated with the Town of Owego, which brought about the question whether or not companies can have separate PILOT agreements with the various taxing jurisdictions. Town of Owego Attorney Irene Graven reported that her research indicates that the State would allow for separate PILOT agreements to be negotiated with the various taxing jurisdictions. Ms. Graven stated there is a difference between IDA PILOT agreements and Real Property Tax Law Section 487 PILOT agreements. Tioga County has not opted out of Real Property Tax Law Section 487, which permits PILOT negotiations. This project is categorized as a Section 487 PILOT.

Ms. Tinney explained that the Town of Owego is proposing an agreement that would split the PILOT payments equally between the Town of Owego and Tioga County. The proposed project is expected to have a total capacity of approximately 4.95 Megawatts AC at \$7,000 per Megawatts AC. The proposed payments are to be split equally between the Town of Owego and Tioga County. Ms. Tinney reported that this new proposed PILOT agreement would result in a higher payment for Tioga County than the previous agreement that included the school. Legislator Standinger inquired as to how much tax Tioga County received on the vacant parcel of land that the proposed project will be situated on. Ms. Graven replied that the taxes are about \$400. County Attorney DeWind clarified that Tioga County has not opted out of Real Property Tax Law Section 487, therefore, the amount of extra value with the addition of solar panels is not taxable. However, the various taxing jurisdictions may enter into PILOT agreements up to the full value of the improvements.

Ms. Tinney has brought forward a revised resolution regarding the Farmer Brown Solar PILOT project. The Legislators agreed to move the resolution forward for Legislature consideration at the March 12th meeting.

County Administrator Update: Chair Sauerbrey reported that Tioga County received approximately two dozen applications for the position of County Administrator. The deadline to submit applications is March 8. Tioga County's consultant, Ian Coyle, will review the applications and narrow down the number of strong candidates for Legislature consideration. Chair Sauerbrey will keep the Legislature apprised of any updates on the process of hiring a County Administrator.

County Fair: Legislator Brown reported that he attends the Tioga County Fair Board meetings. The new Tioga County Fair Board President relayed to Legislator Brown that other county fairs have booths that showcase county government and its departments. The Tioga County Fair Board President would be glad to have Tioga County showcase some of their departments at the fair this August. Chair Sauerbrey reported Tioga County's Veterans Service Agency, Sheriff's Office, and Public Health typically have booths at the fair. Chair Sauerbrey will mention it at an upcoming Leaders Meeting and ask Department Heads to consider having a booth at the fair. However, she cautioned that due to timing and staffing issues, it may not be possible for some departments. Legislator Mullen suggested that departments could rotate days and times. Legislator Brown will provide Fair Board contact information to Chair Sauerbrey so departments can reach out to the Fair Board about having a booth at this year's fair.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Brown, the February 22, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently, we have none.

Legislative Support: Legislative Clerk Haskell will type the Legislative Support minutes and will be sent to the Legislators as a separate document.

Resolutions: Ms. Haskell reviewed the agenda and resolutions for the March 12, 2024 Legislature meeting with discussion occurring on the following:

- ***Bell of Sessions/Emma Sedore Day Proclamation:*** Legislative Clerk Haskell reported this month's meeting will commence outside on the front lawn of 56 Main Street. The Legislature will gather in front of the Bell of Sessions to honor County Historian Emma Sedore, who, after many years of steadfast research, was able to locate and return the Bell of Sessions to Tioga County. Legislator Standinger commended Ms. Sedore for her investigative and research skills. There will be a press conference, ribbon cutting, and reading of the Proclamation. March 12, 2024 will be proclaimed Emma Sedore Day and at the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Sedore will ring the bell. The regular meeting will then proceed as usual in the Hubbard Auditorium.

Other:

- ***Tioga County Showcase Event:*** Chair Sauerbrey reported that she intends to have an event on June 28 at the DPW truck wash facility that will showcase Tioga County departments. She will ask all departments to have a booth so the community can learn about the services Tioga County provides to its residents.
- ***NYSAC Conference:*** Chair Sauerbrey reported that Legislators Flesher and Brown recently attended the NYSAC Conference in Albany. Legislator Brown explained that he was particularly intrigued by the Artificial Intelligence (AI) presentation he attended. The workshop included a demonstration on AI grant writing and its use in 911 dispatch. Legislator Flesher stated that the NYSAC Conference was highly informative. He attended a workshop pertaining to interoperable radio communications hosted by Motorola. Tioga County is currently in the midst of a massive interoperable radio

communications upgrade. At the workshop, Motorola indicated once the project is complete, Tioga County should have one of the best interoperable radio communications systems in the state.

Legislator Flesher reported that the New York State Legislature currently has 24,000 open bills on the floor. The Legislature will only pass around 800 of those bills. NYSAC emphasized that counties should contact their state representatives to encourage them to support the bills they feel most strongly about.

- **Project Updates:** Chair Sauerbrey stated Tioga County is currently in the process of completing two major projects; upgrading its interoperable radio communications and renovations on a new Mental Hygiene space in Waverly. Every month at the second worksession, Chair Sauerbrey would like the Legislature to receive status updates on the projects. Beginning this month, she asked Legislator Flesher to provide an update on the radio communications project. She asked Legislators Standinger and Mullen to report on the Waverly Mental Hygiene space renovation.

Executive Session: Seven Legislators were in attendance. Motion by Legislator Roberts, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the appointment or promotion of particular individuals and pending litigation at 2:02 p.m. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Brown to adjourn. Executive Session adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eiklor

Deputy Legislative Clerk