

ALLEGANY AFFORDABLE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

AUGUST 26, 2015

NOT APPROVED

Committee Members Present: K. LaForge, J. Adams, K. Dirlam, Darwin Fanton, C. Jessup, R. Oakerson, Brenda Rigby Riehle, Terri Ross, C. Crandall (Absent: M. Alger)

Others Present: L. Ballengee, B. Budinger, D. Edwards, J. Herman, T. Hull, C. Santora, R. Scott

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Allegany Affordable Government Committee Chairman Kevin LaForge

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Mr. Fanton and carried to approve the Allegany Affordable Government Committee minutes of July 22, 2015.

Water and Sewer Efficiencies Discussion

Legislator LaForge stated the main focus of the discussion is to examine potential consolidation of sewer and water systems in Allegany County. Legislator LaForge hopes to bring every town representative together in the late fall to present ideas and details to possibly consolidate some of the systems.

County Study Analysis

A student of Dr. Oakerson completed a study six months ago, and Deputy Public Health Director Tom Hull refined the study into the Municipal Water Systems in Allegany County: Certified Water Operator Status Report dated August 26, 2015. The report focuses on the source and treatment of the water and the staff operating the systems. Review of the report by the committee discovered there are 17 municipal supply systems and seven were identified as potential concern. Possible retirement, lack of proper operating certification to match the system, and lack of certified staff with experience, were considered when identifying districts of concern.

Expert Comments and Recommendations

Legislator LaForge stated, based on the review of the report, there is a need to look at how the County may address the issue of a potential shortage of certified operators. Jamie Herman discussed how other New York State entities have addressed this issue by contracting operators and hiring project managers. Operators who are not certified are supervised by the project manager. The project manager may cover more than one system. Mr. Herman also suggested that if municipalities were to consolidate, to consider how the municipalities would be included. The New York Rural Water Association can provide free assistance to municipalities with less than 10,000 customers. Mr. Herman also suggested using Wayne County as a model when considering consolidation. Wayne County had a goal, vision, and purpose and has followed that through the entire process.

Next steps

Legislator LaForge asked Mr. Hull if he would be willing to do a similar study for the sewage systems in the County and the debt service of the municipalities. Tom Hull stated he would. As a result, the County will have its own comprehensive water and sewer study. Legislator LaForge also suggested researching Chadwick Bay with help from Jodi Adams to look at their system.

Tompkins County Comprehensive Assessment

The Committee briefly reviewed the Tompkins County Comprehensive Assessment.

Land Bank Program

Legislator LaForge stated he met with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to discuss dilapidated housing and land banks. The County was encouraged to continue working with Steuben County to address this issue. There will be a conference call with Steuben County on Monday, August 31, 2015. An in-person meeting will be held on September 17, 2015. Legislator LaForge stated the application will be submitted by November 17, 2015. A round of funding may be awarded at the end of 2015 or the beginning of 2016.

New Business

Brenda Rigby Riehle introduced Becky Scott as the new Secretary to the Clerk of the Board as Cindy Santora will be retiring this week.

Terri Ross attended a conference conducted by Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES on sharing services. The conference focused on why, who, what, and how. Ms. Ross distributed a report generated by the conference.

Kier Dirlam stated he has had several communications with New York State representatives regarding the water study and land bank. There is \$150 million available in the Governor's budget for the next three years to fund efficiency projects. The committee needs to discuss what to apply for and identify the parameters of the grant. Mr. Herman stated there was a webinar and he would be willing to share his notes with the committee. The webinar may be archived on the Environmental Facilities Website.

Good of the Order

Brenda Rigby Riehle stated there will be a reception for Cindy Santora on Thursday, August 27, 2015, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Next Meeting Details - September 23, 2015, at 3 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Dirlam, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators