

ALLEGANY AFFORDABLE GOVERNMENT GROUP

September 23, 2015

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: H. Budinger, D. Edwards, B. Gamache, J. Herman, T. Miner, R.Scott

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Allegany County 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 County Affordable Government Committee minutes of August 26, 2015.

Sewer System Efficiencies Discussion

County Analysis

Legislator LaForge announced Deputy Public Health Director Tom Hull has been ill, and was not able to prepare information for today's meeting.

Expert Comments and Recommendations

Legislator LaForge asked Jamie Herman to give an update on the water systems. Mr. Herman stated he sent contact information via email to Legislator LaForge for one private company downstate. The representative from the company is willing to speak with Legislator LaForge.

Land Bank Program

Updates

Legislator LaForge talked about the approach to setting up a land bank program. He has worked out some of the steps and will continue to pursue the feasibility of having a program in Allegany County. Legislator LaForge identified one problem, the land banks that have been created are not really in rural areas. The closest rural program is in Chautauqua County, and the type of property they have in the program is not similar to Allegany County. About a year ago, Chautauqua County did a presentation about the land bank. They had three categories of property they take on in their land bank. The first are properties that need to be demolished. The second are properties they can rehabilitate and they put back on the market. The last ones are foreclosures and "zombie properties." Legislator LaForge stated he was not sure Allegany County has that formula here. He believes most properties would fall into the first and second categories. He does not believe there are a lot of foreclosures or "zombie properties." Legislator LaForge stated the Attorney General has created 10 more slots for land banks in New York State with possible funding available for the programs. Programs need to have a workable model to qualify, so Legislator LaForge is working on the idea and hoping to determine in the next couple of weeks if it is feasible for Allegany County.

New Business

Shared Services

County Treasurer Terri Ross briefly reviewed the information from the Sharing Services handout she distributed at the last meeting. Ms. Ross attended the presentation at the County Treasurer's Conference. The handout is a reference for how, why, why would you share services, how are you going to share services, what you don't want, and who should be involved. It helps answers questions someone may have when sharing services, and where you may have to go to get more information. County Planner Kier Dirlam asked how many towns have combined and shared services. Ms. Ross responded that only 2 out of 3,179 have consolidated successfully since 2009. Ms. Ross stated in her opinion some of the ideas that have been discussed at the committee meetings seem to be inter-municipal agreements rather than adding another layer or governing body. Legislator LaForge noted the handout had a lot of information about purchasing and piggybacking. He stated on Monday there will be a public hearing and vote on purchasing, piggybacking, and best value practices law.

The Legislator in the 21st Century

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle talked about the Legislators going paperless. She stated she has had conversations with Legislator LaForge about getting computers, laptops, or iPads for the Legislators. Ms. Rigby Riehle received prices from Information Technology Director Keith Hooker. Mr. Hooker suggested if the computers were not being taken home, a desktop computer would be the best value. They have a longer life and are cheaper to buy. County Treasurer Terri Ross thought it would be better to get tablets because they are mobile. Legislator LaForge stated Ms. Rigby Riehle has been in contact with Steuben County because they have gone paperless. She reported there was initial grumbling, but everyone has accepted it. She also stated they have saved money and have gone green. Legislator LaForge stated Brenda Mori from Steuben County may have answers to many of their questions. He suggested having her meet with the County.

Darwin Fanton suggested strict policies and procedures should be in place, including designating an authorized person to release information to the Press. County Planner Kier Dirlam agreed there should be a single point of contact. He also suggested all the Legislators have a County email address. Legislator LaForge stated the County may want to look at having a Public Information Officer. Ms. Ross stated there is an unwritten policy that all public relations material needs to go through the County Administrator's office for approval. She also stated there is an existing electronic use policy and an appendix to that policy may be a good idea if the Legislators will be responsible for the equipment. Mr. Dirlam stated local area schools have students using tablets, and it may be a good idea to look at their policies and procedures..

Legislator LaForge stated some of his colleagues will not like the idea. This will not eliminate paper completely, but will significantly reduce it. County Attorney Tom Miner agreed going paperless is the way to go. He suggested having a wireless printer nearby if the Legislators want a hard copy. Ms. Ross suggested having the first year be a test year where Legislators can voluntarily try it out. Legislator Jessup thinks going paperless is worth a try. Legislator LaForge requested to advance from the Allegany County Affordable Committee to Ways & Means to consider electronic devices for all Legislators subject to policy review with pending review by the Facilities and Communications Committee with final concurrence at Ways & Means before it goes to whole Board. The request was approved on a motion by Darwin Fanton, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means. Refer to Facilities and Communications.**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Dirlam, seconded by Ms. Rigby Riehle, and carried

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