



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **April 18, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Flesher
Legislator Monell (*Arrived at 10:01 a.m.*)
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger (*Arrived at 10:08 a.m.*)

Legislators Absent:

None

Guests:

Mark Trabucco, Village of Owego Resident

Staff present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney (*Arrived at 10:01 a.m.*)
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk
Jeremy Loveland, Chief Information Officer
Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services
Megan Schnabl, Economic Development Specialist (*Departed at 10:05 a.m.*)
Corinne Cornelius, Director of Emergency Services (*Departed at 10:32 a.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a **Public Hearing on Restore NY Communities Initiative Round 8 Application for Temple & Liberty Street Reconstruction and North Ave. Rehabilitation.**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

CCE Kitchen Lease: Legislative Clerk Haskell reported Tioga County leases the kitchen in the basement of 56 Main Street to Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). Unless renewed, the lease will expire on May 31, 2024. Ms. Haskell explained that CCE's SNAP-Ed NY Nutrition Educator would periodically use the kitchen in the basement for food preparation, but that individual recently resigned from the position. To her knowledge, the position has not been filled and no one from CCE has used the basement kitchen. Ms. Haskell inquired if the

Legislature would like to renew the lease or let it expire. Legislator Monell asked Ms. Haskell if anyone from CCE had reached out to her asking to use the kitchen. She responded no, and it was her understanding that the location of the kitchen was more convenient for the previous SNAP-Ed NY Nutrition Educator. CCE still has some supplies and equipment in the basement kitchen. Legislator Brown reported that CCE's new Executive Director, Kristi Snyder, is trying to work with Chemung County about the possibility of sharing their nutrition educator with CCE of Tioga County. At this time, Legislator Brown doesn't know if CCE intends to renew the lease. Legislator Monell suggested that Tioga County reach out to CCE and ask them if they are still interested in using the kitchen before the Legislature makes a decision on extending the lease.

ACTION ITEM: Legislator Brown will reach out to CCE representatives and inquire if they are still interested in using the kitchen space in the basement of 56 Main Street. He will report back to the Legislature at the May 9, 2024 Worksession.

Legislator Fund Discussion: Ms. Haskell explained that at the beginning of the year, Legislators, Legislative Office staff, and the County Attorney donate \$20 to the Legislator Fund. These are not County funds and are used to make memorial donations, purchase flowers, or whatever else the Legislature deems appropriate. With the recent passing of Legislator Dale Weston, Ms. Haskell asked if the Legislature would like to use funds to make a memorial donation to one of the organizations listed in his obituary. The Legislature unanimously agreed to donate \$100 from the Legislator Fund to the Nichols Park Pond Project in Spencer, which Legislator Weston supported and helped develop.

Legislator Service Plaque Wall Display Discussion: Ms. Haskell reported that she ordered Legislator Weston's service plaque that is to be added to the wall display outside the Hubbard Auditorium. With the addition of Legislator Weston's plaque, the wall display will be completely filled. The service plaques and wall display are ordered from MacPherson Funeral Home out of Newark Valley. Ms. Haskell received a quote of \$7,558 from MacPherson Funeral Home for the bronze wall display that can hold 46 name plaques. The quote is for an exact blank copy of the current wall display. The quote states that the installation is to be done by Tioga County DPW under the supervision of MacPherson Funeral Home staff.

Ms. Haskell stated that she does not have \$7,558 in the Legislative budget. She would need approval to move forward with ordering the wall display and after speaking with the Budget Officer, come forward with a resolution to move funds from another account into her budget. Ms. Haskell does not anticipate needing to add another name on the display until the end of 2025. However, should she wait to order the wall display, the price may increase. Ms. Haskell mentioned another option could be to just have the wall display as a continuation of the current one, without the seal and wording at the top. This may drop the price and increase the number of name plaques that can be added to the display. Legislator Fleisher suggested obtaining a quote from MacPherson's that doesn't include the seal and wording at the top.

Legislator Ciotoli asked if MacPherson's could come up with a drawing of what the wall display would look like. Ms. Haskell stated she will ask MacPherson's if they would be willing to provide a drawing and a quote of just the wall display. Legislator Mullen asked when the current wall display was purchased. Given that dates on the current display go back to the 1970's, it was most likely purchased decades ago. Legislator Mullen stated in the spirit of tradition, he is in

favor of purchasing the same exact display as the new one will last decades. All Legislators were in favor of Ms. Haskell obtaining a quote from MacPherson's that is just for the bronze wall display and ask if they will provide a drawing of what it would look like.

ACTION ITEM: Legislative Clerk Haskell will reach out to MacPherson's Funeral Home and ask if they will provide a quote for just the bronze wall display without the extra wording. She will also ask MacPherson's Funeral Home if they can provide a drawing of what the wall display will look like.

Radio Communications Project Update – Director of Emergency Services: Chair Sauerbrey introduced Director of Emergency Services, Corinne Cornelius. Ms. Cornelius reported that the first part of the radio communications project, the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, was recently installed. New York State Police cars are now on the mapping system with real-time updates. Candor Ambulance is also on the mapping system correctly and other nearby ambulance services are looking to be added. Ms. Cornelius explained that the next step is upgrading the 911 dispatch center. Due to the nature of the job, dispatchers are confined to a specific area for many hours at a time. The upgrades include new carpeting, furniture, ergonomic chairs, and workstations. Ms. Cornelius stated the furniture must be installed at the same time as the new VESTA 911 phone system, which also must be installed at the same time as the fiber build from the Tioga County Public Safety Building to Broome County's Public Safety Building. Ms. Cornelius expects that portion of the project to go live in mid-July.

Ms. Cornelius provided an update on some of the tower sites throughout the County and beyond. Tioga County owns a radio communications tower on Prospect Hill Road in Lockwood. Ms. Cornelius explained that the tower was recently climbed to assess what, if any, refurbishments it may need. She is waiting to receive a final report on that tower assessment. Ms. Cornelius anticipates building four new radio communications towers on sites throughout Tioga County. The towers will be constructed in Berkshire, Spencer, Apalachin, and Nichols. Environmental boring tests were recently completed on the four sites and another test is expected to be completed at the end of the month. Once all tests and surveys have been completed, construction on the towers will commence. Ms. Cornelius is working with the Pennsylvania State Police on a tower lease in Athens, Pennsylvania that will provide broader coverage to the western part of the County. It is expected that the tower site in Athens, Pennsylvania will be used by Tioga County free of charge. She reported that Tioga County uses two of Broome County's towers in the Towns of Union and Maine. Ms. Cornelius is working with Broome County on continuing to use those towers. She explained that she is working with NYSEG on the Ballou Road tower to possibly build a new shelter. Ms. Cornelius is also working with NYSEG to conduct a power study on the tower in Candor.

Legislator Mullen stated there is a dead zone along Route 17C in Nichols and he inquired if that area was being addressed. Ms. Cornelius replied that a path study will be conducted, which includes that area. She believes that area will be covered as the original tower site was in a different location and the new tower site in Nichols will cover Tioga Downs. Due to the rural and hilly terrain, Route 34 in Lockwood and Route 79 in Richford are also dead zones, but she is working on coverage in those areas. County Attorney DeWind asked if new coverage maps will be provided. Ms. Cornelius replied, yes, new coverage maps will be provided. She explained that each tower site will be visited to assess the terrain. Once that is done, a

geographical map will be created to show the radio coverage path. Ms. Cornelius stated that there will be small areas that may not be covered due to gulleys and dense forests.

Legislator Mullen stated that Chemung County has a tower near Lockwood, but they wanted to charge Tioga County a large sum of money to use it. Coverage between Waverly and Spencer is minimal, and some areas are dead zones. Ms. Cornelius stated that with the construction of a new tower in Spencer, she expects more coverage in that part of the County.

Chair Sauerbrey inquired what the tower site on State Forest lands is used for. Ms. Cornelius explained that the Jenksville tower is not part of this project but is used by various fire departments, municipalities, and school districts. Tioga County helps maintain the tower as the repeater goes through Tioga County's 911 center. Since that tower is on State Forest lands, those utilizing the tower must follow State Laws. Emergency Services is working on renewing the lease for use of the tower, which expires in 2026.

The Legislature thanked Ms. Cornelius for her informative presentation, and she will come back to provide additional updates on the project at a future worksession.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, the April 4, 2024 minutes were approved.

Action Items: Currently we have none.

Other: Currently we have none.

Executive Session: Eight Legislators were in attendance along with Legislative Clerk Haskell County Attorney DeWind, and Director of Community Services Morgan. Motion by Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the appointment of particular individuals at 10:33 a.m. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Brown, to adjourn. Executive Session adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eiklor

Deputy Legislative Clerk