

**Shared Services Panel
Meeting Summary
April 19, 2018**

Orange County Emergency Services Center

Attendees: Orange County Executive and Shared Services Panel Chair Steve Neuhaus, OC Commissioner of Planning Dave Church, Asst. to the County Executive Mary Pat Smith, OC Director of Grants Nicole Andersen, OC Asst. County Attorney Damian Brady, OC Deputy Commissioner of General Service Stacy Butler, OC Budget Analyst Tim Tucker, Ellen Russell OC Exec. Asst., Deborah Heppes of Orange Ulster BOCES, Mark Coleman of Orange Ulster BOCES, Michele Baker of Town of Wallkill, Mike Sweeton of Town of Warwick, Mike Queenan of Village of Woodbury, Olga Anderson of Village of Highland Falls, Rich Randazzo of Town of Cornwall, Ray Devereaux of Town of Highlands, Gary Spears of Town of Deerpark, John Revella of Village of Walden, Doug Bloomfield of Town of Goshen, Tony Cardone of Town of Monroe, Frank Palermo of Town of Woodbury, and Rob Jeroloman of Town of Blooming Grove.

Mary Pat Smith thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced County Executive Steve Neuhaus. He discussed school safety issues, including the idea of armed police officers in each school and safety analyses being done for each school building. There is also a share program called Mutual Link which gives first responders live feeds of videos in schools. The question is how the County can help to keep the schools safe.

There is a link for the Shared Services information on the County Executive's webpage on the Orange County Webpage including a timeline, guidance, meeting dates and forms for municipalities to submit their shared services projects into the plan. Nicole Andersen discussed the project timeline. She said we will be meeting monthly and developing the plan over the next few months, including as many different projects as we can. **The 2018 plan will be submitted to the Legislature by 8/1/18.** There will be three public hearings held before 8/30/18. The Legislature meets on 9/6/18 to review and consider the Plan. They will make any recommendations for changes at this time. On 9/7/18 the County Executive can make modifications based on these recommendations and submit to the panel for review. Before 9/15/18 the Panel will meet to vote on the plan. **By 9/15/18 the County Executive will submit the Plan to NYS Division of Budget.** The County Executive will present the plan to the public by 10/15/18. **The panel will continue to meet two times a year for the next two years. There will be the same timeline for the next two years, but only two panel meetings are required. We will update the plan and resubmit a plan each year.**

Discussion followed regarding including the School Districts, BOCES and the Fire Departments on the panel. It is the County Executive's decision if we formally invite them to vote on the panel. It is a 1:1 reimbursement for property tax savings. Since the amount of school taxes is so high, they should be invited because it might help to lower taxes. Everyone should be in on these discussions. If we don't all meet together, we won't have as much savings. If the school districts are involved discussions could get bogged down with too many details and there is not a lot of time. BOCES cooperates all the time with the School Districts. The panel would like to look at the bigger issues, like sewer and water. \$10,000-\$20,000 is a big savings for a small school district. Carl Ublacker from NYSDOS said that some of the other Counties are including school districts. The idea of the school districts disagreeing and outvoting the municipalities was discussed. If they don't agree with the plan, they would have to define why they don't. **D. Church and N. Andersen will ask to attend the next Superintendent's meeting through BOCES and invite them to the next panel meeting. Neuhaus, Church and Andersen will try to convene the fire districts and explain the shared services panel, but will focus on engaging the schools for 2018.**

N. Andersen sent the spreadsheet out to municipalities and is getting a lot of information back. She is categorizing responses: projects with 6 or more yes' are highlighted in green; projects requiring more information are highlighted in yellow; and projects with less than 6 yes' are not highlighted. N. Andersen distributed a form for new projects to be included. The form is available on the OC Shared Services website under the County Executive's page. Return completed forms to N. Andersen ASAP. The County-wide radio project is already approved and in progress. Chris Carney and Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services explained there are currently 6 of 14 radio sites installed and 6 are out to contract. The construction should be completed by September and the system should be ready around the second or third week of December. They will have to do coverage testing which will be scheduled for May or June of 2019. They will be starting soon to have all the equipment installed in vehicles. It is up to the municipalities to do the radio switch out. The benefits of this project go beyond cost savings. There will be inter-operability and more coverage. The project was funded partially by grants totaling 7 or 8 million dollars. Fire Departments have problems maintaining licensing for records management systems. Maybe we could host a main license and push it out to municipalities. There could be a County-wide contract for that free service to fire departments. It could be beneficial to offer radios to Highway Departments. An example is if an ambulance couldn't get through during a snowstorm. Orange and Rockland could be on this network. MTA wants to be on this system. Discussion followed on EMS problems with coverage and response. A county-wide system is an option.

The state is offering \$225 million in shared services funds. The question is how to get as much as we can into Orange County. It is possible that if the project is not listed in this plan, it would not get as many points. There are benefits to documenting projects in the plan. Municipal input is critical to the plan so our submission is as inclusive as possible of successes and needs throughout the county. Plan also critical to developing sustainable communities that are financially solvent. There is less and less entitlement funding and funding from state and federal government is more and more being dispersed as competitive grants which require projects to have public and or private partners, collaboration and will need to show you are already efficiently working with other municipalities and have exhausted other resources. Smart Growth questions in the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) include: Does the project demonstrate coordination among state, regional and local planning and govt. officials? Does the project involve community based planning and collaboration? Is the project consistent with state and local plans?

Orange County applied for a regional fleet wash through Local Government Efficiency Grant, but was not awarded. You have to estimate the savings as best as you can. The County would like to build one in Goshen. Discussion followed on ways municipalities currently share resources. Some share playing fields, composting trucks, etc. They are valid savings and should be included in the plan. Templates have been distributed for project information to be included in the plan. N. Andersen said NYDOS webinar is scheduled for 4/26/18 at 2:00 PM (518-473-3355): Creating Healthcare Cooperatives.

In advance of the next meeting, we will reach out to the school districts and see what interest they have in being involved. Working from the spreadsheet, we will concentrate on the projects highlighted in green. We will narrow down from that. At the next meeting, we should all be prepared to decide on which projects are of interest. Be sure to email the project forms for projects you want to include in the plan.

Next meeting will be held May 17 at 1:30pm at the Orange County Emergency Services Center