



FVS (County, City, Towns, Villages, Schools)

Cortland, NY 13045

<http://www.cortland-co.org>

Advisory Board

~ Agenda ~

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

7:00 PM

Main Conference Room

Call to Order

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Co-Chair Sandra Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Co-Chair Charles Sudbrink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Minutes Approval

CCTVS (County, City, Towns, Villages, Schools) - Advisory Board - Sep 13, 2016 7:00 PM

CCTVS (County, City, Towns, Villages, Schools) - Advisory Board - Oct 11, 2016 7:00 PM

Welcome and Self-Introduction

Discussion Items

1. 4343 : Discussion of the Cortland County Jail - Your Input

Potential Questions - to be answered by those in attendance if possible. If not, please submit them so we may provide you with an answer.

Roundtable Discussion



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~ Minutes ~

Eric Mulvihill

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

7:00 PM

Main Conference Room

I. Welcome & Introductions

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sandra Price	Co-Chair	Present	
Charles Sudbrink	Co-Chair	Excused	
Eric Mulvihill	Clerk	Present	
Mack Cook	Cortland City Administrator	Present	
Andrew Fuller	Town of Scott	Present	
Fred Forbes	Town of Homer	Present	
Garry VanGorder	Director Industrial Development Agency	Present	
Peggy Mousaw	Budget and Finance Director	Present	
Adam McGivern	City of Cortland	Present	

Discussion Item (ID # 3857)

Overview of 2017 County Budget-Peggy Mousaw

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ms. Mousaw provided an overview of the 2017 budget development process. She said so far the Departments have submitted their requests. She said the retirement rates have been revised to reflect an anticipated savings in retirement costs. Initially the budget requests brought the budget 7.3% over the property tax cap. She has made some reductions and now the Budget committee will begin its work to refine the requests. Ms. Mousaw said among the options this budget season are cutting services, eliminating employees, and raising fees. She said there is a Medicaid reserve that can be used to offset expenses, but this is a one time revenue source. Ms. Mousaw said there has been a good deal of discussion regarding a new jail, she is currently budgeting for the existing facility as there is no consensus at this point on moving forward on construction of a new jail. She said in the Solid Waste budget recycling expenses are up substantially.

Ms. Mousaw said one of the Counties biggest issues is debt. 92% of the constitutional tax limit has been exhausted much of the county borrowing has occurred over the last 10-15 years. Paying down the County radio project has helped with the debt schedule.

Mr. Fuller asked about the OMIG charges for Mental Health. Ms. Mousaw said the charges date back to 2009, an audit and the related fines are based on revised rules and regulations. Cortland County has joined with other counties to fight the fines, there is an appeal process but the County must make payments during the appeal process. Ms. Mousaw said the Federal and State governments are holding counties to different financial standards and regulations than they adhere to. Ms. Price said the County is fighting the State findings and so far the state has agreed to reduce the fine but she said she is not optimistic the fine will be overturned.

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Ms. Mousaw discussed the County's financial obligations to TC3.

Mr. Forbes asked how much the County Insurance is going up and what the charge to employees will be. Ms. Mousaw said the County budgets a 2% increase in the self insurance fund. Mr. Forbes also asked about employee raises in 2017. The group discussed employee retiree insurance costs.

Mr. Cook said when you overlap taxing districts Cortland County is the 6th highest taxed area in the nation. He said local taxing authorities must be conscious about holding the line on or reducing the property tax burden to make the area more attractive for investment. Mr. Cook suggested an alternative to raising taxes is reaching out for more grants to offset the costs of public works projects. Mr. Megivern said many people are leaving the area for communities with lower taxes, he said this area is tough to be competitive in due to the tax burden.

Mr. Vangorder asked if there is any interest by the Legislature in exceeding the property tax cap. Ms. Price said the Legislature does not support exceeding the property tax cap, but is also realistic about having to exceed the cap in the future.

Ms. Mousaw discussed the decline in sales tax collections. Mr. Fuller discussed the State take-over of Medicaid expenses. Ms. Mousaw reviewed the increased costs related to indigent defense.

RESULT: COMPLETED

II. Municipal Feedback

Discussion Item (ID # 3858)

Economic Opportunities and Effect on Property Taxes-Garry VanGorder

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Vangorder said there is a need to identify projects and have resources available to support those projects before seeking grants. When the grants are awarded the County and municipalities need to be ready to move forward with these projects. Mr. Vangorder reviewed a recent audit of the IDA by the New York State Comptroller's office. The audit reviewed PILOT's and other tax incentive used to attract business to Cortland County. The report found the Cortland County IDA manages those incentives well and the incentives have worked to bring business to the County. Mr. Vangorder said many are opposed to tax incentives for business, currently the 11 PILOTS that have been issued generate more taxes than if the PILOTS had not been issued. Mr. Vangorder discussed efforts to rescue industrial properties and encourage redevelopment. He said the County faces a substantial challenge recruiting business because of New York's over-taxed over-regulated environment. He said the County has lost a lot of skilled labor that followed the exodus of jobs in the 1980's and 1990's. Mr. Vangorder said since that time manufacturing has become more automated and requires a higher skill set. He said capital investment does not match employment levels. Ms. Mousaw asked if nanoscience and drone companies are an option for Cortland County. Mr. Vangorder said young engineers don't want to live here, he said there needs to be more done to develop quality housing and to develop a more diverse community that attracts young professionals.

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The group discussed options to partner on development. Mr. Vangorder discussed tourism projects and the proposed multi-use sports complex that is being developed in the town of Cortlandville and the economic impact it could help generate.

RESULT: COMPLETED

III. Municipal Feedback

IV. Adjourn

V. Next Meeting Oct.11th 7PM

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Eric Mulvihill

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

7:00 PM

Main Conference Room

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sandra Price	Co-Chair	Present	
Charles Sudbrink	Co-Chair	Present	
Eric Mulvihill	Clerk	Present	
Gordon Wheelock	Legislative District 10	Present	
Brian Tobin	Mayor, Cortland	Present	
Bill McGovern	Mayor, Marathon	Present	
James Morse	Dep. County Highway Superintendent	Present	
Nick Dovi	Dep. Superintendent Streets and Parks, Cortland	Present	
Andy Fuller	Town Councilman, Scott	Present	
Fred Forbes	Supervisor, Town of Homer	Present	

II. Minutes Approval

1. Tuesday, June 14, 2016

III. Discussion Items

1. Discussion Item (ID # 3922)

Review of Weights and Measures-Mr. Wes Foley Will Provide an Overview of the Services and Duties of the Weights and Measures Division

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mr. Wes Foley Director of Weights and Measures provided an overview of his department and discussed the history of measurements and the daily responsibilities of his department. His responsibilities include testing the accuracy of commercial scales, agriculture scales, fuel dispensers or any other commercial measurement devices in order to verify accuracy and protect consumer.

Mr. Foley discussed his preparation for Uber car service in the event that it comes to Cortland Count. He discussed his work and investigations to identify high tech scams like credit card skimmers. Currently his office is involved in a state investigation with cement companies and stated quantities. He discussed previous investigations into the stated quantities of bagged mulch.

Mr. McGovern asked what happens if commercial scales are out of compliance. Mr. Foley said the scale is locked out and in some severe cases fines are issued. Mr. McGovern inquired about standards used to certify scales. Mr. Foley explained the national standards and proving process. Mr. McGovern asked who covers cost of testing samples. Mr. Foley said the New York State Department

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of Agriculture and Markets covers the costs. He said his department does generate a small amount of revenue for the County.

Mr. Forbes inquired about weight loss or shrinkage that occurs with some dry products such as mulch or grains, he said the vendor has to account for that loss in the stated product weights. Mr. Forbes asked if there are allowances in the testing protocols that accounts for those weight losses. Mr. Sudbrink discussed the losses associated with other materials such as ice. Mr. Foley said he has been reviewing complaints associated with sales of bagged ice.

Mr. Foley discussed previous efforts to work with gold buyers to verify that consumers are not being cheated. He said ultimately it comes down to the consumers being educated on the value of precious metals.

Mr. McGovern asked about the staffing levels in the Department of Weights and Measures. Mr. Foley replied he is a one person department. He said he does work with municipalities to help them spot inaccuracies in and self report. Mr. Foley discussed his investigation into plastic garbage bags and found shortages of materials and deficient quality.

Mr. Foley reviewed the process used to determine fines. He said the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets sets the maximum fine and the local committee reviews the fine based on Mr. Foley's recommendations.

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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2. Discussion Item (ID # 3923)

County Highway Shared Services-Cortland County Highway Superintendent Phil Krey Will Provide an Overview of Current Inter-Municipal Shared Highway Activities. City, Town, Village Leaders Are Urged to Bring Ideas for Further Collaboration

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Deputy County Highway Superintendent James Morse discussed current shared service agreements between the County and the various municipalities. Mr. Morse said currently there are two formal contracts for shared services. The County has an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation for snow and ice removal on 110 miles of State highway. In addition the county has agreements with some towns for plowing as well.

Mr. Morse said inter municipal agreements on highway projects are mostly informal arrangements. He said other counties have greater shared service agreements and Cortland County should consider pursuing additional agreements. Mr. Morse said there is some shared fuel purchasing among the various municipalities. Mr. Sudbrink said he felt the handshake agreements were working well on the local level larger agreements require more expensive equipment. The group discussed concerns regarding the New York State Department of Transportation shared services contract.

Mr. Forbes shared his personal experience with shared services agreements on his farm, by tracking hours he feels it has worked well.

Mr. McGovern said many times the municipalities don't realize they are involved in shared services that are directly mutually beneficial. Mr. Sudbrink said there is a reluctance to scrutinize these agreements because it can create liability or other issues of inequity. Mr. McGovern discussed the possibility of increasing the sharing of engineering services with the County. Mr. Morse said that would depend on the nature and scope of the project that is being engineered.

Mr. Forbes discussed his frustration with overlapping municipal services, particularly snow removal. Mr. McGovern discussed a similar frustration in the Marathon area.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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