

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING: STATE MANDATED SHARED SERVICES PANEL PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2

DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

RYAN MOORE
CRAIG LEGGETT
KEVIN GERAGHTY

GUESTS PRESENT:

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE
BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the September 12, 2018 Public Hearing for Warren County Shared Services Property Tax Savings Panel; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/smssp/Archive/2018/smssp>

Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and called the public hearing for the Warren County Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan open.

Mr. Moore informed two Supervisors were present and he would keep the meeting open until 12:30 p.m. for any members of the public who should enter the meeting later.

Mr. Moore provided an overview of the Warren County Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan, which he reviewed in a detailed Powerpoint presentation; *a copy of the Plan is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Moore indicated Shared Services were not new to Warren County and had been taking place for some time and he provided examples of some of those current services. He explained the State structured the law in such a way that the County must develop new initiatives that could not commence before January 1, 2019 or the County would not qualify for the States matching funds.

Don Lehman, *representing The Post Star*, entered the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Mr. Moore indicated the nine new initiatives were as follows:

- 1) IT Advisory Services
- 2) IT Purchasing Services
- 3) Utilization of County Anti-Virus pricing
- 4) DPW Engineering Services
- 5) Equipment sharing via Purchasing Departments Web Platform
- 6) Joint bid for Landscaping/Mowing - County not participating
- 7) Community Liaison for Local Tourism Promotion
- 8) Smart Street Lighting NY Initiative
- 9) Shared Contract for Credit Card Security Services

Mr. Moore apprised the joint bid for landscaping/mowing would not apply to the County as County Staff were performing those duties and not a contracted company.

Mr. Moore stated he had been conservative with the amount of savings he had projected for the year 2019 at \$701,432 . He added that was a savings in 2019 of 1.08% of 2018 taxes which meant the anticipated savings in 2019 for the average taxpayer was \$15.62. Mr. Moore apprised those figures would rise each year thereafter.

Mr. Moore offered privilege of the floor to anyone wishing to comment on the plan.

Mr. Leggett inquired as to how the “average taxpayer” was calculated. Mr. Moore replied he had used the overall savings each year divided by the number of parcels and subtracted by the number of exempt parcels noting he had done the same in Westchester County last year and the State did not object to the formula.

Mr. Leggett asked Mr. Moore how he planned to sign municipalities up for the savings programs. Mr. Moore replied he planned to meet with Mike Colvin, *IT Director*, and determine if it would increase the cost to his department budget and if so, create an MOU (*Memorandum of Understanding*) with those who wanted to participate and determine how they would share the State matching funds the County would be receiving. Mr. Moore stated for the DPW initiatives he would meet with Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, the IT initiatives he would meet with Mike Colvin, *Director of Information Technology*, the Landscaping initiatives and Credit Card Security Services he would meet with Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, and the Tourism initiatives he would meet with Joanne Conley, *Director of Tourism*, to determine if adding a tourism position would be required (at no cost to the County). Mr. Moore apprised the Smart Street Lighting was an initiative with towns and the NYPA (*New York Power Authority*) which he was facilitating.

Mr. Leggett asked if the businesses who currently contracted with the municipalities lost business if that would be an adverse reaction and Mr. Moore replied the County would not be asking towns terminate any contracts they did not want to, rather it was an option for them.

Mr. Moore stated the largest amount of savings would come from the Smart Street Lighting initiative. Mr. Leggett informed the Town of Chester spent \$24,000 a year on street lighting and Mr. Geraghty informed the Town of Warrensburg budgeted \$80,000 which included electricity. Mr. Lehman inquired how much Mr. Moore anticipated in savings from the initiative and he replied \$400,000 in 2019 and rising to \$700,000 after 2020. He added it was a new initiative from the State that had not been available before.

Mr. Leggett inquired if towns had the option to join MEGA (*Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance*) and Mr. Moore replied affirmatively. He noted there was a resolution that would be brought before the Board of Supervisors for a savings of 20% on electricity due to the County being a large consumer and he also expected a future savings on natural gas before the end of the year as well.

Mr. Geraghty suggested creating pressure on National Grid to run a gas line from Warrensburg to Chestertown and a brief conversation ensued.

There being no further comments, Mr. Moore closed the Public Hearing for the Warren County Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board