



County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Summary

Appendix A

County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Submittal to the New York Department of State As Approved, December 9, 2019 Submitted, December 9, 2019

Narrative

In 2017, New York State introduced the County-Wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI) to provide a process whereby each county can work to develop, approve, and submit to the State a County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan with new shared services actions that, once implemented, achieve demonstrable taxpayer savings.

Under the CWSSI, a Shared Services Panel must be established in each County to be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer. Each Panel works to develop and ultimately approve a Plan through intergovernmental cooperation to find new opportunities to share and coordinate services. Each county that has an approved Plan is eligible to apply to the State for a one-time match of the net savings resulting from new shared service actions set forth in and implemented pursuant to such plan.

The CWSSI has been extended through December 31st, 2021, per the SFY19 Enacted Budget of Article 12-I of the General Municipal Law.

On May 29, 2019, the Acting Yates County Administrator, as Chief Executive Officer, invited Town Supervisors, Village Mayors and Legislators to attend the first meeting of the Countywide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI) to develop the 2019 plan. In an effort to facilitate discussion, the Acting County Administrator included with the invitation the CWSSI Legislation and the CWSSI Guidance documents.

On May 30, 2019, the Shared Serviced Panel convened with a total of 16 present, including 6 out of 9 Town Supervisors, 2 out of 4 Village Mayors, and 4 members of the County Legislature. The Panel Chairman narrated a Summary of the 2017 Plan, and set forth the Panel's requirements and goals and the responsibilities of the Members and Chair.

The Panel Members reviewed examples of Shared Services and Government Efficiencies. Following discussion the Panel identified 4 potential initiatives: Centralized Geographical Information System (GIS), Information Technology (IT) Services, Life Guard Services, and Centralized Assessment. Panel members formed working groups to consider the financial and legal feasibility of each of the four initiatives. Two other areas of potential opportunity were identified around the Shared Water Infrastructure Study and whether Yates County might be allowed in the Thompkins County Health Insurance consortium. Members agreed to a follow-up meeting on July 25, 2019.

On July 25, 2019, the Shared Services Panel convened with a total of 23 present, including five (5) out of nine (9) supervisors, and three (3) county Legislators. Workgroups reported back to the Panel on the four previously identified potential initiatives.



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With respect to Centralized Geographical Information System (GIS), the workgroup reported that there will be savings for the towns and villages by working with the County to provide mapping services as opposed to implementing this independently. However, the County has to complete the expanded implementation first; not expected to be completed in 2020.

With respect to Information Technology (IT) Services, the workgroup reported that there would be savings and added anti-virus protection for towns and villages by using the services of the County. Follow-up will be done with the various towns and villages throughout 2020 to identify their needs and the County's capabilities in fulfilling those needs.

With respect to Lifeguard Services the workgroup learned that NYS Parks and Recreation will be offering classes at a greatly reduced rate. Dresden, Jerusalem, Middlesex and Penn Yan are going to work towards sharing individuals for lessons which will result in savings but is not really a Shared Service Savings.

With respect to Centralized Assessment, the workgroup reported that there are advantages and disadvantages to this. The best option would be for the County to have agreements with towns as assessors leave. This is not anticipated in 2020.

With regards to the Shared Water Infrastructure Study, this would qualify for shared services funding as long as the study does not begin until 2020. The net savings generated by the municipalities that are in the study as opposed to having the study done independently will be included in the plan and eligible for a state match.

With respect to joining the Tompkins County Health Insurance Consortium, it is no longer relevant as Yates County will be self-funded in 2020.

An additional item currently in place since August 2018 is a Shared Services Agreement for sharing of the Public Health Director and Deputy Director between Schuyler and Yates Counties. The arrangement has resulted not only in cost savings but also improvement in efficiencies between the two organizations by working together. The Agreement ends in June 2020.

Members agreed to a follow-up meeting on November 22, 2019

On November 22, 2019, the Shared Services Panel convened with a total of 9 present, including six out of nine supervisors to discuss its recommendations for a Draft Shared Services Plan to be submitted to the Yates County Legislature. The Panel reviewed 3 projects for 2020 that are proposed to be included in the 2019 Shared Services Plan: Shared Water Infrastructure Study, Airport Vacuum Truck, and Stop-loss Health Insurance through Municipal Healthcare Financing Collective.

With respect to the Shared Water Infrastructure Study, The total cost of this study is \$45,000. Yates County is contributing one-half or \$22,500. The remaining \$22,500 is going to be split between the participating municipalities. We received a quote from Larson Design Group that it would cost each municipality \$15,000 if they were going to undertake this study on their own. Therefore, the avoided costs to each municipality will qualify for reimbursement from NYS to each of the participating



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municipalities. This was confirmed via a phone call with Susan Savage of the NYS Division of Local Government Services and Nonie on 11/25/19.

With respect to the Airport Vacuum Truck, Yates County has received NYS grant funding that may be able to be used toward the purchase of a vacuum truck. The County's share is 10%. Two towns (Jerusalem and Milo) have expressed interest in sharing the truck. The avoided costs to each municipality is what they would be paying if they contributed the full 10%. This also was confirmed in a phone call with Susan Savage on 11/25/19.

With respect to Stop-loss Health Insurance through Municipal Healthcare Financing Collective, Stop-loss Health Insurance through Municipal Healthcare Financing Collective – Yates County is entering into a consortium through NYSAC with Columbia and Ulster Counties. The projected avoided cost is \$367,623. Extending this to the Towns and Counties will be studied in 2020.

By working with an inter-county shared service group with Genesee, Ontario, Wayne and Steuben Counties toward a Forensic Facility located in the Finger Lakes to provide cost-effective and efficient laboratory and toxicology services for law enforcement purposes, Yates County's estimated savings are \$7,000.

A Broadband Coalition was also discussed. Savings by entering into a four county consortium to have a broadband feasibility study completed will not qualify because more than one county would have to include this in their plan. So this will be revisited in 2020.

Following presentation of the options, the Panel determined that each strategy offered the possibility of material cost savings to participating jurisdictions and that sufficient investigation had been completed to assure certifiable cost reductions and savings.

This Plan was submitted to the Yates County Legislature for its consideration pursuant to the CWSSI mandates. On December 9, 2019 the Legislature adopted unanimously Resolution 504-19, an Advisory Report on the Draft Plan, endorsing its findings.

The Resolution further expressed the Legislature's sentiments that adoption of a Final Plan would fully discharge the County's obligation under the CWSSI mandate for 2019.

In addition to this submittal to the Yates County Legislature, the Shared Services Panel held Public Hearings on May 30, July 25, November 22 and December 19.

Given the Panel's review of the options before it, the determination of its members to continue working together on issues raised during the Panel process, and their record of collaboration in the taxpayers' interest, the Yates County Shared Services Panel regards its 2019 CWSSI responsibilities as satisfied upon the adoption of this Final Plan.

The Yates County Shared Serviced Panel appreciates this opportunity to serve the public.



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ADOPTED BY THE YATES COUNTY SHARED SERVICES PANEL, DECEMBER 19, 2019.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Ms. Winona B. Flynn Acting County Administrator, County of Yates | AYE |
| Hon. Leslie Church; Supervisor, Town of Milo | AYE |
| Hon. Frederick L. Cratsley, Jr.; Mayor, Village of Dresden | Absent |
| Hon. Margaret M. Dunn; Supervisor, Town of Italy | Absent |
| Hon. Wayne Dunton; Supervisor, Town of Middlesex | AYE |
| Hon. Patrick H. Flynn; Supervisor, Town of Torrey | AYE |
| Hon. William Hall; Mayor, Village of Dresden | Absent |
| Hon. Patrick Killen; Supervisor, Town of Jerusalem | AYE |
| Hon. George Lawson; Supervisor, Town of Starkey | AYE |
| Hon. Leonard Lisenbee; Supervisor, Town of Potter | Absent |
| Hon. Leigh MacKerchar; Mayor, Village of Penn Yan | Absent |
| Hon. John E. Prendergast; Supervisor, Town of Benton | AYE |
| Hon. John Sawers; Mayor, Village of Rushville | AYE |
| Hon. Steve Perry; Supervisor, Town of Barrington | AYE |

Members: 14/ Present and Voting 9

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0



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CERTIFICATION

I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that information provided is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. This is the finalized county-wide shared services property tax savings plan. The county-wide shared services property tax savings plan was approved on December 19, 2019, and it was disseminated to residents of the county in accordance with the County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Law.

Winona B. Flynn

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Date)