



Schoharie County Operations Review Committee

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Alicia Terry - Chair

Gilboa Supervisor

Harold Vroman

Summit Supervisor

Alan Tavenner

Schoharie Supervisor

Eric Stein

President & CEO Cobleskill Regional Hospital

Dan Crandell

Public Works Commissioner

Bonnie Post

Director of Community Services

John Riedl

Superintendent, Margaretville Central School (Retired)

Schoharie County

Operations Review Committee Minutes

May 24, 2021

Present: Alicia Terry, Harold Vroman, Dan Crandell, John Riedl, Alan Tavenner (by phone), Bonnie Post, and Eric Stein

Also Present: Steve Wilson, Fonda Chronis, Kayla Redmond, and Lisa Thom

The meeting was called to order by Alicia Terry at 8:33 a.m. on May 24, 2021.

Eric Stein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 10, 2021. Harold Vroman provided a second. The motion was carried 7-0.

Alicia Terry referred to the methodology from the previous meeting to discuss the language and possibility for changes. Alicia Terry asked for clarification on what language Dan Crandell and Alan Tavenner wished to change in the methodology.

Steve Wilson recommended changing the wording to “make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors that will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of county operations.”

Alicia Terry proposed for someone to make a motion to approve the outline as modified. She asked Steve Wilson to recirculate the methodology document with the new change. Once signed off by the Committee, Alicia Terry suggested having the document posted to the website.

John Riedl made the motion and Dan Crandell provided a second. The motion was carried 7-0.

Alicia Terry introduced a report subject to be sent to the Board of Supervisors. The report summarizes the creation, provides the number of meetings that have been held, gives the mission statement, breaks down the subcommittees, and mentioned the creation of the website. The report states that Appendix A has been tabled.

Alan Tavenner asked to add the information gathering and the interviews of Fonda Chronis and Barb Schaffer to that report. Alicia Terry stated she will make an edit to the report to include the

suggested additions. The discussion for further analysis was tabled until the next meeting on June 14, 2021.

Eric Stein asked for clarification on how the Committee will identify small upstate county governments for comparison.

Alicia Terry stated that the County Administrator's office had gathered reports from the NYS Comptroller's office that categorized counties that have similar attributes.

Dan Crandell asked which the attributes were used by the NYS Comptroller's office to say the counties were comparable.

Steve Wilson and Fonda Chronis touched on some of those attributes – population, economic development, structural aspects, tax base, and economic makeup. Steve Wilson stated that it might be useful to keep an open mind on this topic. He stated that the County Administrator's office is working to have a more precise and more comparable list of counties which Steve Wilson hopes to have as early as July or August 2021.

Eric Stein suggested that the next area for discussion would be to pick the appropriate counties to look at and talk about how their model compares with ours.

Alicia Terry moved the meeting into the review of the AUD (Annual Fiscal Document). Steve Wilson introduced Fonda Chronis to walk the Committee through the AUD presentation.

Fonda Chronis discussed fund balances and reviewed the handout with the Committee.

Eric Stein asked if there would be a catch-up expense in 2021 from the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Fonda Chronis remarked that a reserve was just recently set up a reserve that was put off in 2020.

Dan Crandell briefed the committee on extensive supply limitations and price increases in building supplies and equipment parts.

Steve Wilson said it was a brutal year in extreme cost cutting. He believes there will be a backlog in cases for client focused departments. Steve Wilson and Bonnie Post discuss how the pandemic has affected the mental health department.

Steve Wilson discussed the furloughs and cuts that took place in 2020. Eric Stein asked if the 38 positions that were cut is where the Committee should focus on consolidating and increasing efficiency.

Steve Wilson believes the cutbacks caused more inefficiencies in the Schoharie County Government rather than created a benefit to the County. His hope is with the help of the Committee this will help avoid cuts like what was experienced last year.

Dan Crandell left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Alicia Terry briefed the Committee members on what they can expect at the next meeting. She stated that they will be meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Harold Vroman made a motion to adjourn, Alan Tavenner provided a second and the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Recorded by:
Kayla Redmond