



## **Tioga County Worksession Minutes** **May 19, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.**

### **Legislators Present:**

Legislator Brown  
Legislator Ciotoli  
Legislator Hollenbeck  
Legislator Monell  
Legislator Mullen  
Legislator Roberts  
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey  
Legislator Standinger (*Arrived at 10:20 a.m.*)  
Legislator Weston

### **Legislators Absent:**

None

### **Guests:**

Christine Curtis, IDA Executive Administrator (*Departed at 10:12 a.m.*)

### **Staff Present:**

Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk  
Peter DeWind, County Attorney (*Arrived at 10:02 a.m.*)  
Denis McCann, Director of Administrative Services (*Departed at 10:17 a.m.*)  
Mike Simmons, Director of Emergency Services (*Departed at 10:38 a.m.*)  
Lieutenant Adam Bessey, Tioga County Sheriff's Office (*Departed at 10:38 a.m.*)

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**SunEast Valley Solar Cost Benefit Analysis – IDA Executive Administrator:** IDA Executive Administrator, Christine Curtis, distributed a cost benefit analysis packet and a projection worksheet for SunEast Valley Solar project to the Legislators. Ms. Curtis reported the IDA has been negotiating with SunEast Valley Solar for over a year on the terms of a proposed PILOT solar energy farm on Montrose Turnpike in Owego. Ms. Curtis reported the following projections:

- Estimated total assessment based on 2020-2021 tax rate is \$4,375,823
- Total estimated Real Property Tax abatement is \$276,630 over 18-year PILOT period
- Company agreed to \$10,000 per Megawatt with projected 2% annual increase, which is the highest rate negotiated in the area
- Estimated total PILOT payments over 18 years is \$4,282,462

Legislator Roberts stated SunEast Valley Solar is asking for a PILOT as well as Real Property Tax abatement. Ms. Curtis reported the company is requesting a sales tax exemption estimated at \$748,540 at the local level as they are automatically exempt from New York State Tax. Ms. Curtis stated the proposed exemption was offered as an incentive to SunEast Valley to work with the IDA as opposed to the Town of Owego.

Ms. Curtis asked the Legislators for a Letter of Support for the PILOT project. Chair Sauerbrey reported in order to receive a Letter of Support on Legislature letterhead, all Legislators must agree to it. If that fails, the Letter of Support will default to the Chair of the Legislature's letterhead, but only if she supports the project. She explained that the project could still move ahead without the Letter of Support from the Legislature. Chair Sauerbrey and Legislators Mullen and Roberts stated they are not in favor of drafting a Letter of Support. The request for a Letter of Support was denied by the Legislature.

**Approval of Worksession Minutes:** On motion of Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Roberts, the May 5, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Action Items:** Currently, we have none.

### **Other:**

- **Remote Work Update:** Chair Sauerbrey reported there are 14 employees utilizing the current remote work policy, 7 in Public Health, 6 in ED&P, and 1 in IT. Chair Sauerbrey stated numerous departments are struggling to hire and retain employees. Some departments believe remote work arrangements may help recruit and retain employees. Chair Sauerbrey asked Public Health, Mental Hygiene, and Social Services to come up with a remote work plan that she could present to the Legislature. Director of Administrative Services, Denis McCann, reported he spoke with CSEA Union President, Lisa Baker, regarding potential remote work policy updates. Mr. McCann stated Ms. Baker agreed that not all positions are appropriate for remote work. According to Mr. McCann, Ms. Baker indicated department heads should have the authority and responsibility for remote work decisions as they know the needs of the department. Mr. McCann reported Ms. Baker agreed that remote work decisions are non-grievable for Union employees. Mr. McCann intends on speaking further with Ms. Baker about Union employees and remote work. He will report back to Chair Sauerbrey for full Legislature consideration at a later date.
- **911 Center Update:** Chair Sauerbrey attended a meeting with representatives from Motorola and key players within Tioga County, which went very well. She introduced Lieutenant Adam Bessey from the Tioga County Sheriff's Office, who oversees the 911 center. Lt. Bessey reported the 911 center is now using a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that also services 7 law enforcement agencies, 19 fire departments, and 6 EMS agencies throughout Tioga County. Training on the new CAD system began in October 2021 and continued until May 2022. Staff spent over 200 hours in training on the new system, which went live last week.

Lt. Bessey stated he was very pleased with the customer service, training, and support that Motorola provided Tioga County. The company sent five trainers to work on-site

throughout the county when the system went live. A customer success advocate will be conducting biweekly meetings for the next four months to make sure Tioga County has all the support necessary to successfully operate the system independently. After four months, Tioga County's IT department will be tasked to take over the support. However, the company will still be available to provide 24/7 support, if necessary. Lt. Bessey commended Tioga County's IT Deputy Director, Cuyler Kochin, for going above and beyond to assist in behind-the-scene IT work. Lt. Bessey thanked IT Director, Jeremy Loveland, for allowing Mr. Kochin to spend so much time on this project.

Lt. Bessey reported the CAD system is working great so far and is a vast improvement over the old system. Legislator Mullen agreed and is thrilled that the upgrades will help dispatchers and first responders. He is proud that Tioga County invested in the project and thanked Lt. Bessey for his hard work and dedication. Director of Emergency Services, Mike Simmons, stated he was pleased with the system as well. He reported dispatchers are responding to a record number of calls this year, particularly instances in which more than one police officer is needed. Lt. Bessey stated Tioga County dispatchers respond to about 125,000 phone calls per year. He invited the Legislators to tour the 911 dispatch center or take a virtual tour of the new CAD system.

Chair Sauerbrey stated the CAD system is just one part of the radio tower upgrade that will greatly benefit Tioga County dispatchers. The next step is hopefully securing a grant for the next phase of the project. Chair Sauerbrey reported Tioga County will move ahead with, or without the grant. Chair Sauerbrey thanked Lt. Bessey, Director of Emergency Services Mike Simmons, and County Attorney Peter DeWind for their hard work on this project.

- **Governor's Executive Order:** Chair Sauerbrey stated Governor Hochul signed an Executive Order, which would require every county in New York to develop and maintain a plan to identify threats of domestic terrorism. This plan must include input from law enforcement, mental health professionals, school officials, and other key stakeholders within their jurisdiction and be submitted to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Counterterrorism on or before December 31, 2022.
- **Personnel Officer Position:** Chair Sauerbrey reported Tioga County hired a Personnel Officer, Linda Parke, who will start on June 6, 2022.

**Executive Session:** With no confidential topics of discussion, an Executive Session was not necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy Eiklor*

Deputy Legislative Clerk