



## **Tioga County Worksession Minutes** **April 7, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.**

### **Legislators Present:**

Legislator Brown  
Legislator Ciotoli  
Legislator Hollenbeck  
Legislator Monell  
Legislator Mullen  
Legislator Roberts  
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey  
Legislator Standinger

### **Legislators Absent:**

Legislator Weston

### **Guests:**

Sarah VanVorst, CBH Medical Health Service Administrator (*Departed at 1:32 p.m.*)

### **Staff Present:**

Peter DeWind, County Attorney  
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk  
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk  
Gary Howard, Sheriff (*Departed at 1:32 p.m.*)  
Brian Cain, Probation Director (*Departed at 1:53 p.m.*)  
Elaine Jardine, Planning Director (*Arrived at 1:05 p.m. & Departed at 1:56 p.m.*)

**Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

**Jail Medical:** Sheriff Howard stated New York's mandatory Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program in the jail will significantly increase his budget. He estimated the extension in the program may result in his budget being exceeded by over \$100,000, not including the cost of medication. Sheriff Howard reported New York State had an allotment of over \$8.7 million to implement and fund the program, though Tioga County only received \$40,000. The Tioga County Jail currently contracts with CBH Medical to provide jail medical services to inmates.

Sheriff Howard introduced Sarah VanVorst, Health Service Administrator for CBH Medical. Ms. VanVorst reported she has worked in the Tioga County Jail and is familiar with the medical aspects of inmate care. She stated New York's Governor recently signed Legislation on the extension of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) that is anticipated to become effective on October 7, 2022. She explained MAT is an inmate treatment program for chemical

dependence and abuse using prescription medication from an authorized prescriber. After a medical screening, inmates that are determined to have a substance use disorder are offered placement in the program. The program must also be offered to incoming individuals already using a MAT program prior to incarceration. Ms. VanVorst explained currently, incarcerated addicts are monitored through the withdrawal process, which takes an average of five days. She reported there are currently five providers in Tioga County that are authorized to prescribe certain medication for opioid addiction. It is up to the provider to determine what medication the individual should be prescribed.

Along with medication, an opioid treatment program must be offered to inmates. Ms. VanVorst stated Tioga County has limited resources compared to Broome County. Changes to MAT also states that inmates not currently on the medication, have a right to be on it, though an assessment is required. Blood work, health history, and a physical are required steps to become eligible for the MAT program. As a result, jail medical staff have more paperwork, monitoring, and increased duties. Ms. VanVorst reported there is no way to predict what type of medication an individual is on when they become incarcerated. For example, methadone can only be prescribed by a methadone clinic and there is no clinic in Tioga County. As a result, inmates must be transported to Binghamton for treatment, which further adds to the cost and burden. Ms. VanVorst explained that the MAT program has essentially made jails an inpatient drug treatment program.

Chair Sauerbrey inquired if Tioga County's Mental Hygiene Department could help provide treatment services to inmates. Ms. VanVorst replied that Mental Hygiene is already helping with providers and telemedicine. A treatment plan is required along with medication under the MAT program. The estimated cost of medication is unknown as it's impossible to predict what medication and how many inmates will need to be enrolled in the program. Ms. VanVorst provided a very rough estimate on the cost of medication using last year's jail statistics. She estimated the cost of opioid medication per year is between \$15,000 and \$25,000. A 30-day supply of suboxone costs around \$112 per person. If a provider were to prescribe a monthly injection of sublocade, that would cost \$1,700 per person.

Legislator Standinger stated the contract with CBH Medical will have to be reviewed. Ms. VanVorst replied that the current contract does not include drug treatment services. In order to provide medical services under the MAT program, Ms. VanVorst would need additional assistance at least three times per week. One medication that is often prescribed requires monitoring for thirty minutes after it's administered. Sheriff Howard stated the current CBH contract has a \$50,000 per year cap on prescriptions. Last year, without the MAT program, the jail went over the cap by over \$6,000. County Attorney DeWind stated the CBH contract may have to be re-evaluated to have add-ons included for the additional services and medication. The Legislature thanked Ms. VanVorst for her presentation and information.

**CCE Request:** Chair Sauerbrey reported Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) Executive Director, T Hanson, asked if her staff could use the kitchen equipment in the basement at 56 Main Street. Chair Sauerbrey told Ms. Hanson that she would ask the Legislature what their stance is. Legislator Monell asked if CCE currently rents the basement space. Chair Sauerbrey replied no, they do not rent the space, but it is CCE's kitchen equipment.

Chair Sauerbrey reported CCE has insurance, will take care of the cleaning, and take out the garbage in the space. The kitchen space will have to first be inspected by Public Health before it can be used. Chair Sauerbrey stated the space has been vacant for quite some time and needs to be cleaned. Legislator Monell inquired what Tioga County's liability could potentially be. County Attorney DeWind responded that Tioga County has insurance but a lease or contract should be drafted.

Legislator Roberts asked if CCE's liability insurance was equal to Tioga County's liability insurance. County Attorney DeWind stated their liability insurance is less than Tioga County's. Chair Sauerbrey asked Legislator Brown, who is on CCE's Board of Directors, if he had any additional information on the request. He replied that it was touched upon at a meeting that staff may need to prepare items for farmer's markets, but had no additional information. Chair Sauerbrey asked Legislator Brown if he could gather more details and report back to the Legislature at the April 21 Worksession.

**Approval of Worksession Minutes:** On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Roberts, the March 24, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved by the Legislators in attendance.

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

**Legislative Support:** Legislative Clerk Haskell asked for approval of the March 10, 2022 Legislative Support committee minutes. On motion of Legislator Monell, seconded by Legislator Standing and unanimously carried, the minutes were approved.

Legislative Clerk Haskell reported the following:

- Local Law No. 3 of 2022 has been filed and the 45-day written communication notice was submitted to known carriers. A waiver was filed and approved by NYS Taxation & Finance allowing for a 30-day notice as opposed to a 90-day notice. Ms. Haskell reported Tioga County is on target for the collection start date of June 1, 2022.
- The mandatory Financial Disclosure form is to be submitted no later than May 15
- Ms. Haskell will attend the Legislative Clerk's Conference May 18 and May 19 in Cattaraugus County
- Ms. Haskell reported the Legislative Clerk's goals from the 2016 Strategic Plan have all been met as most pertained to the implementation of Munis
- Ms. Haskell stated every year, she asks the Legislators for a collection to go towards a Legislator Fund, which is then used for contributions towards retirements or funerals. Ms. Haskell keeps all receipts and has an excel spreadsheet to track expenses. There is currently a carryover of \$45 from last year.

**Resolutions:** Ms. Haskell reviewed the agenda and resolutions for the April 12, 2022 Legislature meeting with discussion occurring on the following:

- **Appropriation of Funds and Budget Modification Tioga County Veterans' Service Agency:** Ms. Haskell reported Tioga County's Veterans' Service Agency (TCVSA) received a grant to set-up and implement a model national program in collaboration with the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties. The two-year grant of \$70,000 is meant to assist transitioning service members and veterans as they shift from military to civilian life. The disbursement schedule is still unknown but it's possible that TCVSA may receive \$40,000 in year one and \$30,000 in year two. The resolution is written so the full \$70,000 can be appropriated now.
- **Authorization to Create and Fill Two (2) Positions: Assistant Fire Coordinator (PT) Emergency Services:** Ms. Haskell stated this resolution was slightly modified to include the two names of the individuals filling the positions.
- **Create and Fill Temporary Position (Public Works):** Ms. Haskell reported this resolution went through Public Works and Personnel Committees this morning. Through discussion at both committees, the resolution was revised to increase the hourly salary to \$18.96 per hour. The salary was approved by both committees.
- **Appointment of Republican Deputy Commissioner of Elections Board:** Ms. Haskell stated the candidate is coming over from the County Clerk's Office, which will cause a vacancy in that department.

Ms. Haskell reported the following resolutions were presented as a stand-alone resolutions:

- **Authorize Vacation Time Advance for Lisa Baker - Probation Officer:** Ms. Haskell reported this resolution was discussed in Executive Session at the Public Safety committee. Probation Director, Brian Cain, stated his employee is having medical issues and her accruals may not cover her entire medical leave of absence due to prior unforeseen medical absences. The employee is requesting an advance of her earned vacation time to cover the remaining portion of her leave. The employee's anniversary date is May 12, upon which her vacation time would normally become available. The resolution states that advanced vacation hours used shall immediately be deducted from the employee's balance on May 12, 2022 when her earned time is made available. The Legislators had no objection to the resolution and agreed to include it in the April 12, 2022 agenda packet.
- **Authorize Submission of Appalachian Regional Commission Power Grant Application:** Ms. Haskell stated this resolution came out of Economic Development and Planning and was discussed at the ED&P committee meeting, though was originally going to be presented in May. However, following committee, it was discovered that the grant due date was in April. Planning Director, Elaine Jardine, reported the due date is April 29 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are currently available. Ms. Jardine explained the purpose of the dark fiber grant is to bring broadband up Route 38 in the Village of Owego to Route 79 in Richford. Chair Sauerbrey stated the unique aspect of the grant is that the fiber lines will go up the Industrial Development Agency's railroad, thus avoiding a State right-of-way, which would cost Tioga County around \$75,000 annually to use. The resolution authorizes ED&P to apply for the grant. The Legislators were in favor of the resolution and agreed to include it in the April 12, 2022 agenda packet.

## Other:

- **Grant Released:** Chair Sauerbrey reported New York State finally released the grant application for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant. She is hopeful Tioga County will be awarded funds to update their communication towers and equipment.
- **Legislator Agendas and Documents:** Chair Sauerbrey stated Legislators are currently receiving paper copies of documents that will be discussed at committee meetings. She asked her fellow Legislators if they would like to continue to receive paper copies or would consider electronic copies. After a brief discussion, it was determined Legislators Weston and Roberts will continue to receive paper copies for committees. Legislator Mullen requested paper copies for the Health & Human Services committee only. The Legislators agreed departments may forgo paper copies at committee meetings only if they are able to project on the TV in the Legislative Conference Room. Also, the Legislators agreed to receive paper agendas for the Tuesday Regular Meetings and the resolutions for review will only be projected at the first Worksession. Ms. Haskell will draft an email to department heads notifying them they no longer need to provide paper copies to all Legislators and that information can be projected in the Legislative Conference Room.

**Executive Session:** Eight Legislators were present. County Attorney DeWind and Legislative Clerk Haskell remained in attendance. Motion by Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations at 2:03 p.m. Motion carried. Executive Session adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy Eiklor*

Deputy Legislative Clerk