

**September 28, 2006  
Meeting Minutes****Location**

6<sup>th</sup> Floor Legislative Conference Room, Broome County Office Building, 44 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY

**Attendance**

**Constituent Members:** Supervisor Debbie Preston, Town of Conklin; Supervisor Mike Marinaccio, Town of Dickinson; Lois Dilworth, Town of Barker; Mayor Joan Hickey Pulse, Village of Endicott; Mayor Kevin Burke, Village of Port Dickinson; Supervisor Margaret Turna, Town of Chenango

**Associate Members:** Dr. Joseph Busch, Broome-Tioga BOCES

**Other Attendees:** Darcy Fauci, Broome County Executive's Office; Clare Simeone, Jean Gow, Louise Vanderkulk, League of Women Voters; Rich Dilworth; Henry Weissmann, Broome County Public Works; David Hamlin, Town of Fenton; Emil Bielecki, Town of Vestal; Gail Domin, Broome County Department of Planning & Economic Development;

**Convene**

Supervisor Debbie Preston convened the meeting at 4:05 PM.

Supervisor Preston Debbie said that flood recovery and shared services efforts would be the agenda. An article on "FEMA Follies" regarding unused FEMA trailers in Arkansas was distributed.

Henry Weissmann updated the Council on scheduling for removal and clean up of fuel tanks in mobile home parks in Conklin, Kirkwood (all clean), Sanford & Union. Supervisor Preston thanked the County for effort.

Commissioner Weissmann reported on the re-distribution of Town funding commitments for the Dog Shelter. He explained it was based on population and that the City of Binghamton and the Town of Union were the two municipalities that would have to sustain the biggest increase. There was "reserve" money to help those with increases to help "soften the blow" until it could be budgeted in. The \$10 license fees were now to be kept in the Towns (not given to County) and that would help. Some town funding commitments would decrease.

Executive Assistant Darcy Fauci reported on recent flood meeting and reiterated the Planning Department's request to have all municipalities participate in the Hazard Mitigation Program. Also, Senator Libous' office is unable to collect specific data (or move things as quickly as before) on the State Grant for flood victims due to confidentiality concerns. However, if individuals contact his office with their particular concerns he would forward them directly to New York State Department of Labor for current status. There was a discussion about the deadline for filing for flood aid. She also discussed the new NYS Small Cities grant that the County received that will be made available to flood victims. There will be a maximum of \$2,500 per family available and there are a lot of criteria that must be met to be eligible. The Planning Department is working with the Red Cross to distribute the funds.

Supervisor Preston asked if anyone would be submitting applications for the Shared Services grant. Supervisor Margaret Turna said that the Town of Chenango and the County would be submitting an application for a shared salt storage facility. They are seeking letters of support from surrounding municipalities as well. Executive Assistant Darcy Fauci noted that Jeremy Evans and Pat Brennan were working on a couple of proposals. Supervisor Preston said she received an email from Jeremy on what the Department of Planning was resubmitting the grant application that was rejected in the previous round and that they would be asking municipalities to pass a revised resolution. She added that she hoped someone from Broome County would receive a grant this round.

Supervisor Preston said that the Council needs to continue working on shared services. The Court Surveys that were sent out should be completed and returned.

Supervisor Preston mentioned that at one time the Council talked about looking at the bylaws. She suggested that a committee be created to work on the bylaws. She asked for volunteers.

Supervisor Mike Marinaccio explained that the committee would review the bylaws line by line and suggest changes to the full Council.

Supervisor Preston stated that shared services efforts were even more important now with the flood cost challenges. She thanked the County and other municipalities for their assistance to Conklin with debris removal equipment and labor and wanted to make sure she had the "bills" for these services for FEMA reimbursement.

Supervisor Marinaccio mentioned that even though there are often informal arrangements to share services, everything should be drawn up in legal contract form. The Town of Dickinson has formal agreements in place.

The question was raised on estimates of tax revenue losses and population changes from the flood. Executive Assistant Darcy Fauci stated that Rita had developed "worse case" estimated impacts based on number of homes lost but it was agreed it would be a best estimate until more data is collected. Supervisor Preston estimated Conklin's loss would be approximately \$17 million of assessed value but that the Town was actively seeking new development to offset the businesses and residential losses that were expected. Senator Libous has two pending acts of

legislation he was working on. One to address the elimination of sales tax on replacement items for flood properties and one addressing reassessment of flood damaged properties for tax relief.

Discussion followed that \$22 million for property buy-outs was not enough. Supervisor Preston also described the deadlines and expected responses from SEMO & FEMA regarding buy-out applications. She said that agreements may come in January.

Supervisor Preston said that FEMA would be visiting properties that had trailers to assess the ability for the families to move back into their homes or if they would need to be put up in apartments. Those housing costs, if incurred, would be deducted from their individual grant awards.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that he was looking for funds to build floodgates in three areas where water backed up in Town of Dickinson. It was mentioned that many road ditches still had debris in them and that the County and DOT were working diligently on that but if there was a specific section that anyone was particularly concerned about to make it known. FEMA will be working with public works departments for a long time.

Lois asked about further movement on Health Insurance shared services. Executive Assistant Darcy Fauci stated that Mr. Brigatti, who has been working on the issue with the County, was having difficulty collecting specific information on employees from the municipalities due to privacy issues. The Council suggested Deputy County Executive Pat Brennan get more information from Mr. Brigatti.

Mayor Joan Hickey Pulse mentioned that in the Village of Endicott the airport and the water treatment plant were damaged in the flood.

The Council concluded that Supervisors Mike Marinaccio, Debbie Preston, Margaret Turna, Lois Dilworth, and Mayor Kevin Burke would form a bylaws committee.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM

Recorded and edited by: Gail Domin & Jeremy Evans  
Approved by: Debra A. Preston