



Onondaga County Legislature

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Chairman

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CONSENSUS REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE **May 4, 2017** **Kevin Holmquist, Chairman**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Ulatowski, Mr. Whorrall, Mr. Sgromo, Ms. Boyle, Ms. Hudson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Kinne
ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jordan, Mr. Carni
ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Knapp
ALSO PRESENT: Chairman McMahon; *See attached list*

Chairman Holmquist called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Andrew Trombley, Director, Division of Purchase:

Mr. Trombley provided the following:

Chairman McMahon and members of the Shared Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning. The consolidated purchasing program in Onondaga County is a great example of what can be accomplished when municipalities work together to become more efficient, more effective and cheaper for our taxpayers. Since 2011, the Division of Purchase has served the following customers in a consolidated Purchasing Model:

*Onondaga County
The City of Syracuse
The Syracuse City School District (2011/2015)
The Syracuse Regional Airport Authority (2014)
Otsego County- (2016)*

This program has been a huge success in Onondaga County. Our County is now considered a statewide leader in consolidated Purchasing services. We are regularly asked to present on our successes to other Counties, and we are actively involved in helping Towns and Villages throughout the County whenever called upon.

Just in my time in Purchasing we have saved thousands of dollars for the County's local governments by conducting, at no charge, Bids or Request for Proposals for our municipalities. Some of those include: the Villages of East Syracuse, Liverpool, North Syracuse, and Camillus, the Towns of Clay and Cicero, the Dewitt Fire Company, and the Northern Onondaga Public Library. This year alone we have worked closely with Clay on an RFP for new IT and Technology upgrades, as well as Liverpool's new stage covering for the Monday night Concert Series in Johnson Park.

There are several points I believe are relevant to your ongoing discussion that I will briefly touch on:

1) Fear - County Executive Mahoney, County Legislators the Syracuse Common Council and the Mayor should all be applauded for having the courage to actually move forward with this program, rather than just talk about it. They did not let the fear of the "unknown" stop them from moving our community forward. This consolidation was discussed for YEARS, losing the opportunity to save millions of dollars. Volume Purchasing allows our Department to do two key things:

- 1) Volume discounts for goods and services drives pricing down for everyone*
- 2) Professional Purchasing staff specialize in commodities and can solve problems quicker, more efficiently, and save all customers time and money.*

2) Loss of "local"- I believe that if you ask the leadership of each municipality- folks like Budget Director Mary Vossler, SCSD CFO Suzanne Slack, Otsego Board Chair Cathy Clark, and others, they would tell you that this program serves them well. CFO Slack recently was quoted as saying the SCSD gets their Purchasing needs met "quicker, more professionally and more efficiently." Larger Governments don't necessarily mean a loss of "local" anymore. Yes, some things will change-

in our case the Purchasing agent is at the end of a phone or email, rather than down the hall- but I ask you - who really visits Purchasing anyway? Most correspondence will be electronic in the 21st Century- sometimes bigger is actually better.

In terms of Procurement from “local” vendors - I will just offer you this- local vendors should welcome the opportunity to compete for and grow their business through a large volume contract, not competing for just the small dollar awards from individual municipalities.

3) Long Term Commitments are Required

All of these customers have entered into Inter-municipal Agreements to provide Purchasing Services, in a seamless, efficient system. In my view, our office serves as a “Department” to each of those municipalities to the provide services required. It is important that municipalities commit to this model for the long term. We cannot allow political or personal differences, or as in my case, an individual Department Head’s wishes for a particular brand or vendor, to undermine a successful program. As we saw with the Economic Development office, years of cooperation should not be wiped away because someone dislikes an outcome - politics should be left out of the discussion.

I have provided you some brief supporting documentation to review outlining the program and some of our successes. I am willing to bet the average taxpayer doesn’t know that over 70 municipalities in the County already interact with or use the County’s Purchasing Services, that we sell your junk or provide them the best contract for manila folders and pens. I highly doubt that many of the recommendations you are considering will impact those taxpayers any more than the Purchasing Consolidation has, except maybe their overall tax bills will go down- and that is a good thing.

I hope that this body takes the message back to their respective membership that there are real costs to inaction, I hope you move quickly to take advantage of the opportunities to save money whenever they are presented, and not worry about every idea being vetted to the end of time before a decision is finally reached. There will always be details to be worked out, and small speed bumps along the consolidated road, as well as, again in my case, day-to-day issues associated with running a service Department, but the average taxpayer cares nothing about these things. They expect us to do our jobs and find ways to save them money. Do not let millions of dollars in savings pass us by because those who yell loudest are the only ones heard.

Thank you and I am happy to take questions.

Shared Purchasing Services in Onondaga County

JOANNE M. MAHONEY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANDREW TROMBLEY, DIRECTOR



2016 Requisition Expenditures

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Total Reqs</u>	<u>Total Spend</u>
ONGOV	8,515	\$240,845,783
SYAIR	412	\$1,730,267
SYGOV	3,667	\$46,166,952
OTGOV	31	\$499,677

Period: 1/1/2016 to 12/31/2016 Source: Peoplesoft

Saving local municipalities time and money through shared contracts and leveraging volume savings to benefit Onondaga County’s taxpayers.

2015 Bid Expenditures

Onondaga County	\$103,193,286
City of Syracuse	\$3,915,498
SCSD	\$1,538,745
Town of Clay	\$156,012
Airport Authority	\$90,000

In 2015, 441 bids were managed on behalf of Onondaga County, City of Syracuse, Syracuse City School District, Otsego County, Syracuse Regional Airport Authority and Onondaga County Towns and Villages



Surplus Sales and Auctions

<u>Month-2015</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January	\$107,156
February	\$83,766
March	\$64,355
April	\$44,898
May	\$136,944
June	\$165,699
July	\$291,560
YTD TOTAL SALES	\$894,408

Note:
 2016 Totals:
 \$1,771,338
 Current YTD
 Sales:
 \$347, 880

Participants

Baldwinsville Central School District	North Syracuse CSD	Town of Lysander
Bridgeport Fire Department	OCCRA	Town of Manlius
City of Syracuse	OCM Boces	Town of Otisco
East Syracuse Minoa CSD	Onondaga Community College	Town of Salina
East Syracuse Police Department	Onondaga County Surplus	Town Spafford
Fabius-Pompey CSD	Onondaga CSD	Town of Tully
Fayetteville-Manlius CSD	Skaneateles CSD	Tully CSD
Jamesville-DeWitt CSD	Syracuse CSD	Village of Camillus
LaFayette CSD	Syracuse Housing Authority	Village of East Syracuse
LaFayette Fire Dept.	Town of Camillus	Village of Fayetteville
Liverpool CSD	Town of Cicero	Village of Liverpool
Liverpool Public Library	Town of Clay	Village of Minoa
Liverpool Fire Dept.	Town of DeWitt	Village of North Syracuse
Marcellus CSD	Town of DeWitt Fire Dept.	Village of Solvay
Marcellus Fire Dept.	Town of Geddes	West Genesee SD
		Westhill SD



Shared Services Participants

Onondaga County Volume Savings, Purchasing and/or Contracting Administration

Baldwinsville CSD
 Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department
 Town of DeWitt
 Bridgeport Fire Department
 Town of Elbridge
 City of Syracuse
 Town of Fabius
 Clay Fire Department
 Town of Geddes
 Fairmount Fire Department
 Town of LaFayette
 Fayetteville Fire Department
 Town of Marcellus
 Fayetteville Manlius Central Schools
 North Onondaga Public Library
 Town of Onondaga
 Town of Salina
 Jamesville Dewitt Central Schools
 Town of Spafford
 Jordan-Elbridge Schools
 Town of Skaneateles
 Kirkville Fire Department
 Liverpool Central Schools
 Liverpool Fire Department
 Onondaga Hill Fire Department
 Phoenix Fire Department
 Plainville Fire Department
 Seneca River Fire Department
 Skaneateles Fire Department
 Syracuse City School District
 Taunton Fire Department

Seneca River Fire Department
 Skaneateles Fire Department
 Town of Camillus
 Town of Cicero
 Town of Clay
 North Onondaga Library System
 Town of DeWitt
 Town of Elbridge
 Town of Fabius
 Town of Geddes
 Town of LaFayette
 Town of Marcellus
 Town of Onondaga
 Town of Salina
 Town of Spafford
 Town of Skaneateles
 Town of Van Etten
 Town of Tully
 Tully Central School
 Village of Baldwinsville
 Village of Camillus
 Village of East Syracuse
 Village of Fayetteville
 Village of Jordan
 Village of Liverpool
 Village of Manlius
 Village of Marcellus
 Village of Minoa
 Village of North Syracuse
 Village of Solvay
 Village of Skaneateles

Volume Discount Participants

Amherst Central Schools
 Broome County
 Town of Amherst
 City of Albany DPW
 Town of Berne
 City of Lockport
 Town of Clay
 County of Cayuga
 Town of East Greenbush
 County of Erie
 Town of Greece
 County of Genesee
 Town of Hannibal
 County of Ontario
 Town of Hunter
 County of Orleans
 Town of Kent
 County of St. Lawrence

Town of Lewiston
 Genesee County BOCES
 Town of Livonia
 Job Training Partnership
 Town of Newfane
 Lockport City Schools
 Town of Schodack
 Madison County
 Village of Genesee
 Monroe #1 BOCES
 Village of Groton
 Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES
 Village of Johnson
 North Syracuse CSD
 Webster Central Schools
 OCM BOCES
 Wheatland-Chili CSD



Mr. Jordan:

- Asked about the difference between the two columns; do the volume discount participants buy off of our contracts but the county is not actually doing the purchasing for them

Mr. Trombley:

- Everybody accesses the program at different levels; a town/village may use the office supplies contract but not have full service arrangement, i.e. have IMA with Town of Clay, did an RFP for them; they use contracts when they see fit but may not do it for everything
- Goals is to put every town/village in as a customer with an actual business unit log in
- PeopleSoft is used – each customer has a business unit – there are 4 in PeopleSoft: Ongov, Cigov, Otgov, SyAir – can build one for each town/village and have them come in through PeopleSoft, actually requesting the item or service they need
- Currently can't tell who used what and when without going back to the vendor
- Office supply contract – vendor uses an electronic ordering system and are able to produce reports quickly; county spends about \$700k on office supplies; another \$1.5 million goes on beyond the total of the contract (outside of PeopleSoft) beyond what the Purchasing office can account for
- Going back out to bid this year will include the \$1.5 million extra potential in sales – vendors should be aware when they compete for our business
- OfficeMax has done a good job of selling our contract to other people; would like us to be able to do it ourselves to some degree; by quantifying savings--able to go out and put a hard number on things
- Have a database available to anybody; will send out a CD of attachments of all available contracts to any municipality that asks us to – they are welcome to access them
- Continue to evolve the program, as the software gets more advance, are able to do more things with it
- If one municipality came in and becomes an actual business unit of ours and uses the system, it would be a huge step forward for the consolidated services purchasing program

Mr. Jordan:

- Referred to the two columns and said he is not sure what the difference is between the two categories

Mr. Trombley:

- The right hand side are non-Onondaga County that are using our contracts that we are able to identify
- The other side are Onondaga County municipalities that we have been able to identify that are using the contracts

Mr. Jordan:

- Are the volume discount participants having us do their purchasing for them or just buying off our contracts

Mr. Trombley:

- Just buying off of our contracts
- A lot of that work is done by the vendor selling our contract; we put out a contract and it is used by the municipalities that we serve, any others are being made sure they are aware of it -- the others are being sold by the vendors

Mr. Jordan:

- Volume discount participants – we aren't providing any services; they buy off our contract

Mr. Trombley agreed.

Mr. Ulatowski:

- We are the only one that is doing it (Clay)

Mr. Trombley:

- The only one with a signed IMA ; there is opportunity for more
- Now that the city has come into PeopleSoft, it has made a huge difference to us because everyone is on the same platform, with the exception of the school district – they run a separate PeopleSoft system
- Have 11 buyers – 1 person buys cars, 1 person buys paper – talk to different buyers; specialized and provide quicker answers
- In moving into a national cooperative contracting model – vendors are very aggressive and will go to a town or village
- Our staff knows where to look and whether or not a national contract is valid or not

Mr. Sgromo:

- Is it like the state contracts where you can get on a state bid contract and buy an item that has been bid out by the state, utilizing a different vendor if you want

Mr. Trombley:

- State law now allows piggybacking – allowed to purchase off of other municipalities' public bids
- State has many, some they do well, some not as well
- i.e. salt – our price of salt/ton is lower than if bought off of state contract because we took city's volume, all towns and villages and put it all together; proximity to salt mine made it cheaper
- My offices uses national and state contracts; towns/villages put out their own and we may look at those – look to figure out if it is the best price
- National contract is easier – you just buy it, don't have to do a procurement – that's attractive to a smaller entity (provided an example – Milton CAT generators)

Mr. Jordan:

- How does it get to the end users – if buying for 5 municipalities, does it all get delivered to us

Mr. Trombley:

- Our system has a bill to address – can bill to one place and can ship to a dozen different places

Mr. Jordan:

- Doesn't that increase the cost of the contract – having to deliver to multiple locations

Mr. Trombley:

- It's built into the contract – they want our volume; they want that sale; they'll deliver wherever we need them to
- If you tried to use our county salt contract and deliver to Cooperstown, they would obviously balk at that, but within the county we enforce those terms for all of our customers

Mr. Jordan:

- Erie County is 2-2.5 hrs. away – if it's built into the per unit price they are charging, wouldn't they charge a delivery charge or increase their per unit rates to counter the fact they are driving 2 hours

Mr. Trombley:

- That vendor is OfficeMax--have an OfficeMax in Erie County—they are using our contract dollar terms
- It may not be a local vendor here
- Office Max uses our contract, goes into Erie County and says that Onondaga's contract can save you money
- We take that volume, put it into the bid and educate the next round – drive the prices even lower
- In the time we have done office supplies we have gone from in the 50% off discount into the 60's and almost 70's – up to 68.5% off – hoping to go to 70% off at the next bid

Mr. Jordan:

- Regarding salt rate being lower for us because we are closer to the salt mines – there aren't salt mines in every corner store – how will it work for that

Mr. Trombley:

- Each contract we make an informed decision as a municipality with the vendor; don't enforce terms outside of Onondaga County on salt contract
- Do enforce the pricing terms for things like office supplies
- Salt – everybody within the county, if they chose to participate, can get salt at our price

Mr. Jordan:

- What about Erie Co.

Mr. Trombley:

- They aren't going to buy off of our salt contract

Mr. Sgromo:

- They could utilize the bid price – it as a publically bid contract
- A lot of our municipalities use it for i.e. milling and paving; they bid it out every year; it is a set bid price
- To hire an engineering firm to go out and rebid the thing makes no sense – typically not large enough projects to justify the extra cost of re-doing the bidding and everything
- Sometimes it makes sense; sometimes it doesn't – have to be careful – sometimes there is a special circumstance and it doesn't fall neatly into that bid

Mr. Trombley:

- If a town of villages has a struggle with a vendor, let us know so they can address it
- Will enforce our terms to every municipality within Onondaga County

Chairman Holmquist:

- What objections do you hear from some the municipalities that don't want to participate

Mr. Trombley:

- Issue of local control and local vendors are the two things they hear the most
- Can fight for the small dollar amount within a small municipality, not going to support a business long term
- If it were taken away, it might be a significant hit to their bottom line, but shouldn't be the breaking point
- If aware that there is a local vendor in a municipality, we want to solicit them and give them opportunity to compete for our business; hopefully if we award them a contract, they can grow and get bigger
- Regarding local – most town engineers and town attorneys don't live in the municipality they are representing –
- Don't have to necessarily live in the community—"have to let the rising tide carry all our boats up"; if it happens to be a vendor from out of town that gets the lowest price, it's going to pay off in the long run for our taxpayers
- Regarding local control – every town/village board gets the final say; my job is to process then procure – turn over the documents of what came in; if asked to evaluate it and give feedback, I will
- Clay IT bid – that's what we did – processed it, made sure everything was done correctly, an addendum went out on time; document came back in – we own that --- if there is an objection to it, we are responsible to making sure we are defending it; at the end Clay Board made the determination on the award of that RFP – not taking away their decision making power
- Office supplies -- have to buy from OfficeMax, if you want to buy off the county's contract – can go out and do it yourself, but won't save as much money; recommends taking small losses for a bigger win

Chairman Holmquist:

- Any other objection, other than wanting to buy local

Mr. Trombley:

- Not substantially
- I'm an administrative department – want to make sure they give everybody the "or equivalent" standard in the purchasing law.

Mr. Fisher:

- Describe misconception with towns/villages that if they use your services, they have to use our accounting system

Mr. Trombley:

- Every customer in our PeopleSoft system has a different level of use on the financial side
- City has their entire financial package, all accounting done in PeopleSoft; fully functional, 100% from order to receipt to voucher to payment
- Other clients, i.e. airport, only using our system for purchasing – no accounting; they take the purchasing procurement process and move it into their financial system – use our purchasing system to get the lowest price and pay it in their system
- In between – Otsego has a partial – account string where their treasurer's office makes sure there is money available and we don't waste time procuring things for them that they don't have the money to pay for
- Clay – took paper document, put it out on the street, put it out to vendors; it came back and was handled on paper – no financials
- Prefer a model in PeopleSoft, but will continue to provide bids and RFPs as one-off as necessary

Mr. Fisher:

- Describe the Amazon experience – buyers can go in and pick off a category

Mr. Trombley:

- Punch outs – close with several bigger vendors (i.e. OfficeMax, Granger, having conversations with Amazon)
- Click item and move to shopping cart – skip actual data entry portion of what PeopleSoft is
- As long as the contract is valid, my office will continue that oversight, it will move immediately to a purchase order

Mr. Trombley:

- Clarify – anybody that wants to come in can do so at any of the levels--with no accounting all the way through full accounting; if is more design and requirements in the IT department, but are totally willing to do if for a town/village if they want to be a full participant
- Having just us do the purchasing would be great too--“here’s your 3 quotes and this is the low, enter it into your system and away you go”

Mr. Jordan:

- Is it offered to non-Onondaga County?

Mr. Trombley:

- Not for free

Mr. Jordan:

- How do we determine what we charge them?

Mr. Trombley:

- We look at their volume and try to determine how much work it’s going to cost for us
- Otsego County – paying us to do work that I’m willing to do for your towns/villages for free; they give us a little bit of money; average 400 requisitions a year – we do that in a busy week
- As PeopleSoft gets us more and more efficient, and some of the national contracts drive down prices to that point that we don’t have to do as much work ourselves in terms of bids, we need to find ways to either generate income or reduce staff – have to keep everybody busy
- If a bunch of towns/village come in, it would be great – no fees to towns/villages, but more work for our office
- Could see real savings for taxpayers in those towns/villages without actually incurring any additional cost on the county side

Chairman McMahan:

- What do you think the capacity is--where we could have almost full relationships with towns/village; already have that with the city – i.e. If 8 supervisors said this was a good idea, what is the capacity right now

Mr. Trombley:

- Not there yet – can’t answer specifically because don’t know what they are buying or what their volume would be
- Town of Clay is the same size as Otsego County – to equate with them – 400 requisitions for the county
- County is 35 departments and does a lot a of things that the town doesn’t do; 95% of the stuff the town does, we are already doing
- It may be just a matter of procuring it correctly – then checking boxes, approving things, putting Purchasing stamp on it
- If it’s a unique situation where a town/village doesn’t have the same needs that we do, and have to change our model with a different set of commodities, it might be a little bit more but doesn’t think that’s the case – thinks most could be absorbed within the existing contracts
- Wouldn’t need to add staff anytime soon

Chairman McMahan:

- Looks at this like a real success story
- If we roll this out and 3 towns got in, 2 had a good experience, but 1 had a bad, that may saddle the progress overall
- How would you be able to determine what it is – would you have to meet with municipalities and figure out what they are doing

Mr. Trombley:

- Would look at their budget and how many users would have to access the system
- A very successful implementation with the city; I was the lead on the implementation from the city – we learned from the things that we didn’t do so well in the County -- how to train the City better and the city purchasing process goes very well
- Basically would look at population and budget and would say “this is how many requisitions I think they are going to need”

- Each year we requisition a little bit less – figure out the 5-6 customers are buying the same thing and put it on a contract; instead of doing several purchase orders for one-offs, we do an annual purchase order and they buy off it multiple times
- Continue to gain efficiency in the model by having educated, informed buyers making good decisions

Chairman Holmquist:

- Do you any type of an outreach in terms of municipalities that haven't signed on, do you have them scheduled regularly and go back and revisit?

Mr. Trombley:

- Will go wherever I'm invited – not out making sales calls, but will come and present if someone wants it
- Dan Wears, EMS, asked me to speak to the Fire Association – it went pretty well – some situations are unique and hard to standardize with firefighters - wants firefighters to have what they want and need
- Happy to speak to any group – will demo the model to anyone who is interested at any time
- Did presentation last year to Mayors Association – outcome led to Liverpool using Purchasing to purchase their canopy
- Did consolidated application with the State with a grant program – brought in several towns/villages who were taking advantage of the tax cap savings; some have stayed with us

Chairman Holmquist:

- Looks like a good list – 12 villages participating, 3 that aren't; 15 towns participating, 4 that aren't

Ms. Boyle:

- In terms of staffing, should this benefit the schools

Mr. Trombley:

- The city is a parent to the school district; the school district had 5-6 buyers and 3-4 clerical staff
- They were entering requisitions, but because the city was a parent, we had to review and approve them in my office as the city purchasing agent.
- A lot of times my buyers were calling their buyers saying "what happened here – we don't quite understand it"; it was taking a a lot of time.
- In 2015 the school district agreed to pay the county, which got more efficient and brought over some income
- We brought over 3 of their buyers and 1 clerk; we were able to flatten out the model again so that the school district staff that came over buys in the county system and school district system.
- It's been a very successful relationship; have added that buying power into ours.

Ms. Boyle:

- City School District added \$200,000 to their budget this year for purchasing for staff
- Are you looking to add more school districts?

Mr. Trombley:

- We would – a lot of school districts purchase through BOCES
- City School district's biggest struggle using PeopleSoft, which is a separate system than ours, is that they have a casual requisition process whereby they have clerks or secretaries at each individual building trying to enter requisitions into PeopleSoft while answering the phone, with a parent, or a kid coming in to get disciplined by the principal
- Their teachers are paper requisitioning and putting them in a basket – sometimes sits weeks or months
- The information coming in has been difficult for us to process; difficulty for the school districts on the administrative side because they have several grant approvals and other things they have to dedicate to budget lines
- We talked to the school district about centralizing their requisitioning, their data entry – specialty leads to better outcomes
- School district made a decision to centralize their requisition function; they are going to pay the county to do it
- They chose us because they felt like we have done it before and have the expertise, and would be cheaper than trying to stand up their own unit, train them, and teach them how to enter requisition
- It was an efficiency gained for the schools; right now we struggle with getting the school district information through our system efficiently and correctly and it leads to a lot of issues.
- If this went through, we believe they will save a lot of time and quite a bit of money – no longer are we troubleshooting the data entry, we are actually doing the purchasing work

Ms. Boyle:

- Do you run into that with the other large school districts or fire departments?

Mr. Trombley:

- No – they don't use our system; right now this is them just using us casually off of our contracts – don't actually have a business relationship with us

- People who do the same job over and over again get good at it; people who do it once a week are not as great at it

Ms. Boyle:

- Can we use this toward purchasing health care?

Mr. Trombley:

- Health care is a very complicated model; I don't participate in the decision of who accesses health care and who doesn't.

Mr. Fisher:

- It goes to a 3rd party administrator; nothing to bar the County and City from getting together to put out an RFP

Chairman McMahon:

- Aren't we in the process of putting one out?

Mr. Fisher:

- We are, but based on informal conversation, I wouldn't expect the current regime to take part in it

Chairman McMahon:

- What if some of the other municipalities wanted to talk about it – couldn't we do that?

Mr. Fisher:

- Absolutely; County is still a member of Onondaga County Employee Benefits Assoc., but don't buy through it – other towns/village do
- A number of things could be standardized – plan benefits, indemnity plans, post retirees – what they contribute or what their plan looks like
- Rather than each municipality coming up with their own thing, having challenges of getting legislatures to agree, could standardize across the county and save quite a bit of money on post retiree health

Chairman McMahon:

- When I was a city councilor, our retired police offices didn't pay anything toward a health plan; that model doesn't work; council had to take votes
- This is an outlet where if all of the municipalities got together this organization could set post retirement contribution rates; could get better returns
- Downside is that the retiree is going to be upset, but at some point these things have to go up

Mr. Ulatowski:

- Great idea, but the problem is that most municipalities in Onondaga County have contracts with unions
- Would have to get them all to expire at the same time to make it work, or provide the option that if a contract expires, at that time they can come on board at a fixed price

Mr. Fisher:

- County post retiree benefits are not in the collective bargaining agreement – are matters of legislative decisions
- Negotiated with CSEA – going to 16% Jan 1; 18% next year; 20% the year after
- We don't negotiate with retirees – legislature can say that as CSEA goes up, retirees goes up

Mr. Ulatowski:

- Looking at broader perspective – active and post retirees
- Town of Clay did that – had ability to carve it out and not subject to collective bargaining

Chairman Holmquist recognized that Bob Andrews, OCWA was present and thanked him for attending. He announced that Mike Hooker, OCWA, will speak to the committee at the next meeting.

Chairman Holmquist reminded the committee that there is an aggressive time line. The other committee has a deadline of August 1st. Because we have to move pretty quickly, future agendas for May and June will be dictated by availability of the people on our list -- water at the next meeting. Regarding purchasing or anything else that has been discussed, if member have any ideas, or recommendations, please email them to Sue Stanczyk, as we will have to wrap up in June.

Chairman McMahon said that what is unique about this committee is that the members are all policy makers. The other committee has a process that the state has put down. Essentially at any point, any person with any recommendation that impacts them, can opt out. If the county executive's report, that comes to the legislature, recommends that the City of Syracuse should do something, the City has an executive branch and a legislative branch. The executive on that committee can say "we aren't doing anything", but that's not the end of the day – there is a Common Council that can say that this is something they want to do and move forward. With respect to the other committee, it is great and hopefully they can piggyback on some of the work that we are doing, but

stated that members can implement change in their own municipalities more effectively than this other committee can.

Chairman Holmquist said that this committee is advisory and our concern is who can decide these things and what we think they should look into, but all of the “hows” are up to the elected officials. This committee is prioritizing the list that came out from Consensus, which was a byproduct of all the work that local governments have been doing for decades.

Mr. Sgromo asked what members should be prepared to discuss for the next meeting. Chairman Holmquist said that we can talk about anything; water came up on most people’s list – thinks it will be an exciting, productive meeting. Mr. Sgromo read the minutes from the last meeting, and it looked like great comments. It looked like it didn’t get into economic development, parks and recreation, and libraries last time and asked if they will be the next ones coming up. Chairman Holmquist said that they will be – based on availability of the speakers; probably 2 of those topics will be at the June 8th meeting; water will take up the whole next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Maturo

DEBORAH L. MATURO, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: *Consensus Review Adv. Comm.*

DATE: *5/4/17*

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
PLEASE PRINT	
<i>Bob Andrews</i>	<i>OewA</i>
<i>Sue Starczyk</i>	<i>leg</i>