

**Council of Governments
Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes
January 12, 2022 – 2:00 pm**

I. Call to order – Adam Bello called the meeting to order.

II. Old Business –

- a. Vacancy on the Steering Committee – nominate someone today, meeting are every other month, Steve Schultz or Bill Moehle
 - i. Dave Dunning made a motion to vote Bill Moehle on the committee – second by Julie Domaratz
- b. Voting on officers:
 - i. Julie Domaratz has been nominated for Chair, Kevin Johnson nominated for Secretary
 - ii. Holding Vice-Chair vote for next meeting after the steering committee nominates someone.
- c. Voting on Shared Service Plan for 2022 was very successful, now in the process of presenting it to the public in the next week or so, invite will go out to all town leaders so that they are aware
- d. Vacant properties and tax lien properties – 50-75 properties offered up and interested in being bought and foreclosed quickly, being worked on now
- e. Kennels:
 - i. Short term = operate a central location in the middle of the County
 - 1. Dave Denning thinks that’s actually the long term goal to work towards
 - ii. Make this more of a County operation with the Towns support, both financially and personnel
 - iii. Can we use ARPA funding to create an east, west, and central location?
 - iv. Staffing is an issue because it will be day to day + off hours and holidays which are hard to staff; County vs Town employees
 - v. Feels this would be best solution for everyone for it to be a County operation with Town support
 - vi. AJB: Shared dog kennel is something we would be interested in taking the lead on, we should put together a smaller work group or committee to work through how this would work, work out logistics of how many locations/where locations would be, animal control officers? Need to think more about how that would work with staffing shortage
 - vii. Everyone should email Rebecca if they are interested in helping on the committee
 - 1. Cosmo Giunta, David Dunning, Steve Schultz, Rick Milne, Ciaran Hanna & Mike Zale are interested

III. New Business

- a. Faye: Bicentennial – working to ramp up our celebrations this year, “Celebrate More”, 4 quarterly events that are completely new for the bicentennial
 - i. Working with Visit Rochester and Jay Advertising to help with the media and marketing aspects, if any towns want to work with these partners in the future for promotions, anniversaries, etc., please reach out
- b. Pat & Sarah:

- i. Focus group sessions are a major source of information for the Comp Plan, help get things done for the municipalities, happened back in the fall of last year, 4 separate sessions, collected an enormous amount of information,
 - ii. Questions included: “What makes Monroe County a great place to live?” and “What could make it better?”: more collaboration across municipal lines, more opportunities for businesses and jobs, lacking infrastructure
 - iii. Link for aggregated information per session:
 - iv. Sarah is happy to meet with anyone after they’ve reviewed the PowerPoint presentation and the resources on the County website
- c. The outreach efforts so far for ARPA funding
 - i. Just closed the data input sessions at the end of the year, still in the data gathering phase
 - ii. 2817 responses received from online and hard copies to the surveys
 - iii. See slide presentation for additional information
 - iv. Henrietta put together a welcome packet for those who are new to the area, they’re wondering if the County has anything similar that could help?
 - 1. Nepalese is the highest language spoken – The County will connect with Jesus Paesch, the county’s Language Access Coordinator to Henrietta.
- d. CFA application is coming up in May
 - i. Wondering if there’s any projects that they would like to submit on an application together – no response from towns
- e. Firefighters tax exemption for volunteer fire fighters → Leg introduced a local law in December with a hearing in January.
 - i. Henrietta has already adopted this local law, only covers the town in which they reside
 - ii. Pittsford moved that to be addressed at their next meeting
 - iii. Brighton will be doing the same
 - iv. Ogden has legislation drafted and is hoping to address it soon
 - v. Circulate the 466K language
 - vi. Question on whether or not you can go above 10% tax break

IV. Adjournment

- a. Steering Committee on 2/7 at 4:30 at City Place
- b. Full Committee on 3/2 at 2:00 at TBD