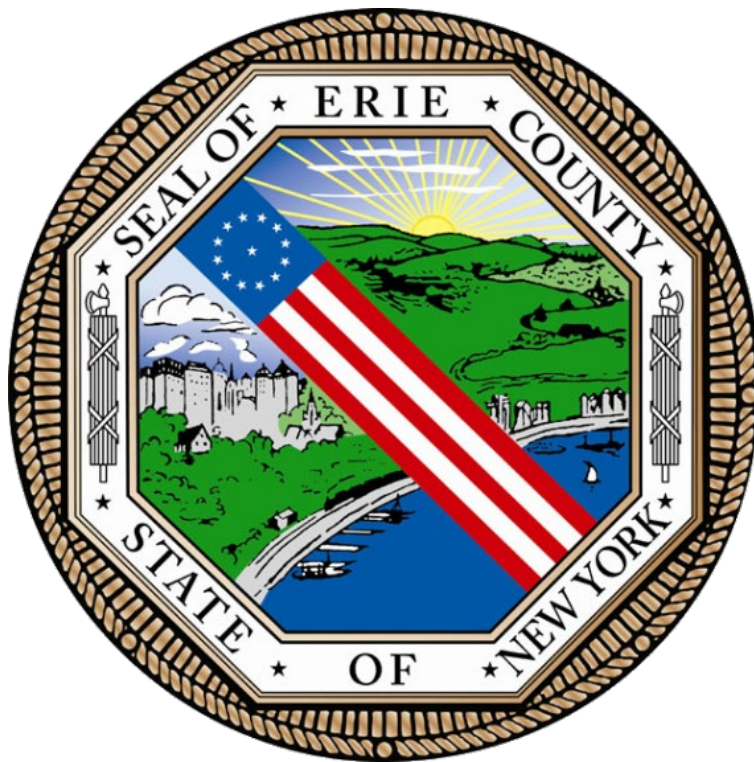


ERIE COUNTY-WIDE SHARED SERVICES PLAN



December 2019

MARK C. POLONCARZ
Erie County Executive

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Shared Services Panel Members

County Executive (Panel Chair)			
Erie County	Mark Poloncarz		
City Mayors			
Buffalo	Byron Brown		
Lackawanna	Geoffrey Szymanski		
Tonawanda	Rick Davis		
Town Supervisors			
Alden	Richard Savage	Grand Island	Nathan McMurray
Amherst	Brian Kulpa	Hamburg	James Shaw
Aurora	James Bach	Holland	Michael Kasprzyk
Boston	Jason Keding	Lancaster	Johanna Coleman
Brant	Mark DeCarlo	Marilla	Earl Gingerich Jr.
Cheektowaga	Diane Benczkowski	Newstead	David Cummings
Clarence	Patrick Casilio	North Collins	John Tobia
Colden	James DePasquale	Orchard Park	Patrick Keem
Collins	Kenneth Martin	Sardinia	Beverly Gambino
Concord	Clyde Drake	Tonawanda	Joseph Emminger
Eden	Melissa Hartman	Wales	Rickey Venditti
Elma	Dennis Powers	West Seneca	Sheila Meegan
Evans	Mary Nytz-Hosler		
Village Mayors			
Akron	Carl Patterson	Hamburg	Thomas Moses Sr.
Alden	Michael Manicki	Kenmore	Patrick Mang
Angola	Howard Frawley	Lancaster	William Schroeder
Blasdell	Robert Hefner Jr.	North Collins	Vincent George
Depew	Kevin Peterson	Orchard Park	Jo Ann Litwin Clinton
East Aurora	Peter Mercurio	Sloan	Thomas Ferrucci
Farnham	Jere Hoisington	Springville	William Krebs
Gowanda	David Smith	Williamsville	Deborah Rogers
School District Representatives (Superintendents or Board Trustees)			
Frontier	William Thiel	Tonawanda City	Kristin Schmutzler
Springville-Griffith	Jessica Schuster		

Introduction

The SFY2017-18 New York State Budget included a new Shared Services Initiative (“Initiative”) designed to generate property tax savings by facilitating operational collaboration between local governments. The Initiative establishes a Shared Services Panel in each county across the state, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the County. As part of the SFY2018-19 New York State Budget, this Initiative has been extended for three additional years to include the annual development of a 2020, 2021 and 2022 Shared Services Plan.

The current law dictates that the same steps in the Initiative process be followed, the new iteration allows for more flexibility in the timeline. Specifically, the 2017 Plan process set a strict timeline for the creation and approval of the Plan by county Shared Service Panels in which a final Plan must be voted on, approved and disseminated with certification of the property tax savings set forth therein no later than September 15, 2017.

For the 2019 Initiative, there are no strict timelines. The Panel is only required to provide the NYS Department of State a final approved 2020 Plan by December 31, 2019 and, before a final Panel vote on approval can be held, the Erie County Legislature must be given at least 45 days to review the proposed Plan.

Erie County and its three (3) cities, 25 towns and 16 villages have a long history of sharing services in order to provide our residents and taxpayers the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost. Erie County, itself, has lowered its property tax rate for six consecutive years (2015-2020) to the lowest rate (\$4.71 per \$1,000) since 2005.

For the 2020 plan, Erie County felt its efforts best served as a facilitator of this process to help coordinate the development of initiatives amongst Panel members. Erie County specifically encouraged 1) the addition of local School Districts into participating in the Panel and 2) existing and new Panel members to consider joining Erie County’s Labor Health Management Fund and Utilities Aggregation as part of Plan development.

This year several school districts chose to join the panel, and in collaboration with Erie County have found savings that can be realistically achieved in 2020. We believe those school districts and municipalities that did choose to include initiatives stand to realize significant savings (some into the millions of dollars per year) as a result of those initiatives. Specifically, we estimate municipalities and school districts could save \$1,292,596 in 2020; \$3,545,540 in 2021; and \$4,617,542 in 2022. These are entirely new savings above and beyond those already achieved through prior efforts over the past several years.

Financial Summary

The County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Law requires that plans include certain financial summary information, including projected savings to the average “taxpayer, homeowner and business.” It is simply impossible to calculate this information with any level of accuracy given the complex set of variables that determine an individual’s property taxes.

Each municipality, school district and special taxing district has its own independent budget process that determines its total tax levy. Even if the initiatives included in the Plan are implemented and the savings estimated are realized, unrelated increases or decreases to other expenses or revenues contained in an individual municipal or school budget could necessitate a tax increase or allow for a tax decrease.

Additionally, because each home or business is taxed based on its own unique assessed valuation and municipal assessed value – all of which can change from year to year – even if tax levies remained static, one’s actual property tax bill could increase or decrease accordingly.

Although the below financial summary information is presented as mandated by State law, these numbers have no basis in reality and no property tax payer should be misled into any assurance that their individual tax bill will be specifically impacted. The County does not have the staff or resources necessary to perform such a detailed calculation to a level satisfactory to ensure the exact amount of savings per household or business. Some counties have retained outside consultants to perform such tasks. However, the cost to pay for such service would be large, a waste of the public’s resources and cost potentially more than could be saved through the initiatives proposed in the Plan. Thus, the County did not retain a consultant to do so.

It is important to note that while the County and local governments look to implement new ways to provide services to our residents efficiently and effectively while keeping property taxes as low as possible, State imposed mandates are the single greatest barrier to achieving meaningful property tax relief at the local level.

Erie County’s 2019 Budget totaled \$1.69 billion of which \$1.15 billion was the County’s share (after department specific revenue is accounted for). Of that, Erie County spent just over \$1 billion or nearly 88% on mandated programs and services, with only about \$144.9 million in “discretionary spending” for the programs and services the public expects from County government like sheriff’s road patrols, road repair, snow removal, 911 dispatch, senior services, parks, libraries, health and mental health services and others. Put another way, just our local share of Medicaid expense accounts for more than 74% (\$199,546,672) of our entire 2019 property tax levy (\$270,185,414).

Finally, as noted in the following charts, the sum total of property taxes levied in the year 2019 by the County, cities, towns, villages, school districts and special improvement districts within the County was \$1,851,143,468. However, approximately 40 percent (\$748,945,846) was levied

by the participants of this plan, with the majority having been levied by taxing entities (school and special taxing districts) not participating in the shared service program. There is no doubt that efficiencies and resultant tax levy reductions could be achieved through the merger, sharing of services, or other actions taken by school districts or other special taxing entities, but that discussion shall be delayed for another time.

2017 Local Government Property Taxes	The sum total of property taxes levied in the year 2019 by the county, cities, towns, villages, school districts and special improvement districts within the County.		
\$1,851,143,468			
2019 Participating Entities Property Taxes	The sum total of property taxes levied in the year 2019 by the county, cities, towns, villages and school districts participating in the Panel.		
\$748,945,846			
Total Anticipated Savings	The sum total of net savings in the Plan certified as being anticipated in calendar years 2020, 2021 and annually thereafter.		
2020: \$1,292,596 2021: \$3,545,540 Thereafter: \$4,516,426			
Anticipated Savings as a Percentage of Participating Entities Property Taxes	The sum total of net savings in the Plan certified as being anticipated in calendar year 2020, 2021 and annually thereafter as a percentage of the sum total of property taxes levied in 2019 by Panel participating municipalities.		
2020: 0.17% 2021: 0.47% Thereafter: 0.62%			
Anticipated Savings to the Average Taxpayer	The amount of savings that the average taxpayer in the county will realize in calendar years 2020, 2021 and annually thereafter if the net savings certified in this Plan are realized. <i>This is calculated by dividing the "Total Anticipated Savings" by the number of property tax payers in Erie County (334,000).</i>		
2020: \$3.87 2021: \$10.62 Thereafter: \$13.52			
Anticipated Costs/Savings to the Average Homeowner	The percentage amount a homeowner can expect his or her property taxes to increase or decrease in calendar years 2020, 2021 and annually thereafter if the net savings certified in the plan are realized. <i>This is calculated by estimating the percentage that property taxes are expected to increase for all local governments participating in the Plan and reducing these by the "Anticipated Savings as a Percentage of Participating Entities Property Taxes" noted above. It is assumed that all local governments will adjust tax levies to the maximum allowable rate under the Tax Cap in any given year; for 2020 it is 2%. Since the Tax Cap became law in 2012, average year over year growth has been 1.5%, which will be the basis for 2021 and "Thereafter" since the actual growth percentage is currently unknown.</i>		
2020: 1.83% 2021: 1.04% Thereafter: 0.90%			

Anticipated Costs/Savings to the Average Business	The percentage amount a business can expect its property taxes to increase or decrease in calendar years 2020, 2021 and annually thereafter if the net savings certified in the plan are realized. <i>In relation to calculating property taxes savings for this Plan, there is no difference or distinction made between a homeowner and a business.</i>	
2020: 1.83%	2021: 1.04%	Thereafter: 0.90%

Certification

I Mark C. Poloncarz hereby certify that the savings identified by the Erie County Shared Service Panel member municipalities in this Erie County Shared Services Tax Savings Plan, should initiatives contained herein be implemented by Panel participants in the local fiscal year beginning in 2020, are accurate to the best of my knowledge. This is the finalized Plan, which was approved on December 18, 2019 by a vote of 25 Yeas to 0 Nay with 23 No Votes, and it was disseminated to residents of the county in accordance with the County-wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Law.



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

December 18, 2019

Date

Erie County Shared Services Plan Project Summary

Panel members have worked diligently since our initial Panel meeting on July 11th to develop a number of new initiatives contained within this proposed Plan. Given the requirement that the accuracy of savings estimates be certified, the Plan is divided into two sections: (1) Initiatives that have been developed and detailed to a degree that we are comfortable believing they could be implemented in the coming year and certifying the accuracy of estimated savings for 2020, 2021 and thereafter as is required; and (2) Proposals from the Shared Services Panel that do not qualify as “shared services” under the State Law because they could not be reasonably implemented in 2020, constitute a transfer of service with no net savings, may result in upfront costs to reap longer-term savings, or have not been explored thoroughly enough to develop reasonable savings estimates. These are items that participating Panel members are committed to continue exploring as we go forward with efforts to implement initiatives included in this Plan.

The Erie County Shared Services Panel is pleased that its deliberations have identified several specific initiatives that, if implemented, could save local taxpayers millions of dollars a year, and several additional initiatives that could save millions more. While the anticipated savings are not of the magnitude of the many consolidations, cooperative efforts and shared services undertaken or identified previously among Erie County’s governments, this Plan contains entirely new initiatives that may realize entirely new savings above and beyond those already achieved through prior efforts.

The Erie County-wide Shared Services Plan was approved on December 18, 2019 by a vote of 25-0-23. The final vote tally and the justification for each Panel member’s vote can be found as Appendix A.

Project	Certified Plan Projects	2018 Savings	2019 Savings	Recurring
1	Expansion of Erie County Utilities Aggregation	\$117,509	\$69,185	\$69,185
2	Expansion of Erie County Labor-Management Healthcare Fund	\$1,143,156	\$3,444,424	\$4,516,426
3	Town-Level Sharing of Assessor	\$31,931	\$31,931	\$31,931
Total Certified Savings Estimates		\$1,292,596	\$3,545,540	\$4,617,542

Project	Additional Uncertified Plan Projects
4	Consolidation of Municipal Sewer Districts
5	Termination of Amherst Utility Cooperative to Become Member of Erie County Utilities Aggregation
6	Amherst Fire District Cancer Coverage
7	Town-Level Sharing of Assessor
8	Expansion of Erie County Utilities Aggregation

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Certified Plan Projects

Project # 1: Expansion of Erie County Utilities Aggregation			
Type: Shared Services	Category: Energy Procurement	Anticipated Start: 2020	
Municipal Partners: Erie County, the Village of Hamburg and Town of Cheektowaga			
Opt-Outs: None			
<p>Description: Erie County has purchased wholesale natural gas since October 1997 and wholesale electricity from the inception of the NYISO in 1999. The Aggregate's membership includes the County and 35 additional municipal entities (1,198 individual utility accounts). Due to its size, Erie County purchases power at wholesale rates directly from the NYS electric grid. The County's costs, including a small administration fee, are billed to its members with no additional markup.</p> <p>Preliminary estimates provided by Fluent Energy, who manages the Aggregation, indicate that the Village of Hamburg could save 8.3% or \$3,359 per fiscal year on electricity and 33% or \$11,628 per fiscal year on natural gas. The Village anticipates joining the Aggregation for electricity as of January 1, 2020 but would not be able to join for natural gas until the start of their upcoming fiscal year on July 1, 2020. As such, initial savings for 2020 have been prorated.</p> <p>For Cheektowaga, savings would be more significant because of the terms of an existing agreement with their ESCO provider New Wave Energy that have become increasingly unfavorable. Specifically, it is anticipated that the town will save \$144,450 for the first year with the 2020 savings estimated at \$108,336 due to prorating their anticipated start date of April 1, 2020. Future year savings will lessen, estimated at \$54,198, because a rate reduction negotiated by the town with New Wave for the latter portion of 2019 would be the baseline cost.</p>			
Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
(Village of) Hamburg	\$9,173	\$14,987	\$14,987
(Town of) Cheektowaga	\$108,336	\$54,198	\$54,198
Total	\$117,509	\$69,185	\$69,185

Project # 2: Expansion of Erie County Labor-Management Healthcare Fund			
Type: Shared Services	Category: Health Care	Anticipated Start: 2020	
Municipal Partners: Erie County, the cities of Lackawanna and Tonawanda and the Cheektowaga, Cheektowaga – Sloan, Frontier, Maryvale, North Collins, Sweet Home and West Seneca Central School Districts.			
Opt-Outs: None			
<p>Description: In November 2003, local municipal management and union leaders had a vision to provide dependable, affordable health insurance benefits for employees, retirees and their families. This collaborative approach, with shared responsibility between labor and management, produced a plan of benefits, designed by labor that offers choice, flexibility and manageable costs. The Labor-Management Healthcare Coalition (LMHC) was formed as a result of that group effort.</p> <p>The Employer groups participate as members of the Coalition by appointing one representative from Management; and the Union, most often representing the largest number of employees, designates one Labor representative to serve on the LMHC Board of Directors. Their involvement in the governance, direction and leadership of the Coalition is key to its success. This includes, but certainly is not limited to, plan design, carrier review, RFP processes, financial performance and review of the plans. The Board of Directors serve as an advisory board to the Labor-Management Healthcare Fund Trustees. At minimum, the Boards meet on a monthly basis. Today, the LMHC consists of more than 30,000 members.</p> <p>Nine (9) entities expect to join LMHF at various points in the 2020 calendar year coinciding with the start of their fiscal years. With the exception of the City of Tonawanda which is on a Jan-Dec fiscal year, all other entrants have a split fiscal year and, as such, all initial 2020 savings estimates are prorated based on 2020 calendar portion of their initial fiscal year with the out-years being the specific calendar year portions of the two fiscal years.</p> <p>Several baseline assumptions are made in estimating savings, which are all based off of the individual entities current fiscal year health care spend. Those assumptions are as follows: 1) Entrance into LMHF will save 5% off of the current fiscal year health care spend in year 1 (2020). 2) LMHF health care costs will be limited to 2% growth year-over-year from the LMHF year 1 baseline. 3) Non-LMHF health care costs would grow 7% year-over-year from the current fiscal year health care spend. The culmination of these assumptions leads to a compounding of health care costs avoided in future years with savings estimated at 12% in 2020, 15% in 2021 and 19% in 2022 over expected costs if they had remained under their current health care plans.</p>			
Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
Frontier Central School District	\$624,000	\$2,145,328	\$2,804,419
(City of) Lackawanna	\$195,156	\$824,167	\$1,073,017
(City of) Tonawanda	\$324,000	\$474,930	\$638,990
Total	\$1,143,156	\$3,444,424	\$4,516,426

Project # 3: Town-Level Sharing of Assessor			
Type: Shared Services	Category: Shared Personnel	Anticipated Start: 2020	
Municipal Partners: Towns of Evans, Collins and North Collins			
Opt-Outs: None			
<p>Description: The Town of Evans currently employs a full-time property assessor while the towns of Collins and North Collins have their own part-time property assessors. The three towns will enter into a shared services agreement whereby Evans’s current assessor will provide assessing services within Collins and North Collins two days a week, each town will be provided 8 hours of assessor services. The cost sharing of salary and non-health benefits will be loosely dictated by the proportion of parcels within each town (60/20/20) with an additional 3% for administrative costs. Let it be noted that each Town will be increasing the Assessor coverage under this agreement by 6 hours.</p> <p>Evans’s share will include health benefits and total approximately \$77,599 per year for a savings of \$23,077 below their existing cost of \$100,676 to provide assessing for only the town of Evans. Collins and North Collins will each contribute \$19,073 per year which will save Collins \$2,927 from their \$22,000 and North Collins \$5,927 from their \$25,000 currently spent on assessing.</p>			
Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
(Town of) Evans	\$23,077	\$23,077	\$23,077
(Town of) Collins	\$2,927	\$2,927	\$2,927
(Town of) North Collins	\$5,927	\$5,927	\$5,927
Total	\$31,931	\$31,931	\$31,931

Additional Uncertified Plan Projects

Project # 4: Consolidation of Municipal Sewer Districts			
Type: Consolidation	Category: Sewers	Anticipated Start: Unknown	
Municipal Partners: Town of Amherst and Village of Williamsville			
Opt-Outs: None			
<p>Description: A 2008 study was conducted to consider the consolidation of Amherst, Williamsville, and Clarence with Erie County District #5, which was not implemented. Amherst and Williamsville have revisited this and decided to pursue a potential smaller scale consolidation between just the Town and Village. Meetings regarding this consolidation have continued through 2018 and 2019. The Village undertook planning work to determine what capital improvements are needed for the proposed consolidation to move forward, and has applied for grants to implement this work. Savings will likely not be seen until 2022 or after, and the estimated savings will be depending on the amount of grant funding received. Since progress is being made, this project should still be considered, but implementation will likely take place outside of the window of the County's 2020 Shared Services Plan.</p>			
Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
(Town of) Amherst	-	-	-
(Village of) Williamsville	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

Project # 5: Termination of Amherst Utility Cooperative to Become Member of Erie County Utilities Aggregation

Type: Shared Service	Category: Energy Procurement	Anticipated Start: July 1, 2019
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Municipal Partners: Erie County and the Town of Amherst

Opt-Outs: None

Description: The Town of Amherst entered into joint inter-municipal agreements in an attempt to secure lower than retail prices of electricity and natural gas with the Village of Williamsville, Amherst Central School District, Sweet Home Central School District and Williamsville Central School District in 1998. As the energy markets for electricity and natural gas have changed over time since the inception of the AUC, and all participating entities may be able to realize lower prices from volume discounts by joining larger existing cooperatives such as School Municipal Energy Cooperative or Erie County Energy Cooperative, the AUC was terminated and the Town joined Erie County Energy Cooperative.

The Town has a significant reduction in administrative efforts including but not limited to the following: elimination of the AUC Treasury function, payables, invoicing to members / month re-billings, elimination of security deposits, and elimination of formal procurement bids. The Town also gained various online reports for analysis of Town facilities utility usage.

Administration fees to the cooperative decreased, increase in natural gas pool volumes, which may allow for better basis pricing, and the removal of risks associated with compliance activities in the wholesale market.

Estimated Savings for 2020: Personal Services: \$4,350; Admin fee to Co-op: \$2,805; Gas basis pricing: TBD

Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
Erie County	-	-	-
(Town of) Amherst	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200
Total	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200

Project # 6: Amherst Fire District Cancer Coverage

Type: Joint Purchasing	Category: Health Care	Anticipated Start: 2019
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Municipal Partners: Towns of Amherst and Clarence and Village of Williamsville

Opt-Outs: None

Description: New York State General Municipal Law §205-cc was enacted in 2018 to provide eligible, interior, volunteer firefighters enhanced cancer disability coverage. The law requires that any fire district, department or company provide and maintain Cancer Coverage for Eligible Volunteer Firefighter effective January 2019.

The Town of Amherst is the prime authority with jurisdiction of the Getzville, Main Transit, North Amherst, North Bailey and Ellicott Creek Fire Districts. The Town of Amherst share authority with the Town of Clarence for the East Amherst and Swormville Fire Protection Districts.

The Village of Williamsville is the jurisdiction with authority for Autumn Harvest; Lamm Post; Lehn Springs; Mill Street; Park Club; Williamsville-Sheridan.

Recognizing the savings and efficiencies of purchasing one policy for all the Fire Districts, the municipalities entered into joint purchasing agreements to pay the premiums pro rata.

Estimated Savings: The Volunteer Firefighter Cancer policy rates for our Firefighters is a per-firefighter rate no matter how many firefighters we have. It is a rate set by the insurance company for all firefighters in NYS. The rate will remain the same for 2020. What we do not know is what the rate will be moving forward.

This is a new program and each fire district or fire department must submit the numbers of claims to NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control at the end of this year.

Savings cannot be calculated until all of the data is into NYS which does not happen until the end of 2019. There is not much overhead at all to manage this program and the rates, so far, are set for the entire state.

If different parts of the state experience different losses, then we may see insurance companies adjust accordingly and there could be a possibility for savings, but that will not be known until the reports and submitted and data reviewed.

Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
(Town of) Amherst	-	-	-
(Village of) Williamsville	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

Project # 7: Town-Level Sharing of Assessor			
Type: Shared Services	Category: Shared Personnel	Anticipated Start: 2019	
Municipal Partners: Town of Amherst and City of Tonawanda			
Opt-Outs: None			
<p>Description: This project, which was initiated January 1, 2019 is reducing Property Taxes and Lowering Costs of Local Government. It is an opportunity to generate property tax savings by enabling collaboration between local governments. Shared Services present an opportunity to reduce property taxes (revenue to one municipality and cost savings to the other) and modernize local government services by using best practices among different municipalities; it is a key initiative that has support from State Government.</p> <p>The concepts of cooperation through shared services and consolidation of services reinforces the importance of cooperation and consolidation in achieving local cost efficiencies, especially during these times of fiscal uncertainty. In particular, certain administrative and back office central business office functions appear to hold promise because there is both the potential for savings and they are often easier to implement. Many municipalities around the State are already cooperating in these areas either through formal or informal arrangements.</p> <p>The Town of Amherst performs all functions of the assessor which includes: preparation for tentative and final roll, reporting required by NYS, permitting, valuation, defense values and challenges, and all public information.</p> <p>The City of Tonawanda performs the administrative functions of the office, including: exemptions processing, sales entering, 520 reporting and correction of errors, and other administrative support.</p>			
Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
(Town of) Amherst	-	-	-
(City of) Tonawanda	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-

Project # 8: Expansion of Erie County Utilities Aggregation			
Type: Shared Services	Category: Energy Procurement	Anticipated Start: July 1, 2019	
Municipal Partners: Erie County and the Frontier Central School District			
Opt-Outs: None			
<p>Description: Erie County has purchased wholesale natural gas since October 1997 and wholesale electricity from the inception of the NYISO in 1999. The Aggregate’s membership includes the County and 35 additional municipal entities (1,198 individual utility accounts). Due to its size, Erie County purchases power at wholesale rates directly from the NYS electric grid. The County’s costs, including a small administration fee, are billed to its members with no additional markup.</p> <p>Preliminary estimates provided by Fluent Energy, who manages the Aggregation, indicate that the Frontier Central School District could save 4.4% or \$12,849 per fiscal year on electricity. However, due to the District’s split fiscal year, they decided there was added benefit in joining the Utilities Aggregation at the start of their 19/20 Fiscal Year and forgoing the possibility of a matching grant from NYS for savings realized.</p>			
Estimated Savings:	2020	2021	Thereafter
Erie County	-	-	-
Frontier Central School District	\$12,849	\$12,849	\$12,849
Total	\$12,849	\$12,849	\$12,849

APPENDIX A - Shared Service Panel Final Vote

Municipality	Panel Member	Vote	Written Justification for Vote
Erie County	County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz	YES	The plan will create savings for our municipalities and reduce taxes.
Cities (3)			
Buffalo	Mayor Byron Brown	NV	
Lackawanna	Mayor Geoffrey Szymanski	YES	Beneficial for the entire region strategically and financially.
Tonawanda	Mayor Rick Davis	YES	To save on health care costs.
Towns (25)			
Alden	Supervisor Richard Savage	NV	
Amherst	Supervisor Brian Kulpa	YES	Projects are well thought out and have been well vetted over the course of past meetings.
Aurora	Supervisor James Bach	NV	
Boston	Supervisor Jason Keding	YES	I support the shared services plan as a county-wide initiative.
Brant	Supervisor Mark DeCarlo	NV	
Cheektowaga	Supervisor Diane Benczkowski	YES	The plan will reflect significant savings to schools and municipalities.
Clarence	Supervisor Patrick Casilio	YES	Plan will save municipalities and lower taxes.
Colden	Supervisor James DePasquale	NV	
Collins	Supervisor Kenneth Martin	YES	This shared service plan will reduce costs and save taxpayers money.
Concord	Supervisor Clyde Drake	YES	Where towns are able to share services with other entities is important to do in order to save the tax payer money.
Eden	Supervisor Melissa Hartman	YES	The projects represent a significant savings to the County of Erie.
Elma	Supervisor Dennis Powers	YES	The Town of Elma strongly advocates shared services and have been sharing services for over 40 years with Marilla and Wales
Evans	Supervisor Mary Nytz-Hosler	YES	The town has always participated in looking for opportunities for saving taxpayer dollars and have submitted a savings plan for 2020 which will be moving forward.
Grand Island	Supervisor Nathan McMurray	NV	

Hamburg	Supervisor James Shaw	NV	
Holland	Supervisor Michael Kasprzyk	NV	
Lancaster	Supervisor Johanna Coleman	YES	These reductions in expenses will reduce taxes charged to property owners.
Marilla	Supervisor Earl Gingerich Jr.	YES	It makes sense to share services where possible to save taxpayer money. These proposals are an excellent example of this.
Newstead	Supervisor David Cummings	YES	Agree with the report.
North Collins	Supervisor John Tobia	NV	
Orchard Park	Supervisor Patrick Keem	YES	Budget constraints make every dollar even more precious and shared services save tax dollars and benefits our taxpayers.
Sardinia	Supervisor Beverly Gambino	NV	
Tonawanda	Supervisor Joseph Emminger	YES	Savings will benefit municipalities and reduce taxes.
Wales	Supervisor Rickey Venditti	NV	
West Seneca	Supervisor Sheila Meegan	NV	
Villages (16)			
Akron	Mayor Carl Patterson	NV	
Alden	Mayor Michael Manicki	NV	
Angola	Mayor Howard Frawley	NV	
Blasdell	Mayor Robert Hefner Jr.	NV	
Depew	Mayor Kevin Peterson	YES	The plan will produce savings and reduce taxes for the residents that are a part of the village/town/school district.
East Aurora	Mayor Peter Mercurio	NV	
Farnham	Mayor Jere Hoisington	NV	
Gowanda	Mayor David Smith	NV	
Hamburg	Mayor Thomas Moses Sr.	YES	Plan will save money and give municipalities better working relationships with each other.
Kenmore	Mayor Patrick Mang	NV	

Lancaster	Mayor William Schroeder	YES	The efforts are commendable with significant savings for all parties involved, primarily the taxpayers.
North Collins	Mayor Vincent George	NV	
Orchard Park	Mayor Jo Ann Litwin Clinton	NV	
Sloan	Mayor Thomas Ferrucci	NV	
Springville	Mayor William Krebs	YES	Springville is currently working with Erie County on a storm water drain project – a shared services project from the last plan.
Williamsville	Mayor Deborah Rogers	YES	The village of Williamsville looks forward to partnering with the town of Amherst on our sewer consolidation immediately and other projects as they become possible.
School Districts (3)			
Frontier	William Theil	YES	Healthcare and utility savings generated through participation will sustain and protect jobs and positively impact district tax rates.
Springville Griffith	Jessica Schuster	YES	Shared services create significant cost savings for taxpayers in New York State.
Tonawanda City	Kristin Schmutzler	YES	Any time that we can improve the financial status of our municipalities and citizens and save taxpayers, we should.

NV (No Vote) – Panel member was not in attendance at meeting and, therefore, was ineligible to cast a vote on Plan (per State Law) on behalf of his or her local government.

Final Vote Total: YES-25 / NO-0 / NV-23

APPENDIX B: Timeline of Events

<p>April, 2018</p>	<p>The 2018-19 New York State Budget was enacted. This included language extending the County-wide Shared Services Initiative for calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021.</p>
<p>Start Immediately (January 2019):</p>	<p>County executives must convene their shared services panel consisting of the county executive and the mayors of every city or village and the supervisors of every town within the county. He may also invite school and special districts to join the Panel.</p> <p><i>For Erie County, the Shared Services Panel consists of 48 members (1 county executive, 3 city mayors, 25 town supervisors, 16 village mayors and 3 school district representatives).</i></p>
<p>Before a final vote can be held:</p>	<p>The county executive shall regularly consult with, and take recommendations from all the representatives of the shared services panel as well as the representatives of each collective bargaining unit of the county and the cities, towns, and villages.</p> <p><i>Erie County held two panel meetings (July 11th and August 29th).</i></p> <p>Additionally, the Panel shall accept input and testimony on the Plan from the public and civic, business, labor and community leaders. This is to be facilitated through a minimum of three (3) public hearings.</p> <p><i>Erie County held three (3) public hearings (November 20th, December 4th and December 10th). Additionally, the County created a public website (www.erie.gov/sharedservices) where all information related to the Panel, public meetings and hearings, news, draft plans was made available. Lastly, a web form was included to give the public, civic, business, labor and community leaders the opportunity to share their comments or ideas.</i></p> <p>The county executive shall submit the plan to the county legislative body a minimum of 45 days before a final vote on the plan can be held. The plan must be accompanied by a certification as to the accuracy of the property tax savings. Thereafter, the county legislative body shall review the plan, and may, by a majority of its members, issue an advisory report with recommendations.</p> <p><i>A certified copy of the draft plan and savings estimates was submitted to the Erie County Legislature on October 24, 2019 (COMM 22E-5 (2019)).</i></p>

<p>No Later Than December 31st:</p>	<p>Upon receipt of an advisory report from the county legislative body, the Plan may be modified. If modified, updated certifications as to the accuracy of the property tax savings must be produced.</p> <p><i>The County Legislature voted to receive and file COMM 22E-5 (2019) on December 12, 2019.</i></p> <p>A majority vote of the Panel is required for approval of the Plan. Each Panel Member must state in writing the reason for his or her vote. However, prior to the vote each Panel Member may remove any proposed action that affects their local government. Written notice of the removal will be provided to the county executive prior to the Panel-wide vote.</p> <p><i>The Erie County-wide Shared Services Plan was approved by vote of 25-0-23 on December 18, 2019 at a meeting of the Shared Services Panel held at the Erie County Emergency Operations Center, 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY. The vote tally and given justification for each member's vote is attached as Appendix A.</i></p>
<p>If the Plan is Approved:</p>	<p>The county executive shall finalize the Plan and submit it to the Director of the State Department of State along with a certification of its property tax savings.</p> <p><i>This document represents the finalized plan that was submitted to New York State as prescribed by law.</i></p> <p>The county executive shall also disseminate the Plan to the residents of the county in a concise, clear and coherent manner using words with common and everyday meanings.</p> <p><i>This document has been made publicly available at the Erie County-wide Shared Services Panel website located at www.erie.gov/sharedservices.</i></p>
<p>If the Plan Fails:</p>	<p>The county executive shall release, to the public, a report on the proposal, including the vote of the Panel, the vote of each Panel Member and the reason for their vote.</p>
<p>No Later than 30 days after plan was approved:</p>	<p>The county executive shall conduct a public presentation of the Plan (if approved).</p> <p><i>A public presentation was held on December 30, 2019.</i></p>