



**Consensus Commission Meeting – July 25, 2014
Mundy Library, 1204 South Geddes Street, Syracuse
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Cornelius B. Murphy, Co-Chair; James T. Walsh, Co-Chair; Co-Chair; William M. Byrne; Dr. Donna J. DeSiato; Bethaida González; Darlene D. Kerr; Melanie W. Littlejohn; Andrew M. Maxwell; Stephen F. Meyer; Hon. Mark A. Nicotra; Hon. Mark A. Olson; Sharon F. Owens; Ann Rooney.

Absent: M. Catherine Richardson, Esq. co-chair; Aminy I. Audi; Laurence G. Bousquet; Hon. Patrick M. Kilmartin; Dr. Dennis J. Nave; and Hon. Chad M. Ryan

Staff: Kathy Murphy, SYRACUSE 20/20; Kevin Schwab, CenterState CEO; Travis Glazier, Onondaga County; Laurie Black, SYRACUSE 20/20

Presenters: Mark Nicotra and Mark Olson

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Welcome and Town Supervisor & Village Mayor Presentation

James Walsh welcomed the Consensus members to the July meeting. He noted that the meeting would begin with a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of Town Supervisor and Village Mayors provided by Salina Town Supervisor Mark Nicotra and Fayetteville Village Mayor Mark Olson. Mark Nicotra provided a Power Point presentation on the role of Town Supervisors (the power point has been added to the Consensus website at www.consensusny.com/about/video/). He noted that 59% of Onondaga County residents live in one of the 19 towns and those towns range in size and responsibilities. In Onondaga County, Clay has the largest population and Spafford has the smallest. The Town Supervisor is an elected position. In addition, towns typically have between 4 – 6 council members and either an elected or appointed clerk and highway superintendent. The Town Supervisor is an administrative position, while town board have both an executive and legislative function. Mark Nicotra reviewed the range of services that could fall under the Town Supervisors' responsibilities and he discussed the elements of a sample tax bill.

Village Mayor Mark Olson provided an overview of the responsibilities of village mayors throughout Onondaga County. He noted that most Mayors are not part of a political party when they run for office. In addition to the Mayor, villages have between four and six trustees. The Mayor is the CEO of the village operations. The Mayor is also the chief financial officer, overseeing the financial condition of the Village. Mayors are project managers because all the projects that involve the Village will involve the Mayor. All Mayors are part-time and salaries range from \$1,500 to \$18,000 a year. A typical Mayor is spending at least 30 hours a week on the job. Most villages have a fire department or a fire district. Mayors are responsible for declaring state of emergencies. Mark Olson stated that Mayors are known for being able to get things done. Everything a Mayor does is about enhancing the quality of life for village residents. Mayors work hard and are innovative. Many of the obstacles facing Mayors and villages come from State mandates, requirements and restrictions.

Mark Nicotra and Mark Olson were thanked by the Commission for excellent presentations in helping to highlight some of the roles and responsibilities of Town Supervisors and Village Mayors.

Public Engagement Committee Update

Melanie Littlejohn provided a report on the work of the Public Engagement Committee. In the meeting materials was a packet put together for members of Consensus to help facilitate the process of making presentations in the community. The Committee would like to get feedback from members of Consensus on the various components of the packet including an elevator speech (formal and informal); talking points; factoids and the process graphic. All Consensus members should have these various elements of the public engagement talking points and once they have been reviewed and feedback has been obtained, the final versions will be put into a binder for ease of use. In addition to the packet of materials, the personal statements of why you are involved with Consensus will be very important when talking with people you know. During this phase of Consensus' work, commission members will have opportunities to speak with the public and engage with community members to increase awareness of the work being done.

Melanie summarized the five things the public engagement committee is asking of Consensus members:

- 1) Spread the word through your networks about what Consensus is doing – dispel myths and share facts
- 2) Drive folks to the website and keep the flow of information on the website fresh
- 3) Identify speaking opportunities – groups in the community that Consensus members can make a presentation to
- 4) Provide feedback on the material and the overarching process – does it make sense
- 5) Get your bio, photos and personal statements in so the website can be updated.

The next meeting of the Public Engagement Committee is scheduled for August 7th at 8:00 a.m. at SYRACUSE 20/20. All are welcome.

CGR Update

Dr. Murphy noted that in the Consensus meeting materials there is an update on the work being done by CGR to begin to develop the baseline. In addition to the baseline data collection, Joe Stefko has begun the process of meeting with Towns and Villages. During the week of July 28th, Joe will be in town to have small group meetings with specific town supervisors and village mayors, Mayor Miner, County Executive Mahoney and Senator DeFrancisco. Through the outreach to the local officials, CGR will be able to do a deeper dive into the data and provide the context to the data that is obtained from the financial reports.

Other Items

It was noted that in addition to serving on the full Commission, Consensus members will be asked to serve on one of six committees. The proposed committees including: Public Safety – Police & Fire; Municipal Operations – Courts, assessor, clerk, parks; Governance – different approaches to organizing; Public Engagement; DPW; and Economic Development. Each Committee will have at least two or three Consensus members and the consultant.

At an upcoming meeting there will be a discussion of operating principals for the Commission which will outline how the Commission will do its work and reflect how decisions will be made by the Commission.

Travis Glazier concluded the meeting by noting that the host of the meeting is Mundy Library which has undergone a successfully renovation and reopening. Mundy Library is part of the consolidated library system in Onondaga County. It is a wonderful example of how consolidated services can operate at a regional level but still have a wonderful community impact.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M. To view the full Consensus meeting, go to www.consensuscny.com/about/video/;