



Consensus Commission Meeting – September 26, 2014
Clay Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Present: Cornelius B. Murphy, Co-Chair; M. Catherine Richardson, Esq. co-chair; James T. Walsh, Co-Chair; Co-Chair; Aminy I. Audi; Laurence G. Bousquet; William M. Byrne; Dr. Donna J. DeSiato; Bethaida González; Darlene D. Kerr (on the phone); Melanie W. Littlejohn; Andrew M. Maxwell; Stephen F. Meyer; Dr. Dennis J. Nave; Hon. Mark A. Olson; Sharon F. Owens (on the phone); Ann Rooney.

Absent: Hon. Patrick M. Kilmartin; Hon. Mark A. Nicotra; and Hon. Chad M. Ryan

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

Presenters: Joe Stefko, Center for Governmental Research (CGR) and Brian Roulin, CGR

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.

Welcome

Catherine Richardson welcomed the Commission members to the September meeting of Consensus. Catherine Richardson welcomed Town of Clay by Town Supervisor Damian Ulatowski and asked him to say a few words about the opportunities and challenges facing Clay. Supervisor Ulatowski provided an excellent overview of the Town of Clay, Onondaga County's largest town. He has been the supervisor for six years. The town has approximately 60,000 residents. He noted that Clay is the 17th largest town in New York State. For an Upstate Town, Clay has done well attracting residents. The goal is to provide good homes, good schools and a high quality of life with a stable tax base. Supervisor Ulatowski discussed the Clay police merger with the Sheriff's department and the positive impact that had for the taxpayers. He noted that there have been very few complaints since the merger and there have been benefits to the Town. Supervisor Ulatowski identified several initiatives he has been involved with to reduce costs including implementing green initiatives. He stressed that he feels the priority is to look out for their tax payers and providing quality services at a low cost. The biggest issue is balancing the budget by staying under the tax cap and still preserving high quality services.

CGR Presentation – Committee Structure and Roles

Dr. Joe Stefko, President & CEO of Center for Governmental Research (CGR), discussed the Consensus committee structure and the role and timeline of the committees. Joe's presentation to Consensus can be found on the website at: <http://www.cgr.org/consensuscny/meetings>. Joe had provided the commission members with a description of each of the six committees and the types of issues that would be part of the committee work. The committees include: Public Safety; Municipal Operations; Governance; Public Engagement; Infrastructure Systems; and Economic Development. These descriptions are a starting point for the committees work. Consensus members are encouraged to sign up for at least one, and ideally two or more committees, so that we have adequate representation of Consensus members on each committee. The committees will convene in the weeks ahead and will begin ramping up after the release of the baseline analysis. The committee process is where there will be a deeper dive into the baseline data and where the

committees will vet the options for potential change. The committee process also provides an opportunity to bring in expertise that isn't around the commission table for the experts to help shape and influence the commission's work.

Baseline Review Status Update

During the second part of CGR's presentation, Joe provided an update on the baseline analysis and included an overview of the types of information that will be contained within the baseline. As part of the baseline report, CGR will provide municipal profiles for each local government and service profiles for types of services delivered by local governments. The draft baseline will be discussed in much greater detail at the October meeting and so please do what you can to make the October meeting a priority. A meeting request will be circulated to determine who will be able to attend the October meeting.

Public Engagement Committee Update

Melanie Littlejohn provided a public engagement committee update on the work of the committee, including presenting a preliminary budget of \$142,500 for the public engagement activities that will need to be in place as part of Consensus. The budget includes funding for printed materials, holding public meetings and forums, focus groups, surveys, advertising and social media. The members of Consensus voted to accept a preliminary budget for the work of the public engagement committee. The proposed budget will be used to solicit additional funding support from local foundations and other potential funders. Also as part of the budget, the members of Consensus approved contracting with CGR to assist in the website management and the social media outreach efforts - this will assist us in aligning our public messaging with the work that CGR is doing on the baseline analysis, the committee work and eventually the options phase. In addition, the committee is reaching out to groups throughout the community encouraging them to invite us to make a presentation to their organization. We have some new opportunities scheduled and we will want to continue to make more presentations to reach more people.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to Mark Nicotra for donating his professional services to Consensus and producing three outstanding videos of the co-chairs discussing "Why Are You Part of Consensus?" The videos are very compelling and we will incorporate them onto the homepage of the website. We can't thank Mark enough for this significant contribution to our public engagement efforts! You can view each video on the consensus website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M. To view the full Consensus meeting, go to www.consensuscnv.com/about/video/;

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24^h at 3:00 pm