



SUMMARY OF LOCAL INITIATIVES BY COUNTY

April 2008

ALBANY COUNTY

Countywide Health Insurance

Studying the feasibility of consolidating health insurance for county and municipal employees

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Procurement

Exploring an online contract database and cooperative bidding/purchasing tool in conjunction with Rockland and Orange Counties, the Town of Cortland, and Capital Region BOCES

Purchasing Cooperative

Considering expansion of inter-county cooperative that was established in 2006

ALLEGANY COUNTY

211 Community Service Referral System

Seeking to establish a unified community service information and referral system with Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates Counties

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Village Dissolution

Studying dissolution of Village of Belmont

BROOME COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Health Insurance Consortium

Studying the feasibility of consolidating health insurance for county and municipal employees

Countywide Highway Service Consolidation

Exploring consolidation of municipal and county highway services at the county level

BROOME COUNTY (continued)

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Justice Court Consolidation

Examining consolidation of municipal and county court functions and facilities

Parks & Recreation Consolidation

Exploring shared services across municipal boundaries

Police Consolidation

Exploring the consolidation of urban core police units, including Binghamton, Johnson City, Endicott, Vestal and/or Port Dickinson

School District Consolidation

Considering options for consolidating school districts at the county level

Village Dissolution

Exploring dissolution of all villages

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

Water System Consolidation

Village and Town of Ellicottville are exploring a shared water system

CAYUGA COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Fire District Consolidation

Exploring creation of a unified fire authority that would include the County, City of Auburn, and five towns (city has a full-time fire force, while the towns have volunteers)

Water and Sewer System Consolidation

Considering consolidation of services provided to the County, City of Auburn and five towns



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Highway Service Consolidation

Studying options for improved efficiency across municipal boundaries

Police Consolidation

Sharing services between City of Jamestown Police Department and the County Sheriff's Department

Water System Consolidation

Analyzing options for a shared water system

CHEMUNG COUNTY

211 Community Service Referral System

Seeking to establish a unified community service information and referral system with Allegany, Schuyler, Steuben, and Yates Counties

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Fire Service Consolidation

Establishing a Fire Service Merger Commission to study the sharing of equipment and personnel on a countywide basis

Highway Service Consolidation

Following a study conducted by Cornell, the county is considering the establishment of an intermunicipal highway services special district

Information Technology Consolidation

Exploring the potential benefits of consolidating the data processing and IT service departments of the City of Elmira and the County

Justice Court Consolidation

Exploring opportunities to consolidate court functions and/or share court facilities among the Towns of Big Flats, Southport, Catlin, Horseheads, and Village of Horseheads

CHEMUNG COUNTY (continued)

Public Works Consolidation

Service sharing between the City of Elmira and the County

CHENANGO COUNTY

City-Town Consolidation

Exploring potential for merger of the City and Town of Norwich

Countywide Highway Services

Evaluating options for sharing services or consolidating departments

CLINTON COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Snow Removal Efficiency

Exploring options to improve efficiency of plowing and related services

CORTLAND COUNTY

City-Town Consolidation

Exploring potential for the merger of City of Cortland and Town of Cortlandville

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

DELAWARE COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Highway Services Consolidation

Village of Delhi Public Works Department with the Town of Delhi Highway Department are exploring potential consolidation

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Conservation Easement Administration

Dutchess County Planning Department, in cooperation with the Northern Dutchess Alliance, is working to develop an intermunicipal administrative framework for implementing and enforcing conservation easement requirements

Justice Court Facility Consolidation

Examining opportunities for consolidating municipal and county court facilities

ERIE COUNTY

Countywide Emergency Dispatch

Considering consolidation of twenty-four public safety answering points into one operation

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Health Insurance Consolidation

City of Buffalo is exploring consolidation of health insurance for employees across city-related entities, including the City, the Buffalo Board of Education, the Buffalo Sewer Authority, and the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority

Technology Services Consolidation

Consolidating Erie and Niagara Counties' Geographic Information Systems and services

ERIE COUNTY (continued)

Smart Growth

Exploring creation of a local law to link approval of new multi-family developments (except for senior developments) to adequacy of school facilities and other public facilities

Water/Sewer System Oversight

Creating a regional watershed and infrastructure coalition, including the City of Buffalo, the Buffalo Sewer Authority, and the Erie County Department of Environment & Planning – to identify regional solutions to overflows by preparing regional infrastructure improvement plans and seeking joint funding

Water System Consolidation

Consideration of a "lease management agreement" between the County Water Authority and Town of Colden to eliminate testing and monitoring costs in Colden Water District No. 1

ESSEX COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Regional Emergency Facility

Town of Westport and Westport Fire District exploring a shared facility to jointly service the fire department, ambulance service, public works department, and municipal offices

Shared Financial Officer

Establishing a shared municipal accounting officer for the villages of Lake Placid and Saranac Lake to improve oversight and planning

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Coterminous Government

Town of Harrietstown and Village of Saranac Lake investigating the creation of coterminous boundaries and governments

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of municipal assessment functions at the county

FRANKLIN COUNTY (continued)

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Justice Court Consolidation

Considering consolidation of the Town and Village of Malone justice courts

Shared Code Enforcement

Studying potential for consolidation of Town and Village of Malone code enforcement functions

FULTON COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Infrastructure

Removing administrative obstacles currently faced by the County Municipal Demolition Team, which removes dilapidated structures for economic improvement purposes, safety concerns, and to improve quality of life

GENESEE COUNTY

City-Town Consolidation

Exploring potential for the merger of the City and Town of Batavia

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Emergency Dispatch

Considering consolidation of three public safety answering points (City of Batavia, Village of LeRoy and the County) into one countywide E-911 Emergency Call Center

Justice Court Consolidation

Considering consolidation opportunities among several justice courts

GENESEE COUNTY (continued)

Regional Board of Health

Genesee County and Orleans County Public Health Departments exploring establishment of a joint board of health and hiring of one public health director to oversee both departments

Water System Consolidation

Entering second phase of water infrastructure project shared by Monroe County and Genesee County

Youth Bureau Consolidation

Consolidation of the Genesee County and City of Batavia Youth Bureaus into a single entity that would function under a countywide youth board

GREENE COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

HAMILTON COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Village Dissolution

Studying the potential dissolution of the Village of Speculator into the Town of Lake Pleasant

HERKIMER COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Highway Services

Exploring options for various highway-related functions

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Justice Court Consolidation

Exploring opportunities to consolidate court functions and/or share court facilities among the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage

Police Consolidation

Studying the consolidation of the Village of Carthage and Village of West Carthage police departments

LEWIS COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Shared Highway Service Facility

Exploring a shared facility for County, Town of Lowville, Village of Lowville, Lowville Academy and Central School District

Water and Sewer System Consolidation

Studying feasibility of consolidating water and sewer infrastructure/services under a regional authority

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Health Insurance

Studying the feasibility of consolidating health insurance for county and municipal employees

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

MADISON COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities under the county treasurer or finance department

MONROE COUNTY

Countywide Health Insurance

Exploring potential of a pooled health insurance plan for county and municipal employees

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Health Insurance

Exploring consolidation of health insurance for public employees among the County, City of Amsterdam, Fulton-Montgomery Community College, and the surrounding towns and villages – may extend to schools and adjacent counties

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

NASSAU COUNTY

Consolidation of Sanitation Districts

Examining whether existing sanitation services could be provided by three town-run sanitation districts rather than multiple independent sanitation districts

Fire District Collaboration

Proposing that the Long Island Regional Planning Board explore governance of fire districts regionally in Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Library District Consolidation

Exploring creation of a countywide public library district to replace the current decentralized system and achieve greater efficiencies, while enhancing or maintaining current service levels

NASSAU COUNTY (continued)

Parks/Road Maintenance

Exploring options for efficient maintenance of parks and roads

Sewer System Infrastructure Consolidation

Exploring consolidation of county's remaining sewer collection and services and infrastructure

Sharing/Consolidation of School District Back Office Functions

Studying options for school districts to share and consolidate administrative functions, including non-public school transportation, maintenance, bonding, insurance services, printing/graphics and other functions

Special District Restructuring

Seeking to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of commissioner-run special districts

Water System Infrastructure

Analyzing possible consolidation of all water districts and private water companies in the county

NIAGARA COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Technology Services Consolidation

Consolidating Erie and Niagara Counties' Geographic Information Systems and services

ONEIDA COUNTY

Shared Financial Officer

Considering a shared municipal accounting officer for the towns of Whitestown and New Hartford to improve oversight and planning

ONONDAGA COUNTY

Countywide Tax Collection

Seeking State legislation to permit voluntary arrangements between municipalities and counties that could realign tax collection responsibilities

ONONDAGA COUNTY (continued)

Economic Development Consolidation

Studying coordination of the County and City of Syracuse economic development offices, as well as the possibility of creating a jointly funded not-for-profit organization for economic development purposes

Police Consolidation

Town of Clay is exploring the potential of contracting with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department for policing services

Purchasing Consolidation

Examining options for consolidating the County and City of Syracuse purchasing functions

ONTARIO COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Technology Services Coordination

Cutting edge project with a goal to provide every house, business and institution with fiber optic capacity

ORANGE COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Procurement Services

Exploring an online contract database and cooperative bidding/purchasing tool in conjunction with Albany and Rockland Counties, the Town of Cortland, and Capital Region BOCES

Smart Growth

Studying the Middletown-Goshen central portion of the county (including four towns, one village, City of Middletown, and Hamlet of Pine Bush) in regard to water supply and possible shared infrastructure

ORLEANS COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level - county currently contracts with two of the ten towns

Countywide Code Enforcement

Studying potential for consolidating municipal code enforcement at the county level

Multi-County Jail Facility

Seeking to partner with nearby counties

Regional Board of Health

Genesee County and Orleans County Public Health Departments exploring establishment of a joint board of health and hiring of one public health director to oversee both departments

OTSEGO COUNTY

City-Town Consolidation

Exploring potential for the City and Town of Oneonta to consolidate or share additional services

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Flood Control

Helping county leaders address Canadarago Lake flood control issues

PUTNAM COUNTY

County-School District Collaboration

Evaluating opportunities to share services with school districts

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

RENSSELAER COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Water and Sewer System Consolidation

Seeking to expand countywide water and sewer authority in order to extend infrastructure to underserved areas of county

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Procurement

Exploring an online contract database and cooperative bidding/purchasing tool in conjunction with Albany and Orange Counties, the Town of Cortland, and Capital Region BOCES

Stormwater Drainage System Consolidation

Exploring options for consolidating storm water drainage system among Town of Orangetown, Village of South Nyack, Village of Nyack, Village of Grandview-on-Hudson and Village of Piermont

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Code Enforcement

Evaluating consolidation of municipal code enforcement at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities under the county

Highway Service Consolidation

Studying potential to consolidate municipal highway services at the county level

Justice Court Consolidation

Exploring opportunities to consolidate municipal courts

SCHENECTADY COUNTY

Countywide Emergency Dispatch

Exploring potential consolidation of 24 public safety answering points into one operation

Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance

County is seeking to collaborate on maintenance services with 23 volunteer fire departments

Highway Equipment Collaboration

Creating a countywide road machinery division responsible for the purchase, maintenance and allocation of equipment for public works entities throughout the county

Consolidated Water and Sewer Departments

Investigating the possible consolidation of the Village of Scotia and the Town of Glenville water departments

SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Code Enforcement

Consolidating municipal code enforcement, as well as floodplain administration, at the county level

SCHUYLER COUNTY

211 Community Service Referral System

Seeking to establish a unified community service information and referral system with Allegany, Chemung, Steuben, and Yates Counties

Code Enforcement/Land Use Planning

Evaluating potential for consolidation of code/planning functions at the county level

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Fire and Emergency Services

Exploring the potential creation of a countywide fire protection district

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

SCHUYLER COUNTY (continued)

Justice Court Consolidation

Exploring opportunities to establish a District Court using county facilities – includes Village of Watkins Glen and Town of Dix and could expand to other town courts

Smart Growth

Seeking to develop an Ecological Master Plan for county to identify opportunities for eco-tourism and agri-tourism

Water and Sewer System Consolidation

Studying countywide consolidation of both systems

Regional Weights and Measures

Exploring consolidation of weights and measures services with Steuben and Yates Counties

SENECA COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Highway Services/Equipment

Evaluating options for sharing highway services and equipment among the municipalities and county

Countywide Zoning and Code Enforcement

Studying potential for consolidating municipal code enforcement and zoning at the county level

STEUBEN COUNTY

211 Community Service Referral System

Seeking to establish a unified community service information and referral system with Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, and Yates Counties

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Regional Weights and Measures

Exploring consolidation of weights and measures services with Schuyler and Yates Counties

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Cash Management and Investment Functions

Seeking consolidation of the cash management/investment functions of county, town, school district, and other municipal units through the formation of a municipal investment pool (MIP)

Comprehensive Roadway Plan

Studying the coordination of overlapping jurisdictions to promote cooperation and consistency in comprehensive plans and roadway decisions

Health Insurance Consortium

Studying feasibility of county and school districts jointly purchasing employee health and pharmaceutical insurance – may extend to towns and villages within the county

Shared County/School District Purchasing

Exploring creation of a consortium for the procurement of laborers, workman and mechanics on public works projects in excess of \$20,000 - also seeking to remove legal obstacles regarding practices for procurement of skilled labor and public works projects over \$20,000

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Cooperative Purchasing

County exploring expansion of cooperative purchasing beyond existing salt and fuel agreements

Regional Jails

Seeking opportunities to share jail facilities for county prisoners sentenced for less than a year for a misdemeanor

Regional Power Cooperative

Exploring potential to purchase power collectively in order to reduce costs of electricity and other energy sources

TIOGA COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

School District Consolidation

Considering options for consolidating school districts at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Fire District Consolidation

Exploring merger into one county fire district

Highway Service Consolidation

Studying potential to consolidate municipal highway services at the county level

Information Technology Coordination

Considering potential of a unified information technology network among municipalities and the county

Municipal Restructuring

Council of Governments exploring options for county dissolution (with portions joining neighboring counties), as well as other restructuring options

TOMPKINS COUNTY

Countywide Health Insurance

Seeking to alleviate legal barriers for a proposed Tompkins County Council of Governments Health Care Consortium to provide employee health care insurance

Criminal Justice Information

Pursuing information sharing and cooperation among criminal justice agencies within the county

Justice Court Consolidation

Studying the feasibility for merger of local justice courts

Smart Growth

Creating development plans (including infrastructure and design standards) for nodal centers of growth within the county

TOMPKINS COUNTY (continued)

Smart Growth

Seeking state assistance in several areas related to the county's Comprehensive Plan

ULSTER COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Economic Development Consolidation

Analyzing coordination of municipal economic development efforts and exploring the potential to align tourism activities with neighboring counties

Highway Services Coordination

Studying possible sharing, collaboration, merger of highway functions among municipalities within the county

Recycling Operation Consolidation

Analyzing opportunities to form a shared resource recovery agency with other counties

Regional Jails

Seeking opportunities to merge jail facilities with nearby counties

Regional Social Services

Exploring potential for inter-county social service agency

Stormwater (MS4) Management Consolidation

Exploring options for consolidating separate municipal stormwater systems

WARREN COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Regional Emergency Facilities

Exploring a shared regional emergency training center with Washington County

WARREN COUNTY (continued)

Village Dissolution

Exploring the dissolution of the Village of Lake George

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Community Shared Health Insurance

Exploring creation of a community cooperative health insurance program

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

Regional Emergency Facilities

Exploring a shared regional emergency training center with Warren County

WAYNE COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment at the county level

Countywide Code Enforcement

Studying feasibility of consolidating municipal code enforcement at the county level

Technology Services Consolidation

Exploring implementation of a shared county-municipal geographic information system for mapping, planning and other functions

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Property Tax Reform

Assisting the Westchester County Association study of property tax reform

Technology Services Coordination

Partnering with the State to expand disaster recovery resources and applicable systems

WYOMING COUNTY

Countywide Assessing

Exploring consolidation of assessment function at the county level

Countywide Tax Collection

Exploring potential to unify tax collection activities at the county level

YATES COUNTY

211 Community Service Referral System

Seeking to establish a unified community service information and referral system with Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties

Justice Court Consolidation

Considering transfer of village court operations to the county courthouse

Regional Weights and Measures

Exploring coordination of weights and measures services with Schuyler and Steuben Counties

Police Consolidation

Studying potential for Village of Penn Yan to consolidate its police department with the County Sheriff's Department

Smart Growth

Developing shared plan for Keuka Lake waterfront lying in the Village of Penn Yan, Town of Milo and Town of Jerusalem