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08/01/2017 | News release | Distributed by Public on 08/01/2017 11:56

County Executive McCoy Submits Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan to Legislature

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August 01, 2017

Following two and half months of information gathering and analysis County Executive Daniel P. McCoy today submitted the Shared Services Property Tax Plan to the legislature that potentially could save taxpayers nearly \$7 million annually if fully adopted. The proposed savings in today's plan is on top of more than \$15 million in savings by 2019 already agreed to in previous efforts in the county.

The state law requiring the plan designated the county executive to lead the county's effort to engage elected leaders and school district officials to identify and review potential areas for shared services and taxpayer savings. The draft report, prepared by the Rockefeller Institute of Government, will be reviewed and the legislature may issue an advisory report with recommendations. The Shared Services Panel consisting of the chief executive officers of every municipality and school district, led by County Executive McCoy, will continue to review, gather input from the public, and analyze proposals in order to finalize the plan by September 15, 2017.

To assist in the process of putting the plan together, the panel also worked closely with the Benjamin Center at SUNY New Paltz.

'Given the tight schedule we were given to conduct our work and to gather information, I am pleased with the draft plan we've put together,' said McCoy. 'The work we've done together has demonstrated to me that an inclusive process works.'

The reports address several areas where shared services could be implemented including: shared specialty equipment and the use of a shared personnel database; enhanced use of joint purchasing for goods and services for municipalities; consolidation of duplicative functions and exploring energy efficiency programs. The panel will continue to examine in depth potential savings in healthcare (without reduction in benefits), debt consolidation and refinancing, and workers' compensation.

'This plan represents a consensus-driven approach from local governments and school districts across the county that will not only reduce costs to taxpayers, but will improve services through better coordination. We look forward to getting input from the community to finalize this plan,' said Jim Malatras, President of the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

The process continues with two additional public hearings on August 7 and August 29. The vote on the final plan must be held by September 15, at which time the plan must be submitted to the state. If it is approved by September 15, the county executive must hold a public presentation on it by October 15.

Albany County Shared Services Plan



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