



**SPECIAL MEETING
AGENDA
NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE
JUNE 24, 2014 - 6:00 P.M.**

Special Meeting – June 24, 2014

IL-032-14 Legislators John Syracuse & William L. Ross, re Shared Cooperative Insurance Initiative

Mary Jo Tamburlin
Mary Jo Tamburlin, Clerk
Niagara County Legislature



NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE
NIAGARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
175 HAWLEY STREET
LOCKPORT, NY 14094-2740

WILLIAM L. ROSS
Chairman

MARY JO TAMBURLIN
Clerk

(716) 439-7000
(716) 439-7124 Fax

June 20, 2014

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

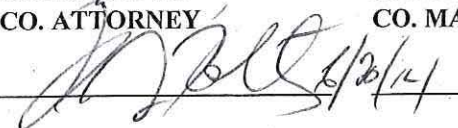
Special Legislature Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Niagara County Legislature Chambers
Courthouse
Lockport, New York

Agenda

Resolution - Shared Cooperative Insurance Initiative

NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FROM: Legislators John Syracuse & William L. Ross DATE: 06/24/2014 RESOLUTION # II-032-14

<u>APPROVED BY</u>	<u>REVIEWED BY</u>	<u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u>	<u>LEGISLATIVE ACTION</u>
<u>CO. ATTORNEY</u>	<u>CO. MANAGER</u>	_____	Approved: Ayes _____ Abs. _____ Noes _____
	_____	_____	Rejected: Ayes _____ Abs. _____ Noes _____
			Referred: _____

SHARED COOPERATIVE INSURANCE INITIATIVE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the twenty-one (21) municipalities in and including Niagara County have a fundamental, fiduciary responsibility to provide essential services to the constituents they serve at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer, and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of and including Niagara County continue to experience an increase in the costs of various operating expenses, but particularly in employee healthcare costs, and

WHEREAS, healthcare costs have risen dramatically and steadily over the past several years with increases of some municipalities averaging more than 15-18% annually over the past several years, and

WHEREAS, these rising costs translate to lower wages, reduced benefits, more restrictive coverage eligibility and place increased pressure on ever-tightening municipal budgets and ever-increasing burdens on local taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the current delivery structure of employee healthcare coverage, which consists of more than twenty-one (21) different health plans, is unwieldy, administratively inefficient, lacks uniformity in coverage and encounters barriers to the inclusion of employees in the process, and

WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law authorizes municipalities to form consortiums, or municipal cooperative health plans, in order to share the costs of self funding health plans, and

WHEREAS, the concept of offering a common, self funded health insurance program which pools the health insurance risk of all the municipalities and assures reasonable costs, greater predictability and stability in the healthcare market should be explored, and

WHEREAS, the municipalities in and including Niagara County believe that by establishing a consortium, it will provide an alternative approach to stabilizing health claim costs, lowering administrative costs and strengthen negotiating power with health care providers while promoting greater participation of the municipal employees throughout the process, and

WHEREAS, The Niagara County Supervisors Association has issued a Request for Proposals to retain a consultant to provide consultation services to among other things, provide a feasibility recommendation to all interested municipalities in and including Niagara County and to project cost savings over a five and ten year period, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Niagara County resolve to appoint an individual to sit on an ad hoc advisory committee that will consist of a representative from each participating municipality for the purpose of exploring an insurance cooperative, and be it further

RESOLVED, to provide the information required by a consultant who will analyze and provide a recommendation to Niagara County whether or not it is in the best interest of Niagara County to join a healthcare benefits consortium in Niagara County and enter into a confidentiality agreement and authorize the chief executive officer to sign such agreement subject to approval of the municipal attorney for Niagara County.

LEGISLATOR JOHN SYRACUSE

LEGISLATOR WILLIAM L. ROSS