

# 2013 Major Accomplishments

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Tompkins County

# Airport

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- Actively participated in successful effort to sustain funding for contract control towers (threatened by sequestration)
- In conjunction with other industry groups, defeated movement to transfer significant security duties from TSA to airport
- Completed Operations addition to Crash Fire Rescue building
- Began feasibility study for Terminal Security Improvements
- Terminal ramp overlay completed
- Began testing low-grow grass mix

# Assessment

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- 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive assessment roll at uniform percent of value
- 2014 Annual Equity Maintenance Program performed digitally (saving 14,000 pages of paper)
- Registered over 85% of the BASIC STAR recipients (1,700 remaining to be registered)
- Revamped digital tax map process significantly reducing processing time.
- In-house Smart Work process to revamp exemption processing for mobile home parks, co-ops and condos.

# Assigned Counsel

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- Over \$200,000 in grant funding from NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services
  - Grant funds allow introduction of new defender-based sentencing advocacy services
  - Additional Alternatives to Incarceration program
- Maintained caseloads at ABA standard

# Board of Elections

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- Installed and utilized a central scanner for absentee and affidavit ballots
- Redistricted much of the County and consolidated polls sites to accommodate voters and save taxpayers dollars
- Developed data-base to help combine election results information and state reporting requirements
- Provided electronic tablets at each poll site for instructions and voter look-up

# Clerk of the Legislature

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- Completed move to new Legislative Offices and Chambers
- All subject files and reports were digitized in searchable format and filed in Laserfiche
- 2013 Legislature meetings video streamed and archived on the web portal

# COFA

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- Moved to Human Services Annex in January
  - 2.6x increase in walk-in clients (to 935)
- Completed major upgrade of all (600) PERS machines
- Disseminated results of County-Wide Senior Needs Assessment
- Conducted outreach with local physicians and physical therapists to integrate Falls Prevention screening for seniors
- Significant progress on Care Transitions program with CMC and VNS
- Conducted multiple outreach events

# County Administration

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- Assisted in addressing fiscal challenges facing Library, TC3, TCAD, and TCAT
- Participated in Living Wage review and development of policy recommendations
- Assisted Broadband Committee in achieving its goal of countywide access to high speed internet
- Worked with WDIC to develop Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Assisted with development of new County web site
- Development of Grants Management web page
- Assisted in response to Federal Sequestration threat to Airport

# County Clerk

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- Implemented e-recording of land documents
- Received 1,103 Opt-Out forms for NY Safe Act
- Awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> NYS Archives Shared Services Grant (\$150,000)
- Implemented TSSERR (Tompkins Shared Services Electronic Records Repository) By-Laws and User Group Agreement
- New security enhanced (laser engraved) drivers license issued by DMV
- Veteran status designation available on NYS DL

# District Attorney

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- Prosecuted 187 felonies (up 15% over 2012)
- Continued success with STOP DWI Delinquent Fine Collection initiative: Total collections now at \$113,775
- Partnered with NY Justice Center to enhance prosecution of crimes against people with special needs
- Qualified for \$29,000 in NYS Aid to Prosecution

# Emergency Response

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- Hired new Communications Center Manager
- Established Professional Development Coordinator position
- Enhanced Emergency Operations Center technologies and operations, incorporating and exercising county department head structure
- Developed, proposed, and was awarded \$2.9 million Interoperable Emergency Communication grant for regional radio capabilities

# Facilities Division

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- Completed renovation of new Legislative Chambers
- Completed conversion of former Legislative Chambers to new Supreme Courtroom
- Completed energy improvements at Public Safety Building
- Assisted in the analysis, and led the design process, for the Day Reporting relocation and Jail renovation projects
- Hired Assistant Director of Facilities
- Managed and maintained 430,500 square feet of County-owned and occupied space

# Finance

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- Hired new Director
- Maintained Aa1 credit rating
- Worked with Legislature to establish new fund balance goal
- Financed several projects at below-market rates
  - Refinancing of an old bond saved \$734,000
- Unqualified audit report
- Assisted TC3 and TCAT with cash flow needs
- Upgraded finance/accounting software

# Finance

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- Accounting system improvements for Consortium
- Conversion to automated time sheet system
- Maintained very high rate of property tax compliance
- Began conversion of tax collection software to contemporary system
- Managed purchasing and bids for several major capital projects

# Health

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- Completed several key planning/prioritization efforts:
  - Strategic Plan
  - Community Health Assessment
  - Community Health Improvement Plan
- WIC achieved 86% breastfeeding initiation rate vs. 68% regional rate
- Supported providers through (challenging) State takeover of Early Intervention fiscal administration
- Significant progress on new automated Environmental Health permit system

# Highway

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- Significant progress on \$6 million in Federally-aided projects
  - Hanshaw Road Reconstruction (commenced)
  - Forest Home Drive Historic Bridge Replacement (commenced)
  - West Seneca Road Bridge Replacement (completed)
- Locally-funded projects
  - Coddington Road Box Culvert & Sight Distance Improvement Project (completed)
  - Ludlowville 1.2 million gallon Detention Pond (commenced)
  - Groton City Road Bridge (completed)
  - Salmon Creek Road Bridge Repair

# Highway

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- Operations
  - New fuel storage and distribution facility
  - First stainless steel dump body on snow and ice vehicle
    - Higher initial costs offset by 20% higher resale value
  - Highway now performing maintenance on all County vehicles

# Human Rights

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- Hired Karen Baer as new Director
- Outreach programming
  - Human Rights 4Kidz – to 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders at GIAC
  - I Have a Dream 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign documenting resident's human rights dreams for next 50 years
  - Created new Human Rights Facebook page
  - 27<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art and Poetry Contest
  - Robust recruitment of new Human Rights Commission members
- New Pre-Complaint Conciliation program
- County's 50-year commitment to Human Rights recognized at Dorothy Cotton Human Rights Day

# Information Technology

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- New County website
- New Security Suite software (anti-virus, filtering, email encryption)
- New public WIFI access in several facilities
- Upgrade of finance/accounting software
- Fiber optic connection between Airport and Sheriff's Office
- Completion of VOIP projects at courthouse campus and Public Works
- Completion of TC3 connection to Spillman system
- Assistance on several major projects (e.g., Environmental Health)
- Continued internal consolidation of IT staff

# Mental Health

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- Transitioned to Health Home Coordination model from Case Management model (as required by NYS)
- Began to implement “no wrong door” policy, where individuals seeking services receive assessment and referral
- Implemented several process improvements to comply with increasingly stringent compliance and regulatory rules
- Filled a long-vacant Deputy Commissioner position
- Services provided to over 2,800 individuals
  - Clinic served 2,500
  - Continuing Day Treatment served 75
  - Case Management (now Health Home) served 164

# Personnel

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- Launch of new “career development and proficiency” training, including mandatory supervisory training
- Web page updated with user-friendly changes, including new benefits page
- Significant progress in digitizing records
- Outreach expanded

# Planning

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- Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Regional Sustainability Plan Approved
  - \$1.9 million in funding; \$1.5 million to Tompkins County applicants
- Web-based community survey to help identify topics for the 2104 Comprehensive Plan update
- Completed two more agricultural conservation easements, raising total to over 2,200 acres
- Assisted the Solar Tompkins group, including an application to Park Foundation for a countywide solar initiative
- Completed County's funding commitment to 6-year Housing Fund program, using \$2 million in County, City, and Cornell funds to support 275 units of affordable housing
- In partnership with Cayuga and Seneca Counties, completed Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan

# Probation

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- Assisted Sheriff's Correction staff in teaching "Thinking for a Change" to group of sentenced inmates
  - Evidence-based program to reduce recidivism
- Participated in Workplace Violence Prevention activities
  - Tabletop exercise with HSB employees
  - Assistance with safety plan for HSB
- Two staff members recognized by State for advancing the automation of state-wide data system
- Participated in planning for relocation of Day Reporting

# Sheriff's Office

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- Implemented “Thinking for a Change” program in Jail
- Started Project Lifesaver program
- Continued to reduce overtime costs
- Recognized as STOP-DWI Large Agency of the Year
  - Also, STOP-DWI Large Agency Officer of the Year and three awards for excellence

# Social Services

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- Received multi-year NYS grant to partner with Child Development Council to develop a Family Assessment Response team, focusing on young parents previously in foster care
- Processed 3,041 SNAP applications vs. 2,978 in 2012
- Handled 1,211 Child Protective Services hot line calls, and 404 Adult Protective Services referrals
- Saved over \$2 million through front-end detection fraud investigations
- Collected \$660,000 in Child Support—up 8% from 2012

# Solid Waste

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- Major steps forward in food scrap recycling
  - Contract with Cayuga Composting
  - \$200,000 state grant to purchase equipment
  - Pilot residential collection
- New website and social media presence
- Created communication and administrative coordinator to oversee public outreach, customer service, office management
- Assisted legislature in advocating Paint Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility legislation by NYS

# Workforce Investment

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- Career Center provided services to over 2,450 people
- 963 Career Center customers placed in jobs with an average wage of \$27,332 (\$25 million in total wages)
- Accessed over \$135,000 in Federal Funds to provide training/ placement for long term unemployed workers
- Created a High-Tech Job Fair to focus on placement in jobs with high wages and benefits
- In partnership with TST BOCES and Newfield Central School created the first Youth/Industry Networking Event

# Youth Services

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- Utilized 2012 State of Tompkins County Youth Needs Assessment to create programming goals and provide funding recommendations based on community priorities.
- Provided support to the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth
- Collaborated with Towns of Caroline, Danby, Enfield, and Ithaca and the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing to establish 15-25 additional youth employment opportunities for 2014.
- Received a Community Foundation Grant to implement the Results Based Accountability Framework with all funded agencies.

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Tompkins County