

MINUTES

Approved 10-8-08

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 3:00 P.M. SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: M. Robertson, Chair; P. Mackesey, F. Proto, M. Sigler, C. Chock

Staff: K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature; E. Marx, Planning and Public Works Commissioner; J. Leccese, Planning Department; J. Jurkowich, Deputy Planning Commissioner; J. Kippola, Strategic Tourism Planning Board; J. McPheeters, Chamber of Commerce President; S. Stein, Strategic Tourism Planning Board; F. Bonn, Convention and Visitor's Bureau; R. Johnson, D. Kiley, Water Resources Council; J. Mattick, Workforce Investment Board; D. Braddock, Workforce NY; H. Filaberto, Tompkins County Area Development; C. Schutt, Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2008, meetings as submitted.

Ms. Robertson asked for further clarification regarding methane gas production; Mr. Proto provided additional information regarding methane from landfills and Space Farm's operation, which has been utilizing methane from manure for the past fifteen years.

Rescheduling October Committee Meeting

By consensus, the next meeting of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee is rescheduled to October 8, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

Appointment

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the appointment of Raul Aguirre to the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board as Land Conservation representative for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Planning Department

Criteria for New Construction through the First Time Homebuyer Program

Ms. Leccese reviewed the criteria established for new construction through the First Time Homebuyer Program. She reported a resolution passed by the Legislature in September 2006, on a two-year trial basis, amended the program to allow new construction under certain situations. Over the course of the past two years, one request for new construction has occurred. During the process of approving the new construction there was confusion; as a result, amendments were made to clarify the process. Ms. Robertson explained in developing criteria various aspects were considered. These included a desire to avoid sprawl, access to public transportation, energy efficiency, and site considerations to avoid future expenses.

Mr. Proto inquired about the design of the house and was informed energy efficient features are requested. Ms. Lecesse also noted that although there is an extensive list, not all are necessary to meet approval; there is some flexibility. Mr. Proto then expressed concern that the list of designated protection areas were not all legal designations; the only two carrying restrictions are Agricultural District and Protected Open Space. Ms. Lecesse indicated the purpose in requesting any information on the various natural features is to enable the review committee as well as the purchaser to have the whole picture of the parcel. It was also noted that it is preferable to have construction follow the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Roberston said it is not restricting private contractors or attempting to modify local ordinances, rather it is a determining if public funding should be spent to support construction under certain conditions outlined within the criteria. Mr. Proto expressed concern that although it may be the intent, if the program criteria remains and staffing changes the intent could be lost and the program could become more restrictive than the initial design was meant to be. He also spoke of the possibility of involving Health Department personnel to be on the review committee due to their experience in environmental health. Mr. Marx thanked Mr. Proto for the suggestion; he said presently if there were questions regarding any of the criteria the Health Department would become involved.

Ms. Chock noted the receipt of only one application in two years might be a signal that the criterion are too restrictive. She expressed the opinion that the proposed changes were even more tight and might attract even fewer applicants. Mr. Marx said individuals in the income brackets eligible for the grants would be looking for the least expensive property. The criterion was designed to assist in avoiding future difficulties due to location or features, the construction should be done to provide advantages to the buyer as well as following the Comprehensive Plan. He said until there is a Multi- or High-Density project it may not be easy to do.

Ms. Chock asked that she would like to have to topic revisited after one-year's time.

Ms. Robertson indicated the one client who utilized the new-home program was a perfect example of sprawl; the revisions were not in place so it was not possible to deny the construction. She noted that although the items listed are the optimum requirements, it would not necessarily prevent construction.

In response to Ms. Mackesey's questions, it was stated there is no liability exposure as a result of the Committee's approval of a project. Mr. Marx noted everything has to be inspected and approved before a final commitment is made.

Ms. Lecesse will take back the Committee's comments and concerns to the oversight committee for further discussion.

Resolutions

Ms. Jurkowich reported this is the annual request for authorization to accept snow mobile grant funds; the County acts as a pass-through for local snowmobile clubs who maintain the trails and develop the capital-project plan.

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT 2008-2009 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS GRANT-IN-AID

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation administers a grant program to encourage local snowmobile-club stewardship and development of snowmobile trails in the state, and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible for this grant program, a local municipality must agree to sponsor the application and administer the program, which the Tompkins County Planning Department has done for local snowmobile clubs since 1998, and

WHEREAS, five snowmobile clubs are proposing to maintain 98 miles of trails that have previously been funded by this program for snowmobile use in Tompkins County, and as part of the grant application, each club prepared a three-year maintenance and capital-project plan, which have been compiled for a master application, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That Tompkins County hereby accepts the 2008-2009 Snowmobile Trails Grant-In-Aid funds in the event that grant funds are awarded,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to execute any contracts related to this project.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-1

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

**RESOLUTION NO. – SUPPORTING THE MONITORING PLAN FOR THE SOUTHERN
 BASIN OF CAYUGA LAKE**

WHEREAS, Cayuga Lake is an important community resource that provides drinking water, recreational opportunities, and environmental benefits, and

WHEREAS, the shallow southern end of Cayuga Lake is inherently more vulnerable to pollution than other, deeper portions of the lake, prompting the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan to call for the preparation of a Cayuga Lake water quality and quantity monitoring plan, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Cornell University received a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to construct and operate the Lake Source Cooling facility on Cayuga Lake, and that permit required Cornell University to undertake a program to monitor the impacts of the Lake Source Cooling facility on the southern end of Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Tompkins County Water Resources Council and Cornell University entered into the Tompkins County-Water Resources Council Partnership (The Partnership) to collaborate on issues related to Cayuga Lake, and have been actively engaged since then in developing a community-based monitoring program for the southern end of the lake, and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has proposed the Monitoring Plan for the Southern Basin of Cayuga Lake that includes physical, chemical, and biological monitoring components to help ascertain the health of the lake, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Water Resources Council unanimously supports the Monitoring Plan for the Southern Basin of Cayuga Lake, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature believes the Monitoring Plan for the Southern Basin of Cayuga Lake and Lake Source Cooling permit are two separate topics that should be addressed separately and that, in adopting this resolution, the Tompkins County Legislature is not making any recommendation with regard to any potential changes to the monitoring of the Lake Source Cooling facility as currently required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature supports the Monitoring Plan for the Southern Basin of Cayuga Lake,

RESOLVED, further, That the Partnership provide regular reports on monitoring results and plan changes to the community and the Tompkins County Legislature.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-18

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It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Chock, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature.

Mr. Sigler inquired why Cornell University would desire to reduce the monitoring presently occurring, stating it could be utilized as a model. Ms. Mackesey said Cornell University representatives would be present at the Legislature for the presentation and could respond to his question at that time.

Ms. Chock spoke of her liaison position with the Water Resources Council (WRC) and the Environmental Management Council (EMC), noting the WRC speaks of the importance of monitoring many environmental factors in the lake. The EMC feels monitoring and the lake source cooling discussions are separate topics. She has been seeking a compromise that recognizes the efforts to monitor and would join the efforts of all working on projects associated with the lake, while keeping separate the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) process. She desired to separate the County from what data the DEC would or would not accept or what Cornell University should do. Ms. Chock suggested an amendment that was found to be friendly and is reflected in the resolution below.

Ms. Mackesey provided an overview of the work that the Water Resources Council is undertaking and how it is different than the lake source monitoring facility. She said the resolution supports the Water Resources Council and partnership but keeps it separate from the lake source cooling permit. Ms. Jurkovich stated the cost of the monitoring is covered by many different sources; lake source cooling is solely the responsibility of Cornell University. Ms. Robertson said she believed the Strategic Monitoring Plan links the two aspects; Ms. Mackesey said the resolution supports the overall approach.

Following discussion, it was noted by Ms. Johnson and Ms. Jurkovich they support the amended resolution.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Mr. Proto requested that when such amended resolutions are to come before the Committee it should be done in advance as much as possible.

Ms. Johnson asked that any questions be directed to her prior to the Legislature meeting that would request action on the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. – SUPPORTING THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL/CORNELL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP IN FURTHERING STRATEGIC LAKE MONITORING AND SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION’S LAKE-SOURCE COOLING PERMIT-REQUIRED IN-LAKE MONITORING

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Water Resources Council, an advisory board to Tompkins County Legislature, promotes the protection of the community’s water resources, and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Cornell University received a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to construct and operate the Lake Source Cooling plant on Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, the DEC permit required Cornell University to undertake a program to monitor the impacts of Lake Source Cooling on the southern end of Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Cornell University requested the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to reduce the permit-required Lake Source Cooling monitoring sites in the southern end of Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2005, by Resolution No. 23, the Tompkins County Legislature opposed the reduction of monitoring sites during the duration of the permit, and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Water Resources Council and Cornell University entered into a partnership to collaborate on issues related to Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Council-Cornell University partnership has now proposed a Strategic Monitoring Plan for the impaired southern basin of Cayuga Lake that includes physical, chemical, and biological monitoring components to help ascertain trends and variations in these indicators of the health of the lake, and

WHEREAS, unlike the Strategic Monitoring Plan, Cornell's permit-required in-lake Lake Source Cooling monitoring was never designed to monitor Cayuga Lake but to detect the impact (if any) of Lake Source Cooling on the lake, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature commends the Water Resources Council-Cornell University partnership on their productive collaboration and supports the overall approach described in the new Strategic Monitoring Plan for the southern end of Cayuga Lake,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature believes the monitoring plan and Lake Source Cooling are two separate topics that should be addressed separately,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature believes the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation should require continuation of the Lake Source Cooling in-lake monitoring sites in any permit renewal,

RESOLVED, further, That a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-18

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It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Chock, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. A brief discussion followed, during which it was noted the resolution only approves the collection of data to provide information on the topic, not to buy-in to any sewer projects.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZING SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW YORK FOR THE COUNTY-WIDE WATER AND SEWER EVALUATION

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 223 of 2007 the Tompkins County Legislature supported the application by Tompkins County on behalf of the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) for funding from the Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program for the county-wide evaluation of sewer and water infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further resolved that the County Administrator of Tompkins County or his designee be the representative authorized to act on behalf of the Tompkins County Legislature in all matters related to this grant, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has been notified that the grant application has been approved by New York State, and

WHEREAS, staff support and oversight for implementation of the grant project will be provided by Tompkins County Area Development, with the involvement of the Tompkins County Planning Department, and with timely reports to the County via the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee and to TCCOG, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program provides funding for up to ninety percent of the cost for projects that involve inter-municipal cooperation and collaboration to improve governmental efficiency, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency has agreed to provide the local share of funding for this project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That Tompkins County agrees to serve as administrator for this Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant on behalf of the TCCOG and the participating municipalities,

RESOLVED, further, That Tompkins County pledges to work with the Engineering Consultant to ensure cooperation of its planning and engineering departments with this project,

RESOLVED, further, That the following adjustments be made to the 2008 Budget:

Revenues

A8027.43959	State Aid Planning	\$82,245.24
A8027.42797	Contributions from other Governments	<u>9,138.36</u>
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$91,383.60

Expenditures

A8027.54400	Program Expenses	<u>\$91,383.60</u>
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$91,383.60

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to act on behalf of Tompkins County to implement this grant including execution of: the grant agreement with the State of New York; a Memorandum of Understanding with TCCOG and/or the participating municipalities to participate in the study; and an agreement with Tompkins County Area Development for project administration.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-18

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Commissioner's Report

Wind Energy Project

Mr. Marx provided updates regarding the proposed Carrowmore project, noting the developer approached the County to discuss possible financial backing should the Town of Enfield approve the wind energy aspect. At this time there is no operator and it is only a conceptual project. Although the developer is interested in this project to become community-based, Mr. Marx informed the developer that governments do not have tax incentives available to them for wind energy projects; the tax structure provides the advantage to the private investors.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Marx provided a reminder of the upcoming public meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan element on energy and the emission of greenhouse gases to be held September 17 in Ulysses, September 22 in Danby, September 24 at the Tompkins County Public Library, and October 1 in Dryden. All public hearings are at 6:30 p.m.

Affordable Housing

Mr. Marx has met with the Village of Lansing Planning Board Chair, who discussed ways to encourage more affordable housing in the Village, noting there are many employers and not enough

affordable housing to meet the needs. Although discussions would be required regarding density it is good to see the interest, which may be the result of the affordability fund. There are several locations that may be appropriate, but the process is just starting.

Mr. Marx also met with representatives of the ConnectIthaca group, which is sponsoring the pod-car conference. It was noted that pod-car transportation requires a denser housing group for that type of system to work. Some of the members of ConnectIthaca are architects who are interested in working on possible housing sites. This group is also looking at the affordability fund as well as working with other partners.

Sustainability

Mr. Marx spoke of working to develop a Green-Fleet policy for future consideration by the Legislature. To accomplish the task of organizing and analyzing the information, an intern would be hired this fall to assist in the endeavor. It is hoped to develop a plan that makes the County fleet more efficient by transitioning to more efficient vehicles as well as possibly working with Ithaca Car Share.

New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal

Mr. Marx reported a representative from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal would be meeting with housing and planning staff in each county to discuss affordable housing as part of a report to be completed. They are tentatively scheduled to be in Tompkins County on October 21 to meet with planning and housing agencies throughout the County.

Follow-Upon Wind Energy Discussion

Mr. Proto indicated the developers came to the County to inform them of the plans for the project and not necessarily to request assistance. He said if the County wanted to purchase power in the future the discussions provided the opportunity to be aware of what the plans are. Mr. Proto said the developer indicated Cornell University has expressed interest in the possibility of purchasing wind energy developed in the project. Mr. Proto then inquired how independent wind generating locations would be effected by the purchase of Energy East by Iberdrola, who has committed to wind energy production in New York State. It was noted that it is not known at this time.

Strategic Tourism Planning Board (STPB)

Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Budget

Mr. Bonn, Director, provided members with a copy of the CVB budget for review. In response to Ms. Mackesey's question regarding the high-cost of rent, the Committee was informed CVB utilizes approximately sixty-four percent of the building (all of the first floor and additional space on the second floor). Based on review of current market by Ms. Kippola and Ms. Mattick, it was noted the rent is \$20.71/sq. ft., for approximately 3,400 sq.ft. and includes cleaning and utilities. This cost is mid-range rental for a Class A office building (elevator, wireless internet, prime location, etc.) compared to downtown properties costing \$24.00/sq.ft., plus utilities.

Ms. Chock spoke of possibly renting out some of the rooms for weekly or special events, however, due to the not-for-profit status and Town of Ithaca zoning it is not possible to do so.

Mr. Proto inquired what the large figures were of funds going to the Chamber of Commerce from the STPB. Ms. Kippola said when developing the 2009 budget they asked for a base budget and one that included additional funding for specific projects. The STPB looked at projects suggested by the Chamber for inclusion within the budget. Mr. Bonn said the 2009 budget had elements from the CVB, as well as administration, overhead, marketing and advertising.

Further discussion occurred during which it was noted that other revenue is received from New York State and other funding sources. In addition, other projects not yet approved by the STPB are under consideration and were included in the previous budget. Projects under consideration include enhancement of the VisitIthaca.com site, opening of a seasonal kiosk at Taughannock Park Overlook, an enhanced marketing campaign in suburban Philadelphia, and to hire a consultant to assist with meeting and conference organization from a national base of Washington, D.C. At the present time there are 7FTE, 3 are devoted to visitor service, and supplemental 3-4 part time seasonal workers are utilized in the summer months. The 2009 budget requests additional staffing to allow the CVB to stay open until 7:30 p.m.

Discussion on Bylaws Amendments

Mr. Stein explained the proposed amendments allow less restriction on membership of the Board. He said there are several highly qualified individuals interested in becoming a member, however, particular designations would not allow them to be. He said it is difficult to find individuals in the positions being amended and the changes would allow the Board to function more efficiently by having a quorum. Ms. Kippola said the information is provided at this time for review and she would like to have action on a resolution at the October meeting.

A discussion followed, with members of the Committee expressing concern at the proposed reduction in the Culture/Arts designation from four to two seats. It was noted that although the present Committee may have knowledge of the purpose of amending these seats, future Legislators might not have historical knowledge and open the membership even further. It was stressed the make-up of the STPB was to provide a wide array of businesses and tourist-attracting event holders the ability to have input on how funds are spent.

It was requested that a copy of the bylaws and definition of the membership be provided to members of the Committee for review.

Update on Establishing a Hospitality Program – Workforce/TC3

Ms. Kippola said it was not felt the development of the program required a resolution to proceed. Ms. Mattick placed the item on the agenda to answer questions that came up. This proposal is within the STPB budget. Mr. Stein indicated that Ms. Mattick requires assurance that there is support for the initiative; Ms. Robertson indicated the sense of the Committee was that it was a good idea. In response to Mr. Koplinka-Loehr's questions regarding the program, Ms. Kippola said she responded to his e-mail. Ms. Chock spoke of a Legislator being concerned that this initiative could encourage dead-end jobs. It was noted this program is being developed to address that concern, by training hospitality workers through a career ladder to management

2009 Budget Requests

Tompkins Workforce New York

Ms. Mattick provided an overview of the 2009 budget requests, noting previous budget lines showed a combined total for the Workforce Investment Board and the Office of Employment and Training. She highlighted work completed by Workforce, including the coordination and development of training for machinists, a much-needed skill. Through discussions with TC3 and local employers a program was developed and funded by potential employers. She spoke of the need to become a planning function to maintain businesses in the community. At the present time the Workforce Strategy is being reviewed to identify potential problems and find solutions. This is done to assist in identifying grant opportunities.

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Ms. Mattick said the next meeting of the Workforce Strategy Steering Committee would include the superintendents and principals of eight schools and TST-BOCES representatives to discuss issues/problems relating to local employment and what constraints the school districts are under.

It was noted employers do not make financial contributions to the Workforce Investment Board, they do provide funding for training programs.

Mr. Proto noted the County Administrator did not recommend any funding for the entire Workforce Investment Board. He asked what is the County's responsibility. Ms. McPheeters spoke of the Federal government having set up Workforce Investment Boards, indicating who was required to be members of the board. She spoke of the decision of Tompkins County to develop its own Workforce Investment Board as it was felt the county had unique features compared to neighbors. She spoke of the extraordinary work completed by the Workforce Investment Board. She said there are funds that have been brought in for youth employment as well as assisting employers to develop training programs. The Workforce Investment Board was funded for a single year through IDA and was informed it is not allowed. Ms. McPheeters shared her opinion that due to the economic concerns it would be the worst time to reduce or eliminate a local Workforce Investment Board. She thinks Mr. Whicher is asking the Legislature to step up and retain the program here rather than another county. She also noted that if it was decided to partner with other counties there would be an expense between \$50,000 to \$150,000, with fewer services to residents. It was noted that previous efforts to partner with Broome and Tioga counties were not successful.

Ms. Robertson requested additional questions be directed to Ms. Mattick after the meeting.

Workforce Development One Stop

Ms. Bradac provided a handout showing how many individuals have been seen at the One-Stop Center and how well the staff is performing. The Committee was informed that it is not a good time to eliminate funding due to the critical employment situation as a result of the economy.

Soil & Water Conservation District

Mr. Schutt provided an update and noted that as a result of the County seeking housing for Board of Elections voting machines, a proposal to reduce rental fees for the Soil and Water Conservation District by sharing space in a building is being considered by the County. The Committee was brought up to date on events taking place concerning the move, noting that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who has paid a good share of the rent for the present location, following an extreme audit by the USDA, has been informed it may no longer use funds received for rent. A proposed operating agreement for rent increases was presented by NRCS that would increase the amount of rent in phases over a three-year period to a total of \$40,000 in the third year. As a result of the concern about the increases, Mr. Whicher had suggested the possibility of sharing space in the building the County is renting on Hanshaw Road. In addition, Mr. Whicher has offered the opportunity to lease space in the building to NRCS as well. Federal representatives have met with the County Administrator, however to date no decision has been received. The Soil and Water Conservation Board has instructed him to write to the government indicating a plan to move ahead. Mr. Whicher recommended a conference call with State representatives to attempt to have resolution. Mr. Schutt passed out a preliminary chart reflecting the leveraging of grant monies his agency provides to the county; a more complete chart would be made available to the Expanded Budget and Capital Committee.

Tompkins County Area Development

Ms. Filaberto said the request to the County is for the same amount as the 2008 budget. She spoke of having a diversified funding model that they would like to expand. She said funding comes from government sources, fee for services, and members who contribute. At the present time they are

launching a three-year membership campaign. The membership drive provides approximately 25 percent of the budget, which is down from the previous amount of 30 percent due to the Empire Zone service that is provided, which does not allow for fee for service. The goal of TCAD is to have local government, fee for services, and membership each provide one-third of the total budget. The local government portion is lower than that at the present time. It is hoped the county could begin to look at the possibility of increased funding in the future. She spoke of the inability to provide funding through tax-exempt bonding for not-for-profit services due to the sunset of the law occurring in January 2008.

Ms. Filaberto shared information on Empire Zone projects they administer, including the Town of Lansing sewer project to expand the lines to Dutch Mill Road, the Workforce Strategy initiative, assisting on a shared municipal services grant application for water and sewer, and participation in the Air Services Board.

Ms. Mackesey asked if there is any activity at the State level regarding the tax-exempt bonding or if it is still in the State Dormitory Authority. Ms. Filaberto said it does not appear any efforts are under way to amend the law; however, efforts are being made to level the playing field and keep funding local. Mr. Proto spoke of the work undertaken for the New Visions program.

Next Meeting

Ms. Robertson said the next meeting would be on October 8th.

Liaison Reports

Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT)

Mr. Proto reported the contract for the bus drivers expires at midnight. Appropriate authorities have informed their employees and it is hoped to keep operations as normal as possible. In anticipation, TCAT authorized an extension of the contract if it is not resolved. He said the County increase is built into the 2009 budget; if the City and Cornell do not agree, the percentage of increase would be altered to match the remaining partners.

Environmental Management Council

Ms. Chock said the topic of gas drilling would be on upcoming agenda, and it was noted it should be discussed at Water Resources Council. Ms. Robertson noted the Planning Advisory Board and Cornell University would also be working on this.

Homeownership Oversight

Ms. Mackesey said there are some concerns regarding different areas.

Lake Level

Ms. Chock spoke of the extensive work that is involved with reducing lake levels due to specific housing levels.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.