

**TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MINUTES  
September 27, 2007**

Present: D. Austic-T. Ulysses, D. Barber, T. Caroline, R. Dietrich-T. Danby, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, S. Farkas-T. Lansing, D. Frongillo-T. Caroline, T. Joseph-Co. Legislator, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, D. Makar-T. Dryden, M. Coles-City Of Ithaca, M. Robertson-Co. Legislator, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, S. Whicher-Co. Administration, M. Lynch-Co. Administration

Guests: Abigail Smith-SPCA, Greg Potter-County Information Technology Services, Joan Jurkowich-County Planning Department, Pat Dougherty-T. Enfield, Bambi Hollenbeck-T. Dryden

Meeting began at 3:00 PM.

- II     Review 7/26/07 Meeting Minutes:  
Motion:        To accept the minutes  
Made by:       D. Austic  
Second:        R. Dietrich  
Carried unanimously

- III    BioDiesel:  
          Tabled for another meeting.

- IV     Health Benefits Updates:  
There were four responses to the Health Benefits Request for Qualification. The Steering committee conducted the consultant interviews on September 19, 2007. After the interviews, Committee members discussed the candidate's strong points and decided to contact references. After the reference checks the committee voted via e-mail and unanimously chose Locey and Cahill.  
Motion:        To support the sub-committee's choice of Locey and Cahill as the consultant for the Medical Health Benefit Consortium-Phase I.  
Made by:       D. Austic  
Second:        R. Dietrich  
Carried unanimously

- V      Addressing System/2010 Census:  
Greg Potter, Director of Information Technology Services and Joan Jurkowich, Deputy Commissioner of Planning gave a presentation on the 2010 Census and Local Addressing Project. These are two separate and distinct projects which both require a process to collect, review and improve current address data for all Tompkins County municipalities. Both are scheduled to start within the next month. The TCCOG presentation and discussion has been requested to determine if an interest exists by TCCOG members to coordinate these projects with technical and project management support provided by Tompkins County

Planning and Information Technology Services (ITS) Departments. ITS is trying to create a centralized database in Tompkins County that can be accessed by each municipality. The information stored in that database can be used by municipalities who will each have its own password, data collected will be shared with Emergency Dispatch to assist with locating properties in emergencies. Municipalities will be able to submit information electronically and have the final say as to what goes into the database. Next Steps:

- ITS will communicate with each municipality to determine a contact person.
- Municipalities will be provided with maps and address lists for comparison and revision.

## VI SPCA:

Abigail Smith, Director, and Joe McAfee, Treasurer, of the SPCA spoke about the 2008 SPCA contracts and why the increase in fees.

### Key Points:

- SPCA has two separate entities:
  1. Animal Care: which is a private organization funded by donations and fund raisers, and
  2. Animal Control: which is a not-for-profit organization mandated by NYS Agriculture and Markets Laws and is funded by local municipalities.
- Over the past few years' animal control program expenses have increased, yet contract revenue stayed the same or was very gradually increased.
- SPCA has been using reserves to bridge the gap between contract revenue and program expenses; however, the reserves have been depleted.
- Proposed SPCA contract fees doubled, across the board, in 2008.
- The 100 percent increase in fees will help meet the \$450,000 expense of running the animal control program for 2008, but does not completely cover costs. It is essential for municipalities and the SPCA to collaborate efforts on an agreement for 2009 to cover future animal control expenses.
- Ms. Smith/SPCA is available to provided information and answer questions at municipal Board meetings.
- TCCOG will be the point of contact for discussions between county municipalities and the SPCA for 2009.

## VII TCCOG-Twelve Month Review:

The Purpose of TCCOG as written in the By-laws:

“The TCCOG is an association of local governments organized to provide a forum for discussion and negotiation leading to agreements for more efficient and fiscally responsible delivery of government services.”

Accomplishments:

- Initiated TCCOG and formulated By-laws
- Acquired buy-in/membership from all municipalities in Tompkins County
- Was awarded the SMSI Health Insurance Benefits Incentive Grant
- There is a Shared Municipal Service agreement in place.
- Collaborated with the County Legislature in requesting, and receiving, assistance from New York State in three areas: Smart Growth, Health Insurance and Unified Court System.
- Chairperson, Don Barber, has represented TCCOG at two seminars regarding the SMSI Health Insurance Incentive Grant and how TCCOG was initiated.
- Have visited and approved five resolutions:
  - Health Insurance
  - Fire Disaster/EMS Board
  - Waste Haulers
  - TCAD Infrastructure Study
  - Health Insurance Benefits Incentive Grant-Phase I

This is a very important group. We have created a forum that others find useful to deal with the community collectively, but is it useful to TCCOG? Are all of the presentations that we have had accomplishing anything? What do we do as a group once something is presented? We need to start working collaboratively on issues once they are presented. Should we restructure the meetings: take time out of each meeting, or at quarterly meetings, to discuss next steps, if any, for TCCOG; form sub-committees to do research out side of the regular meeting and report back to the entire membership. The chair could use additional support, when the call for agenda items goes out think about what you would like to discuss. Do we need the long list of “Future Topics” on the end of the agenda? Should we start the list over?

VIII Next Meeting Topics:

Restructure Meetings

SPCA

New Future Topics:

BioDiesel & alternate fuels

SMSI Grant for fuel depots/FEMA money

A cooperative bid for fuel; all municipalities bid under the County

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 pm