

TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
OCTOBER 25, 2007 MEETING
MINUTES

Present: D. Barber-T. Caroline, D. Austic-T. Ulysses, R. Dietrich-T. Danby, M. Coles-City of Ithaca, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, D. Frongillo-T. Caroline, D. Hartill-V. Lansing, T. Joseph-Co. Legislature, M. Lynch-Co. Admin, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, J. Owens-T. Enfield, C. Rankin-V. Groton, M. Robertson-Co. Legislature, M. A. Sumner-T. Dryden, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, S. Whicher-Co. Admin.

Meeting began at 3:03 p.m.

II Review 9/27/07 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: To accept the minutes of the September TCCOG meeting
Made by: D. Austic
Second: C. Valentino
Carried Unanimously

III Recreation Partnership Contract:

Signatures were collected for the master contract for Rec. Partnership.

IV TCAD:SMSI Grant Information:

Martha Armstrong disseminated a copy of the resolution TCCOG approved in June of 2007 regarding TCCOG support of a countywide water & sewer infrastructure study to be conducted by Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD). Ms. Armstrong informed the members that the SMSI grant is due on December 14, 2007, and TCAD would like to have municipalities sign individual resolutions, similar to the one TCCOG passed in June. Doreen Lauper from County Administration will be distributing and tracking the necessary documentation. Even if your entity does not currently have municipal sewer and water, please sign the supporting resolution for future development. M. Armstrong also asked TCCOG if they could suggest a member from this group who could serve as a liaison to the Economic Development collaborative. Meetings are held quarterly. Cathy Valentino is the current representative, however, her term will be up the first of next year.

V SMSI-Health Insurance Consortium Update:

The first stage of the first phase of the health benefits collaboration is to form a consortium. Locey and Cahill (L & C) have developed a draft document for municipality review. L & C will attend a regular TCCOG meeting to walk the municipalities through its plan, and at a later date go to each municipality.

Please advise your Boards that this phase is moving quickly and that they will hear from L & C fairly soon with a request for information. Once the data is compiled L & C will provide a report for municipality review.

VI TCCOG/SPCA Update:

SPCA sub-committee members: D. Barber, D. Austic, R. Dietrich, C. Valentino, S. Whicher, and Steve Thayer-City of Ithaca. Charge of the committee was to provide a vehicle for all County municipalities who deal with animal control contracts through the SPCA to work collaboratively to understand the reasoning behind the SPCA contract fee increase, and to decide if they want to continue to using SPCA services.

TCCOG members researched the following items:

- Ag & Market laws/requirements
- SPCA financial information
- SPCA level of service
- Contracts
- Fee process
- Similar County's animal control programs
- What else is available in our area for animal control
- A Request for Proposals for animal control

A tentative agreement between the TCCOG sub-committee and SPCA board members was reached. The County Attorney, Jonathan Wood, drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the basis of that agreement. A copy of the MOU is included in the meeting packet for membership review, discussion and for vote.

Key points of the discussion:

Ag & Markets laws only require animal control for licensed animals-dogs.

There needs to be a distinction between animals being picked-up and animals that are surrendered.

S. Whicher checked with Ontario and Jefferson Counties and the \$350,000 fee requested from the SPCA is not out of the ordinary for animal control.

The County will cover the feral cat program for 2008, however, law does not require feline coverage and this will need further County consideration.

The County contracts with the SPCA for rabies clinics through the Health Department.

Groton has contracted with another agency for animal control. If other municipalities decide not to contract with the SPCA contract fees will increase further. Dryden and Ulysses have considered outside contracts but will stay with SPCA for the first three months of 2008.

An RFP process needs to be established.

Two parts:

- Minimal requirements-as per Ag & Markets Laws

What do municipalities feel they would like to see on the contract
Develop a universal contract
The SPCA will not be able to assist with producing the RFP
Is there a possibility of the County owning a building to house the animal control shelter and to contract out services, although, it is usually cheaper to contract out than to own.
All municipalities need to be kept informed

Motion: To accept the Memorandum of Understanding
Made by: Ric Dietrich
Second: Rich Dolge
Carried Unanimously

Next Steps:

Form a sub-committee to develop the RFP
Cathy Valentino and Ric Dietrich volunteered
to be on the committee (rural and urban prospective)
Others to be considered:
Bambi Hollenbeck-Dryden
Steve Thayer-City of Ithaca
Shelter owners
Veterinarians
Kathy Wright-Ag & Markets

M. Lynch disseminated a draft press release a regarding TCCOG and SPCA for review by the membership, which will be revision and release after this meeting.

Ms. Valentino will organize the committee and set up meetings. The committee will contact Jackie Kippola at County Administration for sample RFP's. The committee will bring information to the full membership by the November 29th meeting. TCCOG members will be able to take the draft RFP to its boards for review and comment.

VII Restructure TCCOG Meetings:

Key Topics:

- Are we meeting enough, too much?
- We have had a good turnout at the meetings but need to see how we can draw more small out-lying municipalities in.
- Things like the SPCA issue show the value of this organization.
- We don't have to have resolution for every item presented to our organization.
- It is important to be informed so that we can take information back to our boards.

- There has to be some understanding about what we are soliciting to be heard in front of us.
- We need to be pro-active with projects.
- We need to know who is paying for what throughout the county, a spread sheet of what all municipalities are doing. Who pays what for libraries, TCAT, Rec Partnership, etc.

VIII Next Meeting Topics:

SPCA

SMSI-Health Insurance Benefits

Assessment

2 or 3 vacancies to be fill by members of this council

New members post elections

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm