

**TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES**

March 22, 2007

Present: D. Barber-T. Caroline, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, D.Austic-T. Ulysses, M. Robertson-County Legislature J. Owens-T. Enfield, D. Hartill-V. Lansing, M. Lynch-County Admin, S. Trumbull-T. Dryden, R. Taylor-V. Dryden, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, C. Peterson-C. Ithaca, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, G. Stevenson-County Legislature, S. Whicher-County Admin

Meeting started at 3:05 p.m.

Motion to adopt minutes from 2/22/07 meeting with corrections

Made by: C. Valentino

Second: D. Austic

Carried

Update on Volunteer Firefighters:

C. Valentino is still working on research.

There was a review of what Pennsylvania State College offers the firefighters in their community.

The amount of training required is an issue.

The majority of volunteer firefighters have outside jobs and carry health insurance there.

D. Barber needs to know if your municipality does or does not carry Workers Compensation for your local fire departments/districts.

Update on Planning Board Training:

C. Valentino is waiting to hear from Cooperative Extension to see if they will be able to work out a collaborative planning board training program to offer municipalities in this area. TCCOG has not heard from the Association of Towns regarding trainings. C. Valentino would appreciate information from municipalities who are also contemplating organizing trainings for their members.

Inclusionary Zoning:

Inclusionary zoning means that a new project/development has to allocate a certain percentage of its units to be low-income/affordable housing units. (It was the first strategy from the list of four that E. Marx provided in his plan at the last meeting.)

Topics for Discussion:

- Most state housing grant programs are for single-income households; we need to look for awards that apply to double-income households.
- It would be good to know which municipalities in Tompkins County are processing/reviewing their zoning practices.
- TCCOG members need to take these strategies back to their planning boards.
- Strategies throughout the County should be cohesive, but not necessarily uniform.
- Municipalities need to bring something back to this group to show united support for this strategy to Cornell and local lending facilities.
- See if E. Marx has a sample resolution to take back to the municipalities for review and possible acceptance.
- We need to seek a sample zoning regulation to use as an example.
- TCAD is working from the infrastructure side of this and E. Marx is working with them.
- There was discussion on mobile homes/manufactured housing as an alternative. Municipal zoning laws might have to be modified to encourage this.
- Building costs, taxes, heating, insurance, maintenance, water and sewer costs, etc, remain an issue, even if housing is available.

War Stories & Cooperation Opportunities from the Valentines Day Snow Storm:

Caroline had to borrow a piece of equipment from the County to wing snow back and is now using the county's equipment as a prototype to develop equipment of its own.

There needs to be a coordinated effort involving the City, Towns, Cornell and the County on snow removal and similar language usage (i.e. "Snow Emergency Route" in the City determines where you can park, not where you can drive and is not the same as a "State of Emergency.")

Tompkins County is reviewing its Emergency Closing Policy.

Upstate New York Task Force for Waste Haulers:

There was review of the information from New York State and the resolutions passed by Skaneateles and the City of Ithaca. Several members commented on the increased amount of traffic traveling through this area; (including to the Seneca Meadows landfill) but not making deliveries. Town of Ithaca will probably pass a similar resolution at its next meeting. Each municipality should take this up with its boards before next months meeting.

Motion: To approve a version of the City of Ithaca and Skaneateles Resolutions regarding Waste Hauler traffic.

Made by: M. Robertson

Second by: S. Trumbull

Carried Unanimously

C. Peterson volunteered to draft a resolution for TCCOG to review.

Defibrillators for Municipalities:

G. Stevenson, County Legislator, has proposed that Tompkins County install Public Access Defibrillators in certain County buildings and Town or Village Halls. The PAD's are easy and safe to use. The machine will not execute unless it detects the appropriate heart rhythm. Access to defibrillators is important; it is the most successful way to assist someone having a heart attack. The team investigating this is looking at a three-year phase-in project. Funding is needed for the machines, training, installation and ongoing maintenance. Grants are being sought by the County on behalf of TCCOG, but the municipalities are under no obligation to participate.

Housekeeping:

Funding for radio equipment for the new county communications system.

Topics of Discussion:

Is the County picking up the costs of all stationary equipment?

Who is paying for end-user equipment?

Equipment needs vary significantly.

How will the new system interface with what we have now and with equipment for adjacent counties who do not have this system?

Where is the responsibility?

Who has ownership?

Who does the maintenance?

What do people want? Not everyone needs the same equipment.

If we are going to work together, we will need to think cooperatively.

It was decided that there should be an additional meeting to discuss this issue.

Administration will coordinate this meeting.

Next Meeting Topics:

EMS radio update-S. Whicher

Waste Haulers Resolution-C. Peterson

Planning Board Training-C. Valentino

Recreation Partnership-C. Valentino

Under Housekeeping: Deer Management and Communications Protection Law

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm