

**TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
May 24, 2007**

Present: D. Barber-T. Caroline, D. Coogan-T. Ulysses, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, S. Farkas-T. Lansing, T. Joseph-Legislator, M. Lynch-Admin, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, D. Makar-T. Dryden, C. Peterson-C. Ithaca, M. Robertson-Legislator, S. Trumbull-T. Dryden, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, S. Whicher-Admin.

Meeting began at 3:05 p.m.

II. Review 3/22/07 & 4/26/07 minutes:

Motion: To accept the 3/22/07 minutes
Made by: R. Dolge
Second: S. Farkas
Carried

Motion: To accept the 4/26/07 minutes
Made by: R. Dolge
Second: S. Farkas
Carried

III. Proposed Waste Haulers Resolution:

This resolution is specific to waste haulers and in support of Sen. Chuck Schumer's efforts to keep long haul trucks on state highways in upstate New York.

Motion: For TCCOG to approve a resolution (attached) in support of Sen. Schumer's proposal.
Made by: C. Peterson
Second: C. Valentino
Carried unanimously

Motion: Amend the above motion to include additional recipients: Senators Schumer and Clinton, Congressman Hinchey, and Arcuri, Governor Spitzer, Senators Seward, Nozzolio, and Winner, Assemblyperson Lifton, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Permits Director, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Bureau of Solid Waste, Reduction & Recycling and New York State Association of Counties.
Made by: W. Lynn
Second: C. Peterson
Carried

IV. Recreation Partnership:

C. Valentino reported that Rec. Partnership is revising its contracts. Most of last year's contracts have been extended until a new contract is completed. Draft contracts should be ready for review by early June. Next steps will be to update the bylaws.

V. Communication Protection Law:

S. Whicher reported that the communication protection law was drafted because there was a need expressed to protect the countywide Public Safety communications system. Issues with the proposed law are with whom to contact; any charge for review and, if so, who would have to pay for it, height restriction and signal paths. The municipalities that believe they have regulations in place similar to the communications protection law can have County Attorney Jonathan Wood review what the existing law. Town of Caroline revised the proposed contract to meet its needs and Mr. Barber will have that available for TCCOG member review before the next meeting.

The City of Ithaca has other issues with the proposed law and is involved in on-going, open communication with Mr. Shurtleff at the County's Department of Emergency Response.

VI. Governor Spitzer's Consolidated/Shared Services Committee:

S. Whicher reported that this committee's motivation is assistance not funding. E. Marx, Planning, submitted a proposal regarding the county comprehensive plan. L. Shurtleff, Emergency Response, drafted a request regarding Worker's Compensation for emergency responders/firefighters. Suggested topics from TCCOG members were: Consolidated Court System, Black Diamond Trail and dredging the inlet. T. Joseph, as Chair of the Legislature, will complete the required documentation.

VIII. Grant Money for Agricultural Economic Development and Land Protection:

Monika Roth, Cooperative Extension's Agriculture and Environment Coordinator, reported on grant funding provided for agriculture, economical and farmland protection plans. Approximately \$ 600,000 is available. This is a matching grant program; individual municipalities are eligible for a maximum of \$25,000, and partnered municipalities will be eligible for \$ 50,000. Education, outreach, agricultural economic development, planning and environmental issues are key items being targeted. Ms. Roth suggested that municipalities form committees to review, discuss and research this grant. There is no deadline, funding will be allocated until the grant allotment is depleted. The County Planning Department has already identified potential properties, places and plans; you may contact them for information. Ms. Roth is also available for assistance with this project.

VIII. Water and Sewer Infrastructure:

Martha Armstrong from Tompkins Community Area Development presented information on updating the 1994 TCAD study on the county water and sewer infrastructures. TCAD requests that TCCOG pass a proposed resolution (attached) to support a countywide evaluation of existing water and sewer infrastructure and development of a conceptual plan of needs to support future growth. Included is a request that TCCOG members work with the Economic Development Collaborative to ensure cooperation of members' planning and engineering departments with this project and help in securing funding for the study. Ms. Armstrong has additional information that she will forward to staff to distribute to TCCOG members. The resolution will be reviewed and brought up for a action at the next meeting.

IX. SMSI Grant-Health Insurance Incentive:

TCCOG has officially been awarded a New York State Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant to develop a collaborative strategy for employee health insurance. S. Whicher asked for volunteers to form a steering committee to discuss next steps. The list of volunteers was as follows: D. Barber, D. Austic, C. Valentino, and Steven Thayer; City Controller. Mr. Whicher will head the committee and will ask Rich Weiss from BOCES to assist in the process.

X. Housekeeping:

D. Coogan, President of the Board for Cooperative Extension handed out a survey to each municipality represented at the meeting regarding a five-year work plan and asked that the document be returned, via the self-addressed envelope, at the member's earliest convenience.

C. Valentino, distributed information regarding planning board training and asked that it be attached electronically to the next meeting agenda.

XI. Next Meeting Topics:

The Director of the SPCA would like to discuss the issue of municipal contracts with TCCOG at the next meeting.

D. Barber reported that the Community Science Institute, who monitors streams in Tompkins County, would like to do a presentation at the next TCCOG meeting, asking for possible financial support from the members/municipalities.

There will be a Unified Court System Public Hearing 6/26/07, in the Old Tompkins County Courthouse, 121 E. Court St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

The issue of attendance and a quorum for TCCOG meetings was a topic of discussion. D. Barber will generate a communication regarding this.

Meeting adjourned 4:35 p.m.