

**TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
June 28, 2007**

Present: D. Austic-T. Ulysses, D. Barber-T. Caroline, D. Frangillo-T. Caroline, R. Dietrich-T. Danby, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, S. Farkas-T. Lansing, T. Joseph-Co. Legis, M. Lynch-Co. Admin, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, J. Owens-T. Enfield, C. Peterson, C. Ithaca, M Robertson-Co. Legis, S. Trumbull-T. Dryden, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, S. Whicher-Co. Admin.

Meeting began at 3:05 pm

II Review 5/24/07 Minutes:

Motion: To accept the minutes from the May 24, 2007, meeting

Made by: R. Dolge

Second: S. Trumbull

Carried

III Director of SPCA:

Abigail Smith, the Director of the SPCA, spoke to a need for uniformity in its animal control contracts throughout the County or possibly the SPCA having one contract with the County that would cover all municipalities that would contain a reimbursement clause. The SPCA provides Tompkins County with a comprehensive animal service, however, that service is grossly under funded. Ms. Smith projected that municipalities could cover SPCA contract costs with enforcement of local and State mandated animal control laws.

Suggested Next Steps: Ms. Smith could go to the towns/villages and courts to discuss waived fees. She could put together a draft budget for TCCOG review. The SPCA could draft a model contract to be used uniformly by municipalities and present it at the July TCCOG meeting.

IV Planning Board Training:

C. Valentino disseminated information on planning board training. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of individual municipal boards passing resolutions to waive the four-hour training requirement if they determined that their members did not need the instruction. This resolution would need to be prepared and passed annually. The City of Ithaca has passed a resolution concerning Planning Board training, which can be distributed to TCCOG membership. Some training is provided in an online format. It was suggested that Tompkins County Planning, through Ed Marx, might have something available. The choice of training format needs to be decided by the individual municipal Boards. Additionally, municipalities have the option of training through Cornell Cooperative Extension and several members agreed that this would be useful. If you are interested in using Cooperative Extension's program please contact C. Valentino.

V Communication Protection Law:

The membership reviewed the communication protection law that was submitted by the Town of Caroline. If there are any additional questions contact Steve Whicher or Jonathan Wood. Ulysses and Cayuga Heights feel that they have something in place that covers this law. Newfield is reviewing Caroline's proposal. The City of Ithaca is still working with L. Shurtleff.

VI Community Science Institute:

Mr. Stephen Penningroth, Executive Director of the Community Science Institute (CSI) water quality testing laboratory at 95 Brown Road, Ithaca, gave a power point presentation on the work they do in the Cayuga Lake Watershed district. CSI is the largest independent certified water testing lab in Tompkins County and has the largest tributary monitoring program in the Cayuga Lake watershed. Most testing is done on Six Mile, Fall and Virgil Creeks. CSI recruits, trains and coordinates volunteers as essential partners in monitoring water quality in local streams, parks and Cayuga Lake. These volunteers collect samples that are analyzed by CSI's certified lab for nutrient, sediment bacteria and mineral indicators of water quality. Raw data are archived in MS Excel files and made available for downloading from the internet: www.communityscience.org. CSI offers a valuable product by working with local officials to identify and address potential sources of pollution in streams and in Cayuga Lake. SCI is in need of financial contributors for its volunteer monitoring partnerships.

Suggested Next Steps: CSI could do a proposal for the Tompkins County Planning Department, including a calculated budget, seeking assistance. Once reviewed by the Planning Department the proposal could possibly be presented to the Tompkins County Legislative sub-committee, Planning, Development and Environmental Quality for review.

VII Water and Sewer Infrastructure Proposed Resolution:

The membership reviewed the revised resolution presented by Martha Armstrong from Tompkins County Area Development.

Motion: To accept the resolution in support of the development of a county-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needs to support future planned growth as submitted by M. Armstrong on behalf of TCAD.

Made by: Ric Dietrich

Second: Rich Dolge

Carried unanimously

VII Incentive and Inclusionary Zoning:

E. Marx reported that low-income housing and \$300,000 and up housing in Tompkins County is available but there is very little available at the middle-income level.

Incentive zoning can help to advance a community's physical, cultural and social goals by allowing land developers to provide specific amenities and benefits in exchange for zoning incentives.

Inclusionary zoning requires developers to make a percentage of housing units in new residential developments available to low- and moderate-income households. Builders may not make as much profit but do not build at a loss. This also encourages integrated housing.

The goal is to obtain approximately 4,000 units over the next 10 years with over half of that being affordable, low- to median-income housing. We need to encourage buy-in from Tompkins County area employers, lending facilities, the not-for-profit sector and individual municipalities regarding zoning laws. Tompkins County Planning Department is available to assist. The City of Ithaca also has a small sub-committee whose focus is on what projects are in the works.

IX SMSI Grant-Health Insurance Incentive-Next Steps:

The first organizational meeting of the Health Benefits Steering Committee was held July 11th. Phase I structure includes sending out the Request For Qualifications, the review/interview process and, hiring a consultant to develop: 1) a Health Benefits Consortium and, 2) a Request for Proposals-Project Design. The Steering group meetings will be held every other Tuesday. Once the consultant is hired the committee will be looking at Phase II, which consists of developing a health benefits program design. By the next TCCOG meeting the committee should have an RFQ to present for membership review and approval.

XI Next Meeting Topics:

TCEMPG presentation

Need an agenda and outline from them.

SPCA

Possible draft contract

County Assessment

2008 tax assessment increase.

Housing Strategy

Scenic Resource Inventory

Draft Conservation Plan

Consensus of the membership was to have no August meeting.

The next meetings will be July 26 then September 27.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm