

TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
July 26, 2007

Present: D. Austic-T. Ulysses, S. Farkas-T. Lansing, D. Barber-T. Caroline, R. Hart-V. Trumansburg, J. Owens-T. Enfield, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, S. Whicher-Co. Admin, C. Peterson-C. of Ithaca, T. Joseph-Co. Legislator, D. Frangillo-T. Caroline

Guests: Cheryl Nelson-Tompkins County Public Works, Scott Doyle-County Planning Department, Lee Shurtleff-County Emergency Response, Kate Hacket-County Planning Department, Richard Coogan-Cornell Cooperative Extension

Meeting began at 3:02 PM

II Review 6/28/07 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Accept the minutes

Made by: R. Dolge

Second: D. Austic

Carried unanimously

III SMSI Grant-Health Insurance Benefits:

The TCCOG Health Benefits Steering Committee has formulated a draft Request of Qualifications (RFQ) that was disseminated to members last week. The principal task for phase one of this grant is to hire a consultant to develop a Health Benefits Consortium. The process for this is to; research organizations who qualify to coordinate this effort, received completed RFQ's (our deadline is August 20, 2007) from the interested organizations, have the Health Benefits Steering Committee review the RFQ's, interview prospective candidates and bring the resulting information to TCCOG membership, and hire a consultant.

Changes for the RFQ:

- Modify the language of the RFQ to make sure vendors understand that we are researching a Governance Consortium/Structure.
- We also need to put in the number of lives covered and bargaining units contained within the consortium.

Motion: To allow Tompkins County to send out this RFQ.

Made by: W. Lynn

Second: R. Dolge

Carried Unanimously (one proxy vote, aye, from C. Rankin, Village of Groton)

Mr. Whicher also mentioned that the Department of State contacted him this week and we should receive the contract regarding this grant within the next couple of weeks. We hope to complete this first phase by the end of the year.

IV Tompkins County Emergency Management Planning Committee Presentation:

Cheryl Nelson, Public Works Administrator, introduced the members of today's presentation team: Kate Hackett-Planning, Scott Doyle-Planning and Lee Shurtleff-Emergency Response. Ms. Nelson gave a brief overview of the Four Phases of Tompkins County's Emergency Management Plan: Mitigation Plan, Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Response, and Recovery. She also reminded TCCOG members of the NIMSCAST requirements deadline of August 30, 2007.

Lee Shurtleff discussed the three different efforts working on Emergency Planning:

1. Emergency Management Strategic Planning (EMSP)-Chair, Shawn Martel Moore: members of this group consist of Tompkins County Department Heads and senior staff who are organizing continuity of operations plans (COOP) for the departments within the County and the County as an organization.
2. Tompkins County Emergency Management Planning Committee (TCEMPC)-Chair, Cheryl Nelson: membership for this committee encompasses County, City and other Municipal governments as well as organizations and agencies within Tompkins County. This committee is working on a collaborative effort to utilize community resources in the event of an emergency.
3. Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response Center-Director, Lee Shurtleff: this entity interacts with State and Federal Government as well as local municipalities. Emergency Response office is charged w/coordination of fire, emergency medical services and emergency management activities as well as public safety communications.

Tompkins County has entered into a period of very intense emergency management planning, which started in the 1990's and was enhanced in 2001. Over the years the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) has had to adopt an all-hazard approach including, but not limited to: terrorism, bio-terrorism, influenza epidemic, hazardous waste spill, utility failure and natural disasters. The EPC has also grown in membership from fire departments, law enforcement, and emergency medical services; to also include, public works, public health and municipal involvement. It would also be beneficial to expand to the school districts; they have a lot of resources and a great interest in what we do. In working with the County internal group we hope to integrate County resources (including all municipalities), equipment and assets, into an over-all emergency plan. When a large event occurs the goal is to keep everyone at a local level self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.

Additional Information:

- Emergency Preparedness for the public, and responders, is working with TC3 to develop a series of training programs in addition to what NYS offers. The objective is to train local public entities and recruit volunteers to supplement the traditional emergency response teams. Some grant money is available for training. There is a public information team who will develop messages to be broadcast in a disaster.

- Parts of the new County communications system are on-line and the hope is to have the system operational by October of this year.
- Wireless telephones are an issue with communications. Approximately two-thirds of the emergency medical service calls come from wireless phones. Emergency Response is starting to implement Phase II of wireless technology in the dispatch center and is working with the cell phone companies to get latitude and longitude details for calls/phones.
- Emergency Response is working on a reverse 911 system that has the capability to reverse through the telephone system and contact the public in emergency situations. For example, in a hazardous waste spill or flooding, the people who are affected can be contacted via the telephone and evacuated.

Scott Doyle, Senior Planner, Tompkins County Planning Department, disseminated information on Tompkins County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. There were four projects highlighted:

- Ludlowville Stormwater Control Project
- Tompkins County Stream Corridor Management/Protection Program
- Tompkins County Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, and
- Update of the Tompkins County floodplain maps.

The County may look to the members of TCCOG as a point of contact for assistance with updating the system every two years. Contact Mr. Doyle at (607) 274-5560 with any question.

NIMS:

- Ms. Nelson offered the assistance of Beth Harrington at Emergency Response (257-3888) for NIMS compliance, training and update information.
- There are NIMS compliance due dates in September.
- In order to receive NIMS funds a municipality needs to be NIMS compliant.
- One requirement is to update the database. Each entity will receive a password and be able to do its update. If you need a password or assistance contact Tompkins County Information Technology Services at (607) 274-5417.
- A second requirement is training, which the County will have and is offering to local municipalities. Point of contact for training information is Cheryl Nelson at (607) 274-0432 or cnelson@tompkins-co.org.

V Director of the SPCA:

The Director of the SPCA, Abigail Smith, is not able to be here today. She will have a proposed contract done in the next couple of weeks for TCCOG membership review. When you see something from Ms Smith please take it to your board for discussion. Ms. Smith would like to meet with your organizations and get as much ground work done as possible before the September meeting.

VI Housekeeping:

Stephen Whicher updated the membership regarding the Shared Incentives initiatives from Governor Spitzer. Tompkins County submitted three initiatives that were all accepted:

- Health Care-efforts coordinated by Stephen Whicher, County Administration
 - Smart Growth –efforts coordinated by Ed Marx, Planning, and
 - Unified Court System-efforts coordinated by Tim Joseph, County Legislature
- Discussion followed regarding a steering committee for the Unified Court system and its membership. Please contact Tim Joseph with referrals for this committee.

Shared Highway Services:

- An application form is available for municipality review.
- Municipalities have to provide insurance certificates in order to participate.
- W. Lynn, C. Peterson, S. Whicher, R. Dolge would like a to receive copy of a Highway Shared Services agreement.

Dick Coogan, Cooperative Extension (CE), was looking for interest from the members of this group regarding CE offering a training program for elected officials on municipal Boards. CE is considering a four-year training plan but needs to know that there is community interest, what type of training would be useful and where the need for the program is. Feedback from the membership was positive; they would like to see what CE has to offer.

Recreation Partnership (RP) agreements were sent to municipalities and RP is looking for feedback. The Rec. Board will meet later this month to discuss the feedback they receive. City of Ithaca passed the agreement but other municipalities had issues with the contract terms.

VII Topics for the September Meeting:

- SPCA
- Health Benefits Steering Committee Update
- Revaluation information from the County Assessment Department.
- To do a retrospective on TCCOG-What is the effectiveness of this body?
- Green Building Committee- Is TCCOG interested; should we have someone speak to this group, could a forum be facilitated through the City of Ithaca?

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

Made by: W. Lynn

Second: S. Farkas

Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 4:40 pm