

Tompkins County Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 1-22-2015
Thursday, November 20, 2014 3:00 PM
Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kelly Smith	Member, Town of Groton	Present	
Ric Dietrich	Member, Town of Danby	Present	
Herb Engman	Member - Town of Ithaca	Present	
Bill Goodman	Member - Alternate, Town of Ithaca	Present	
Ann Rider	Co-Chair, Town of Enfield	Present	
Virginia Bryant	Town of Enfield	Present	
Don Barber	Town of Caroline	Present	
Irene Weiser	Member - Alternate, Town of Caroline	Present	
Marty Petrovic	Member, Village of Trumansburg	Present	
J.R. Clairborne	Vice Chair, City of Ithaca	Present	
Kate Supron	Co-Chair, Village of Cayuga Heights	Present	
Joe Mareane	Tompkins County Administrator	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Minute Taker, Legislature Office	Present	

Guests: Paul Moore, Jeff Shepardson, CDRC; Keri Blakinger, News media

Call to Order

Ms. Supron, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes Approval

10/23/2014 Minutes

RESULT: DEFERRED DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM
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Update on Shared Services

Mr. Mareane reported the shared centralized administrative services efforts have gotten off the ground and a well-attended meeting was held on November 5th. There was discussion of whether there are opportunities for shared services in the information technology area and the possibility of a single operation. Those present did not think this would be the best direction in which to move and that there may be opportunities to share things such as software, expertise, and buying power. They will be following up by distributing a survey to TCCOG members about the current information technology environment and this will lead to further discussion. Mr. Mareane also reported on another shared services area - training and compliance on mandated policies. An agenda is being worked on and he expects a meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Mareane noted that anyone interested is welcome to attend these meetings. The next functional area they looked at was municipal courts and if there are opportunities for savings and improved operations. He circulated a memorandum explaining the background and findings. He said municipalities within Tompkins County are now spending over \$1 million annually for their courts and

this was an opportunity to ask whether those funds could be used to support a different model that would result in an improved level of service. The memo's conclusion stated the recommendations stray from the original mission of the shared services committee to explore other ways to save significant amounts of money. However, the exploratory work done for this task found a pervasive sense that the current State-imposed structure of the municipal justice courts may impact the level of consistency in dispensing justice by looking at different ways of organizing the system. Mr. Mareane said this is something that should take time and be done through an expert workgroup that is made up of people who are very familiar with the process and the system. The letter will be distributed to all members who are not in attendance.

Ms. Supron said she had a conversation with Dr. Jeffrey Matteson, Superintendent of the BOCES, and he was very interested in joining the shared services discussion and suggested having a roundtable discussion for school superintendents and municipal leaders. She asked whether members would be interested in having this sponsored by TCCOG or the shared services subcommittee. There was consensus in moving forward with TCCOG co-sponsoring this type of event.

Reserve Fund Update

The Committee reviewed the funds remaining in the Reserve fund of which the available balance is \$4,238 in unreserved funds. A contribution was not requested from members in 2012 or 2013; Ms. Supron asked if members felt there was a sufficient balance or whether municipalities should be asked for a contribution in 2015. Ms Weiser suggested there could be a use for funds to go towards educating builders and developers as to the kinds of buildings and energy efficiencies municipalities would like to see in the County. She said if there is interest a booklet could be developed that would be advisory about options and resources for developers. One topic where there could be a public education forum could be the pipeline issue.

Ms. Supron said she thinks this would be a different use of funds than TCCOG has used reserve funds for in the past and suggested having further discussion and it take place when more members are present. She said it may also be difficult for municipal boards to contribute to the reserve fund when there is already a balance in the fund. Mr. Engman suggested members bring ideas to the next meeting on what TCCOG may be asked to fund in the coming year. Mr. Dietrich would like to hear more information on Ms. Weiser's request.

It was agreed to discuss this further in January.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were suggested for inclusion on the next agendas:

- Discussion of what TCCOG may be asked to fund in the coming year (January);
- Request for consideration of a resolution relating to freedom from domestic violence as a human right (Discussion of the request at the December meeting and possible action at the January meeting);
- Shared services update;
- Trying to improve community access to solar energy and net metering (to be taken up and reported out by the Sustainability Subcommittee; and
- Leadership planning for 2015

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.