

Tompkins County Council of Governments
 Regular Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 01-22-2015
Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:00 PM
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived	Excused
Elizabeth Thomas	Member - Town of Ulysses	Present		
Kate Supron	Co-Chair, Village of Cayuga Heights	Present		3:25 PM
Mary Ann Sumner	Member, Town of Dryden	Late	3:20 PM	
Irene Weiser	Member - Alternate, Town of Caroline	Present		
J.R. Clairborne	Vice Chair, City of Ithaca	Present		
Ann Rider	Co-Chair, Town of Enfield	Present		
Sharon Bowm	Alternate, Town of Lansing	Present	3:22 PM	
Joe Mareane	Tompkins County Administrator	Present		
Michelle Pottorff	Minute Taker, Legislature Office	Present		
Don Barber	Town of Caroline Supervisor	Present		

Municipalities Not in Attendance: Tompkins County, Towns of Danby, Groton, Ithaca and Newfield, Villages of Dryden, Freeville, Groton, Truimasburg, Lansing

Guests: Keri Blakinger, News Media; Jeff Shepardson, Community Dispute Resolution Center

Call to Order

Ms. Rider, 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

11/20/2014 Minutes

RESULT: DEFERRED

Update on Shared Services

Mr. Maraene reported at the last meeting he brought forward the issue of the structuring of municipal courts and expects a resolution to be presented at the next meeting. He stated with regard to information technology, survey results have been received and staff is looking at where there may be possible areas to work on. Another area where there may be opportunities to share services is in training. He has asked Deb Prato, Tompkins County Commissioner of Personnel, to work with Schelley Michell Nunn, City of Ithaca Human Resources Manager, and Judy Drake, Town of Ithaca, Human Resources Director, to develop an agenda and facilitate a meeting within the next month that would include experts, practitioners, and stakeholders. Mr. Mareane said code compliance and policies are other areas that will also be looked at.

Ms. Supron reported that students from Cornell will be assisting the subcommittee in putting together a report on shared services and it will highlight what has been done historically in Tompkins County and will also include a look-back to 2012 as well as ideas moving forward. She said there has been discussion of whether this report will serve as the Governor's compliance requirement for each municipality. Municipalities will be able to draw upon what is in the report but will need to verify savings with each municipality's finance staff.

Overview of Request to take action on Resolution - Freedom from Domestic Violence as a Human Right

Ms. Rider said TCCOG received a request to take action on a resolution entitled "Declaring Freedom from Domestic Violence as a Human Right" and members have received copies of resolutions that have been adopted by individual municipalities. Ms. Supron said the Village of Cayuga Heights Board did not wish to take action on the resolution because members felt it was not something the Village was directly involved in. Instead, a Trustee will be bringing forward a resolution at the Board's January meeting supporting the resolution that the County adopted.

Ms. Sumner arrived at this time.

Mr. Clairborne said he has information that he will have circulated to all members.

Ms. Weiser said she has experience running a national online activist organization called "Stop Family Violence". She understands that having municipalities adopt the resolution is a good sentiment but questioned what it is actually doing. She suggested that the Advocacy Center be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss what can be done in municipalities and be more active in communities for this cause such as additional training for magistrates or the gathering of additional data. She would also like to see how cases are being handled in the court system.

Ms. Bowman arrived at 3:22 p.m.

2015 Leadership Planning

Ms. Weiser volunteered to serve as Vice Chair for 2015.

Ms. Supron was thanked for her service as Co-Chair for 2013 and 2014 and excused at this time.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Ms. Thomas said she has been meeting with the Trails Committee and said Vicki Armstrong of the Healthy Places Project will be putting forward a proposal to create a website that has a comprehensive set of maps of hiking and bicycling trails and said if they cannot get enough funding a request may come forward for assistance from TCCOG.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.