

**Tompkins County Council of Governments**  
 Regular Meeting Minutes - Approved  
**Thursday, May 28, 2015 3:00 PM**  
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

**Attendance**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Betty Conger	Member, Village of Groton	Present	
Irene Weiser	Member - Town of Caroline	Present	
Jason Liefer	Member - Town of Dryden	Present	3:20 PM
Ann Rider	Co-Chair, Town of Enfield	Present	
Kelly Smith	Member, Town of Groton	Present	
Bill Goodman	Member - Alternate, Town of Ithaca	Present	3:28 PM
Elizabeth Thomas	Member - Town of Ulysses	Present	
Donald Hartill	Member, Village of Lansing	Present	
Marty Petrovic	Member, Village of Trumansburg	Present	
Jackie Kippola	Contracts Coordinator	Present	
Joe Mareane	Tompkins County Administrator	Present	
Paula Younger	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Minute Taker, Legislature Office	Present	
Ric Dietrich	Member, Town of Danby	Present	
J.R. Clairborne	Co-Chair, City of Ithaca	Present	

**Call to Order**

Ms. Rider, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**Vice Chair's Report**

Ms. Rider thanked Jackie Kippola, Contracts Coordinator, for the assistance she has provided to the Town of Enfield on a matter involving requests for proposals and bids for a shared service. Her assistance was very helpful and saved the Town both time and money.

**Changes to the Agenda**

The broadband update was deferred to the next meeting when more information is expected to be available.

**Reports/Presentations**

County Compliance Program Overview (ID # 5432)

Ms. Younger, Deputy County Administrator and Compliance Officer for Tompkins County, provided an overview of the County's Compliance Program so that municipalities could examine what items they made need to align in their individual operations to have a formal compliance program. She explained a compliance program is an internally managed program for identifying and reducing risk and for ensuring adherence to established policies, procedures, and operations that meet the standards and requirements set by law and regulatory authorities. She explained the importance of demonstrating compliance and how a municipality is holding itself accountable.

Mr. Leifer arrived at this time.

The benefits of having a compliance program in an organization is to help ensure that operational structures and practices, technologies, employees, and leadership, are all working in harmony to manage

risk. It provides standards for reducing the likelihood of improper or unethical conducts, provides a methodology that encourages employees to actively identify and report potential problems, helps to response to any compliance concerns, and improves the ability to be proactive instead of reactive which saves time, money, and heartache.

Mr. Goodman arrived at this time.

Ms. Younger explained what is included in the County's Compliance Program and outlined the following:

- Designates a Compliance Officer and Compliance Committee that directs compliance activities;
- Written policies and procedures, including a Code of Ethics;
- Training for staff and elected officials;
- Routine identification of compliance risk areas, including internal audit and appropriate external audit;
- Discipline protocol for failure to report suspected problems, permitting non-compliant behavior;
- System for responding to compliance issues as they are raised; correcting such problems promptly and thoroughly, and identifying and reporting compliance issues to the appropriate authority;
- Communications lines to Compliance Officer, including anonymous and confidential reporting;
- Non-retaliation policy (Whistleblower protections).

The County began the process of creating a compliance program in 2011 in response to an OMEG (Office of Medicaid Inspector General) Audit. It began by putting anchor policies in place followed by an internal risk assessment being done in 2012. That assessment consisted these questions: how up to date were the policies, how well the policies are communicated, who has access to what and when. A formal staff training was put into place in 2012 and continually improved upon, a whistleblower protocol was put into place, and a policy was put into place on the acceptable use of County equipment. The County's Compliance program is posted on the County's website with a great deal of information about the program. It can be accessed at: [www.tompkinscountyny.gov/tccp](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/tccp).

Ms. Weiser questioned what portion of this could be a shared services. She said she could come into any operation, share information about what the County does, and walk an organization through putting together a compliance program that would require an organization to look at its own operations to make refinements.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Minutes Approval**

Thursday, April 23, 2015

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	J.R. Clairborne, Co-Chair, City of Ithaca
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Betty Conger, Member, Village of Groton
<b>AYES:</b>	Conger, Weiser, Liefer, Rider, Smith, Goodman, Thomas, Hartill, Petrovic, Clairborne, Dietrich

## **Report on Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Ithaca**

Mr. Thorne said last January the City's new stormwater utility law went into effect. He said the City is trying to come up with something that addresses flooding issues because of increased precipitation and more impervious areas in the County. A task force has been formed to address flooding potential and what can be done. Mr. Thorne provided a presentation containing maps that reviewed and the following information:

### **Introduction**

#### Flood Risks in Ithaca

- More stormwater entering creeks:
  - o Increased precipitation/intensity since original design and construction of existing stormwater infrastructure;
  - o Increased impervious surfaces throughout watersheds since original design and construction of infrastructure
- Less capacity to convey stormwater
  - o Sediment buildup in creeks from upstream erosion;
  - o Age of infrastructure (collapsed pipes, collapsing creek walls, etc.)
- Need to:
  - o Slow down or reduce runoff;
  - o Reduce erosion and sediment loads;
  - o Restore and/or increase capacity of stormwater system
- Limited Funding for Repair and Capital Improvements
  - o Where are the weak links in our drainage system?
  - o Where do we apply limited funding to get the “most bang for the buck”?
  - o What should be the design basis for new or replacement infrastructure?

### **Approach:**

- Develop Computer Models based on current conditions
  - o Hydrologic study - HEC-HMS or SWAT computer models
    - Rainfall/runoff correlation for entire watersheds, calibrated to known storm events and measured streamflow
  - o Hydrologic study - HEC-RAS computer model
    - Water surface profiles and “flood footprints” for various storm events calibrated with known storm event and measured high water marks or stream gauge readings
  - o Sediment Transport Study
    - Estimate sediment loads and mitigation strategies

### **Hydrology Study Areas**

- Hydrologic computer models based on projected conditions
  - o What will land use/impervious area look like in 50 years?
  - o What is the trend in rainfall intensity over the next 50 years?
  - o How much more water will we need to handle 50 years from now?

### **Sediment Mitigation and Dredging**

- Sediment load creates problems;
  - o Reduces capacity of creeks to convey runoff
  - o Impairs water quality
- Mitigation Options:

- Dredging-expensive, difficult to permit, lack of disposal facilities, environmental concerns, recurring maintenance
- Watershed policies-reduce the amount of sediment that needs to be dredged. Requires intermunicipal/regional collaboration.
- Develop Dredging Program
  - Coordinate with DEC inlet dredging
  - Create operational plan for new sediment management facility at Southwest site
  - Create maintenance dredging program
  - Permitting
  - Design of sediment traps/cleanout areas
  - Final disposal area
- Develop Policies to Reduce Sediment Load
  - Coordinate with dredging efforts
  - Education
  - Develop and implement regional policies

### **Task Force**

Current Task Force Representation: City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County, Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District, United States Geological Survey, Cornell University/Cornell Cooperative Extension

#### Tasks/Duties:

- Develop scope and schedule
- Identify resources
- Consultant evaluation and recommendation
- Peer review

Mr. Dietrich said there may be an opportunity to earn points in the grant process by having a collaborative effort. The two critical elements are identifying and doing the engineering reports and getting the money to do the remediation. He said he thinks it would work to everyone's advantage for municipalities to work together and be signatories on the grant application. Ms. Weiser suggested municipalities be provided with specific planning assistance to look at things such as the landscape to figure out things such as where retention ponds may be needed and how are changes made in the direction of ditches. Mr. Thorne said this is something they hope to do once the models are developed.

### **Update on Shared Services**

Mr. Mareane reported final work is being done on the Government Efficiency report that includes all municipalities within Tompkins County and he expects it will be completed next week. There are plans to do a larger report to the community that goes beyond 2012 that recognizes all of the work that has been done by municipalities to share services and save money. The report will highlight multiple millions of dollars in savings that continue to be realized as a result of efforts such as the Health Consortium.

Mr. Mareane spoke of a communication some municipalities have been receiving a letter from the State Comptroller's Office reminding municipalities that if they submitted material to show they stayed within the Tax Cap there are two steps to the process and that use of the web portal is necessary. The first is to let the State know the municipality is going to make it; the second is an electronic formal certification that the municipality stayed within target. Mr. Mareane said some municipalities did not do the second step and the letter now being received is notice to perform that second step.

He reported on the Court Consolidation Study Group that has been established; members include Ray Schlather, Jason Leifer, attorneys; Greg Gates (6th Judicial District); Gwen Wilkinson (District Attorney); Mark Solomon (representing the Assigned Counsel Program); Judge Betty Poole (Town Justice); Glen Galbraith (Village Justice); Scott Miller (Ithaca City Courts); Liz Thomas and Mary Ann Sumner (TCCOG). The group will begin meeting in June. He said the meetings will be open to the public and although they will not be voting members he expects experts from various subject matters to be invited and participate in the discussions.

Mr. Mareane reported on training and said the supervisory trainings have gone well. A survey will be coming out from TC3 Biz seeking information on what other training areas would be helpful to municipalities.

**Resolution(ID # 5648)(ID #5648): Reaffirming Support for a Single-Payer Approach to Controlling Health-Care Costs and Ensuring Everyone is Covered and Urging the New York State Assembly and Senate to Enact the New York Health Act A.5062 (Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins)**

Ms. Elgie said she feels the New York Health Act is very much in line with the goals of the Greater Tompkins County Intermunicipal Health Insurance Consortium of providing health care benefits and providing cost control and the New York Health Act will do that very efficiently. Another goal of the New York Health Act is to reduce property taxes and eliminate the County's share of Medicaid. She spoke of benefits the proposed legislation would have to senior citizens who have Medicare and addressed why this is still needed with the Affordable Care Act and said although there are many more people who are insured are unable to access the insurance because of the high out-of-pocket costs. Ms. Elgie said the Consortium has demonstrated that administrative costs can be reduced but it is not able to negotiate prices for drugs and medical devices and is not able to address issues such as provider networks and reimbursement rates. She believes the Consortium has reached the peak of what it can do for the County and in order to keep up with continually rising premiums, co-pays, and costs of administering health care in the County that it would be beneficial to have a risk pool as big as the State. She said there is widespread support for this public approach for municipalities and local governments and there is no stronger method in New York that could lower property taxes. She urged members to support the resolution and to take back to municipalities with a request for adoption by their boards.

Ms. Conger was excused prior to the vote on the resolution.

Ms. Thomas noted the Town of Ulysses has adopted a resolution in support the New York Health Act.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Donald Hartill, Member, Village of Lansing
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Irene Weiser, Member - Town of Caroline
<b>AYES:</b>	Weiser, Liefer, Rider, Smith, Goodman, Thomas, Hartill, Petrovic, Clairborne, Dietrich
<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Betty Conger

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments supports and a single-payer approach to health-care coverage for New York State, and

WHEREAS, a single-payer approach, as the name implies, only federalizes how health-care providers are paid, leaving the choice of doctors and hospitals completely up to each individual and the choice of treatment up to each patient and his/her doctor, and

WHEREAS, access to health care continues to be a major concern for all Americans and New York State residents [with over one million currently uninsured and a growing number underinsured], and

WHEREAS, health-care costs continue to rise at rates above inflation and, under current conditions, the share of state income spent on health care and the administration of the health care system will rise to 18 percent by 2024, much faster than incomes are rising, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments continues to believe that controlling health-care costs and ensuring health care for all residents are both of paramount importance, and

WHEREAS, the simplest approach is to move directly from the current multiple-payer approach, with its high costs of administration, marketing, and profits for shareholders of the many insurance companies, to a single-payer system, where the government is the insurer of all, a system used in other industrialized democracies, and

WHEREAS, New York Health would generate savings by replacing the complicated, costly, and often chaotic claims procedure currently employed by thousands of public and private insurance providers, with a simple, one-stop single-payer system for all claims, and

WHEREAS, Senator Perkins and Assemblyman Gottfried have introduced the New York Health Act, A.5062 (Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins), which would establish a comprehensive universal health insurance program for all New Yorkers, with access to medical services and providers of their choice, without regard to age, income, health, or employment status and would impact both individual health outcomes and public health outcomes, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will replace the current multi-payer system of employer-based insurance, individually-acquired insurance, and federally sponsored programs (e.g. Medicare and Medicaid) with a single-billing system funded by progressively-graduated assessments collected by the State and based on ability to pay, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will be publically financed by two assessments based on ability to pay (a progressively graduated state payroll tax similar to the Medicare tax on payroll and self-employment income, and a surcharge on non-employment income (e.g. interest, dividends, capital gains), and

WHEREAS, New York Health will pool all health revenue sources (e.g. assessments, federally-matched public health programs, ACA subsidies, and other revenue sources) into a dedicated New York Health Trust Fund and pay Providers directly, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will reduce billing expenses, administrative waste, monopolistic pricing of drugs and medical devices, and fraud, overall health care spending would be reduced by 15 percent or \$45 billion per year by 2019, and

WHEREAS, New York Health will reduce healthcare costs for government, public schools districts, businesses, and individuals in New York State, eliminate the “local share” funding of Medicaid that has been such a financial burden for County property taxpayers, and eliminate out-of-pocket expenses, insurance premiums, insurance co-pays, and deductibles [98% of New Yorkers will pay less for their health care than they do today; and businesses, especially small businesses, will benefit from reduced costs], and

WHEREAS, the April 2015 *Economic Analysis of New York Health*, by Gerald Friedman, Professor and Chair of the Economics Department, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, reports

savings from reduced health spending in the amount of \$71 billion [most savings are from eliminating private health insurance overhead and profits, reducing doctor and hospital billing and insurance-related expenses, eliminating uncompensated care from health providers, public hospitals and health centers, and decreasing drug and medical device costs with enhanced negotiating power], and

WHEREAS, the April 2015 *Economic Analysis of New York Health* reports a net savings of \$44.7 billion, after projected program improvements and expansion of \$25 billion for increased utilization due to universal coverage, expanded and more comprehensive health benefits, Medicaid and Medicare rate equity (increased provider reimbursement), unemployment insurance and job transition and retraining for lost insurance billing and claims jobs, and

WHEREAS, New York Health would expand the network of providers to ensure continuity of care, and include a more comprehensive health care benefits package that includes preventive care, primary care, specialist, hospital care, rehabilitation care, occupational therapy, physical therapy, mental health care, dental care, vision and hearing care, reproductive health care, prescription drugs, and medical supplies/devices [a requirement for the development of a long-term care financing and benefits plan is included in the proposed legislation], and

WHEREAS, New York Health would save enough in unnecessary costs to pay for the costs of universal health care coverage for all, extending coverage to all the uninsured and underinsured for basic necessary medical care, and would provide a more comprehensive benefits package at significantly less cost than the one offered through recent federal legislation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments strongly supports adoption of the New York Health Act, A.5062 (Gottfried)/S.3525 (Perkins),

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments urges the New York State Legislature and the Governor to waste no more time tinkering with the present profit-based insurance system, escape the mindset that major reform is “politically infeasible” (a self-fulfilling prophecy!), and instead recognize the widespread support for a new public approach, understand there is no stronger measure New York could take to cut our property taxes than to pass this bill into law, and take the opportunity to accomplish this major and long-needed reform,

RESOLVED, further, That the TCCOG send copies to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senators John Flanagan, Jeffrey Klein, Kemp Hannon, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, James Seward, Michael Nozzolio, and Tom O’Mara, and Assemblyman Carl Heastie and Richard Gottfried, and Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton.

RESOLVED, furrther, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments urges municipalities within Tompkins County to adopt a similar resolution and forward to the Governor and appropriate State representatives,

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**Report from Cable Committee**

Mr. Leifer reported the Committee met and went over Time Warner Cable's response to the report and there are approximately ten points that the Committee will try to push back on. They will meet again in 5-6 weeks once everyone has had a chance to review the report.

Minutes  
Tompkins County Council of Governments  
Thursday, May 28, 2015

**Next Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were presented for inclusion on the June 25th agenda:

Announcement of Community Day of Giving  
Taxicab discussion  
Broadband Update  
Follow-up to Freedom from Domestic Violence Resolution

**Adjournment**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.