

**Tompkins County Council of Governments**  
 Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 10-23-2015  
**Thursday, September 24, 2015 3:00 PM**  
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

**Attendance**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Michael Lane	Member, Tompkins County	Present	3:45 PM
Betty Conger	Member, Village of Groton	Present	
Irene Weiser	Member - Town of Caroline	Present	
Herb Engman	Member - Town of Ithaca	Present	
Bill Goodman	Member - Alternate, Town of Ithaca	Present	
J.R. Clairborne	Co-Chair, City of Ithaca	Present	
Kate Supron	Member - Village of Cayuga Heights	Present	
Ric Dietrich	Member, Town of Danby	Present	
Ann Rider	Co-Chair, Town of Enfield	Present	
Marty Petrovic	Member, Village of Trumansburg	Present	
Linda Lavine	Alternate - Town of Dryden	Present	3:08 PM
Michael Murphy	Member, Village of Dryden	Present	3:31 PM
Nancy Zahler	Member, Town of Ulysses	Present	3:37 PM
Gerry Monaghan	Member, Village of Lansing	Present	3:08 PM
Kelly Smith	Member, Town of Groton	Present	
Amie Hendrix	Director of Youth Services	Present	
Ed Marx	Planning Commissioner	Present	
Joe Mareane	Tompkins County Administrator	Present	
Katie Borgella	Deputy Planning Commissioner	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Legislature Office	Present	
Janice Johnson	Youth Services Department	Present	

**Call to Order**

Mr. Clairborne, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Minutes Approval**

Thursday, July 23, 2015

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [12 TO 0]</b>
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Irene Weiser, Member - Town of Caroline
<b>AYES:</b>	Lane, Conger, Weiser, Engman, Clairborne, Dietrich, Rider, Lavine, Murphy, Zahler, Monaghan, Smith
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Kate Supron, Marty Petrovic

**Co-Chair's Report: Report from TCAT Executive Committee Meeting**

Mr. Clairborne reported he and Ms. Supron and Ms. Thomas, members of the TCCOG TCAT Subcommittee, met with the TCAT Executive Committee on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This was a follow-up to the TCCOG meeting at which TCAT Board attended to discuss ways to improve communication; the TCAT Executive Committee was provided with a list of concerns that were generated from the minutes of that

TCCOG meeting. He said the subcommittee asked for TCCOG to have a seat on the TCAT Board and said the long-range picture was for TCCOG to have a voting seat but would be willing to initially entertain having an ex-officio seat. He, Ms. Supron, and Ms. Thomas believe this would open up communications by allowing TCCOG a seat at the table and would also allow TCCOG to receive and share information as it becomes available. Mr. Clairborne said the TCAT Executive Committee felt from the list of concerns presented that TCCOG's concerns were primarily service-related and voted to recommend to the TCAT Board that TCCOG be given a seat on spoke of the Transit Services Committee which handles those types of issues.

Ms. Supron spoke in support of this step and said this is the area that is of the most concern to TCCOG members and believes it will be a better use of members' time and noted this would be a voting seat.

Mr. Monaghan and Ms. Lavine arrived at this time.

Mr. Clairborne spoke of the financial needs of TCAT and said it would be helpful for TCCOG members to better understand the services TCAT provides and although no funding requests or decisions were made at the meeting, however, this could only help TCAT's potential for future contributions from municipalities. Mr. Dietrich suggested that if a request is made in the future that it be small and increased incrementally.

Ms. Rider questioned the outcome of the embezzlement case involving an employee at TCAT. Mr. Mareane responded that the funds were fully recovered from the employee.

Ms. Supron said she believes what was made clear at the meeting was that TCCOG is looking for a more collaborative relationship with TCAT to ensure the needs of the communities are being met. Once members are confident those needs are being met there could then be discussion of exploring possibilities for municipal contributions.

**MOTION NO. 003-2015 - ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION BY TCAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE TCCOG WITH A VOTING SEAT ON THE TCAT TRANSIT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

It was MOVED by Ms. Supron, seconded by Ms. Rider, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to accept the invitation by the TCAT Executive Committee to provide TCCOG to have a voting seat on the TCAT Transit Services Committee which is contingent upon approval by the TCAT Board of Directors.

**Home Energy Rating Project Implementation**

Ms. Weiser recalled two years ago the Planning Department came to TCCOG with a Cleaner Greener grant proposal and a few municipalities got together and came up with an idea to improve the energy efficiency of the current housing stock which is a very large usage of energy and developed a project. The Residential Energy Score Project was developed to provide homebuyers with information on homes to let them know what they are getting into and to also improve the energy efficiency of homes going on the market. NYSERDA was excited by the idea of this project that is being done in a few places around the country but not in any other place in New York State. She said a local company, Performance Systems Development, is the project manager and works not only on home energy efficiency projects but is a player at both the State and National level. They have been talking to various groups about what shape this might take and this is the first version of the project and an opportunity for members to comment on the first draft of the implementation plan. She introduced Emilie Cuppernell of Performance Systems Development.

Ms. Cuppernell explained there are five municipalities that are part of the project team: The Towns of Ulysses, Danby, Caroline, Ithaca, and the City of Ithaca. They also have support from the Tompkins County Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Ms. Cuppernell provided members with a presentation on the Residential Score Project that can be viewed through the TCCOG website (<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/tccog/presentations>). Information contained in the presentation included the membership of the Residential Energy Score Project Team, a project overview and timeline, the program concept, what has been done to date, next steps, the value of a rating, global efforts in building ratings, and frequently asked questions and concerns.

The program would begin on a voluntary basis with a hope to become mandated in the future. Ms. Weiser said there doesn't appear to be a path to mandate this; therefore, it would need authorizing legislation.

Mr. Murphy arrived at this time.

Mr. Dietrich said he believes the Town of Candor passed a law that requires homes to be tested for radon prior to being sold and questioned how this was possible.

Ms. Zahler arrived at this time.

Ms. Weiser said her understanding is that it is not required that a radon test be performed but if one has been done the results are required to be disclosed. Mr. Petrovic asked if a State law would need to be passed or whether it could be required at the local level. Ms. Weiser said she doesn't believe there is clear permission for a municipality to mandate the rating. She thinks there was a possibility to require this under home rule or police power; however, there is a list of things under realtor law that needs to be disclosed and a possibility would be to have energy efficiency legislated to be added to that list. She spoke of the resistance of the realtors and said it is not clear that could be achieved. Ms. Weiser said NYSERDA seemed very interested in the project and the group has communicated with them about the legal obstacles and interest in finding ways to move forward. She said although it would be good to have this in place the group feels it would be best to begin on a voluntary basis.

In addition to presentation, members will be provided with a survey to complete and a copy of the legal brief that was developed by Susan Brock.

### **Energy Roadmap (ID # 5771)**

Katie Borgella, Deputy Planning Commissioner, said the Department has been working on the Energy Roadmap for almost the last two years. She explained the purpose of doing the Roadmap and spoke of major impacts that are beginning to be seen as a result of climate change. She explained why this is being looked at locally when it is a global problem and said there are many benefits to the local community and economy. Ms. Borgella will provide members with a copy of the presentation and said additional information can be found on the Planning Department's website.

The following points were included in the presentation which can be found online at <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files/planning/energyclimate/documents/Energy%20Roadmap%20Presentation%2010-15-15.pdf>

- If everyone says that, then no one will move the dial
- Keeps money spent on energy in the local economy instead of in multinational corporations' pockets
- Creates local jobs - can't outsource insulating a house
- Reduces pollutants and improves health

- Makes buildings more comfortable to live in
- Increases our resilience in the face of a changing climate

The Roadmap is part of Tompkins County 2015 Comprehensive Plan Principle: Tompkins County should be a place where the energy system meets community needs without contributing additional greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Policy: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reach a minimum 80% reduction from 2008 levels by 2050 and reduce reliance on fossil fuels across all sectors.

1. Assesses potential of local renewable energy sources
2. Assesses potential for energy efficiency and demand management to reduce energy demand
3. Identifies scenarios for how both energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions goals can be met in 2050

The Roadmap is a framework to guide activities and energy related decision making to achieve long-term energy demand and climate goals

### **Bottom Line - What We Learned**

Low-Hanging Fruit:

- Retrofit existing buildings and build new energy efficient ones -often the lowest cost way to get to goals
- Install a lot of solar PV for electricity
- Transition away from natural gas to heat pumps and biomass for heating - can't achieve goals and still use same amount of gas
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled by building housing in population centers, encouraging carpooling, etc.
- Transition away from gasoline to electric vehicles

Topics Evaluated:

- Solar
- Wind
- Micro-hydro
- Biomass
- Demand-Side Management (incl Efficiency and Heat Pumps)
- District Energy Systems and Combined Heat and Power
- Deep Geothermal
- Transportation

Approach to Quantifying Potential:

- Used only technologies that are commercially available today
- Tried to be conservative in our assumptions about feasibility
- Used sound methodology and defensible numbers
- Thorough review by Steering Committee

### **Major Assumptions Applied to All Scenarios**

GENERAL

- Only account for direct emissions, not life cycle
- No change in weather patterns included
- Analysis is for a static point in time, 2050, not points along the way, and not how quickly to achieve emissions reductions
- Emissions from waste and agriculture remain constant
- Do not include emissions from air or rail travel

- Costs of actions to achieve scenarios are not factored into scenarios, but are identified in challenges in each topic chapter
- Electricity, Heat and Transportation use projected growth rates of 33-34% (2008-2050) based on Census and EIA estimates

### **Developing Scenarios**

#### Guiding Principles and Assumptions:

- Achieve goal of 80% reduction from 2008 levels by 2050
- Utilize local resources given reasonable assumptions
- 53% solar potential
- 53% wind potential
- 20% micro-hydro potential
- 80% of lighting and appliance efficiency potential
- 50% building energy efficiency potential
- 25% reduction in VMT from projected levels (increase growth in population centers, reduce the number of in-commuters, increase carpooling, etc.)
- Balance needs of environment, economy and equitable society
- Use only currently available technology

#### Major Challenges:

- Cost
- Energy storage
- Competing land uses
- Infrastructure limitations
- Balancing renewable generation
- Acceptance of new technologies

### **The problem is real . . . But the solution is also real**

It won't be easy, but it is possible to achieve the needed greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

### **Local Priorities**

All viable scenarios indicate that local actions should:

- Emphasize energy efficiency
- Promote and make it easier to develop renewable energy
- Make community EV friendly
- Support development in population centers to reduce VMT

Ms. Borgella noted the following timeframe:

- Sept/Nov Public outreach - scenarios
- Public Open House October 21, 5:30-8:00PM at the Tompkins County Library
- Nov/Dec Steering Committee develop recommendations for Energy Strategy
- 2016 Update Energy Strategy based on recommendations

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### **Municipal Youth Services System**

Amie Hendrix, Director of Youth Services, distributed information containing an overview of what the Department does and an outlook on the 2016 budget. She said there are four functions of the

Department: Administration and Oversight, Community Outreach, Data Collection and Quality Management, Training and Technical Assistance, and Planning Coordination, and Monitoring Services.

There are three initiatives that are changing some of the ways they do monitoring and reporting and they are giving more consideration for how those things are being done. The overarching picture is achieving youth results and some communities will be hosting Achieving Youth Results community convening sessions. Achieving Youth Results attempts to set indicators for the entire community and they are using those indicators in each of the community sessions to create action plans for the community.

Ms. Hendrix said inside Achieving Youth Results is the Results Based Accountability System. This looks at the program to see what the performance measures are by asking: how much they are doing, how well they are doing, and if anyone is better off. They are working with a the Results Based Accountability Leadership Group out of Baltimore to see how all of the programs the Department contracts with are impacting the community. The idea behind that is if the programs are performing well they can contribute to changing the results at the community level. She said a part of the Results Based Accountability is the Program Quality Assessment that are tools used show how well the programs are doing.

She said this was kicked off this year and reviewed scores that were developed for 2015 for the entire rural youth services program through Cooperative Extension. She said staff observes a snapshot of programs and training programs are built. Some areas that may not have scored highly have already had training developed around the area. It was noted that when asked about the two areas that scored the lowest the trainer said she was not surprised as they are some of the lowest scoring components across the nation. She said they will be meeting in all communities and are trying to hear from as many individuals as possible about this action plan for youth.

Ms. Hendrix referred to a pyramid showing four levels of youth services and the number of youth served in each level, noting the higher up on the pyramid the more costly the services are:

Treatment and Residential Placement - DSS and Probation  
Targeted Intervention: Agency Services - 1,385  
Early Intervention/Youth Development : The Municipal Youth Services System - 2,062  
Universal Prevention: Recreation Partnership - 4,242

She provided a brief overview of the 2016 budget outlook:

The request to restore funding in the amount of \$75,000 for the Municipal Youth Services System is currently unfunded in the County Administrator's recommended budget;

The major service provider of the Municipal Youth Services System, Cornell Cooperative Extension, began to examine the salaries of its staff and made adjustments to bring salaries closer to alignment with other youth service providers. These increases will result in gaps in all municipal budgets;

The Resource Allocation Team made four Over Target requests of which three are funded in the County Administrator's recommended budget: support of youth services staffing (\$14,528), support of the Youth Works Coordinator position at Cooperative Extension to continue to offer youth employment program for youth in the Towns of Caroline Danby, Enfield, Ithaca, and the Villages of Lansing and Cayuga Heights (\$20,000); and use of rollover for sustaining the training programming developed by the Youth Services Department (\$15,300). The Over Target request which was not

recommended by the County Administrator is for a 3% increase among the agencies that have contracts with the Youth Services Department (\$11,426).

The Recreation Partnership (all municipalities except the Town of Lansing) is a separate budget that the Youth Services Department oversees. The Recreation Partnership Board has requested a 3.3% increase. Within the Recommended Budget is a 2% (\$1,263) increase for the Recreation Partnership but an Over Target request of the additional 1.3% (\$861) is not recommended.

Members expressed support for funding being restored to the Municipal Youth Services Program and offered to advocate for this. Ms. Hendrix extended an invitation to members to contact her with any questions.

### **Report on Shared Services**

Mr. Mareane advised members to watch sales tax receipts as municipal budgets are developed. He spoke of pension rates for 2016 and said the rates should go down from 18.2% in 2015 to 15.5 % in 2016. This is good news as pension rates represent approximately 2 1/2 % of the County's payroll.

He reported there has not been any word back from the State on the Government Efficiency Report that was submitted. The Municipal Courts Task Force has held several meetings and at the last meeting input was received from stakeholders. It was a good meeting that had a very high level discussion. The meeting next week will include a panel of local town and village justices who will be speaking. He said the audio files of meetings are posted on the Task Force's webpage.

Ms. Supron reported she and Mr. Mareane met with Jeff Madison, the BOCES Superintendent, to discuss centralization of some office functions. The State will soon announce grant funding in the amount of \$150 million for shared services that includes money for planning and the first year of implementation. During the meeting they learned about what BOCES does and talked about areas where there could be centralization of services that led to discussion of the need to have one joint accounting software in order move forward with some centralization or shared services. Mr. Mareane will organize a meeting that will include representation from the City, County, Information Technology Services, and Finance. She will circulate information about reconvening the Shared Services Subcommittee when it becomes available.

Mr. Mareane reported on the TCCOG Training Academy and said TC3 Biz and Amy Guerri is very interested in this. He asked for volunteers from TCCOG to make sure that as there things are being talked about that can benefit everyone that nothing is left out. Anyone who would be interested was asked to contact him. He would like to have a program in place by the Spring.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items will be included on the next meeting agenda:

Resolution Supporting an Increase in Minimum Wage in Tompkins County to Living Wage Level;  
Support from Cable Committee; and  
Municipal Role in Supporting College and Career Readiness for Youth in their Communities

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.