

- PRESENT:** B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, P. Carey, D. Herath, L. Leonard, J. Little, T. Mallinson, D. Marsh, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, M. Opperman, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, S. Pronti, M. Stamm, M. Turnbull, J. Wesche, N. Zahler
- EXCUSED:** L. Dillon, C. Haynes, K. Luz-Herrera, E. O'Donnell, R. Pass,
- ABSENT:** T. Colbert, W. Cooke, D. Cooper, J. Fogler, R. Fortier, K. Mann,
- GUESTS:** K. Tuttle, Ciminelli Construction; K. Leonard, NYSDOL; S. Gillis, TST BOCES
- STAFF:** J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

CALL TO ORDER

Chair-elect Little called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

WIA YOUTH CONTRACTS

Mr. Pedersen reported the WIB and YEC Proposal Review Committee have concluded their review of the proposals submitted in response to the WIA Title 1 Youth RFP. The Committee recommends the two contracts in the amount of \$310,000 be awarded to the Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training and County Youth services for the period covering October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007, with an additional one-year extension, dependent on funding levels for 2007 and the performance of the contractors. The Committee further recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to negotiate contracts on behalf of the WIB with each contractor, pursuant to the parameters outlined in the RFP, County policies, and federal and state laws, rules, regulations and policies.

It was Moved by Mr. Pedersen, seconded by Ms. McPheeters to approve the contract with the Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training and County Youth Services in the amount of \$310,000 to serve 98 eligible in-school participants and 52 eligible out-of-school participants and authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate contracts on behalf of the WIB with each contractor, pursuant to the parameters outlined in the RFP, County policies, and federal and state laws, rules, regulations and policies. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes - , Noes – 0, Abstentions – 1 (Ms. Zahler). MOTION CARRIED.

OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS

Ms. McPheeters on behalf of the nominating committee announced the officers and committee chair appointments for 2006-2007.

- Chairman – Jack Little
- Vice-Chair – Carl Haynes
- Secretary – Lisa Patz
- Treasurer – Jean McPheeters
- Past Chair – Mary Opperman

It was Moved by Ms. McPheeters, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to accept the slate of officers as presented.

The committee assignment for 2007 were presented as follows:

Executive Committee Chairman - Jack Little as Chair of the Board
Youth Employment Council Chairman - Alan Pedersen
Marketing Committee Chairman - Todd Mallinson
Workforce Services Chairman - Michael Stamm
Special Committee Chair - Marty Turnbull
Partner Representative to Executive Committee – Patrick McKee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was Moved by Ms. McPheeters, seconded by Ms. Patz and unanimously adopted by voice of members present to approve the minutes of May 28, 2006, as presented.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COUNTY BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Mattick reported a recommendation has been made to keep Tompkins County a single-area Workforce Investment Board and request funding from the County in 2007. The requests total approximately \$115,000, \$80,00 for the WIB, and \$35,000 for the Office of Employment and Training. Two presentations have been given to the County Legislatures and there were a lot of very good questions asked by that group; however, it is still unclear if they will be supportive of the requests.

Ms. Mattick also stated she has been in contact with the State about the process that will commence and the financial impacts if it becomes necessary for Tompkins to join a multi-county workforce investment area. The State has cautioned that it is likely there would be a negative impact on the counties involved in a merger. They have also indicated that it is their responsibility to negotiate with the chief elected officials in the merger area should that action be needed. Merges do not occur very often so this is uncharted ground for the State and it will be necessary for the WIB to receiving ongoing financial support during the process. It is unknown how long the process might take.

Mr. Little asked what the State's reaction is to this situation. Ms. Mattick indicated the State would like to reduce the number of WIB's in New York State. She stated that a merge would need to be a very strategic approach and would need to include an analysis of in-commutation patterns for the County.

Mr. Stamm stated Ms. Mattick has done a terrific job in educating the County Legislature but noted the questions asked by that group were very basic and this could be a result of having seven new legislature members this year. Ms. Carey agreed and stated the information has been very helpful in educating the new members. She stated that it seems the legislature is willing to make changes to the proposed budget, but she does not know from what she has witnessed if they will have enough votes to approve it. Ms. Mattick stated if they do not adopt the budget on time, the County Administrator's recommended budget becomes the default and he has recommended multi-year funding for both the WIB and the Office of Employment and Training.

Ms. Opperman stated that if Board members have any opportunity to educate the County Legislature they should impress upon those individuals that in a county that prides itself on its uniqueness, the alternatives could mean a reduction in funding and control of how the funds are used if the WIB must join with other counties. She stated too that the level of collaboration within the county could decline and if the County is not successful in joining another area Tompkins County will not be in compliance and this could result in the State pulling the funding.

COMMUNITY BASED JOB TRAINING GRANT

Ms. Mattick provided a written report and it is included at the end of the minutes.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Ms. McPheeters introduced and welcomed Kyle Tuttle, Chairman of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and Senior Vice President and Project Executive for Ciminelli

Construction and David Marsh, WIB member and President and Training Coordinator for the Laborers Union. Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Marsh provided their insights into the construction industry in Tompkins County.

Mr. Marsh stated the construction industry remains strong and Tompkins County is fortunate because Cornell University produces 70% of the construction opportunities in the County. Construction is also occurring in highway and bridgework and in light commercial applications. He stated that the average age of construction workers is 49 years old and typically trades people retire between 55-60 years of age. In recent years recruitment has been lackluster and as a result several programs have been established to develop interest in youth. Cornell has been instrumental in several of those initiatives. One initiative in particular, the Skilled Trades Diversity Council, was implemented out of concerns at Cornell that there is a need for a workforce that reflects the diversity at Cornell and the larger Central New York area. Through the Council ways are being explored to attract more women and people of color to jobs in the trades.

For the last two years the Council has received grant funding from the New York State Department of Labor to sponsor a Careers in Construction Day. In 2005, 461 students attended the event, 34% of who were minorities. In 2006, 444 students attended of which 15.4% were women and 15.4% minorities. This event is gaining recognition across New York State and more counties are hosting them. On October 5, the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board will be having their first construction day. The event has also been held in Rochester.

Additionally, the Council has been very fortunate and recently received a \$114,040 grant from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which provides grants for programs and organizations that are working to improve labor-management relationships. The federal grant will enable the council to hire a liaison who will work with local building trades unions, contractors, school districts and community organizations in their efforts to introduce women and minorities to the skilled trades. Such efforts will include the innovative "pre-apprentice" program that will help interested participants learn the academic and hands-on skills to increase their chances of being accepted into an apprentice program approved by the New York State Department of Labor. The program is expected to begin in February 2007.

Mr. Tuttle stated the construction industry is a good industry to work in and entry-level workers with a four-year degree make between \$35,000-40,000 per year. Some individuals are making up to \$40 per hour. He stated many trades people are aging out and there is a need to educate and get people excited about the opportunities available. Currently there is a mass labor shortage in Florida and Las Vegas and this drives up the wage scales and contractors who are not affiliated with unions must still pay competitive wages to retain workers. He stated one area that does need improvements is better organization of construction labor and ideas are being explored.

Ms. Zahler asked how small contractors fit in with unions. Mr. Marsh stated there isn't currently a residential agreement because of the differences in the wage scales, but there are discussions underway about chartering new locals to handle residential applications.

Ms. Carey stated she would like to have a presentation given to DSS clients. Clients have ambitions, but may not know how to move into the system. Mr. Marsh will contact her office to set up a meeting. Ms. Leonard suggested a presentation also be given at the One-Stop Center to jobseekers. There was also discussion about presenting this information to the Youth Employment Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. McPheeters stated the Chamber is hosting a meeting to discuss succession planning on October 12 from 8:45 to 11 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn and extended an invitation to Board members to attend.

Ms. Opperman thanked the Board for allowing her to serve as Board chair in 2006. She thanked Mr. Little for agreeing to serve in the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg-Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.