

**Tompkins County Legislature  
October 2, 2007**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Joseph, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call of Members**

Members and guests participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: 14 Legislators (Mrs. McBean-Clairborne arrived at 5:42 p.m.); Excused - 1 (Legislator Herrera).

**Presentation of Proclamation(s)**

Mr. Joseph read a proclamation declaring October 7 – 13, 2007, Cornell Cooperative Extension Week and 4-H Week in Tompkins County and presented it to G-Quan Booker who thanked the Legislature for their support.

**Privilege of the Floor by the Public**

Bernard Hutchins, Hanshaw Road, submitted the following statement:

“At your September 4, 2007 meeting I made a statement, and I have recently learned from Mr. Joseph that Mr. Wood criticized my statement during his report, which occurred somewhat later in the meeting. Specifically he said I was incorrect in saying that there had been "no correspondence" in reply to my concerns. In as much as my own statement related exchanges between myself and the county on some 13 issues, it was scarcely the case that I was suggesting that there had been no reply. Hopefully, no one in addition to Mr. Wood failed to notice this distinction between a reply, and a good-faith response.

“Being ignored in this more subtle way leaves the citizen feeling small and helpless. By way of comparison, everyone here knows the feeling of being on the phone and hearing: “Please remain on the line for the next available representative – your call is very important to us.”

“In fact, Mr. Whicher, Mr. Marks, and particularly John Lampman have been courteous, and relatively timely in acknowledging my inquiries. Rather it is the county's fainthearted evasion of the relevant issues that was, and continues to be the problem. It was what they did not say - that they ignored any and all points in my documented and conscientiously-crafted arguments and rebuttals.

“I am prepared to have my arguments demolished by facts and logic. But I am not willing to be declared the looser in the debate, by the other party in the debate, when the other party has quite apparently not studied the issues to the extent that I have, and possibly has not even read what I have submitted.

“The county does not participate in the debate – they default – indeed the county does not even seem interested in establishing an actual dialog.

“Mr. Wood is correct that there were probably 30 to 50 emails, which might make me seem like quite a pest. However, averaged over two years, this is one exchange per month. He is also correct when he wrote that he has "written to Mr. Hutchins at least once." It was exactly once - March 12, 2006 (as I related to this Legislature at your March 18, 2006 meeting). On this date, he pressed the reply button on an email I had sent to John Lampman, and wrote: .... "I think that John Lampman has accurately

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expressed the County's view with respect to our legal position; we believe that the current right of way is 3 rods.".....

“This indirect email is his only response to my certified letter of Oct. 19, 2005, then or since. So he offers beliefs, beliefs without offering a hint of accompanying support. This is a perfect example of what I mean by a failure to respond in good faith.

“It may be that it is the County Attorney's job to grease the wheels of county government. It may even be his job to bulldoze a private property owner out of the way of a county project. However, a citizen such as myself, a voter, a taxpayer who pays his salary, might well suppose that it should also be part of his job description to assure that the county treats each and every individual, (each minority of one), by negotiating honestly, in good faith, and with fairness.”

Fran Spadafora Manzella, Call Manager, representing the 2-1-1 Tompkins service, announced that the system is now operational. Ms. Spadafora Manzella and Mr. Swayze, Director of the Human Services Coalition Information and Referral, said the 2-1-1 call system offers referrals to not-for-profit and government organizations and is available 24-hours, free of charge. The program, funded by Tompkins County, City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Town of Groton, New York State Office of Family and Children's Services, Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency Community Development Block Grant, and the United Way of Tompkins County, makes it possible to dial 2-1-1 and be connected to the referral that has information on over 650 not-for-profit and government organizations and 1,300 programs in Tompkins County. Mr. Swayze thanked the Legislature for its support for the initiative.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne arrived at this time.

### **Privilege of the Floor by Legislators**

Mr. Proto, District No. 7 Legislator, reported four of his constituents (3 from Danby, 1 from Caroline) have contacted him concerning serious over-billing on their New York State Electric and Gas Corporation statements. He suggested individuals carefully review bills upon receipt and that legislators log calls if they were to also have contact from residents. Mr. Proto then inquired when it would be appropriate to request minutes relating to a resolution passed several meetings ago be amended to more accurately reflect a committee recommendation. Mr. Joseph said the topic could be discussed at the time the minutes are approved.

Ms. Kiefer, District No. 10 Legislator, spoke of her many years representing the Legislature with regard to the Cornell Veterinary School Waste Management Project to replace their incinerator. She reported that she has received a notice that the State University Construction Fund has gone out to bid on the project, with a due date of October 30<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that construction will start next year.

Mr. Stevenson, District No. 8 Legislator, announced that on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Meadowgate Equine Rescue, a non-profit equine rescue farm in Newfield, will be having a Fall Round-up fund raiser with the proceeds to go to the rescue service and Ponderosa Pals Youth Program.

Ms. Mackesey, District No. 1 Legislator, spoke of her attendance at a demonstration on October 1, 2007, at the Ithaca City School District Board of Education Offices regarding the legal stance the school district has taken in relation to a particular discrimination case being heard by the Human Rights Commission. She expressed embarrassment that the school district is taking the stance that it is. If successful there would no longer be a recourse for students when discrimination occurs. Ms. Mackesey feels it is important to speak out that in a democracy these rights should be preserved.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, District No. 2 Legislator, also expressed concern with regard to the human rights case regarding the Ithaca City School District and hopes that colleagues would take note of the situation. She spoke of the local Human Rights Commission providing individuals who are not able

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to afford lawyers a resource to seek redress to the issues of discrimination within the community. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne said that if the school district is successful it would then become New York State law and will mean many individuals throughout the state would not be afforded an opportunity to have a fair hearing. She said that although there is the possibility of a hearing with the Civil Rights Division of the Education Department it would require traveling to Albany that could be beyond the means of many individuals. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne asked that people not take away the opportunity for these matters to be dealt with locally and voice concern and support.

Mr. Proto spoke of the previously approved resolution of recognition prepared for the Dryden Grange's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and asked for a report on the celebration. Mr. Sigler reported approximately 30 to 40 individuals were in attendance and expressed appreciation for the recognition. He spoke of the event highlighting events over the past one hundred years and how it corresponds with County history as well. Mr. Sigler said historical information is something that should be preserved.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, District No. 11 Legislator, announced that the September 27, 2007, issue of *The Ithaca Times* highlighted Kathy Luz Herrera, District No. 5 Legislator, as the "Best Local Hero".

### **Presentation – Update on 2003 Independent Living Survey**

Mr. Schumacher introduced Ms. Powers of Cornell's Family Life Development Center who provided the Legislature with a Powerpoint presentation of the 2007 Independent Living Survey Project concerning the needs of the county's homeless youth and summarized the report's findings for legislators. The study, updating a similar project conducted four years ago, was carried out through a partnership involving the County's Youth Services Department, the Learning Web, the Family Life Development Center at Cornell University and young adult participants in the Learning Web's Youth Outreach Program. Current and former homeless youth were involved as research partners, who collected survey data from more than 200 young people, participated in research design, and helped to interpret results. Some of them were on hand tonight to tell legislators about the needs the study identified.

Ms. Powers reported that the study finds great instability among the population, with many floating from one temporary housing situation to another, that conflict at home is a major theme, and drug use a common factor, both in the reasons that respondents identified for leaving home and within the population itself, with a common connection between boredom and drug use. A significant number also experienced parenting issues. Many had past experience with systems including foster care, and Ms. Zook of County Youth Services told legislators that element points out the need to "take a very close look at what kind of help we are providing for those kids."

Mr. Dennis spoke of existing programs within schools that are in place to assist in these situations and inquired what the Legislature could do to help. Some of the youth identified problems in easily accessing social services, because of qualifications issues. Ms. Mackesey said that the findings tell her that there is "a great big hole in our safety net for children who leave home" and the need exists to more effectively communicate information on assistance that is available to reach the young people who need it. Ms. Schwartzbach of the Learning Web pointed out that systemic issues in this county, including high rental costs, make it very difficult for these youth.

Some of the youth spoke of the Youth Outreach program as being a useful tool to direct them to appropriate services.

Ms. Robertson noted the shift in need from transportation to housing and asked if it is due to progress in transportation services or just differences between the particular groups surveyed. Ms. Powers said it would be difficult to give a definitive answer to the questions.

Mr. Sigler referred to a portion of the report indicating drug use and inquired how much of the parental conflict is associated with drug use. Several of the youth shared their experience and noted that

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drug use was not necessarily the cause for leaving, it is in part due to parental drug use or as a means of “coping” during a bad situation.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne maintained that the factors of housing, transportation, and employment are not isolated, but cumulative. The matter of affordable housing must be addressed in a realistic way, and called for the voices of the youth to be included as the County addresses the affordable housing issue. She then asked that individuals designate funding to the United Way to assist in resolving homelessness.

Ms. Robertson said affordable housing is something that has been identified for a long period and she thanked the speakers for putting a face on the problem. Although many individuals have endorsed the concept it now needs to be applied. She suggested the young people keep speaking out, for example writing letters to *The Ithaca Journal* as well as contacting the various agencies throughout the County dealing with housing to let their needs be known. She said that although the housing strategy has been accepted it is only a beginning.

### **Chair's Report**

Mr. Joseph reported on his attendance at the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) conference in Albany. He said a large discussion was held about the Pre-K Education for Handicapped Children mandate that requires counties to pay for the services without the benefit of input when determining what services should be offered. The Governor has established a task force to look into the issue and NYSAC has been active in working with the task force to provide counties' positions on the matter, namely that counties should be taken out of the entire process. Although they did not succeed in obtaining this recommendation due to schools not desiring to take on the full expense of the programs. The task force is considering a recommendation that counties be phased out of the administrative role and an immediate cap on county cost be put in place. Mr. Joseph spoke of how this differs from the lengthy process of obtaining a cap on Medicaid. Mr. Booth noted the process could be perceived as different than the previous cap as the tax burden shift is not on the State but the schools.

Mr. Joseph then reported on a workshop dealing with the parole system removing parole violators out of local jails more quickly. He noted the Governor had made a pledge to do this last year, however some of the requirements to do so require legislative approval that has not yet occurred. In the interim, there are initiatives being undertaken but they only affect the larger counties such as providing an increased number of parole hearings. Mr. Joseph said that the Parole Department is in contact more with defense attorneys to determine that a case is ready to be heard and therefore reducing postponements. Following the workshop he had an opportunity to speak to the presenter, the Commissioner of Parole, about the local situation, in particular, utilization of programs to assist parolees in succeeding such as the Day Treatment Program. The discussion ended positively with the Commissioner indicating it is his job to see that appropriate steps such as internal use of Day Treatment are taken to assure success.

Mr. Joseph reported discussions took place regarding the issue of making the additional one percent sales tax permanent rather than having to permanently vote on the present two-year blocks. He said that the Suffolk County State Legislator refused to carry the County request to continue the one-percent sales tax forward, costing the county approximately \$200 million, thus denying them the additional sales tax. This caused a major crisis for Suffolk County and more concern from other counties as well. The discussions taking place were addressing the recent election of Ray Meier who ran for Congress, stating how he had raised sales tax at the request of his counties; he lost the election and believed his bringing forward the legislation for additional sales tax played a part. As a result the State Legislators are not as anxious to bring forward the resolutions. Mr. Joseph said that the discussions taking place brought forth the suggestions of still requesting on a county-by-county authorization but forget the sunset or to simply change the State law to amend it to allow counties the option of imposing a sales tax up to four percent.

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Mr. Proto expressed concern with regard to the pre-K education task force recommendation of shifting the burden of administration to the school. He suggested that perhaps the matter could be discussed further at a retreat to be able to fully determine how such a shift would affect the County. He then said the survey presentation disappoints him; the Department of Social Services budget is in excess of \$33 million annually with a local share of \$16-\$17 million. He said it is important to identify priorities.

Ms. Robertson noted that poverty is expensive; the amount clients receive and what is needed just to survive has a large gap. She believes it would be good to have both pre-K and school-age children covered by the schools, that it should not be one system for the pre-K and one for school-age children with disabilities.

### **Report from the County Administrator**

Mr. Whicher reported on his attendance at the NYSAC conference, stating that Town of Caroline Supervisor Don Barber and he presented information regarding the Tompkins County Council of Governments Health Care Consortium initiative. Following the meeting they were one of five counties invited to speak to the New York State Insurance Department to discuss what legal barriers would need to be amended to move forward with the initiative. Mr. Whicher and Mr. Barber spoke of their concerns and areas to be addressed and were informed that proposed legislation to address these concerns had been made previously; it appears that there may an opportunity for changes to occur at the State level.

Mr. Whicher then reported it has been approximately ten years since Jack Miller had come to express the need for a new communications system. Last Friday Mr. Shurtleff, Emergency Response Director, demonstrated the new system, which is ninety percent installed. The system appears to be fully functional, with exceptional quality, and appears outstanding. There is more work to be completed; however, it is very close and is appearing to be an excellent system. Mr. Whicher congratulated all individuals participating in the long-awaited project.

### **Report from the County Attorney**

Mr. Wood reported that he too had had the opportunity to speak on the new communications system and was impressed. He said the acceptance testing would be delayed until spring due to the imminent loss of foliage and the need to test when leaves are on the trees. Upon acceptance testing, the radios will be purchased and the system utilized.

Mr. Wood reported that the Federal Court has provided a 25-page decision that outlined facts and position with regard to the Serling-Sutton case, granting the County's motion for summary judgment and dropping all charges against the Department of Social Services. This case, which claimed the Department of Social Services improperly removed the child from the parents, received a good deal of publicity. He noted that the publicity unfairly criticized the Department of Social Services, however the Federal Court decision noted the facts and why it decided in favor of the County.

Mr. Proto inquired whether there have been any updates on the Bolton Point water fee case. Mr. Wood stated that the hearing is scheduled to be heard the third week of October, the decision will take approximately two months from that time.

### **Report from the Finance Director**

Mr. Squires reported the September 24, 2007, audit report has been received by the Audit Committee and is available for public inspection. The report did not have anything unfavorable.

Mr. Proto spoke of former Legislator Michael Lane speaking of dropping the sales tax on clothing and shoes at the Public Forum and asked if information could be provided regarding loss-of-revenue

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impact to the County and municipalities. Mr. Squires said he had researched files at the request of an *Ithaca Journal* reporter; a 2005 NYSAC study indicated that, based upon 2004, the impact would be a loss of \$750,000 for the County and \$350,000 to the City and sharing municipalities. Since that study was done because of increased opening of large chain stores locally there have been more opportunities for sales of this type as well as recapturing sales from surrounding counties.

Mr. Stevenson inquired if there is any updated timeline regarding the deferred-compensation process. Mr. Squires said the new plan administrator has a ninety-day window to terminate the contract. December 19, 2007, would be the date for the completion of the transition. Educational sessions will occur in November and meetings with employee groups will take place the latter part of October.

#### **Withdrawal of Resolution(s) from the Agenda**

Chair Joseph granted the appropriate committee chair permission to withdraw the resolution from the agenda entitled Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the Town of Lansing to Implement the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Implementation Grant and Co-Hold a Conservation Easement on the Bensvue Farm.

#### **Addition of Resolution(s) to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda. A resolution was added later in the meeting during executive session.

#### **Report from the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee**

Ms. Kiefer, Vice Chair, reported the Committee has not met since the last Legislature Meeting.

#### **Report from the Personnel Committee**

Mr. Dennis, Chair, reported the Committee would meet on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Work is taking place to set up another retirement health insurance meeting, but no date has been set at this time. He reported that the County Administrator Search Committee met for the first time earlier in the day with fourteen of the fifteen members present.

#### **Report from the Government Operations Committee**

Mr. Stevenson, Chair, said the Committee has not met. He reported that the Administrative Manual Planning Team has been working on the process of how to review and amend the manual. One of the Government Operations Committee's goals is to have fifty percent of the manual updated by the end 2009. Mr. Stevenson said the Team has outreach strategies to communicate and receive feedback from departments. An additional report will be received in November and the team will be submitting a review to the policy specifying the process to amend policies. The next Committee meeting will take place on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Report and Presentation of Resolution(s) from the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee**

Ms. Robertson, Chair, reported the Committee has not met. The next meeting will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>. She reported the resolution withdrawn earlier in the meeting was due to the Town Attorney's absence at the Town meeting at the time of review of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) paperwork.

**RESOLUTION NO. 190 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF DRYDEN TO IMPLEMENT THE AGRICULTURAL**

**AND FARMLAND PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT  
AND CO-HOLD A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE LEW-  
LIN FARM**

MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Proto, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present.

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Tompkins County and its residents to support farm operations and protect valuable agricultural resources for their contribution to the local economy, as a local source of food and other products, and as an important contributor to the quality of life in rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dryden, in partnership with Tompkins County, has been awarded a New York State Agricultural and Farmland Protection Implementation Grant for the purchase of development rights on the approximately 419 acres of Lewis and Linda Stuttle's Lew-Lin Farm in the Town of Dryden, New York, and

WHEREAS, the farm is in the heart of an agricultural district and an area designated in the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan and the Town of Dryden Comprehensive Plan as important to the region's agricultural base, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board endorsed the application to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for grant funding for this project, and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets selected this farm for protection under the highly competitive Farmland Protection Implementation Grant program, and

WHEREAS, if the project is unsuccessful and an easement is not acquired, New York State is not legally obligated to reimburse local partners for out-of-pocket expenses associated with the project for such items as survey, appraisal, and outside legal fees (though New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets staff has stated that efforts will be made to reimburse the costs), and

WHEREAS, the Town of Dryden is Lead Agency under State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for this project and has conducted a SEQR review and determined that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That Tompkins County concurs with the Town's negative determination of significance under SEQR for this project,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Town of Dryden to implement the Project and to co-hold, maintain, and enforce an agricultural conservation easement on the Lew-Lin Farm in perpetuity,

RESOLVED, further, That the agreement will include provisions for the Town and County to split the costs of any unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenses (not to exceed \$12,500 each) in the event that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets does not fully reimburse those costs.

**SEQR ACTION:** Unlisted  
(SEQR review has been completed by the Town of Dryden)

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**Report from the Budget and Capital Committee**

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, Chair, reported there have been a series of meetings of the Expanded Budget Committee, with the next taking place on October 4<sup>th</sup> to complete the presentation of materials from department heads. Starting on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> the voting meetings will begin. He asked that Legislators notify himself, Legislature staff, or Ms. Jayne of any proposals so department heads may be informed and in attendance at the meetings.

Ms. Kiefer spoke of the Public Forum held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, noting that she felt the presentation was too concise for the general public. She also suggested that future public forums not be held on the day residents receive school tax notices.

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### **Report from the Public Safety Committee**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, reported the Committee has not met.

### **Report from the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, reported the Committee met on September 26<sup>th</sup>. At that time they were informed that Steve Estes, Deputy Personnel Commissioner, would be taking the position of Co-Chair of the Diversity Consortium in January 2008. The Committee heard information with regard to DiversityInc., a company that provides recruitment advertisement in various forms. Following discussion, the Committee authorized \$3,000 in funds to participate in a six-month pilot program. The Committee selected *Inclusion through Diversity* as the tagline to be utilized on stationary and online in conjunction with the County Diversity Policy. Mrs. McBean-Clairborne reported on Mr. Estes' report relating to the use of Project Assistants and the pay scales associated with the positions. She also said work is continuing on the draft Diversity Plan. The County will be working with five Tompkins Cortland Community College students on a production to highlight the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee and its work for the County.

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne spoke of her working with Ms. Younger, Deputy County Administrator, on the performance review process and asked Legislators to contact Ms. Younger to set up a brief appointment to discuss this topic.

### **Report from the Health and Human Services Committee**

Mr. Shinagawa, Chair, reported the Committee would meet on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, just prior to the Shared Municipal Services Incentives (SMSI) group meeting. Mr. Shinagawa, as a member of SMSI they are moving ahead at a good pace, having put out a request for qualifications, reviewing and selecting one, and will be meeting with them tomorrow. The first phase is to determine the bylaws of the organization, structure, rules, etc., which will then require municipal approval. Mr. Whicher said Tompkins County is acting as the lead for Tompkins County Council of Governments. Mr. Shinagawa reported he has two interns assisting with the work completed by SMSI. Upon completion of the County's model, it will be shared at the State level to assist other counties to replicate the cooperative project.

### **Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2007**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Booth, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of September 18, 2007, as corrected. MINUTES APPROVED.

### **Discussion – Amendment to Resolution No. 139 of 2007**

Mr. Proto expressed his desire to amend the action taken on August 7, 2007, noting that Resolution No. 139, Designating a Site for Construction of a Health Department Building, incorrectly indicates it is on recommendation of the Health Department Building Committee. The Committee had recommended the Biggs location and the resolution was amended on the floor of the Legislature. Mr. Wood indicated it would require amendment of the resolution. He ruled that the minutes correctly reflect the action taken at that time and should not be amended. Mr. Joseph also agreed it would require amending the resolution and informed Mr. Proto that Mrs. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature, would assist in preparation a resolution.

Mr. Hattery asked the status of the Health Department Building Committee in light of the resignation of Mr. Proto as Chairman. Mr. Joseph said the Health Department Building Committee was a site-selection Committee whose charge was to bring choices to the full Legislature, which is now completed. He will be creating a new committee with a different configuration; a building-construction

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committee that will deal with the construction and renovation of the building. Mr. Joseph explained that once a capital project is created and funded the appropriate department head has the authority to spend and execute the funds. He anticipates the creation of an advisory committee to Ed Marx, who will be given spending authority. With regard to the purchase agreement for 55 Brown Road, Mr. Joseph reported the contract is being negotiated; once this process is complete it would come forward to the Legislature via the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

### **Recess**

Chair Joseph declared recess from 7:30 p.m. to 7:35 p.m. The following Legislators were excused from the meeting during this time: (Legislators Booth, Kiefer, Koplinka-Loehr, Robertson, and Shinagawa).

### **Executive Session**

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to enter into executive session 7:35p.m. to a personnel matter.

The following action was taken:

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Ms. Mackesey and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to add the resolution entitled In Appreciation of County Historian, Carol Kammen, to the agenda:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 191 - IN APPRECIATION OF COUNTY HISTORIAN, CAROL KAMMEN**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, and unanimously seconded, and adopted by voice vote by members present. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2000, Carol Kammen was appointed by the Tompkins County Legislature to the position of County Historian, and

WHEREAS, Carol Kammen served as a senior lecturer at Cornell University where she taught local history, and has served as guest speaker and consultant to dozens of museums, historical societies, and humanities councils around the country, and

WHEREAS, after writing articles for *New York History* magazine, Carol authored the books *On Doing Local History: Reflections on What Local Historians Do, Why, and What It Means*, and *The Pursuit of Local History: Readings on Theory and Practice*, and then co-edited the *Encyclopedia of Local History*, and

WHEREAS, Carol Kammen also has written three books on Tompkins County history and has produced several historical dramas on local history for children, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, The Regents of the University of the State of New York named Carol Kammen Public Historian of the Year, and

WHEREAS, she received international recognition in the September 2007 edition of *Local History Magazine*, the United Kingdom's only independent national magazine for anyone with an interest in local history which saluted Carol Kammen for her contributions to local history preservation, and

WHEREAS, to quote her peers, "For over twenty years Carol has interwoven the common threads of local history with skill and passion, whether writing about good practice, organization, comparative local history or a specific topic," and

WHEREAS, in September 2007, Carol Kammen received national recognition when The American Association for State and Local History presented her with its prestigious Award of Distinction at the Annual Leadership in History Awards ceremony, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature recognizes the many significant contributions that our County Historian Carol Kammen has made to preserve and improve the quality of life for the citizens of our County,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature extends its sincere appreciation and best wishes to Carol, as we applaud her as our County Historian.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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The meeting returned to open session at 7:36 p.m.

**Adjournment**

On motion the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, TC Legislature Office