

**Tompkins County Council of Governments**  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 9-27-2012  
**Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:00 PM**  
Scott Heyman Conference Room

**Attendance**

Members Present: (11 municipalities)

T/Caroline – D. Frongillo  
T/Danby - R. Dietrich, L.  
T/Ulysses - E. Thomas  
V/Lansing – D. Hartill  
T/Enfield – R. Barriere

C/Ithaca - J.R. Clairborne  
Co./Tompkins – M. Robertson  
T/Ithaca - H. Engman, B. Goodman  
V/Groton – C. Rankin  
T/Dryden – M. Sumner  
T/Newfield – R. Driscoll

Municipalities Not in Attendance: (6 municipalities) V/Dryden, V/Freeville, T/Groton, V/Cayuga Heights, T/Lansing

County Staff: M. Lynch, J. Mareane, County Administration, M. Pottorff, Legislature Office

Guests: L. DiPetro, Fingerlakes Community News

**Call to Order**

Mr. Engman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda**

The following items were added to the agenda: an announcement concerning the Medication Disposal Program, an announcement concerning a Broadband event, and a discussion of creating a Nominating Committee for Vice Chair.

**Minutes Approval - July 26, 2012**

It was MOVED by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of July 26, 2012 as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

**Discussion: Uniform Notice of Claim Act (DOC ID: 3587)**

Mr. Engman said there is a law that has passed the Senate and the Assembly that would change the procedure for serving notice on municipalities that there is going to be a civil suit. The law allows claimants to serve Notices of Claim against public entities on the Secretary of State. Both the Association of Towns and the Conference of Mayors oppose this because by the time the Secretary of State notifies the locality much of the 90-day time frame in which the locality has to respond may have passed and could result in the loss of the ability to gather information and interview claimants. He said Mr. Barber has suggested that TCCOG may wish to join others and also send a letter of opposition.

Mr. Engman said there had been a question about whether the Governor was going to sign the law; however, it was never delivered to him and the time period during which it had to be signed has passed. Although the time period for the Governor to sign any of the bills delivered from the last Legislative session has expired, it was unknown whether it could still be sent to the Governor again for signature.

*Mr. Mareane said Jonathan Wood, County Attorney, also saw this as a problem and sent a letter to the Governor asking that it be vetoed. Mr. Mareane distributed copies of the letter. He extended an offer to invite Mr. Wood to attend the next TCCOG meeting to report on this and to provide information and a resolution for TCCOG to consider if needed.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Consideration of TCCOG Endorsement of Letter**

**Resolution: Authorization to Join the Environmental Working Group as Signatory on Letter to the U.S. Consumer Protection Bureau Relating to the Impact of Oil and Gas Leases on Property Values and Mortgages (ID # 3605)**

Ms. Thomas said she thinks it is good to bring this to the federal level and to make those officials think about the impacts of drilling; other members agreed.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Martha Robertson, Member, Tompkins County
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Elizabeth Thomas, Member - Alternate, Town of Ulysses representative
<b>AYES:</b>	Robertson, Driscoll, Dietrich, Engman, Thomas, Sumner, Clairborne, Hartill, Barriere, Frongillo, Rankin

Whereas, the Tompkins County Council of Governments formed the Gas Drilling Task Force in April 2010, and

Whereas, the Task Force created the Land Values and Assessment Work Group which has produced the “White Paper on Residential Lending”, and

Whereas, the White Paper has come to the attention of the New York Times, the Environmental Working Group and others, and

Whereas, the Environmental Working Group has written a letter to Richard Cordray who was recently appointed to the position of Director of the United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that addresses the impact of oil and gas leases on U.S. property values and mortgages, and

Whereas, the work of the Gas Drilling Task Force is being sited in this letter, and

Whereas, TCCOG endorses additional points contained in the letter: the inherent risks of drilling and hydraulic fracturing, the potential impact on property values and mortgages, and the need for greater consumer protection, and now therefore be it

Resolved, That TCCOG supports the contents of the letter and agrees to join the Environmental Working Group as a signatory.

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**Initial Discussion of Shared Maintenance Facility**

Mr. Engman said many municipalities that previously used Crispell’s for maintenance on heavy trucks are now using Caskey’s Garage for some work now that Crispell’s is no longer in business. He said Caskey’s cannot handle all of the work and the Town of Ithaca has to send work to Syracuse to be

done and questioned if the potential exists for having a facility that all County municipalities could support to keep business local. Mr. Dietrich said this could be a good idea but should be presented first to highway superintendents. Mr. Engman suggested they be asked if they feel they are getting adequate repair service for larger equipment and if not, what they think about the concept of a shared facility. Mr. Dietrich said he believes something similar was explored previously but did not know why it wasn't pursued. Ms. Robertson said she spoke to the Mayor and the County Highway Manager and each of them responded that they would be willing to participate in discussions about this. Mr. Dietrich said he doesn't think this would achieve a significant amount of money saved but there could be a potential to greatly reduce the amount of time equipment is down.

It was suggested that questions should be asked such as: What equipment is now being sent out of town that was being sent to Crispell's? What would Caskey's need to pick up this business? Mr. Driscoll suggested Caskey's be contacted to see if they are interested in expanding their business.

Ms. Sumner asked if any highway superintendents had expressed a concern; Mr. Engman said there had not been any concerns expressed and that this was idea that was brought forward. It was suggested that each member would individually engage their highway superintendent with a set of questions that Mr. Robertson agreed to draft which will be circulated to all members.

Mr. Driscoll spoke of the amount of machinery that is purchased by municipalities on a piece-by-piece basis and suggested exploring a way to collectively purchase machinery or vehicles. It was also noted that municipalities are not allowed to purchase anything that is used. Mr. Hartill said one of the biggest impacts this body could have would be to approach New York State to request that municipalities be allowed to purchase used equipment.

### **Broadband Announcement**

Mr. Dietrich announced the Citizen's Advisory Committee for each municipality that is interested in doing a broadband build-out will meet on August 28th at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Library. He encouraged any municipality that would like to find out more to let him know. He said this fits in with the Governor's release of \$125 million to do another broadband build-out which Tompkins County may be in the right place for.

### **Report from Cable Committee**

Mr. Engman said Jay Frankin, Director of Assessment, and David Squires, County Finance Director, attended the last meeting to talk about the franchises and how assessment and taxes relate. Mr. Lane will be looking into holding public meetings around the County to get input from citizens about their Time Warner Cable experiences. The Committee will then set up a meeting with Time Warner and begin talking to them about new franchises. Rich DePaolo, Town of Ithaca, is looking into a variety of examples of agreements and will be putting together a model that the Committee will review. Mr. Engman also reported several municipalities have contracted with the firm (Computel) that does the audits.

### **Medication Disposal Event**

Ms. Lynch announced the next Medication Disposal Event will be held on September 29th at TCAT, the Enfield Town Hall, and the Slaterville Fire Station. On September 17th there will be a media event to launch the permanent drop boxes that are being set up. They will be located at places such as police departments, the Sheriff's Department, and the Human Services Building.

**Next Meeting Agenda Items**

○ Creating Nominating Committee

Mr. Engman said he will transition out of the Co-chair position next year with Ms. Supron becoming Co-Chair along with Mr. Driscoll. Members were asked to consider serving on a Nominating Committee for the position of Vice Chair which will eventually transition into the Co-Chair role.

○ Municipal Officials Report to Legislature

Ms. Robertson reminded members that the County Legislature's agenda includes a section for a municipal official to report at each meeting. A list of dates will be sent to members with a sign-up sheet that will be maintained and available on the TCCOG website.

○ Update from the Health Insurance Consortium

○ Update from Planning Department Plans relating to economic development and housing (October meeting)

○ Human Resources Shared Training

Ms. Sumner said she has received a request from the Highway Superintendent for assistance in this area for training such as the mandatory training required by PESH and OSHA. Mr. Mareane will follow-up with Anita Fitzpatrick, Personnel Commissioner, and Frank Croteau, Health and Safety Coordinator, prior to the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. and an informal discussion was held among interested members to discuss how local government meetings are set up and run.