



Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 01/22/15 03:00 PM
Department: County Administration
Category: Intermunicipal
Functional Category:

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 5347

**RECOMMENDING A CITIZEN’S PANEL UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF
THE TOWN AND VILLAGE COURT SYSTEM WITHIN TOMPKINS
COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POTENTIAL
ORGANIZATIONAL REALIGNMENTS THAT MAY RESULT IN COST OR
QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments has established a Shared Services Committee (“Committee”) to consider areas where structural changes may result in greater efficiency or effectiveness, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has focused its attention on four functional areas, including Highways, Public Safety, Administrative Services, and the Municipal Courts, and

WHEREAS, the Committee’s approach to the review of these functional areas is to undertake an initial exploratory review to determine whether improvements may result from structural changes such as mergers, consolidations, and shared services and, if so, to undertake a more rigorous and detailed review to confirm that improvements are possible and to make specific recommendations regarding the implementation of changes and

WHEREAS, the Committee has undertaken such an exploratory review of the Town and Village Court system and has concluded that, while cost savings are unlikely, recommendations regarding qualitative improvements may result from a rigorous and detailed review undertaken by local individuals knowledgeable in the court and criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, such a citizens’ panel would operate only in an advisory capacity, and would exist to provide knowledgeable input to local policy-makers, and

WHEREAS, an efficient and effective justice system is in the interest of all of TCCOG’s member municipalities and citizens of those municipalities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins Council of Governments hereby endorses the creation of a citizens panel that will review on its behalf the current structure and operations of the municipal court system for the purpose of identifying potential ways and means to sustain and improve the efficiency of operations and quality of justice provided by the town and village courts,

RESOLVED, further, That the Shared Services Committee will identify potential members of the citizens’ panel and will report its recommendations to the TCCOG Board for its approval.