

**Tompkins County Council of Governments
November 29, 2007 Meeting**

Minutes

Present: D. Barber-T. Caroline, D. Austic-T. Ulysses, R. Dietrich-T. Danby, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, S. Farkas-T. Lansing, D. Hartill-T. Lansing, T. Joseph-Co. Legislature, G. Morey-T. Groton, J. Owens-T. Enfield, C. Peterson-City of Ithaca, M. Robertson-Co. Legislature, S. Trumbull-T. Dryden, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, P. Younger-Co. Administration

Guests: Valeria Coggin & Jay Franklin-County Assessment, Steve Locey-Locey & Cahill, B. Hollenbeck-T. Dryden, D. Keifer-Co. Legislature, J. Kippola-Co. Administration

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Barber reminded the members present that if their municipality elects or appoints new TCCOG delegates and/or alternates in 2008; their respective Boards will need to pass a resolution stating who those new TCCOG members are.

Motion: Accept the minutes from the 10/25/07 meeting
Made by: C. Valentino
Second: R. Dolge
Carried unanimously

Assessment Re-evaluation for 2008:

The objective of the 2008 countywide revaluation is to produce an assessment roll that reflects 100 percent fair market value for all properties. This will ensure that the tax burden, as determined by the local taxing jurisdictions, is distributed equitably. Assessment disclosure notice mailings will be staggered. The first set of notices will be mailed the end of January, and informal hearings will start the beginning of February 2008.

County Administration, Public Information and the Department of Assessment are working collaboratively on a campaign to educate the public regarding the 2008 assessment revaluation process. There is a six-page informational pamphlet available to City, Town and Village offices. This pamphlet will be condensed to two pages and mailed with the assessment disclosures.

The Department of Assessment will be contacting municipalities to schedule appointments to discuss the revaluation process, on-site, with constituents. These visits will occur in conjunction with the disclosure mailings. It was also suggested that someone from Assessment go to a Town Clerks meeting.

Assessment decides what the appraisal values are, but the municipalities decide the tax rates. The Department of Assessment has no authority to address the taxation aspect of the process.

The six (6) page information pamphlet and disclosure appeal forms will be made available to the public after the first of the year on the Tompkins County Department of Assessment web page.

Health Insurance Update:

Jackie Kippola, Tompkins County Risk Manager and Steve Locey, Health Benefits Consultant reported out on the progress of the Shared Municipality Health Benefits Consortium. The third draft of the "Municipal Cooperation Agreement" was disseminated at the meeting. Mr. Locey asked TCCOG members to take this information back to their Boards for everyone to review. Please direct comments/issues/questions to either: Steve Locey, Locey & Cahill at 315-425-1424 or slocey@loceycahill.com or Jackie Kippola, Tompkins County Administration, 274-5551 or jkippola@tompkins-co.org.

Locey and Cahill realize that before they can ask for any agreement to be signed, they need to let municipalities know what is being offered. Several items being worked on now are: rate setting and development, an analysis of all municipality plans, and consideration of extras such as vision and dental coverage. Last month Locey and Cahill sent out a document to each municipality explaining the plan. Included with that document was a request for information on items such as:

- Any collective bargaining agreements,
- How people are eligible,
- How many are enrolled,
- The number of contracts
- Individual or family plans,
- Premium rates,
- Available options,
- Contract languages,
- Actual benefit design language,
- Copies of contracts,
- Copies of insurance booklets,
- Paid claim information, etc.

It is imperative that every municipality reports this information to the consultant. Locey and Cahill are looking for commonalities so that they can recommend a program that will work. The goal of the consultant is to bring all municipalities together and take advantage of lower premiums and the best coverage available because of the large group. Also disseminated was a report based on the information Locey and Cahill has received from municipalities. Mr. Locey

requests that municipalities review the information and advise his office of any discrepancies. Once information is received from all municipalities, Locey and Cahill will compile a very detailed report to be presented to each entity for its review and feedback.

Next Steps:

- Make recommendations
- Offer some preliminary numbers
- Suggest a financial structure
- Develop a health benefits plan
- Move into Phase II
- Ask for Municipal Commitment

Judy Taber, from Locey and Cahill, may be making follow-up phone calls for municipal information. All information is being handled with strictest confidentiality.

TCCOG/SPCA Update:

Ms. Valentino presented an overview of the proposed RFQ for animal control services. There are three tiers/levels, and municipalities will have the option to choose the services they prefer:

- 1) Basic Services- just what is required by Ag and Markets Law
- 2) Expanded Services-very similar to what the SPCA provides minus cat services.
- 3) Services for cats only.

Discussion followed on changes and questions regarding the proposal. Any additional comments need to be given to Bambi Hollenbeck, the Dryden Town Clerk, before December 15, 2007. A revised proposal will be distributed to the members before the January meeting.

There were questions regarding signing the current SPCA contract-have your attorney look it over before signing.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Next Meeting is January 24, 2008