

**TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2007**

Present: D. Barber-T. Caroline, D. Austic-T. Ulysses, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, T. Joseph-Co. Legislator, M. Robertson-Co. Legislator, W.Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, C. Peterson-City of Ithaca, T. White-T. Danby, M. Lynch-Admin, S. Whicher-Admin, D. Lauper-Admin.
Guests: P. Dougherty-T. Enfield, G. Stevenson-Co. Legislator, M. Koplinka-Loehr-Co. Legislator, D. Frongillo-T. Caroline

NO QUORUM

Meeting started at 3:08 pm

II Reviewed minutes from 3/22/07, no revisions were noted.

III Waste Haulers Resolution tabled until next month's meeting.

IV EMS Radio Update:

There was an additional TCCOG meeting held on April 17th, 2007, to discuss radio equipment for the new communications system in Tompkins County. A resolution was passed supporting the information that Mr. Shurtleff presented. The resolution was presented to the County Public Safety committee meeting on April 20th where it received informal support of the committee members in attendance.

V SMSI Health Insurance Grant Update:

S. Whicher has not received verification from the State regarding the grant. When Mr. Whicher called the State in April, they thought we might hear something in a few weeks.

S. Whicher and D. Barber have been invited to speak on this subject at a Shared Services meeting in Batavia next month .

VI Discuss Future Topics:

1. T. Joseph received a letter from Governor Spitzer regarding a consolidation and shared services commission the Governor is establishing. The request is for municipalities in New York State to submit one or more major shared incentives, which will be reviewed by the Commission for possible State funding support. Submission of these consolidated/shared services must be funneled through Tompkins County. "SMART" growth initiatives are included. There does not seem to be a legislative resolution requirement.

Possibilities discussed:

- City and Town of Ithaca are considering a consolidated comprehensive plan. Maybe the City and Town could write something up for that.
- Consolidated Court System
- SMSI Health Insurance Incentive.
- Economic Development collaborative effort for housing development with TCAD. TCAD is also looking to update the assessment of Tompkins County water and sewer systems.
Martha Armstrong could present this to TCCOG next month.
M. Robertson would like to discuss this with E. Marx and bring it back to TCCOG next month.

2. Storm Water Officer: The Towns of Ulysses, Caroline and Newfield received a grant for a Storm Water Officer. After conducting several meetings to determine job requirements and qualifications for an inspector it was realized that the need for each municipality would not total the number of hours required for full time employment. Discussion with the Town of Ithaca about hiring one of its inspectors on a part time basis garnered positive results. For now, the Towns of Ulysses, Caroline and Newfield will share an inspector with the Town of Ithaca.

The eventual outcome of this process will be a job description and contracts to be used at such time as the three (or more) towns feel a need for an full time inspector, which will be hired by one town with the expenses shared by all.

VII Housekeeping:

Deer Management: M. Robertson reported out that deer management was discussed in the planning committee for the County and there was a draft resolution regarding trapping and euthanizing deer under permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to provide a management option by which Tompkins County municipalities could address negative deer-related impacts. DEC already grants permits, with proper documentation, to reduce deer population. This resolution would create a mechanism by which this could be facilitated.

M. Robertson indicated that Monika Roth would like to attend another TCCOG meeting to discuss a database to match hunters and property owners for deer management.

Communications Protection Law: TCCOG members would like to see the draft resolutions re-circulated; staff will do this. There were questions regarding what the resolution covers, such as who pays for mitigation or who reviews the plans for new construction. Staff will do an informational survey to see if municipalities have something in place to cover the law, are considering the law or need additional information.

Planning Board Training and Recreation Partnership discussions tabled until next month.

Dominic Frongillo, Chair of the Recreation Partnership, reported out about recent activities: There was an organizational meeting in February; they hope to have a proposal for the municipalities by the end of May or early June: Currently they are working on a contractual relationship with the City Youth Bureau: A plan is being formulated for 2008 considering key points such as: transportation, program accessibility, fund raising ideas and cost sharing formulas. Mr. Frongillo asked if someone from Rec. Partnership could come to a future TCCOG meeting with a summary of activities. S. Whicher suggested that Mr. Frongillo consider funding assistance from SMSI.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.