

RESOLUTION - ENDORSEMENT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND PLEDGE TO WORK WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE FOR COUNTY-WIDE EVALUATION OF EXISTING WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy's goals include increasing and diversifying the County's housing supply and revitalizing the County's unique commercial districts and town centers, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Collaborative was organized to formalize, strengthen and deepen the cooperation among the many local agencies and municipal bodies addressing economic development issues in the County to make the process more effective through common goals and approach, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) is a member of the Economic Development Collaborative, which is currently working to address the goals of the County's Economic Development Strategy, and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Collaborative has suggested the creation of an updated, County-wide evaluation of existing water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needed to support planned future growth to meet housing and economic development goals, and

WHEREAS, the last County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure was completed in 1994, and

WHEREAS, an updated evaluation would facilitate the development of housing within town and village centers, commercial revitalization of those centers and growth in the tax base, with the most efficient use of public dollars for infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the result of this evaluation will be a report that is available for all municipalities to use in their planning of infrastructure development, but that no actual investment in water or sewer facilities is included in this project, and

WHEREAS, the County of Tompkins, on behalf of TCCOG, applied for and was awarded a grant known as Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant from the State of New York, to conduct a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and develop a conceptual plan, and

WHEREAS, the TCCOG unanimously adopted this resolution on September 25, 2008 and directed that it to be forwarded to municipalities for consideration and approval by local municipal boards, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 186 of 2008 on September 16, 2008, that authorized the acceptance of this grant in the amount of \$82,245.24 for the purpose of conducting a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and to develop a conceptual plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the _____ (municipality), by adoption of this resolution, declares its intent to support the development of a County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure and the development of a conceptual plan of water and sewer infrastructure needed to support planned future growth to meet housing and economic development goals,

RESOLVED, further, That the _____ (municipality) pledges to work with the Economic Development Collaborative to ensure cooperation of members' planning and engineering departments with this project, providing information and documentation requested by the consultant team, led by TG Miller, including but not limited to:

- Current rated capacity of water and wastewater treatment systems from existing SPDES (State Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permits and facility plans
- Electronic files or paper copies of maps showing current water distribution and/or sanitary sewer collection systems
- Recent studies of water and sewer facilities
- Treatment processes, mechanical and other systems related data
- Scheduled or anticipated system upgrades or new construction
- Historical problems and obstacles including operational difficulties, regulatory compliance, land use restrictions, public impact and complaints, and funding
- Current population served by the utilities including number of service connections
- Anticipated population growth rate for the next ten years
- Existing or planned funding sources that may be available, and

Statement of need:

Increasing housing supply and revitalization of commercial districts are two of the Tompkins County Economic Development Strategy's three goals. Both require improvements to water and sewer infrastructure, especially in the non-urbanized areas of the county. The proposed infrastructure study is, therefore, an integral step to achieving affordable housing and revitalization goals. In particular, to provide for housing to be reasonably affordable, housing requires density. Continuing to build individual homes on 1-2 acre lots is not an affordable approach to providing housing. Dependable water and sewer infrastructure is also critical for revitalization of our town and village centers.

Preliminary scope of work:

A consultant will be hired to:

- Update the 1994 County-wide evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure working with local municipal staff.
- Prepare a conceptual plan of water and sewerage infrastructure, including potential service areas, to support future growth.
- Prepare preliminary costs to expand infrastructure to accommodate planned growth.

Work will reflect anticipated growth of the municipalities, local plans, and the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan."
