



**Tompkins County Council of Governments**

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 04/23/15 03:00 PM  
Department: County Administration  
Category: Intermunicipal Related  
Functional Category:

**ADOPTED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 005-2015  
(ID # 5558)**

DOC ID: 5558

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**ENDORING THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF A SINGLE,  
COUNTYWIDE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PLAN, ESTABLISHING  
TOMPKINS COUNTY AS LEAD ENTITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
PLAN, AND ENCOURAGING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN  
TOMPKINS COUNTY TO BE SIGNATORIES TO THE COUNTYWIDE  
PLAN**

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>   |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Kate Supron, Member - Village of Cayuga Heights                                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Fredric Dietrich, Member, Town of Danby  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Lane, Dietrich, Engman, Supron, Weiser, Clairborne, Zahler, Smith, Conger, Hartill |

WHEREAS, the State of New York enacted legislation creating a Property Tax Freeze Credit as a part of the 2015 State Budget, and

WHEREAS, the new law encouraged local governments to generate long-term property tax relief by sharing services, consolidating or merging, and implementing operational efficiencies, and

WHEREAS, the law provides a “freeze credit” to qualified homeowners that is equal to the increase in property taxes levied by a taxing jurisdiction that limits any increase in its tax levy to a property tax cap set by State law and develops and implements a Government Efficiency Plan (“Plan”) determined to be compliant by the New York State Division of Budget, and

WHEREAS, to be determined compliant by the State, a Government Efficiency Plan must document actions that have been, or will be, taken that will result in a sustained three-year savings, beginning in 2017, that are equivalent to at least 1% of the combined 2014 property tax levies of all signatories to the Plan, and

WHEREAS, in year one of the program, homeowners received a Freeze Credit if their local government stayed within the property tax cap, and

WHEREAS, in year two of the program, homeowners will receive the Freeze Credit for taxes from any taxing jurisdiction that stays within the property tax cap and that also puts forward a compliant Government Efficiency Plan, and

WHEREAS, while allowing local governments to submit individual Plans, the State has encouraged local governments to submit a single, countywide plan that achieves a savings of at least 1% of the combined property tax levies of all of the participants, and

WHEREAS, the State will recognize only savings associated with actions implemented prior to January 1, 2012, and

WHEREAS, prior to 2012, local governments in Tompkins County pioneered shared services, mergers, and consolidations including the centralization of the property tax assessment function, a fully consolidated public safety

dispatch and interoperable communication system, a consolidated public transit system, a two-county community college and, most recently, an inter-municipal health benefits consortium that continue to generate multiple millions of dollars in annual savings for taxpayers within Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, in response to the State’s directive, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) formed a shared services committee that continues to explore a variety of prospective shared services, but recognizes that time and careful thought is required to ensure that any shared service initiative will result in lower costs and higher quality, and

WHEREAS, it is now estimated that savings well in excess of 1% of the \$88.4 million levied by all local government within Tompkins County in 2014, including the County itself, will be achieved and sustained during the period 2017-2019 by a combination of changes made by Tompkins County to the cost structure of its health benefit plan and a dependent eligibility certification process undertaken by every municipal member of the Health Benefits Consortium, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments finds that a consolidated countywide Plan that documents savings in excess of 1% of the combined 2014 property tax levies of all local governments within the County is the most efficient and effective way to respond to the State’s directive, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments endorses the development and presentation of a single countywide Government Efficiency Plan that includes all local governments within Tompkins County,

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG endorses the designation of Tompkins County as lead entity in the development and submission of the Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG encourages all local governments within Tompkins County to be signatories to the Plan developed by Tompkins County.

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 ) ss:  
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by the Tompkins County Council of Governments on April 23, 2015.

Michelle Pottorff, Staff  
Tompkins County Council of Governments