

**Tompkins County Council of Governments  
January 24, 2008 Meeting**

**Minutes**

Present: C. Rankin-V. Groton, C. Peterson-City of Ithaca, M. Robertson-Co. Legislature, D. Barber-T. Caroline, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, G. Morey-T. Groton,  
R. Dolge-T. Newfield, D. Hartill-V. Lansing, B. Goodman-T. Ithaca, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, M. Koplinka-Loehr, Co. Legislature, R. Barriere-T. Enfield, S. Whicher-Co. Administration, P. Dougherty-T. Enfield, R. Harvey, T. Enfield, M.Lynch-Co. Legislature, D. Frongillo-T. Caroline, R. Dietrich-T. Danby, M Sumner-T. Dryden.

Guest: M. Armstrong

Meeting began at 3:04 p.m.

Welcome new members. As a reminder, your town/village Board will need to pass a resolution stating the names of the delegate and alternate who will be a voting member of TCCOG and send it to Doreen Lauper at Tompkins County Administration, 125 E. Court St., Ithaca, NY 14850 or fax it to (607) 274-5558.

Review 11/29/07 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to accept the November 29, 2007, TCCOG meeting minutes:

Made by: Rich Dolge

Second: Carolyn Peterson

Carried Unanimously

TCCOG Liaison for Economic Development Collaborative:

Mr. Barber gave a brief description of what the EDC does and asked for a volunteer to serve on that committee. Mr. Rankin, Supervisor of the Village of Groton, volunteered to sit on the committee for one year.

Martha Armstrong expressed her appreciation for TCCOG assistance with the production of the SMSI water and sewer grant.

Health Insurance Update:

Mr. Whicher gave a brief description of what the three phases of the Health Benefits Consortium process are:

I: Research/Formation Phase, where we are now

II: Development/Design Phase, which we are transitioning into, and

III: Implementation Phase

Disseminated today is the third draft of a proposed municipal agreement submitted by Locey and Cahill, the Health Benefits consultant.

We are asking each TCCOG member to present this proposed agreement to his or her Board for review and feedback only, not for signing. This agreement deals with plans and proposals, not actualities. Actual costs will be addressed at a later date, possibly Phase II. Comments, questions and concerns may be e-mailed to Doreen Lauper at [dlauper@tompkins-co.org](mailto:dlauper@tompkins-co.org) for dissemination to the full membership. An additional TCCOG meeting may be scheduled with Mr. Locey the third Thursday in February so that TCCOG members and Supervisors may air their concerns and receive answers from the consultant. Follow up information will be presented at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Locey met with Tompkins County union and employee group representatives January 23. The plan is to schedule additional meetings for Mr. Locey to meet, and open communications, with as many stakeholder groups as possible. Mr. Locey is also available to meet with municipal Boards. Mayor

Peterson offered to host a union and employee group representative meeting at the next City of Ithaca Labor Management meeting in February and there will be a meeting for retirees held in March. Other suggested resources of information in Tompkins County are: Rich Weiss of BOCES and Dave Banfield of Tompkins Trust Company. Mr. Barber urged this group to stay together in this matter.

Mr. Whicher also disseminated copies of the NYS budget.

#### Dog Control RFP Process:

The RFP regarding animals is on hold for the following reasons:

- The SPCA extended their contracts with municipalities for a lower rate than they had originally proposed.
- There is a need for more municipal input on:
  - Enumerations.
  - Rabies.
  - Animal Law Enforcement.
  - Each municipality's philosophy on humane treatment of animals.
  - Questions regarding how each municipality weights in on the RFP or continuing to contract with the SPCA.
- The subcommittee is continuing to research:
  - How many tiers the RFP should contain.
  - How fees would be appointed.
  - The number of days to retain animals.
  - How the "No-Kill" policy will be incorporated.
  - What is the charge of the subcommittee?
  - How long will it take another organization to prepare sufficient services to cover most of Tompkins County?
  - Continuing negotiations with the SPCA.

Mr. Dietrich suggested we utilize the subcommittee to discuss the points of interest and contention, summarize the issues, and have the subcommittee bring the information back to the full membership for review and comment. Mr. Dietrich volunteered to chair this effort with the assistance of Mr. Engman.

Next Steps:

- Contact Ontario County and ask for a copy of their animal control contract for review.
- Survey Municipal Mayors, Supervisors and Town Clerks regarding what they would like to see in the RFP or a contract with the SPCA.
- Schedule a meeting with Mr. Dietrich, Mr. Engman, Town Clerks and the City Controller.
- Report back at the February 28<sup>th</sup> TCCOG meeting.

County Administration staff is available for assistance with contracts or RFP language.

#### Nominating Committee:

TCCOG by-laws state: "Officers will be elected for one-year terms, based on a calendar year, from the time of election." Current officers have been in position since August of 2006. Mr. Barber is stepping down as Chair. Volunteers for the Nominating Committee are: Rich Dolge as Chair, Walter Lynn and Doug Austic. Committee members shall canvas the TCCOG membership for nominees and report back with a list at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Review the Structure of TCCOG Meetings:

Mr. Barber asked if the times, dates, length and structure of our meetings should be continued in 2008. There was consensus to maintain the existing meeting schedule.

Mr. Dietrich reminded members that insurance certificates for Shared Municipal Services agreements need to be renewed each year.

Questions were raised to TCCOG members regarding a question and answer session for newly elected town and village officials. Mr. Barber and Ms. Robertson volunteered to pursue this endeavor.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 pm

Made by: R. Dolge

Second: W. Lynn