

INTERMUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY, MAY 19,2006
Old Jail Conference Room

Present: J. Drake-Town of Ithaca, T. Joseph-County Legislature, P. Mackesey-County Legislature, M. Robertson-County Legislature, P. Stein-Town of Ithaca, S.Thayer- City of Ithaca, C. Valentino-Town of Ithaca, F. Proto-County Legislature, P. Leary-Town of Ithaca, D. Cogan-City of Ithaca, Steven Whicher-County Administrator, D. Lauper-County Administration

Note: Meeting called to order 12:10pm

Minutes

Reviewed minutes from the April 28th meeting. No comments or revisions.

Sales Tax Cap On Gasoline

An article from the Ithaca Journal was circulated at the meeting regarding State Legislature passing a cap on the state sales tax on gasoline that would save motorists \$.04 per gallon. Comments were made addressing what the County and municipalities could do locally to decrease the price of gas and questions as to whether this cut would actually benefit consumers. The consensus of the group was that the members of the present group are not in favor of the reduction and that there was no need for further analysis. Legislature will discuss the issues of gas and sales tax reductions with more municipalities.

Consolidated Intermunicipal Health Insurance

The Administrator informed the committee that NYS is continuing to work out the details for the 2006-2007 grant. We are currently on an email list for information regarding the grant and will keep the committee up to date. Next years grant and time line should closely follow last years, if you would like more information now.

We have been in contact with the Unions within the County. They are willing to be players but they would like something more substantial such as outlines and actual proposals before they participate.

The county formed a Steering Committee to review County concerns and to develop a draft RFP. Once we have an RFP, it will be disseminated to the municipalities for comments and feedback. We will assume that organizations we do not hear from support the Draft RFP.

We will provide more of a time line at our next meeting (6/23/06). The Steering Committee meeting is 6/1/06. We will try to parallel our time line with theirs.

There was some discussion on needing more information: a checklist, what costs will be, dealing with more specifics, covering retirees and new employees, etc. What we need to do here is get together a grant application and the rest of the information will follow. Steve has been in contact with Ken Crannel at NYSAC who has volunteered to walk our application through Budget.

All municipalities are encouraged to begin the necessary dialogues with their bargaining units

Draft of By-laws

Cathy Valentino and Judy Drake, from the Town of Ithaca, distributed a draft of possible by-laws for the Council of Governments. Some issues were:

- Under II. Purpose, second paragraph, third line, there was a consensus that there needs to be a changes of ...improving communications “among local governments in Tompkins County;” improving involvement with School...
- Under II. Purpose, second paragraph, third line, do we want to leave ... “improving involvement with School Districts: ... in the document? Yes. Not every entity belongs to a council of government. However, it would be good to communicate, improve involvement with, the local schools.
- Under IV. Officers, section D. Duties, there was a requested change with ... The Chair “set agendas and” preside over Council meetings...
- Under V. Meetings, second paragraph, first sentence it was decided that there should be “at least 6” municipalities in attendance at the organizational meeting in order to accept the interim by-laws.

Cathy and Judy will make the revisions to the interim by-laws, email them to committee members for review, complete the document and take it to the Intermunicipal meeting next week for discussion.

There were concerns about meeting attendance. Could there be a designee from each municipality and an alternate? Could we compile a list of telephone contact numbers for each entity? C. Valentino is willing to put something informational together for the press to let municipalities know about this. She is also going to take that draft by-laws to the Intermunicipal meeting and try to find a time frame people can support.

Note: Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

Next Meeting: June 23 at Noon (You will be notified if the date changes)