

TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MINUTES
October 26, 2006

Present: D. Barber-T. Caroline, S. Farkas-T. Lansing, S. Trumbull-T. Dryden, D. Austic-T. Ulysses, E. Beavers-T. Danby, T. White- T. Danby, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, C. Rankin-V. Groton, J. Ownes-T. Enfield, T. Joseph-County Legislature, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, P. Younger-County Admin, S. Whicher-County Admin, R. Taylor-V. Dryden, L. Leopold-V. Lansing, F. Moore-V. Lansing, M. Lynch-County Admin, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, C. Peterson-C. Ithaca.

Meeting Began at 3:00 PM

Greeting and Introductions

Sign-in and review of agenda.

Review the two proposed letterheads, voted by show of hands, and a decision was based on the majority vote.

The letterhead with the county map in the corner won by a 4 to 7 margin. We also need to add the Village of Lansing to the letterhead since they passed their resolution to join.

Review the minutes from the September meeting. There were some grammatical corrections to be made.

Motion: To accept minutes with changes.

Carried unanimously.

SMSI Grant-Health Insurance Update:

Copies of the grant were distributed for member review. It was noted that the grant was reduced from \$400,000 to \$266,030. The grant was received at the State department on Monday, October 23rd, at 8:49 AM. We have no idea when we will hear from the State. TCCOG can talk about next steps; County Administration will bring an outline to the December meeting. The State will probably make awards within their budget year-possibly before April 2007. If the grant does not go through, then we may have to use a less expensive model.

Deer Management:

Guest speaker, Monika Roth an agriculture and environment program leader with Cornell Cooperative Extension, gave a presentation regarding issues and approaches to deer management.

Cornell is starting to develop a plan for what and where the needs are within the County. They are conducting meetings in the area to gauge the level of awareness and needs in urban and suburban environments.

There was also a deer management draft report done by the Town of Ithaca and summarized by H. Engman.

Key Points:

- Deer damage and concern is widespread
- Levels of damage vary.
- Deer population in urban areas have increased significantly in the past 10 years
- Levels of tolerance vary

Consequences of Overpopulation:

- Ecological impacts
- Economical impacts
- Animal health
- Disease (Lyme, Chronic Wasting)
- Traffic accidents
- Increased human-deer interactions

There was discussion on management alternatives such as: increased hunting, fencing, trapping and relocating, repellants and frightening devices, culling and fertility control. Hunting, trapping and relocating are regulated by the State. Fences that are located in zoned areas are not high enough, municipality zoning laws would have to be revisited and if you fence deer out of one area they will stay and move to another. Culling-localized management tool in areas where hunting is not permitted-has been effective but is most effective with a long-term application/commitment. There are products available for fertility control that aren't that effective, the application is time consuming and also requires a long-term application. There will be a forum on this topic Monday, November 6 from 7-9 PM in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Library. Citizens are encouraged to input information on the State DEC Dear Management Unit website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/deer/>.

Panel Discussion Addressing Housing Issues in Tompkins County October 19th:

This was the third session. The first session covered what was lacking with housing in this area; the second considered what type(s) of plans could be put in place; and the third met with the Ithaca Board of Realtors and Bankers. The next meeting will include housing developers and construction companies. The number of people attending these meetings has increased and the invitation list will probably increase for the next meeting.

People are moving out of the City, there is a need for more affordable housing. Houses/housing is dependent on jobs, transportation and affordability. Other relative issues are with public water and sewer, which is an issue in several municipalities. There is a need to deal consistently with water and sewer issues throughout the County, with cooperation between municipalities. Some of the questions brought up for future discussion were: Is the County considering financing sewer systems? Would information from the DEC be useful? Should

Jon Andersson from the County Health Department be asked to one of these meetings?

The next meeting date has not been set but C. Peterson will keep this group informed.

Share Highlights of 2007 Budgets:

Each municipality present gave a brief summary of how their organization is doing. Overall, things seem to be running smoothly. Two issues addressed frequently were public sewer and fire department volunteers/membership. S. Whicher can research other county sewer systems and report at the December meeting. M. Lynch offered to facilitate a discussion on fire departments in the future.

Possibilities for Next Month's Agenda:

C. Valentino, Town of Ithaca, will report out about a meeting with Cornell

T. White, Town of Danby, will gather information regarding dead animal removal issues.

D. Austic, Town of Ulysses, will see why Trumansburg is doing so well with its volunteer fire department recruitment.

C. Peterson, City of Ithaca, will be attending a meeting regarding fuel management and should be able to report out about that. Should be have a smaller committee to discuss this issue in more depth?

Ask L. Shurtleff if he would give an update on the communications system and possibly give us information about fire department volunteer issues.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM