

**TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MINUTES  
September 28, 2006**

Present: D. Austic, T. Ulysses, R. Dolge-T. Newfield, T. White-T. Danby, H. Engman-T. Ithaca, P. Stein-T. Ithaca, C. Peterson-C. Ithaca, M. Robertson-Tompkins County, R. Taylor-V. Dryden, D. Barber-T. Caroline, C. Valentino-T. Ithaca, W. Lynn-V. Cayuga Heights, M. Lynch-Cty Admin, S. Whicher-Cty Admin, D. Lauper-Cty Admin.

Minutes from 8/24/06-no revisions.

Bylaws

There was discussion regarding the way the Bylaws were developed. Because of time constraints we had changed paths, from having each municipality review and making individual changes to the Bylaw to the committee reviewing and make changes. A suggestion was made to send a cover letter with the minutes and bylaws explaining that we would be happy to discuss any changes deemed necessary by any entity. It was thought that having a proxy form to hand out at/with the meeting minutes and agenda would be a good idea.

Attendees reviewed and discussed the revisions to the bylaws. S. Whicher, as facilitator, declared that there was a quorum (2 of the 16 municipalities are not members yet so that the majority is 7 and there were 8 voting members present)

Motion made by S. Whicher: All those in favor of accepting the Bylaws for the Tompkins County Council of Governments, say Aye.

The Bylaws were accepted by a unanimous vote.

Leadership

S. Whicher opened the floor for nominations for Officers.

Nomination of Don Barber for Chairperson

By: C. Valentino  
Second D. Austic

Nominate of Doug Austic as Vice Chairperson

By: M. Robertson  
Second: C. Valentino

Mr. Barber and Mr. Austic were asked if they would accept these nominations and their responsibilities and both gave a positive response.

Motion: To close the Nomination  
By: C. Valentino  
Second: M. Robertson  
Carried unanimously

Motion: All in favor of accepting the slate say Aye.  
Accepted unanimously

Congratulations and thank you to Don Barber and Doug Austic accepting the leadership for TCCOG.

Discussion of expectations and duties for the Chair and Vice-Chair.

1. Conducting the Meetings
2. Set the agenda (Admin. staff will distribute the agenda)
3. Keep a running tally of attendance
4. There will be a running list of "items to discuss for the next meeting" on the agendas.
5. Minutes will be sent to members 2 weeks in advance for review and advisement from members with a reminder of the next meeting date and a request for suggested agenda items.
6. Agenda and minutes will be sent out again 1 week in advance with a request for members to RSVP.

#### Health Insurance/SMSI Grant Application

The Intermunicipal group discussed naming Tompkins County as the lead agency to apply for a grant to form a Health Insurance Consortium, which could encompass all the municipalities within the County. Administration has been in constant contact with the State and NYSAC regarding an SMSI grant application, and heard from NYSAC this week. We are on a very limited timeline, New York State's deadline for accepting applications is October 23 and Administration's deadline to have the application completed is October 20. S. Whicher produced a boilerplate resolution, with the intention that every municipality take it to their board to review, sign and return to County Administration no later than October 19, 2006. It is very important that all municipalities participate in the grant process. This is a weighted process and points are given for total collaboration (16 municipalities out of 16 municipalities agreeing to partake in this grant). Municipalities are not being asked for monetary contributions at this point.

Next Steps in this process:

1. Receive all signed resolutions
2. Process grant application.
3. Have TCCOG members-as the voice of their municipalities-discuss what each entity has for insurance, see what else is available and evaluate what the best solution would be. It is not mandatory that municipalities participate, but everyone thought that they could benefit from an insurance consortium.

4. Receive the grant money
5. Hire a consultant to review proposals and lead us through the process.

Administration will send electronic copies of the proposed resolution along with a 1 page summary of what the application is for to all members tomorrow (9/29) by noon. WE NEED GRANT WRITERS, so if you know of anyone please contact County Administration.

Included in the SMSI grant is availability for applications in two additional areas. If any municipality is interested in being the lead member for additional grants, Administration has the boilerplate application to get you started and is more than willing to assist in any way possible.

#### Prioritize Future Topics

C. Valentino volunteered to work with others from TCCOG to try and coordinate community efforts with the new President of Cornell University, David Skorton. She would like to extend this effort beyond the original items of communications and data sharing.

M. Robertson would like to evaluate the topic of deer management. This issue affects the entire County but no one has a clear responsibility. She would like to have Monica Roth, of Cornell Cooperative Extension, give a 10-minute presentation on this topic at our next meeting.

C. Peterson believes that the City is addressing housing issues; there is a panel discussion on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11am. Do we want someone from our group to be on the mailing list? D. Austic volunteered. She will also see what she can find out about fuel/greenhouse gas emissions-fuel depot, emergency fuel supply and alternate fuel sources. This information may not be available for the next meeting, though.

Possible Agenda Items for 10/26/06:

Cornell  
Deer Management  
SMSI Grant

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm