

February 19, 2008

Approved 3/4/08

**Tompkins County Legislature  
Regular Meeting  
Legislative Chambers**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call of Members**

Members and guests participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present: 14 Legislators. (Legislator Shinagawa arrived at 5:34 p.m.) Excused – 1 (Legislator Herrera).

**Privilege of the Floor by the Public**

Michael E. Lane, former Legislator and Dryden resident, expressed disappointment at the resignation of Tim Joseph. He spoke of Mr. Joseph's excellent manner of dealing with issues and that he made a good Chair of the Legislature. He said he always respected Mr. Joseph, who he believes to be a thoughtful, careful, and effective member of the Legislature. Mr. Lane said Mr. Joseph did a lot for Tompkins County and wished him well.

Tompkins County Sheriff Peter Meskill presented Mr. Joseph with a variety of mementoes from the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Shinagawa arrived at this time.

Mr. Meskill thanked Mr. Joseph for his years of service and noted that as Chair of the Budget Committee he was able to get to the bottom of issues, devise solutions, and developed a good policy that is still in use. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Joseph's work.

**Report from Municipal Official(s)**

No municipal official was present.

**Privilege of the Floor by Legislators**

Mr. Joseph, District No.12 Legislator, announced his appointment as Regional Director of State Parks for the Finger Lakes region. He noted parks are a precious possession, both locally and statewide. Mr. Joseph said he was chosen for many of the reasons stated by Mr. Meskill such as budgeting, planning, and working cooperatively. He invited his colleagues to visit him at his new office in Taughannock Park.

At this time, members of the Legislature shared their personal memories of serving with Mr. Joseph and wished him success in his future endeavors. Some noted that although they may not have always agreed, Legislator Joseph provided the platform to express both points of view. In addition, many spoke of his ability to assist them in having a better understanding of their role in County government.

- Ms. Robertson, District No. 13
- Mr. Proto, District No. 7
- Mr. Dennis, District No. 15
- Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, District No. 2
- Ms. Chock, District No. 3

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Mr. Shinagawa, District No. 4  
Mr. Randall, District No. 9  
Mr. Sigler, District No. 6  
Ms. Kiefer, District No. 10  
Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, District No. 11

Ms. Robertson, District No. 13 Legislator, announced the annual New York State budget presentation provided by the Fiscal Policy Institute would be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Ithaca Town Hall.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, Chair, said this was an historical evening, noting Mr. Joseph's 15 years of service, with 6 years as Chair. He said his ability to analyze issues was exceptional and that he believes two topics spearheaded by Mr. Joseph, an understanding of what prevents crime, and his taking a lead on putting a cap on Medicaid, can be attributed to his commitment. He said Mr. Joseph will be missed, and he is pleased Mr. Joseph will still reside locally.

Mr. Joseph thanked his colleagues for their comments and noted that all the qualities expressed were present within them as well.

Mr. Proto, District No. 7 Legislator, spoke of his and former Legislator Stuart Stein's concern regarding the loss of revenue and employment as a result of internet sales. Mr. Proto said that Governor Spitzer has outlined a plan to set the stage of collection for online sales tax for businesses receiving \$10,000 or more in sales within New York State. He asked that his colleagues support the Governor's efforts.

### **Chair's Report and Appointments**

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, reported on a meeting with Senator Schumer's staff to discuss a variety of topics as he had outlined in his e-mail correspondence to Legislators. He reported that earlier in the day he also met with representatives from Representative Arcuri's office and relayed the same information. He hopes this type of meeting could occur again in the future. Ms. Kiefer said there was also a discussion regarding energy; she will provide that information to members as well.

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr made the following appointments:

#### Workforce Investment Board

Richard B. Bohman – Vocational Rehabilitation representative; term expires June 30, 2010  
Lee Dillon – Community Action Agency representative; term expires June 30, 2010  
Paul Gardner – Business representative; term expires June 30, 2010  
Mark R. Coldren – Business representative; term expires June 30, 2010  
Martha A. Turnbull – Business representative; term expires June 30, 2010

#### Revised Standing Committee Appointments

##### Budget and Capital

Shinagawa (Chair), Hattery (Vice Chair), Mackesey, Herrera, Dennis

##### Government Operations

Hattery (Chair), Kiefer (Vice Chair), Mackesey, Sigler, Stevenson

##### Planning, Development and Environmental Quality

Robertson (Chair), Mackesey (Vice Chair), Proto, Sigler, Chock

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Facilities and Infrastructure

McBean-Clairborne (Chair), Herrera (Vice Chair), Randall, Kiefer, Vacancy (District No. 12)

Public Safety

Stevenson (Chair), Dennis (Vice Chair), Hattery, Robertson, Vacancy (District No. 12)

Health and Human Services

Proto (Chair), Randall (Vice Chair), Robertson, Shinagawa, Chock

Human Resources

Dennis (Chair), McBean-Clairborne (Vice Chair), Sigler, Kiefer, Chock

**Moment of Silence**

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr spoke of the passing of Ithaca College Professor Howard Cogan who coined the phrase "Ithaca is Gorges", and asked for a moment of silence.

**Report from the County Administrator**

Mr. Whicher spoke of the telephone outage occurring at the Courthouse Complex for several hours today and expressed his appreciation for patience to everyone during this period. Mr. Whicher then announced the Citizen's Guide to the Budget is available to anyone desiring a copy.

At this time, Mr. Whicher presented a gift on behalf of County department heads, administration and staff, thanking Mr. Joseph for his "outstanding contributions to the taxpayers of Tompkins County," predicting his example of leadership will be difficult to follow. Mr. Whicher said he truly enjoyed working with Mr. Joseph .

**Report from the County Attorney**

Mr. Wood reported that as a follow up to Bolton Point issues and articles, the County has received \$14,650 from the Town of Ithaca. He then noted he would miss Mr. Joseph's intelligence and ability to explain points of view, noted he was straightforward, honest, and a pleasure to work with. He said the Legislature would be diminished without him.

**Report from the Finance Director**

Mr. Squires reported the article in the Ithaca Journal regarding sales tax is somewhat confusing. Sales tax receipts were up eleven percent in January compared to last January, and that the County also experienced a double-digit increase in December as well. Mr. Squires said while it is a positive economic factor it should be noted that the overall sales tax increase was produced outside of the City of Ithaca. He then reported the County would be refinancing an outstanding note for the Federal Highway financing programs, noting it is not known what the interest rates would be given the turmoil of the bond market at this time.

**Addition of Resolution(s) to the Agenda**

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Ms. Robertson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to add the resolution entitled In Appreciation of Tim J. Joseph to the agenda.

**Withdrawal of Resolution(s) from the Agenda**

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There were no resolutions withdrawn from the agenda.

**Approval of Resolution(s) Under the Consent Agenda**

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following resolution(s) under the Consent Agenda:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17 – CORRECTION OF TAXES – TOWN OF ITHACA (61.-1-7.2/99)**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, the Legislature is informed that an error has been made in the 2008 tax roll of the Town of Ithaca, namely parcel 61.-1-7.2/99, assessed to Cornell University, was erroneously charged for special district charges for Sewer District and Water District, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the entry on the tax roll of \$8,498.60 be corrected to reflect a total of \$0.00,

RESOLVED, further, That the Town of Ithaca Tax Collector is directed to correct the 2008 tax roll,

RESOLVED, further, That the amount of \$8,498.60 be charged back to the Town of Ithaca.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**RESOLUTION NO. 18 – CORRECTION OF TAXES – TOWN OF NEWFIELD (25.-1-10.36)**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, the Legislature is informed that an error has been made in the 2008 tax roll of the Town of Newfield, namely parcel 25.-1-10.36, assessed to Sherry Livingstone, was erroneously charged for 22 Solid Waste units, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the entry on the tax roll of \$1,144.00 be corrected to reflect a total of \$105.35,

RESOLVED, further, That the Town of Newfield Tax Collector is directed to correct the 2008 tax roll,

RESOLVED, further, That the amount of \$1,144.00 be charged back to the Town of Newfield.

**SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20

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**RESOLUTION NO. 19 - CORRECTION OF TAXES - TOWN OF ITHACA (28.1-1-18./1)**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, the Legislature is informed that an error has been made in the 2008 tax roll of the Town of Ithaca, namely parcel 28.1-1-18./1, assessed to Judith Eda of Eco Village, was erroneously charged for special district charges for Solid Waste and Water District, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the entry on the tax roll of \$5,696.34 be corrected to reflect a total of \$609.24,

RESOLVED, further, That the Town of Ithaca Tax Collector is directed to correct the 2008 tax roll,

RESOLVED, further, That the amount of \$3,300 be charged back to the Town of Ithaca,

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RESOLVED, further, That the amount of \$1,787.10 be charged back to the Tompkins County Solid Waste Division.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 20 - SCHEDULING A SPECIAL ELECTION IN DISTRICT NO. 12 (TOWN OF ITHACA)**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, Legislator Tim J. Joseph has resigned from the Tompkins County Legislature effective at the end of the day on February 19, 2008, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to County Charter Article 2, Section 2.04, when a vacancy occurs on the Tompkins County Legislature on or before August 15 of any year, such office shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term at a special election in the district of said office, and

WHEREAS, the special election must be held as soon as practicable and be held not later than 75 days from the date of such vacancy, and

WHEREAS, the term of office for this vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of December 31, 2009, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That a special election be held on April 22, 2008, in District No. 12 (Town of Ithaca) to fill the unexpired term of Legislator Joseph,

RESOLVED, further, That the Board of Elections be directed to prepare the ballots, voting machines, and other matters so that such election may be properly held and conducted as provided in Election Law.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 21 - SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CONTINUATION AND REVISIONS TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO. 2 (WEST SIDE OF CAYUGA LAKE)**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, under New York State Agricultural District Law, it is required that agricultural districts must be renewed every eight years, allowing landowners to apply to become a part of or to exempt all or part of their lands from the district, and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature is the lead agency that must approve the formation of and changes in agricultural districts, and

WHEREAS, the County is required by law to conduct a public hearing for this review and approval, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the public hearing on the continuation of and revisions to Agricultural District No. 2, located within the Towns of Danby, Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, and Ulysses, be held at the County Legislature meeting scheduled for March 18, 2008,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is authorized to place proper notice of this public hearing in the official newspaper of the County.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 22 – ACCEPTANCE OF 2008 ANNUAL ALTERNATIVES-TO-  
INCARCERATION CONSOLIDATED SERVICE PLAN**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives-to-Incarceration (CJA/ATI) Board at its February 4, 2008, meeting approved the 2008 Annual Alternatives-to-Incarceration Consolidated Service Plan, and

WHEREAS, it is a requirement that the approval of the legislative/governing body accompany the Plan upon submission to the New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature approves the 2008 Alternatives-to-Incarceration Consolidated Service Plan for Tompkins County,

RESOLVED, further, That a copy of the Plan will be kept on file at the office of the County Administrator, the office of the Chair of CJA/ATI, and the office of the Tompkins County Legislature.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 23 - BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS – VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present under the Consent Agenda.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Administrative Manual Policy 05-02, budget adjustments exceeding \$5,000 require Legislative approval, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Human Resources, Government Operations, and the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committees, That the Director of Finance be directed to make the following budget adjustments on his books:

***Personnel/Records Management***

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
A1460.43089	Other State Aid	\$17,500	A1460.54442	Professional Services

Explanation: Grant funds mismatched years. SARA grant funds received in 2007, but will be spent in 2008 per Resolution No. 153 of 2007.

***County Administration***

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
1231.43089	Other State Aid	\$ 2,000	1231.54330	Printing
1231.43089	Other State Aid	\$123,250	1231.54400	Program Expense
1231.43089	Other State Aid	\$ 3,120	1231.54412	Travel/Training
1231.43089	Other State Aid	\$130,500	1231.54442	Professional Services

Explanation: The SMSI Budget was not transferred from 2007 to 2008. There is no County Cost associated with this budget.

***Workforce Investment Board***

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 20,000	6290.54412	Travel/Training
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 8,000	6290.54442	Professional Services
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 10,000	6290.54330	Printing
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 19,500	6290.52206	Computer Equipment
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 5,000	6290.52230	Computer Software

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6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 3,000	6290.54470	Building Upgrades
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 4,000	6290.52214	Office Furnishings
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 72,298	6290.54400	Program Expense
6290.43790	Federal Job Training	\$ 22,000	6290.54333	Education and Promotion

Explanation: Career Development Facilitator Training for Staff; Web hosting of the Business Portal created for Tompkins County by Chmura Economics and Analytics; Creation and distribution of the Workforce Strategy; Computer and printer upgrades for the One-Stop Center; Prove-it Software to provide customer assessments; Glass partition will be installed in the One-Stop Center computer lab to provide increased privacy between the lab and the resource room; Reception area furniture will be replaced to create a more professional environment; Targeted customized training for machining skills, short term prevocational and occupational skills training, diversity/inclusive environment training for businesses, and literacy project to increase literacy among youth; Marketing and website upgrades.

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### **Approval of Appointment(s) Under the Consent Agenda**

Mr. Proto expressed concern regarding appointments of individuals having resided within the County for a brief period.

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Joseph, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the following appointment(s) under the Consent Agenda:

#### Environmental Management Council

Kariann Mackie-Cunningham – Newfield representative; term expires December 31, 2009

#### Soil and Water Conservation District

Daniel J. Carey – Farm Bureau representative; term expires December 31, 2010  
Greg Stevenson –

#### Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

Daniel D. Konowalow – Farmer representative; term expires December 31, 2011

#### Library Board of Trustees

Susan Currie – term expires December 31, 2010

#### Youth Services Board

Kathleen Schlather – At-large representative; term expires December 31, 2010  
Christopher M. Hyer – Youth representative; term expires December 31, 2009

#### Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Robert J. DeLuca – County staff representative; term expires December 31, 2010

#### Emergency Communications Review and Oversight Committee

Greg Stevenson, Public Safety Committee member - term expires December 31, 2008.

#### STOP-DWI Advisory Board

James Dennis - Public Safety Committee - term expiring December 31, 2009.

#### Board of Health

Greg Stevenson – County Legislator; term expires December 31, 2013

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Recreation Partnership – County Legislator seats; terms expire December 31, 2009

James Dennis

Frank Proto

Homeownership Oversight Committee

Pamela Mackesey – Chair of Planning Committee or delegate; term no set terms

Water Resources Council

Carol Chock – County Legislature representative; term expires December 31, 2010

Traffic Safety Committee

Greg Stevenson – Public Safety Committee member; term expires December 31, 2008

James Dennis – Public Safety Committee member; term expires December 31, 2008

Michael Hattery – Public Safety Committee member; term expires December 31, 2010

**Report and Presentation of Resolution(s) from the Government Operations Committee**

Mr. Stevenson, Chair, reported the subcommittee responsible for review and updating administrative policies has been working with department heads to determine necessary amendments. Once this process is completed, which is expected in April, the standing committees and subsequently the Legislature will begin to see the results of their efforts; he noted the goal is to have fifty percent of the manual revised and updated by the end of 2009. The Committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> and was provided input from County Administrator Steve Whicher regarding the meeting with the Election Commissioners to discuss requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and in particular housing of the new machines. It appears that 4,200 square feet of space will be required in the old library to house the new equipment. Also, there are at present fifty polling sites; it is hoped to reduce the number to forty-five, and the Election Commissioners would welcome input from Legislators.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24 – APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT TO THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES OF FIVE PERCENT MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF BALLOT MARKING DEVICES FOR EACH POLLING PLACE IN TOMPKINS COUNTY**

It was MOVED by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Hattery. Ms. Kiefer indicated the revised resolution provided the amount of the purchase order for the 45 machines, and that a balance of the Title II funds will remain for future use during the implementation of HAVA compliance.

A short roll call resulted as follows: Ayes – 14; Noes –0; Excused – 1 (Legislator Herrera).  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires Tompkins County to have at least one voting machine in each of its polling places where any voter can vote independently and secretly, and

WHEREAS, under a court order from United States District Judge Gary L. Sharpe, New York State must have a ballot-marking device (BMD) in place and operational by the September 2008 Primary Election in order to comply with HAVA, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has provided funds to New York State under HAVA Title II for the purchase of certified BMDs statewide, and

WHEREAS, HAVA funds are intended to cover 95 percent of the cost of these devices with each County required to cover five percent of the cost, and for Tompkins County the Federal Title II funds are \$785,561.53 with Tompkins County five percent match equal to \$41,345.34, and

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WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Board of Elections has selected the Sequoia Image Cast Precinct Optical Scan System to be the BMD that will be deployed in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has submitted an order to the Office of General Services for New York State (OGS) for forty-five machines, providing a BMD for each of its polling places, at a total cost of \$531,695.00, and

WHEREAS, OGS will bill Tompkins County for the five percent match of the Title II funds upon issuing a Purchase Order for the BMDs, and

WHEREAS, there are no funds within the Tompkins County Board of Elections budget to pay the five percent County cost, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations and the Budget and Capital Committees, That the Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to make the following budget appropriation for the purchase of ballot marking devices and other supporting equipment:

FROM: A1990.54440	Contingent Fund	\$41,345.34
TO: 1450.54400	Program Expense	\$41,345.34

RESOLVED, further, That these funds will be used to pay the Tompkins County five percent match for the Federal HAVA Title II funds,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator is authorized to execute the required documents.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 25 - APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO THE TOMPKINS COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (TCCOG)**

It was MOVED by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne. A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 10 (Legislators Chock, Dennis, Joseph, Kiefer, Koplinka-Loehr, Mackesey, McBean-Clairborne, Robertson, Shinagawa, and Stevenson); Noes – 4 (Legislators Hattery, Proto, Randall, and Sigler); Excused – 1 (Legislator Herrera). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments is an association of local governments organized to provide a forum of discussion, study, and negotiation leading to agreements for more efficient, improved, and/or less costly delivery of government services, and

WHEREAS, Legislator Tim Joseph has been the County's appointed representative to the Tompkins County Council of Governments and he is now leaving the Legislature, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That Martha Robertson be appointed as the voting member and Michael Koplinka-Loehr as the alternate member.

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**Report from the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, reported the Committee would meet on Thursday, February 21, 2008.

**Report and Presentation of Resolution(s) from the Human Resources Committee**

Mr. Dennis, Chair, reported the Committee would meet on March 6<sup>th</sup>. He reported two possible dates would be provided to Legislators to hold interviews for the County Administrator position and asked colleagues to respond as soon as possible to be able to confirm the dates.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26 - RATIFICATION OF BARGAINING AGREEMENT CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, WHITE COLLAR UNIT**

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It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Mackesey. Mr. Stevenson disclosed that his spouse is represented by the White Collar unit and requested and was permitted to abstain from the vote. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 12 (Legislators Chock, Dennis, Joseph, Kiefer, Koplinka-Loehr, Mackesey, McBean-Clairborne, Proto, Randall, Robertson, Sigler, and Shinagawa); Noes – 1 (Legislator Hattery); Abstained – 1 (Legislator Stevenson); Excused – 1 (Legislator Herrera). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between Tompkins County and the Civil Service Employees Association, White Collar Unit, expired on December 31, 2007; negotiations for a successor agreement began on July 16, 2007, and continued until CSEA declared impasse on October 26, 2007, and

WHEREAS, thereafter, but prior to a scheduled meeting with the mediator, the negotiating teams agreed to a one-year contract, which extends the terms and conditions of the previous four-year agreement with the following changes: increase of three percent on base salary, increase of three percent on on-call for the Health Department, and minor language changes, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Negotiating Committee and the Human Resources Committee, That the bargaining agreement between Tompkins County and the Civil Service Employees Association, White Collar Unit, for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, is hereby ratified.

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**Report and Presentation of Resolution(s) from the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee**

Ms. Robertson, Chair, reported the Committee met on February 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed information regarding a budget adjustment for the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The WIB received \$164,000 in incentive monies and has a plan that includes 12 different projects to be undertaken over the next year with these funds. The area of concern is that the Federal Omnibus Appropriations bill passed in late 2007 included a rescission to the already-appropriated funds for the last three years from the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in the amount of \$250 million, with New York State's share being approximately \$36 million. Ms. Mattick expects this to result in a significant cut in their revenues this year. Ms. Robertson will continue to update as more information is received. She then reported the Committee was presented with the Planning Department's Work Plan and also discussed the future disposition of the Biggs B building.

**RESOLUTION NO. 27 - APPOINTMENTS TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

It was MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Mackesey. A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 13, Noes – 1 (Legislator Sigler), Excused – 1 (Legislator Herrera). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Section 856 of the General Municipal Law authorized that the Tompkins County Legislature designate the members of Industrial Development Agency by resolution, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the following members be appointed to the Industrial Development Agency to serve at the pleasure of the Legislature, effective immediately:

- Kathy Luz Herrera - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (City representative)
- Michael Koplinka-Loehr - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (Rural representative)
- Mike Hattery - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (Rural representative)
- Martha Robertson - Member, Tompkins County Legislature (Rural representative)
- Jeff Furman - At-large member
- Dan Cogan - At-large member

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Larry Baum - Tompkins County Area Development Board of Directors representative  
RESOLVED, further, That Martha Robertson serve as the Chair of the Industrial Development Agency,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature is authorized and directed to file with the Secretary of State a Certificate of Appointment.

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### **Report from the Budget and Capital Committee**

Mr. Shinagawa, Chair, reported the Committee met on February 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed goals and finalized the budget calendar. The Committee will discuss at the next meeting the State budget impacts to the County. The information provided regarding the proposed Governor's budget was a useful tool and indicated both positive and negative aspects. It appears there would be a possible cap on preschool special education expenses, and that the County would benefit financially if annual assessments are undertaken versus the triennial assessment. Concern was noted with regard to the shift in the Family Assistance program, with a proposed increase to 27 percent local share versus the present 25 percent. With regard to assessment, it was noted the State is sponsoring studies of moving to countywide assessing or units to include 10,000 parcels. The next meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> will continue to review the budget process and the role of standing committees in it.

Mr. Dennis noted the Governor's budget is only a proposal at this time, the State legislators would have the opportunity to review and amend. He suggested the Legislature be used to lobby indicating what is needed in County government. In response to Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, Mr. Shinagawa said he believes it is important to see how the State legislature responds to the Governor's proposals and then react to the budget.

### **Report from the Public Safety Committee**

Mr. Joseph, Chair, said the Committee met on February 15<sup>th</sup> and established two goals, one to look at the issue of transitional housing for individuals coming from jail/prison as it is the largest barrier, finding options and solutions would assist in reducing recidivism, and a second goal of placing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in County-owned buildings. He spoke of having gone home following the meeting to hear of an incident where a person collapsed and an AED was used; initially it was thought the individual died, however, a subsequent phone call said they had survived as a result of the prompt use of the AED. Mr. Joseph encouraged Mr. Stevenson to pursue the goal.

### **Report from the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, said the Committee would meet on February 27, 2008.

### **Report from the Health and Human Services Committee**

Mr. Proto reported the Committee met on February 6<sup>th</sup> and received a report from Ms. Robertson regarding discussions of budget concerns relating to health issues at the New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference held in January. In addition, Mr. Wickham of Lakeside Mental Health Services provided preliminary information regarding a mixed-use housing proposal that would consolidate thirty-two scattered housing sites for clients. Presently a variety of locations are being reviewed both in the City and on the outer areas. Mr. Proto reported the Youth Services Community Coalition for Youth has received national recognition, having been one of seven chosen to provide a presentation at the national conference in Washington, D.C. He said Committee members and Department Heads were asked to provide suggested goals for the Committee by February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>.

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**Report from the SMSI Health Benefits Group**

Mr. Shinagawa reported the Committee held its second meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> with the municipal unions. He stressed the desire to have the process as transparent as possible and include stakeholders. The next meeting will be with retiree representatives and other stakeholders. At this time the consultants are working on various plan designs. This group will also address how the various stakeholders will participate within the consortium. The Tompkins County Council of Governments will be releasing a Request for Proposals for Phase 2 of the benefit design, and in the future would be a third phase for plan implementation. He said the Committee is meeting every other Wednesday, with the next meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Presentation of Resolution Added to Agenda**

**RESOLUTION NO. 28 – IN APPRECIATION OF TIM J. JOSEPH**

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously seconded and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS Tim J. Joseph was appointed to the Tompkins County Board of Representatives in March 1993, elected that November, and re-elected each four years thereafter, providing fifteen years of service to Tompkins County, representing District 12, the western portion of the Town of Ithaca, and

WHEREAS, over time Tim has served on every committee of the legislature with the exception of public works, and for the last six years (2002-2007) was elected annually by his legislative colleagues to Chair the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, although Tim's dress style is casual, his approach to government has been anything but casual, and

WHEREAS, Tim's ability to analyze and then explain complex issues, including summarizing differing perspectives on those issues, has been invaluable for his colleagues and the public, and

WHEREAS, Tim was central in redesigning the County's budget, helping lead us to a more transparent, program-based budget, and

WHEREAS, Tim inspired many of our state's counties to "push back" against New York State's unfunded Medicaid mandates, an effort that led ultimately to New York capping the rate of increase in county Medicaid costs, and

WHEREAS, Tim's passion has been to figure out ways to help persons in trouble with the law break that pattern of behavior and find ways to rejoin society as productive members, which led him to champion alternatives to incarceration, and to resist the State's pressure to force Tompkins County to build a new jail bigger than we needed or could afford, and

WHEREAS, his skill in producing handmade chocolate truffles never ceased to delight us all -- and should be appreciated by his new colleagues in whatever at new endeavors he pursues, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature expresses appreciation for the leadership skills and the many contributions Tim Joseph has made toward the quality of life for the citizens of our County,

RESOLVED, further, That this Legislature extends best wishes to Tim in his new endeavors wherever life's path leads him.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

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**Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2008**

February 19, 2008

It was MOVED by Mr. Proto, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2008, meeting as submitted. MINUTES APPROVED.

**Adjournment**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fuller, TC Legislature Office