

**Tompkins County Legislature
July 17, 2007**

Call to Order

Mr. Joseph 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: 15 Legislators.

Privilege of the Floor by the Public

No member of the public wished to speak.

Privilege of the Floor by Legislators

Mr. Dennis, District No. 15 Legislator, announced the Grassroots Festival will take place this weekend in the Town of Ulysses. He said this festival will bring more than 20,000 people to Tompkins County to listen to over 80 bands and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Mackesey, District No. 1 Legislator, reported USA Today listed the Grassroots Festival as one of the top ten music festivals in the United States.

Mr. Proto, District No. 7 Legislator, asked everyone to review their most recent NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas) bill and check the upper right-hand corner of the document for the designation category. This will tell whether fixed rate or flexible option was selected. He said since letters were mailed NYSEG has arbitrarily changed the selection and suggested the public should make sure they are in the option they selected.

Ms. Kiefer, District No. 10 Legislator, announced tomorrow is Nelson Mandela's 89th birthday. She said there will be a week long celebration in Johannesburg and a launching of a humanitarian campaign that will include former President Carter and Kofi Anan to create a Council of Elders to tackle global issues, such as conflict, AIDS, and global warming. She said it is good to recognize that there are international people who can be considered as "elders" and from whom the world can benefit when they turn their attention to problems that everyone faces.

Ms. Robertson, District No. 13 Legislator, reported Cooperative Extension will host a workshop on July 24th at noon for the public on ways to save on electric bills.

Ms. Robertson also reported Tompkins Community Action will be opening a new supportive housing facility for families on Corn Street. An open house will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on August 2nd to celebrate the opening of this facility. This apartment acquisition and rehabilitation was funded by a \$1.2 million grant through the Homeless Housing Assistance Program through the State Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Mr. Shinagawa, District No. 4 Legislator, thanked participants and supporters for attending the second annual Finger Lakes International Dragon Boat Festival this past weekend. He said the County's team came in sixth out of seven community teams and put forth a good effort. He said there was twice as many out-of-town teams participating this year. Mr. Shinagawa said in the local recreational races, the Ithaca Police Department (Ithaca 5-0) came in first place. The Team won \$1,000 and chose to donate to it

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back to the Ithaca Dragon Boat Club and the Ithaca Asian-American Association to continue the Dragon Boat Festival.

Mr. Shinagawa also reported on an event that is being sponsored by the Women's Community Center and the Chamber of Commerce. He said there will be a presentation on resources available to business owners in New York State presented by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Labor from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24th.

Addition of Resolution(s) to the Agenda

On motion and duly seconded and unanimously adopted by voice vote, the following resolutions were added to the agenda:

Making a Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance in Relation to Resolution No. 129 of 2007; and
Authorizing a Contract with the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District to Implement Flood Hazard Mitigation Program Projects

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

Ms. Robertson, Chair, reported the Committee met on July 9 and again today. The Committee heard from a number of departments and agencies about budget projections for 2008. Ms. Robertson called attention to a report provided by Julia Mattick, Director of Workforce Development, on a new State law that pertains to Workforce Investment Boards. The new law states that Public Authorities such as the Industrial Development Agency cannot fund a Workforce Investment Board directly as was done in 2007. She said this loss in funding would mean a shortfall in the 2008 Workforce Investment Board budget in the amount of \$70,000. Ms. Robertson also reported the Committee approved the Tourism Budget for 2008, and noted an increase in room bed-night revenue is projected.

Mr. Proto spoke of the resolutions concerning the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program that will follow and asked Ms. Robertson to speak to the issue of concerns of property owners and how this is being addressed.

Ms. Robertson said at a previous committee meeting it was recognized that there needed to be a way for citizens to be able to raise concerns and be considered for assistance in dealing with potential flooding issues that may arise. Mr. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works, said there is agreement to accept referrals from any Legislator who is approached by a member of the public about an issue along a stream corridor that involves flooding, erosion, or other problems. He said staff will work with the Technical Committee to ascertain the nature of the problem and make a determination of whether it can be addressed through a project appropriate to this program. He said if so, the project would be defined so that it can be placed on the list for consideration by the Technical Committee, with a recommendation for action in the future.

Mr. Booth said in trying to control erosion in one place it is very easy to cause erosion in another place. He stated as these projects move forward he would like to make sure the County is not putting significant amounts of money into preventing erosion in one place only to cause erosion in another. Mr. Marx said these projects are specifically designed and selected with that in mind.

RESOLUTION NO. 128 - MAKING A NEGATIVE DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE IN RELATION TO RESOLUTION NO. 129 OF 2007

MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

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WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 129 of 2007 the County authorizes an agreement with the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District to implement several flood hazard mitigation projects, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has reviewed and accepted as adequate a set of Environmental Assessment Forms with respect to the action, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That Resolution No. 129 of 2007 is an unlisted action,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature hereby makes a negative determination of environmental significance in regard to Resolution No. 129 of 2007.

SEQR ACTION: Unlisted

(Short EAF on file in the office of the Clerk of the Legislature)

RESOLUTION NO. 129 - AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE TOMPKINS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM PROJECTS

MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature re-established the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program in 2006, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature provided funding for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program in the amount of \$25,000 in 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Technical Committee for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program has identified several projects to be funded through the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District is prepared to undertake the projects identified by the Technical Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the County Administrator or his designee be authorized to execute a contract with the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to implement the projects identified by the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program Technical Committee,

RESOLVED, further, That by October 30, 2007, the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee will receive a status report from the Soil and Water Conservation District.

SEQR ACTION: Unlisted

(Short EAF on file in the office of the Clerk of the Legislature)

RESOLUTION NO. 130 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE, AS THE OFFICIAL ELECTED LEGISLATIVE BODY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY, NEW YORK, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 147(F) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED (THE "CODE"), APPROVING A CERTAIN PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOMPKINS COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THE BENEFIT OF CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER AT ITHACA, INC.

MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Proto. A short roll call vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 15, Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

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WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature (the "Legislature"), as the official elected legislative body of Tompkins County, New York (the "County"), has been advised by the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") that, in order to assist in the financing of a certain Project (as defined below) for the benefit of Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation duly formed and validly existing under the laws of the State of New York (the "Company"), the Agency proposes to provide financial assistance to the Company with respect to the Project (collectively, the "Financial Assistance") in the form of (A) the acquisition or leasing of the Equipment with the rental payments to the Lender to be exempt from taxation for federal income tax purposes, and (B) an exemption (*to the extent not already exempt*) from all New York State and local sales and use taxes with respect to the Equipment, and

WHEREAS, Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") requires the approval by the Tompkins County Legislature (the "Legislature") prior to the issuance by the Agency of the Bonds, and

WHEREAS, the project (the "Project") shall consist of (A) the acquisition of title to or other interest in certain medical and related equipment for installation at the Company's existing hospital facility located at 101 Dates Drive, Ithaca, New York (the "Facility"; such equipment more particularly described on a schedule attached to the Project application submitted to the Agency by the Company (the "Application") and hereinafter defined as "the Equipment") at a purchase price not to exceed \$5,500,000; and (B) the leasing or subleasing by the Agency of the Equipment to the Company with the rental payments thereunder to be exempt from taxation for federal income tax purposes and to be assigned to Tompkins Trust Company (or other designated lender; hereinafter the "Lender") as payment for the acquisition price thereof pursuant to a lease agreement or other agreement to be negotiated (the "Lease Agreement"), and

WHEREAS, the Project constitutes a "Type II" action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and the regulations adopted thereto at 6 N.Y.C.R.R. §617 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "SEQR"), and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), rental payments for the Equipment made by the Company to the Agency under the Lease Agreement and assigned by the Agency to the Lender will *not* be excluded from gross income for Federal income tax unless the Project is approved by the Tompkins County Legislature after a public hearing to consider the Project has been conducted following reasonable public notice, and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2007, the Agency held such a public hearing upon proper notice in compliance with the Code, and

WHEREAS, to aid the Legislature in its deliberations, the Agency has made available to the members of the Legislature prior to this meeting (a) the Company's application to the Agency for financial assistance; (b) the notice of public hearing published by the Agency in the *Ithaca Journal*, along with the affidavit of publication of such newspaper; and (c) the minutes of said public hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, after due consideration of the foregoing, as the "applicable elected representative" of Tompkins County, New York, within the meaning of Section 147(f)(2)(E) of the Code, desires to approve the Project and the Financial Assistance; provided, however, that the Financial Assistance shall be a special obligation of the Agency and shall never be a debt of the State of New York (the "State") or any political subdivision thereof including, without limitation, the County, and neither the State nor any political subdivision thereof including, without limitation, the County, shall be liable thereon, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That:

Section 1. For the purpose of satisfying the approval requirement of Section 147(f) of the Code, on the recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, the Legislature hereby gives its approval of the undertaking of the Project by the Agency and the providing by the Agency to the Company of the Financial Assistance; provided, however, that the Financial Assistance shall be a special obligation of the Agency and shall never be a debt of the State or any political subdivision thereof including, without limitation, Tompkins County, New York, and neither the State nor any political subdivision thereof including, without limitation, Tompkins County, New York, shall be liable thereon. This approval is given pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Code for the sole purpose

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of qualifying the payments for the Equipment made by the Company to the Agency under the Lease Agreement for exclusion from gross income for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to the provisions of Sections 103 and 141-150 of the Code.

Section 2. This Resolution shall be deemed to be made for the benefit of Agency and the holders of the Project indebtedness.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

RESOLUTION NO. 131 - URGING NEW YORK STATE TO EXTEND THE SUNSET DATE OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY CIVIC FACILITY LEGISLATION

MOVED by Ms. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Proto. Ms. Herrera said it is her opinion that there are flaws in both the Assembly and Senate bills.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 15, Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Since 1992, the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has issued over \$338 million in tax-exempt bonds to eighteen projects, and this action has allowed twelve local not-for-profit employers to borrow money at lower interest rates for capital projects. These projects have resulted in the construction of over 1 million sq. ft. of space and the creation of hundreds of permanent new jobs. The local employers have included Ithaca Community Child Care, The Special Children's Center, George Junior Republic, Cayuga Medical Center, TC3 Foundation, Ithaca College, and Cornell University. The funds borrowed are not a financial obligation of the IDA or the County; they are the obligation of the employers, and

WHEREAS, not-for-profit clients of the IDA have stated that the quick efficient issuing of their bonds, as provided by the local IDA, has helped their projects stay on time and within budget, and

WHEREAS, in addition to assisting local employers lower the cost of borrowed capital and save time in completing major projects, the IDA's activity is a major source of fee revenue that, in turn, supports economic development in Tompkins County, and the clients themselves appreciate that the fees paid stay in the local community to support local economic development, and

WHEREAS, the State law that allows the IDA to issue these tax-exempt bonds, commonly called Civic Facility legislation, sunset on June 30, 2007, and

WHEREAS, both the State Assembly and Senate have introduced bills that would extend the Civic facilities legislation. One of the Assembly bills would add restrictions that would substantially restrict the IDA's ability to assist local not-for-profit employers, without regard for local economic conditions, and without requiring the New York State Dormitory Authority to comply with the same restrictions in issuing not-for-profit bonds. The other Assembly bill would only extend the legislation for seven months. The Senate bill would extend the legislation for two years, and

WHEREAS, in order for local not-for-profit employers to determine whether proposed projects are financially viable, and because they make such decisions based on at least a two-year time frame, they need the Civic Facilities legislation to be reenacted immediately for at least two years while any changes to the program are fully explored and debated, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD), the administrator of the IDA, is already working with local not-for-profit employers that are considering projects that would be constructed in the next twenty-four months, valued at over \$100 million, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, Environmental Quality Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature urges the New York State legislature to reenact the current Civic Facilities Legislation for a minimum two-year period, and

RESOLVED, further, That copies of this resolution be sent to New York State Senators James L. Seward, George H. Winner, Jr., and Michael F. Nozzolio, and to Assemblywoman Barbara S. Lifton.

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Chair's Report and Appointment(s)

Mr. Joseph reported on a meeting he and Legislator Proto attended in Albany with the Governor's staff. A meeting was previously held with county executives and this meeting was being held with Chairs of County Boards and minority leaders from counties that do not have executives. Mr. Joseph said they met with the Governor's top staff and learned how the staff is organized. He explained that the Governor has a Secretary who is the equivalent of the Chief of Staff. The next level of people are all called Deputy Secretaries; therefore, the Deputy Secretary is the top person in various areas. Mr. Joseph said the meeting was with held with the Deputy Secretaries of many different departments and he found the meeting to be very informative. He said the message that was delivered was that they want to hear from counties and are open to listening to issues.

Mr. Proto said he also found the meeting to be informative and worthwhile. They learned that a task force has been created to look at the Preschool Handicapped Children's Program monies with a report expected in November. He said the State has been divided into regions and Tompkins County's regional representative is Kevin McCabe who is located in Binghamton. A call has been placed to Mr. McCabe to establish a meeting time to discuss various issues. In addition, Marty Mack of Cortland and Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, is the State official who oversees regional representatives.

Mr. Joseph said a packet of material from the presentation is on file in the Legislature Office.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Whicher said he also had an enjoyable time participating in the Dragon Boat Festival. He announced he received correspondence from the Statewide Wireless Network today and said they will be forwarding an agreement that will be very favorable to Tompkins County.

Mr. Whicher requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations later in the meeting.

Report from the County Attorney

Mr. Wood said he has reviewed the Financial Disclosure forms on file with the Clerk of the Legislature and all are complete.

Report from the Finance Director

Mr. Squires reported he received the second quarter sales tax information and receipts continue to track above the budget estimate. He said the last two consecutive quarters show a four percent growth. Mr. Squires reported five proposals have been received for the Deferred Compensation Plan and 100 responses to an employee survey have been received. He said three of these vendors will be called in for meetings in August. He encouraged Chairs of the Personnel and Government Operations Committees to attend these meetings and listen to the proposals.

Withdrawal of Resolution(s) from the Agenda

No resolution(s) were withdrawn from the agenda.

Approval of Resolution(s) Under the Consent Agenda

It was MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the following resolution(s) under the Consent Agenda:

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RESOLUTION NO. 132 - BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote 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 Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That the Director of Finance be directed to make the following budget adjustment on his books:

Office of Employment and Training

<u>Revenue Acct</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amt</u>	<u>Approp Acct</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 13,242	6292.51000049	Project Assistants
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 12,371	6292.58800	Fringe Benefits
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$119,101	6292.51000051	JTPA Participants
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 2,000	6292.54414	Local Mileage
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 1,500	6292.54400	Program Expense
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 1,000	6292.54319	Program Supplies
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 300	6292.54452	Postage
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 600	6292.54342	Food
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 400	6292.54330	Printing
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 500	6292.54472	Telephone
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 400	6292.54303	Office Supplies
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 300	6292.54414	Travel/Training
6292.42797	Other Local Govt. Contributions	\$ 1,600	6292.52206	Computer Equipment

Explanation: The Office of Employment and Training was awarded the contract for the TANF Summer Youth Employment program. The positions and related expenses will support that program.

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RESOLUTION NO. 133 - APPROPRIATION OF 2007-2008 STATEWIDE PLANNING AND RESEARCH BUDGET FOR THE ITHACA-TOMPKINS-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote under the Consent Agenda.

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WHEREAS, Tompkins County serves as the Host Agency for the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Ithaca-Tompkins County area, and

WHEREAS, the County has a contract with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to provide funding for the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council through grants provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and

WHEREAS, the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council participates, along with all other New York MPOs, in a series of statewide planning initiatives under an award-winning program called the Shared-Cost Initiatives (SCI) which pools FHWA and FTA funds to accomplish joint activities, and

WHEREAS, the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council will be hosting an SCI project for the first time during the 2007-2008 fiscal year, beginning April 1, 2007, and ending March 31, 2008, called *Regional Transportation Plan Financial Planning*, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has agreed to fund 50 percent of SCI projects using Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) funds during the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council has a Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) grant authorization from NYSDOT for its 2007-2008 fiscal year in the amount of \$42,500 to be used for the SCI project, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council has adopted resolution 07-3, *APPROVAL OF THE 2007-2008 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM*, which includes the Statewide Planning and Research Budget in the amount of \$42,500 and directs the ITCTC Staff Director to execute and administer said budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the SPR budget for the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, as presented in "ATTACHMENT A" to this resolution, be amended in the 2007 Tompkins County budget and that the County Finance Director be authorized to expend such funds for the period from April 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008.

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ATTACHMENT A

2007-2008 ITCTC STATEWIDE AND RESEARCH BUDGET

CODE	DESCRIPTION	07/08 TOTAL
.4959	REVENUES: FEDERAL AID	42,500
	EXPENSES:	
.4486	SCI PROJECT	42,500
	TOTAL EXPENSES	42,500

RESOLUTION NO. 134 - URGING TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA) TO FULLY FUND ITS MANDATED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (LEO) PROGRAM AT THE ITHACA TOMPKINS REGIONAL AIRPORT

MOVED by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and unanimously adopted by voice vote under the Consent Agenda.

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WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, created the need for greatly enhanced security screening at the nation's commercial service airports, and

WHEREAS, among these enhanced procedures the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) determined that a need existed to have an armed law enforcement officer (LEO) present at all passenger-screening points during screening operations, and

WHEREAS, in order to provide LEO screening point coverage for all flights departing the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport, the TSA signed a Reimbursement Contract with the County of Tompkins for the period June 1, 2003, through September 30, 2003, with an option to renew for a further four years through September 30, 2007, and

WHEREAS, said contract reimbursed the County for personnel costs associated with providing said LEOs but contained no allowance for other sundry costs, and

WHEREAS, said contract made provision for annual increases to allow for inflation but the TSA did not pay the inflation-indexed rate for the present final contract year, and

WHEREAS, the TSA has proposed replacing said expiring Reimbursement Contract program with a Cooperative Agreement program that, due to the TSA's stated budgetary constraints, would further reduce the funding and only reimburse the County for approximately sixty-five percent (65%) of the LEO costs, resulting in an estimated shortfall averaging \$100,000 per year for each of the five contract years, and

WHEREAS, the total shortfall of more than \$500,000 over the life of the new contract would drive up the airport's costs and severely compromise its ability to attract and sustain air service, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature does strenuously object to the continued under-funding of this mandated program,

RESOLVED, further, That the County's Congressional Delegation be and hereby is urged in the strongest possible terms to exert its influence to increase funding for this program so that all LEO costs are fully reimbursed.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-27

Report and Presentation of Resolution(s) from the Budget and Capital Committee

Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, Chair, reported the Committee met on July 12. At that meeting the Committee reviewed the status of 2007 goals and concluded that substantial progress is being made and that over half are complete.

RESOLUTION NO. 135 – CENTRALIZE FRINGE BENEFIT LINES

MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Booth, and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, the County Administrator is recommending moving decentralized fringe accounts to a centralized fringe account to provide better financial management, and

WHEREAS, a change from decentralized fringe accounts to centralized fringe accounts will not negatively affect a department's ability to receive reimbursements (i.e., DSS, Health, and Probation), and

WHEREAS, centralizing fringe accounts will result in a reduction of fringe levels by approximately \$250,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Budget and Capital Committee, That the County Administrator is directed to consolidate all fringe accounts into a single account for each fund,

RESOLVED, further, That fiscal targets for all County departments be reduced by the 2007 budgeted fringe.

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Report from the Health and Human Services Committee

Mr. Shinagawa, Chair, reported the Committee will meet tomorrow and will discuss the Recreation Partnership agreement and will hear presentations from other departments, as well as consider a Contingent Fund request from the Drop-In Children's Center

Report from the Health Department Building Committee

Mr. Proto, Chair, reported the next Committee meeting has been rescheduled for July 25th at 3:30 p.m. One of the reasons the meeting was rescheduled is to give the consultant and staff enough time to calculate current numbers and do comparisons of sites under review.

Mr. Booth requested that comments submitted by employees at the Health Department be summarized and provided to all Legislators. Ms. Mackesey said comments submitted by employees are important and valuable; however, she would like to have a sense of the broader need, which would include seeing the numbers in terms of how many times Cayuga Medical Center was used.

Ms. Robertson said just because something is presently done at Cayuga Medical Center doesn't mean it can only be done there. Some services may be able to be handled at the Convenient Care Center and those possibilities should be explored.

Mr. Proto said in addition to staff comments, he has received letters from constituents and one from Kathy Zahler, the legislative liaison to the Dryden School Board. It was stated in the letter that many in the Dryden School District oppose a move of the Health Department to the former NYSEG site because they see it as the first step in removing the property in the tax rolls. Mr. Proto said if the Health Department were housed at that site it would not automatically remove it from the tax roll and wants to make sure the public has an accurate perception if any action is taken.

Mr. Proto noted that access to the Racker Center is a newly surfaced consideration. Ms. Kiefer also noted that access to the City Center is too. Ms. Robertson stated that most people who go to the Department of Health are from the south and east parts of the County, which is also where most employees live.

Mr. Joseph spoke of the difference in traveling to the proposed sites and stated he sees the difference between a walk or a drive to the hospital is more important than the difference between a five-minute drive and a seven-minute drive.

Ms. Herrera spoke of employee comments she has reviewed and said a conservative estimate shows those who favor the Health Department to remain at the existing site greatly outweigh those in favor of moving.

Report from the Public Safety Committee

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, had no report.

Report from the Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, had no report.

Report from the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

Ms. Herrera, Chair, reported the TCAT Budget presentation will be held on July 31st at 4 p.m. At the last meeting on July 10 the Committee took action on resolutions on the Consent Agenda, reviewed and approved PAR (Project Approval Request) forms that included single-stream recycling. The

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Committee discussed emergency generators, received a Sustainability Team update, and an Emergency Management update.

Mr. Wood reported TCAT will temporarily be moving its Green Street bus shelter located near the Public Library, onto County property during construction.

Report from the Personnel Committee

Mr. Dennis, Chair, reported the Committee approved its 2007 goals. The Committee was also presented with a discussion and DVD by the Community Action Project. The project, through Leadership Tompkins, presented how they are televising information on Public Access about County Services.

Report from the Government Operations Committee

Mr. Stevenson, Chair, reported the Committee met on July 13 and received a demonstration of the Image Mate system that included an explanation of the differences in the basic and Advanced features. Mr. Stevenson said he reported to the Committee on correspondence he received from Senator Winner's Office in response to a letter he sent regarding real property tax exemptions for volunteer fire and ambulance personnel. One of the questions raised was could the County ask for in enabling legislation and could a qualifying individual receive that and still take advantage of the new Income Tax exemption for qualified fire and ambulance personnel. In Senator Winner's letter it was explained that the real property tax exemption is limited to \$3,000 of assessed value and that one couldn't do both. Mr. Stevenson said this issue will no longer be pursued. He also reported the Committee received an update from the Sustainability Team. He asked members to stay after this meeting to discuss an alternate date for the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes of July 3, 2007

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Mr. Proto, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to approve the minutes of July 3, 2007 as corrected. MINUTES APPROVED.

Recess

Chair Joseph declared recess from 6:45 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to enter into executive session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining. The meeting returned to open session at 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Pottorff, TC Legislature Office

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