

Agenda

Tompkins County Council of Governments

Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:00 PM

Scott Heyman Conference Room

- I. Call to Order**

- II. Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda**

- III. Minutes Approval (3:05)**
 - a. June 22, 2017
 - b. July 27, 2017
 - c. August 24, 2017

- IV. County Administration (3:07)** J. Mareane

- V. Introduction of Candace Maxian, Assistant Director of External Relations at Cornell (3:15)**

- VI. Clean Energy Community project from NYSERDA (3:30)** T. Carroll

- VII. Structure of TCCOG Meetings (3:50)**

- VIII. Report from Subcommittees (4:10)**
 - a. Emergency Services Task Force
 - b. Sustainability Committee: Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and Energy Task Force
 - c. Transit Services Committee

- IX. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

- X. Adjournment (4:30)**

Upcoming Meetings:

Energy Task Force meets immediately following TCCOG in Old Jail Conf Room
EMS Task Force will meet Tues Oct 10th, 5pm - 6:30pm at Dept of Emergency Response
CCA will meet Oct 27th, Ithaca Town Hall, noon - 1:30pm

Tompkins County Council of Governments
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:00 PM
 Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Irene Weiser	Co-Chair/Town of Caroline	Present
Bill Goodman	Co-Chair, Town of Ithaca	Present
Ann Rider	Member, Town of Enfield	Present
Ric Dietrich	Member, Town of Danby	Present
Jason Leifer	Member - Town of Dryden	Present
Michael Murphy	Member, Village of Dryden	Present
Linda Woodard	Member, Village of Cayuga Heights	Present
Pat O'Rourke	Member, Village of Lansing	Present
Rachel Kennedy	Alternate, Village of Trumansburg	Present
Betty Conger	Member, Village of Groton	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Elizabeth Thomas	Member/Town of Ulysses	Present
Mark Witmer	Alternate - Town of Caroline	Present

Guests: Lee Shurtleff, Director, Department of Emergency Response; Brian Wilbur, Retired Fire Chief, City of Ithaca; Kate Supron, Cornell Community Relations; and Nick Reynolds, Ithaca Times

Call to Order

Ms. Weiser, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Minutes Approval

May 25, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Betty Conger, Member, Village of Groton
SECONDER:	Linda Woodard, Member, Village of Cayuga Heights
AYES:	Weiser, Goodman, Rider, Dietrich, Leifer, Murphy, Woodard, O'Rourke, Kennedy, Conger, Thomas

County Administration

Shared Services Update

Mr. Mareane provided an update on sales tax and explained how the additional 1% needs the State's renewal every two years and that approval for renewal has not happened. He spoke of the effects this could have on the County if not approved. Mr. Mareane said this threatens the County with a revenue loss and the largest property tax increase in the history of all counties and recommended municipalities express their displeasure with what is happening in Albany just as the County has. .

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Mr. Mareane said the State is looking to counties to find savings locally through shared services. The Shared Services Panel met for the third time last night and the meeting included a public hearing that had a couple speakers and concluded that Tompkins County has already taken on some of the larger shared services including the Health Consortium and 911 Center. He explained the panel is beginning to look at some smaller items that may be included in the County's Plan but some of those items to be included are:

1. The creation of a TCCOG Training Academy;
2. Service Modernization - phase two of the scanning and digitization of records (routine automation through LaserFiche software);
3. Mass Notification System - formerly called reverse 911 where contacts can be made to the public; this may include the a request to the Legislature for the County to purchase a Mass Notification System that can be used by all municipalities.

Mr. Mareane said other potential shared service items that have been discussed include purchasing and buying partnerships for items such as financial software and LED street light conversion and installation. He said Don Barber, Executive Director, Tompkins County Health Consortium, and Consortium member Matt Cook, City Manager, City of Cortland, have approached him regarding the recognition of the Health Benefits Consortium and it being included as a shared services initiative and for the State to match the \$1.7 million in savings. He stated there is a chance it may be included in the Plan.

Mr. Mareane said some additional programs being considered to be included in the Plan are the expansion of geographic information system (GIS) services to more municipalities and heavy equipment repair operation. Other items discussed but are in need of additional review beyond the Plan deadline are the sharing of back-office services and code enforcement. He spoke of the possibility of submitting a Shared Services Plan next year that may include items that have a greater economic impact and will be discussed further by the Shared Services Panel. He plans to have a report to the Legislature by the first of August.

Ms. Weiser inquired if there was only one opportunity to receive matching funding from the State for a Shared Services Plan. Mr. Mareane stated that was correct and explained how the County would either submit a Plan this year for implementation in 2018 or explain plans to submit a Plan in 2018 for implementation in 2019 for a one-time rebate offer.

Following an inquiry from Mr. Goodman, Mr. Mareane stated he heard nothing back from the school districts regarding the this initiative.

Mr. Goodman asked TCCOG members if they have discussed this in their municipalities and if anyone had any further input.

Ms. Thomas spoke of Mr. Mareane providing plans submitted from other counties and the majority of the items in those plans have already been established in Tompkins County. Mr. Goodman stated only half of the counties have submitted plans and other counties he has spoken with are not planning on doing anything until 2018.

Ms. Weiser spoke of a conversation she had with the Department of State and said TCCOG is very highly regarded in those offices and they have high expectations from Tompkins County in regard to submitting a plan.

Cradle to Career report

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Mr. Goodman provided a brief update on Cradle to Career, an effort led by Kirby Edmond from the Dorothy Cotton Institute to assist youth, up to the age 24, to become active and contributing members of the community. A number of representatives from not-for-profit organizations and various social service agencies attend these meetings. The County Youth Services Department has been working on Achieving Youth Results, an initiative to establish goals and benchmarks to know when progress has been made and the desired outcomes have been achieved regarding youth at various developmental stages. Collective impact is being used to monitor the progress and has been used in other communities across the country to synergize the efforts of various organizations to collaborate their efforts. The meetings are held the second Friday of the month in the Cooperative Extension Offices. Once the Cradle to Career has clearly established goals, Mr. Goodman would like to have a Cradle to Career presentation made at a TCCOG meeting.

At a recent TCAT Retreat, Ms. Rider spoke of Workforce Development claims to be struggling with communicating with young adults and career opportunities not involving college. Mr. Goodman stated there was not a representative from TCAT at the meetings but he believes there was a representative in attendance from Workforce Development.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Task Force Report

Mr. Shurtleff provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled EMS in Tompkins County that included a detailed description of the increase in services required by the public Countywide over the past few decades and the drastic decline in emergency service volunteers to answer calls for services.

Mr. Shurtleff said the Task Force is concerned about not being able to sustain the current situation and stated it will take combined efforts to continue to provide these lifesaving services to the public.

Ms. Kennedy asked why New York State is not in favor of community paramedicine services. Mr. Shurtleff explained those services are being moved from a paramedic (an emergency medical provision) to more of a nursing and proactive employment. This would change the duties and role of paramedics and nurses in the health care system.

Mr. Dietrich asked if home health aides could be provided additional training to become qualified to fill some of the needed rolls. Mr. Shurtleff spoke of the history of home health aides and pointed out they are required to call an ambulance when an individual falls, even at a skilled nursing facility, due to the liability involved. He spoke of limitations of the position of home health aide and agrees there is a need for integration and encouragement for some of the home health remedies to identify these problems and identify them in advance.

Mr. Dietrich requested Mr. Shurtleff's input as to where municipalities should go from here to maintain these services and what can communities do. Mr. Shurtleff stated the EMS Steering Committee has met and is looking at next steps. They are having discussions with an attorney, considered an expert in New York State Law, who provides legal services to a large number of EMS organizations within the County to review the structure of EMS services currently in place. Once that is complete they plan to submit a comprehensive six month report and begin to develop the next steps including bringing in the response community to talk to and reinvigorate volunteerism in Tompkins County. He suggested engaging this topic in a broader public health discussion and see how EMS factors into the health care provisions.

Ms. Weiser reinforced the need for representation from all municipalities on the Task Force in

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order to learn the needs of the entire County and to be able to engage and review current contracts with EMS providers.

Ms. Woodard inquired if this could be included in the Shared Services Plan in order to better serve some of the outlying areas. She stated Cayuga Heights is one community that does not have a problem with volunteerism and serves the Cayuga Heights community well as well as the Towns of Ithaca and Lansing. She believes this is primarily due to the programs involving Cornell University students and further spoke of the possibility of working with Cornell University, Ithaca College, and Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) to develop a creative solution and work with students to become EMS volunteers in exchange for a possible break on their student loans. Mr. Shurtleff stated Cayuga Heights is very good role model largely due to its dynamics and proximity and spoke of the possibility of utilizing some of those Emergency Medical Technicians by employing them to supplement some of the volunteer services.

Mr. Shurtleff stated TC3 has a long-standing EMS training program but most students are sent there from specific departments rather than from the student body itself. Committee members spoke of the abundance of training needs and that Tompkins County has the resources that most rural counties do not have.

The PowerPoint presentation will be available on the TCCOG website under the Emergency Medical Services Task Force.

Report from Subcommittees

Ms. Weiser reported the work is continuing to see if Community Choice Aggregation can work for this area.

Energy Task Force:

Ms. Thomas announced the County and Town of Ithaca have been designated as Climate Smart Communities by the State. The Energy Task Force is working on the Climate Smart Communities and the Clean Energy Communities designations and both have possible funding availability. She stated Liz Walker provided a presentation entitled Green Building Knowledge for Local Decision Makers and there will be additional information available to municipal elected officials and building inspectors. Also, Casey Mastro, New York Power Authority, provided information regarding LED Street Lights and the Task Force will be looking more into that.

Transit Services Committee

There was no report.

Cable Committee

Ms. Weiser stated Charter is to be building a larger network in a portion of the County as a portion of the merger between Charter and Time Warner. A few days ago Charter was sanctioned by the Public Service Commission for not maintaining the required number of installations. She said this is not a good start for Charter and New York State has opened a public comment period regarding the sanctions. She encouraged people to comment.

Mr. Dietrich applauded the efforts of the Cable Committee.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

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Ms. Weiser spoke of including discussions regarding the Reserve Fund and the Structure of Meetings at the next meeting.

The Recreation Partnership Agreement discussions with Amie Hendrix will take place at a separate time yet to be determined.

Mr. Goodman stated David Herrick, American Counsel of Engineering Companies, was interested in addressing the Committee and will follow-up with him. Mr. Dietrich suggested Mr. Herrick attend and provide information regarding Storm Water Management. Ms. Woodard further suggested having representatives from the Water Resources Council and the Storm Water Coalition in attendance also to help provide further information.

Ms. Weiser suggested further discussions regarding the steps municipalities can take to improve their greenhouse gas footprint and grant possibilities.

Ms. Weiser said there has been interest in hearing from Building Code Enforcement Officers to share information and discuss demolition of buildings.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

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 Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Elizabeth Thomas	Member/Town of Ulysses	Present	
Betty Conger	Member, Village of Groton	Present	
Irene Weiser	Co-Chair/Town of Caroline	Present	
Bill Goodman	Co-Chair, Town of Ithaca	Present	
Donald Hartill	Member, Village of Lansing	Present	
Ann Rider	Member, Town of Enfield	Present	3:19 PM
Ric Dietrich	Member, Town of Danby	Present	
Mark Witmer	Alternate - Town of Caroline	Present	
Linda Woodard	Member, Village of Cayuga Heights	Present	
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present	
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Legislature Office	Present	

Guests: Joe Wilson; Brian Eden, Bill Evans, EMC; Nick Goldsmith, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Ithaca; Michael Thorne, City of Ithaca Superintendent of Public Works; Kate Supron, Cornell University; Terry Carroll, Cooperative Extension Coordinator Clean Energy Communities

Call to Order

Mr. Goodman, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes Approval

June 22, 2017

RESULT: DEFERRED

Announcement - Energy Expo

Ms. Weiser said there has been discussion for several months about putting together an energy expo that would be a gathering at some time in 2018 to draw in people from across the County and beyond to learn about different kinds of energy technologies as well as do-it-yourself kinds of projects. The intent is for the event to be interactive and engaging and to address people's abilities at all financial levels to find things they can do to conserve energy and change their energy use. They will be seeking TCCOG's support of the funding application but do not plan to request funding from TCCOG. She will keep members updated as planning proceeds.

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Shared Services Update

Mr. Mareane provided an update on the work of the Shared Services Panel. The group met five times and was time well-spent and value in everyone coming together. On July 19th six elements of a plan were approved:

- Training Academy;
- Creation of a Service Modernization Plan to store and manage municipal records and automate a multitude of routine paper-intensive tasks;
- Purchasing pool to facilitate the lowest-cost acquisition of financial software;
- Countywide mass notification system to alert residents to matters of urgent importance;
- Purchasing pool to facilitate the conversion of street lights to high-efficiency LED fixtures;
- Expansion of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium. This has the highest dollar impact but is also the least likely to be accepted by New York State. He said every time a new municipality joins it is essentially a new Consortium because a lot of things need to be done and it is a new Consortium. He said the State does not see this as a new reoccurring property tax savings but whenever the State can be reminded that the County did the right thing years ago it should do that.
- Recommended Areas for Additional In-Depth Review:
 - Back-office administrative services;
 - Code Enforcement; and
 - Fleet Maintenance

Mr. Mareane said two public hearings were held and two members of the public attended. Bargaining units were invited to participate and did. The six elements of the Plan are now being presented to the County Legislature. They will make recommendations that will come back to the Panel for final consideration and a vote before September 13th.

Mr. Dietrich commended Mr. Mareane for his work in bringing the Panel together quickly and for doing a thorough job.

Streetlight conversion (ID #7179)

Ms. Thomas said the idea began in the Energy Task Force after a presentation by the New York Power Authority that was followed up by a meeting with Dan Cogan and Michael Thorne in the City of Ithaca who were very interested in moving forward and in a way that would not burden municipalities.

Mr. Carroll distributed a streetlight conversion information sheet that outlined reasons to switch streetlights to LED. Those reasons include: reduce cost; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; maintenance costs are 20-25% less expensive; the failure rate for HPS streetlights is around 18% annually; and it allows for greater control over lighting choices within a municipality.

Other points Mr. Carroll noted included:

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- Switch through the utility is currently unavailable in the NYSEG region;
- Municipalities must consider buyback of streetlights from utility company and conduct the switch to LEDs internally or through a contract service with consideration to on-going maintenance for lights and pole-rental fees;
- Payback period is five to ten years;
- Interested municipalities should contact Tad Palmer at NYSEG at 607-347-2707 to request NYSEG to prepare a proposal for the sale of NYSEG streetlight facilities to the town or village. There is no deadline to make this request; however, the request triggers a 90-day deadline with other deadline triggers set throughout the process. He said the entire period from beginning to end can take up to 15 months.

Mr. Thorne reported on a conversation he had with NYSEG yesterday and stated the timeframe Mr. Carroll referenced was given to him as well. He encouraged municipalities to make the request as there is no cost to do so. He said the City of Ithaca currently pays approximately \$340,000 annually to NYSEG for maintenance and electricity. The estimate NYSEG provided that the City would save on the maintenance each year was \$175,000; the City estimated it could provide maintenance for \$25,000 annually and would save \$150,000 each year just by owning the streetlights. It was learned that once a municipality owns the streetlights it is required within 24 months to provide a fused disconnect so that it will not impact NYSEG’s system. He said the City is trying to plan in a way that will allow everything to be done at the same time. The City is still gathering information, including having a GIS inventory of all sites. Mr. Thorne noted that once a request for a price from NYSEG is made the information is supposed to be confidential as prices are determined by different factors through a negotiation process. The projected savings to the City of Ithaca is approximately \$140 per light per year (5-year payback). He said the City will be making the request of NYSEG no later than October 1st with the intent to own its 1,800 streetlights by January 2019 with work to begin shortly thereafter.

At Ms. Weiser’s request Mr. Carroll will provide information on determining whether particular streetlights. It will also include information on what has been done in other places if they are not needed and what, if any, requirements exist to have a streetlight at a particular intersection. Mr. Thorne said by bringing a number of municipalities together there could be additional savings in some of the shared costs and opportunities for the City to provide maintenance.

Mr. Eden provided an updated document from the Environmental Management Council (EMC) entitled "Important Recommendations for Indoor and Outdoor Lighting". He said the EMC is fully supportive of this but noted that not all LEDs are made equally and have different environmental impacts and cost efficiencies. The EMC would like people to make full consideration of all the elements of the decision to ensure the best choice is made for the community.

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Discussion of EMS Presentation at Last Meeting and Next Steps

Ms. Weiser said at the last meeting members received a very important presentation by Lee Shurtleff, Director of Emergency Response, which he stated the current medical service system is collapsing. It is a very serious concern and warning and municipalities have to be proactive in responding. There are already problems being seen in response and there could be situations where a

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local community is not able to respond to a situation. She noted Bangs Ambulance has a Certificate of Need to cover the entire County, however, this could result in a very long waiting time for those living a long distance from the City.

Ms. Weiser distributed and reviewed the following document

Strategies for enhanced EMS Service and Response

1. Increase capacity
 - a. Increase volunteer recruitment - Worthy but NOT SUSTAINABLE
 - i. Colleges, BOCES
 - ii. General marketing/outreach efforts
 - b. Increase retention -worthy but NOT SUSTAINABLE
 - i. Dept leadership and culture
 - ii. Training - ongoing training, quick recertification, online
 - iii. Dept of Health leadership/engagement w volunteers
 - c. Increase paid staff/ enhance career opportunities
 - i. Cross train town staff?
2. Decrease call volume
 - a. Coordinated care - DSRIP, paramedicine, other community based solutions
 - b. How to address frequent users, non-emergency uses
 - c. Key populations - elderly, substance abuse, mental health
3. Assess Program Effectiveness = CIPA, Systems Eng., business students
 - a. Evaluate program effectiveness
 - b. Operations and systems modeling, program optimization and efficiency
 - i. Distribution of resources, ALS, BLS, fly cars, paid, volunteer
 - ii. Financial efficiencies
4. Review Successful Programs/County-wide Certificate of Need
 - a. Mentioned by Mark Butler - Albany, Erie, Livingston Co.
 - b. Sydney?
 - c. Explore for others...
5. Ongoing oversight and coordination
 - a. Include multiple stakeholders
 - b. Develop shared vision
 - c. Data collection/management
 - d. Ongoing evaluation, response, improvement

Ms. Weiser said although the need might not appear as dire as emergency services, the same problem is happening with fire services. It is especially being felt at the Dispatch Center with staffing to activate many more departments to get coverage at any fire incident. She said it is possible as the Task Force continues its work that there will be an expansion to thinking about fire service along with EMS service.

She said they hope to have some preliminary recommendations and provided a draft resolution she would like members to consider taking back to their municipal boards to support planning for the recommendations. She noted the resolution commits to set money aside in the 2018 budget and would not be spent until the Task Force provides more information. The resolution is as follows:

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RESOLUTION TO BUDGET FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLANNING IN 2018

Whereas, the Tompkins County Council of Governments Emergency Medical Services Task Force (TCCOG EMS-TF) has identified that the current system of providing emergency medical response and transport is stressed - with declining numbers of volunteer and paid responders, and Lee Shurtleff, the Director of the Department of Emergency Response has warned that the system could “collapse” without intervention; and

Whereas, timely, competent, affordable emergency medical and transport services are critical and necessary public services; and

Whereas, the TCCOG EMS-TF will be working for the next several months to identify possible solutions to stabilize provision of EMS services and anticipates having preliminary recommendations by March 2018; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that the EMS-TF may require professional services to assist in refining and guiding implementation of proposed remedies; and

Whereas, at this point the EMS-TF is unable to provide specific information as to scope of work or expertise required, but the EMS-TF and the Town of _____ believes it is prudent to be financially prepared to engage such services as may be indicated so that the crucial work of the EMS-TF can continue uninterrupted;

NOW therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of _____ will provide \$5000 in their 2018 budget to support professional services to assist with planning and/or implementation of EMS-TF recommendations; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the commitment to spend some or all of these funds will be contingent upon presentation by the EMS-TF of preliminary recommendations to stabilize provision of EMS services as well as a description of the professional services, qualifications and scope of work to be provided by the expert, and approval of the Town of _____ to support such proposed work.

Mr. Dietrich suggested getting input from fire commissioners. A sentiment was expressed by some members that while the amount may not represent a large financial burden to some municipalities, it represents a very large amount for others. It was stated this is not a mandated service; however, a question was raised as to whether fire service is. Ms. Weiser addressed comments about the amount being disproportionate among municipalities and stated the Task Force discussed this and felt the towns that have more populous and services are providing a lot of mutual aid to the smaller towns who don't have the capacity to provide services directly and therefore the amount should be distributed equally.

Ms. Thomas said she would like to see information showing what percentage of other municipality's levy is for fire and if EMS if they have it.

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to the concerns. Ms. Weiser asked for feedback ahead of that meeting.

Update on Broadband

Ms. Weiser said Charter Communications is going to be building out over the next five years. They have already been fined by the State for being behind schedule in getting broadband services accessible in the places they were supposed to.

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Discussion of Reserve Fund and Structure of Meetings

TCCOG Bylaws (reference information for Reserve Fund discussion) (ID #7100)

Mr. Goodman said bylaws include a reference to the Reserve Fund and information provided show an available balance of \$3,738. He asked if members wished to continue collecting funds or if there were ideas for its use. Ms. Thomas said the original purpose was to have funds to help with costs associated with gas drilling. There are other funds that were set aside for specific purposes such as cable and the cell tower study. Ms. Thomas suggested using some of the available funds to pay for expenses related to EMS or other shared services work that is being done. There was discussion of whether municipalities should be requested to contribute \$250 in 2018; the last time municipalities contributed was in 2012. There was not a strong interest in pursuing a request to municipalities to contribute in 2018 to the Reserve Fund. The Fund will remain as is with the bylaws outlining how an appropriation from the Fund can be requested. Mr. Hartill will look into the reserved cable funds that were contributed in 2013.

Discussion of the structure of TCCOG meetings was deferred to the next meeting.

* * * * *

Report from Subcommittees

Emergency Services Task Force

Ms. Weiser reported earlier in the meeting.

Sustainability Committee: Community Choice Aggregaton Work Group and Energy Task Force
Energy Task Force

Ms. Thomas reported the Task Force will meet after this meeting.

Community Choice Aggregation

Ms. Weiser reported the Committee learned many years ago Cayuga County through a public referendum gave themselves municipal authority to be a public utility. Through this they gave themselves the authority to purchase energy or to manage the grid on behalf of their residents. They have found that it is very complicated and haven't moved forward; however, Bud Shattuck who is now the Mayor in Union Springs has secured funds and is looking at how to move it forward. Ms. Weiser said there are discussions taking place on how to piggyback off of this and it seems like Tompkins County would have to look into also becoming a public utility and State legislation may be needed to allow this to happen. She is unclear whether Cayuga County has done this and has asked her town attorney to look into it. The Subcommittee will meet tomorrow at noon.

Transit Services Committee

There was no report.

Cable Committee

There was no report.

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Next Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were suggested for inclusion on the next agenda:

Structure of Meetings;
Approval of June 22, 2017 meeting;
Sharing information/communication with the public on the Cayuga Lake Blue Algae Bloom;
Presentation by the Cayuga Lake Watershed on what municipalities can do to protect Cayuga Lake
(Mr. Dietrich and TeeAnn Hunter); and
Continued discussion of EMS Task Force resolution request

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Tompkins County Council of Governments

Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft
Thursday, August 24, 2017 3:00 PM
Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Michael Lane	Member, Tompkins County	Present
Elizabeth Thomas	Member/Town of Ulysses	Present
Irene Weiser	Co-Chair/Town of Caroline	Present
Bill Goodman	Co-Chair, Town of Ithaca	Present
Ric Dietrich	Member, Town of Danby	Present
Kelly Smith	Member, Town of Groton	Present
Linda Woodard	Member, Village of Cayuga Heights	Present
Donna Fleming	Vice Chair, City of Ithaca	Present
Mark Witmer	Alternate - Town of Caroline	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present
Michelle Pottorff	Legislature Office	Present

Guests: C.J. Randall, Town of Danby; T. Hunter, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization; K. Supron, C. Maxian, Cornell University

Call to Order

Ms. Weiser, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Presentation Cayuga Lake Watershed

Mr. Dietrich said information being presented is the result of efforts that have been taking place for a long time by numerous people to address issues and the rationale behind a proposal to address problems related to Cayuga Lake. Tee Ann Hunter, a member of the Ithaca Town Board and Chair of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, said an update was recently completed of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Plan and a copy has been submitted to all municipalities and it is available on the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's website (<http://www.cayugalake.org/>). She said the Restoration and Protection Plan Update was completed in the Spring and at the same time the IO applied for a Department of State planning grant to hire the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board to take the recommendations in the Plan and move them along toward implementable projects.

Ms. Hunter explained parts of the update process included an outreach effort to all 45 of the municipalities within the Watershed asking for project ideas. Through that process it became apparent that as a group of Watershed communities there needed to be help in visioning projects, finding project partners, figuring out match, and preparing funding applications. She said the purpose of this presentation is to see if a small Tompkins County group can be formed to start looking at project ideas. Ms. Hunter said they have the draft contract for the next grant that is a three-year project and work could begin soon.

Ms. Hunter introduced C.J. Randall and said she and Mr. Dietrich approached her expressing concern for the Lake and shared a project they have been working on that is the sort of project that should be given thought to and is outlined in the presentation. Ms. Randall, Town of Danby Planner, said she was approached by Town of Danby Supervisor Dietrich about issues the highway department was having

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with streambank stabilization and road deterioration issues and impacts related to flooding. She presented members with a presentation on the Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan; text from the presentation is below and the full presentation is attached to the outline on the meeting portal.

Why?

- Work Plan for Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration & Protection Plan (RPP) underway
- Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)
- TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) - weeds, algal growth, high turbidity impair recreational uses
- 660,000+ cubic yards of sediment to dredge
- Progress on Cayuga Lake Model
- 2016-2018 WRC Water Quality Strategy Priority Action Items
- 2016 Cayuga Inlet Sediment Management Plan
- Stormwater pricing
- Significant Cayuga Inlet streambank sites located in non-MS4 communities / limited planning capacity

Implementation of Cayuga Lake Watershed

- Restoration and Protection Plan coordination, collaboration, and partnerships
- Address Group 1 Priorities for Restoration: Severe local impact + severe lake impact = more than 900 tons / year sediment
- Funding from County Stream Corridor Restoration to conduct feasibility study

Alarming findings

- Annual sediment load of **2,000 tons per year**, equivalent to a commercial dump truck backing up with a full load of silt/sediment into Cayuga Inlet **every other day**

Related concerns

- \$580,000 project to stabilize stream and adjacent road embankment
- Coordinating with County Highway, County Soil & Water Conservation District - Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) applications
- How to work with City of Ithaca and Town of Newfield to address low-hanging fruit of stanching sediment loss right where it starts

Mr. Dietrich suggested looking at things that would be implementable and focusing on one aspect. He would like to see a group formed that represents all of the stakeholders to come up with recommendations and to accumulate enough data to apply for an engineering study to compliment what has already been put together, verify what needs to be done, and leverage funds for implementation. He doesn't expect this would cover everyone's concerns but one that makes sense for everyone, including highway departments, and one that could bring everyone on-board.

Ms. Thomas said there was an algae bloom that affected the Lake in July and although it is cleared up now there needs to be a comprehensive look at what causes these harmful algae blooms and how to address the problem. She spoke of nutrients coming into the Lake and noted that agriculture is a big concern but there are others that need to also be looked at. She suggested reaching out to State officials for assistance.

Mr. Lane said he has thought for a long time that there needs to be a settling pond upstream on the Inlet and said he thinks if that pond were cleaned out every few years the annual deposit into the Lake could be stopped. He asked if contact has been made with the National Soil and Conservation Service that provided funding several years ago for the Town of Dryden Dam.

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Ms. Supron offered resources for additional data and can make contact with representatives in Albany and provide information to the Council.

Ms. Weiser asked for clarification as to what TCCOG is being asked to do beyond what is already being done by the Water Resources Council and the Stormwater Coalition. Ms. Thomas suggested holding a summit where groups could come together to talk about the problems, prioritize them, and come up with a plan to move forward.

Ms. Hunter said Tompkins County is only one of the six involved counties but it is time to come up with a plan to start doing some work and this will require intermunicipal cooperation between Tompkins County municipalities. She said a flow chart needs to be developed showing what everyone is doing and stressed that in order to access funds there needs to be a plan developed that identifies doable projects that are ready by May 2018. She said she would like to have representatives from Tompkins County municipalities, the Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Ithaca, and the Tompkins County Planning Department part of this.

Ms. Thomas suggested TCCOG make a request to various entities to actively participate in the Intermunicipal Organization over the next six months. Mr. Dietrich said he is asking to replicate what the Town of Danby has done and would like to see a group formed that would report back on a regular basis to TCCOG.

Mr. Goodman said because of the issues around sedimentation and ditching involved, TCCOG may need to think about a way to get highway and public works personnel involved.

Ms. Weiser suggested those who want to work on this to contact Ms. Randall at cjrandall@townofdanby.org and asked that those municipalities that are an MS4 and have representation on the Stormwater Resource Council to work with their representatives and to also bring in those municipalities that are no an MS4. Mr. Mareane will reach out to the Tompkins County Planning Department to engage them in this.

Resolution No. - Cayuga Lake Watershed RestorationCayuga Lake Watershed Restoration (ID #7313)

RESULT: PRESENTED

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County Administration

Shared Services Update

Mr. Mareane reported the Tompkins County Legislature accepted the recommendations of the Shared Services Panel and added the inclusion of the Town of Newfield in the Health Consortium as the Town will save \$34,000 by joining. It was suggested to include other municipalities, even if outside of Tompkins County, that will be joining the Consortium next year and including reference to the Law Enforcement Shared Services study being undertaken. The Shared Services Panel will meet and hold one final public hearing and the final report will be submitted to the State in time to meet the deadline of September 15th.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 24, 2017 3:00 PM (Minutes Approval)

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EMS Task Force - Resolution deferred at July Meeting

Resolution to Budget for Professional Services to Assist with Emergency Medical Service Planning in 2018 (ID #7253)

Ms. Weiser said this topic was discussed at the last meeting and is part of a request to ask municipalities to plan for and ask for funding to address a need that has been identified to address challenges and the collapsing of volunteer services in the area of emergency medical services. She said at last month's meeting she brought forward a resolution and proposed individual municipalities consider setting aside funds to allow for a proposal next year to be funded that will take preliminary recommendations that are identified and move them forward. Ms. Weiser reported the Town of Caroline took action recognizing that an expenditure may come up and the Town will have funds available to allocate if at such time a proposal is brought forward that has support of municipalities and service providers. She hopes recommendations can be developed to provide for a standard level of service for expected response ability and capacity to be provided regardless of location within the County. She also spoke of the varying levels of service that exists throughout the County and said she would like to see a basic level of service that residents can expect throughout the County.

Mr. Dietrich said he raised this issue with the Town of Danby Fire Department and they were not receptive in participating in an effort at the County level. He said being able to implement something is important and not having the cooperation at the town level creates a problem. Mr. Dietrich said they are having the same issues other municipalities are having with volunteers; he commented that one of the biggest problems relates to training.

Mr. Mareane said Tompkins County will be placing \$25,000 into next year's budget that would cover a portion of the costs of study. This will be considered in September as part of the County budget and noted the County would likely want to see support from municipalities as well. Ms. Weiser said it would not be a requirement that municipalities adopt a formal resolution but would like some acknowledgement that as recommendations are brought forward that there would be support of the Task Force's recommendations and be prepared to contribute to the effort. By presenting this now she hopes to avoid a situation whereby municipalities do not have funds set aside in 2018 budgets and need to wait until 2020 to provide funding as this is a very important and essential service.

Ms. Weiser questioned if the Town of Danby would be able to allocate these funds next year if a recommendation was brought forward. Mr. Dietrich said funding could be provided but it would be difficult without the support of the Fire Department. Ms. Weiser said the Task Force will be looking at models that exist in other places and ways to reduce call volume. It is the hope that as information is brought forward that local departments will support this.

RESULT: COMPLETED

Sharing of Information on Cayuga Lake Blue Algae Bloom

This item was covered under discussion of the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

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Discussion of Structure of TCCOG Meetings

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Report from Subcommittees

Emergency Services Task Force

This item was covered under the previous discussion.

Sustainability Committee: Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and Energy Task Force

Ms. Weiser said the subcommittee continues to explore whether Community Choice Aggregation is a viable option. A list of hurdles and impediments have been identified and work will continue to evaluate this.

Energy Task Force

Ms. Thomas reported the LED streetlight conversion is moving along and almost all municipalities have contacted NYSEG to gather information about what the proposal would be for buying the lights. There is still a lot of work to be done but progress is being made, including working on a contract with the City for changing out the lights and managing them. It was noted this is part of the County's Shared Services Plan. Ms. Weiser said there may be funding available to municipalities for the changing out of lights which can be costly through the New York Power Authority. Ms. Thomas will look into this as a potential resource. Ms. Woodard said NYSEG will be coming up with a proposal to maintain these lights and she would like to know about that cost before contracting with the City.

Ms. Thomas said the Committee also discussed the Green Building Policy with the Clean Energy Communities and there are many municipalities that have applied or are close to being able to apply for grant funding.

The Energy Task Force will now be meeting bi-monthly.

Transit Services Committee

Ms. Fleming said she attended the August meeting and heard a report about a service that was added to the Health Department in which it was stated service is extremely low. She said TCAT drivers will now be accepting transfers from Schuyler County. There will be Fall route changes and software is being developed to allow people to access information on the arrival of a bus on their mobile devices.

Cable Committee

There was no report; this item will be removed from the agenda outline.

Minutes Approval

June 22, 2017

RESULT: DEFERRED

July 27, 2017

RESULT: DEFERRED

Announcement

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 24, 2017 3:00 PM (Minutes Approval)

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Ms. Supron announced an Engage Cornell event that will be held on September 27th and a Town Gown event to be held on October 28th; information will be sent to the TCCOG membership.

Ms. Supron said Candice Maxian, Assistant Director for Public Engagement at Cornell, was present earlier in the meeting and is interested in local partnerships. It was suggested Ms. Maxian be invited to the next meeting to speak to members.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The following items will be included on the next agenda:

Discussion of Structure of TCCOG Meetings;
 Report from the County Planning Department on Article 239 Guidelines;
 Introduction of Candice Maxian, Assistant Director for Public Engagement at Cornell

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 24, 2017 3:00 PM (Minutes Approval)