

Tompkins County Council of Governments
 Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 9/28/2017
 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. .

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

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 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.