

Tompkins County Council of Governments
 Regular Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
 Thursday, December 15, 2016 3:00 PM
 Scott Heyman Conference Room

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Elizabeth Thomas	Co-Chair/Town of Ulysses	Present	
Laura Shawley	Member - Alternate, Town of Danby	Present	
Irene Weiser	Co-Chair/Town of Caroline	Present	
Jason Leifer	Member - Town of Dryden	Present	
Donna Fleming	Member - City of Ithaca	Present	
Linda Woodard	Member, Village of Cayuga Heights	Late	3:07 PM
Gerry Monaghan	Alternate - Village of Lansing	Present	
Michael Murphy	Member, Village of Dryden	Late	3:12 PM
Ann Rider	Member, Town of Enfield	Late	3:12 PM
Marcia Lynch	Public Info. Officer, County Administration	Present	
Michelle Pottorff	Legislature Office	Present	
Joe Mareane	Tompkins County Administrator	Present	
Mark Witmer	Alternate - Town of Caroline	Present	
Bill Goodman	Vice Chair, Town of Ithaca	Present	

Guests: Rachel Kennedy, Town of Ulysses; Kelly Waters, Finger Lakes Community News

Call to Order

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

Greeting/Sign In/Review Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

(Motion No. 005-2016) Appointment of TCCOG Representative to TCAT Transit Services

Committee

Mr. Monaghan announced he will no longer be TCCOG's representative to TCAT as of January 1, 2017. He provided an overview of his service on the TCAT Transit Services Committee the role he has had as TCCOG's first member of the Transit Services Committee. He said TCAT is an organization with many moving parts and meetings are frequently rescheduled or canceled. In addition to participating in the interview process for filling of the position of Executive Director of TCAT and has been involved in the Committee's review of where bus stops are located throughout the County, the hiring of bus drivers and the challenges around staffing. He said it has been a very interesting experience and has learned a lot.

Ms. Rider and Mr. Murphy arrived at this time.

Ms. Thomas said TCCOG members were canvassed for interest in serving in this position. Ms. Fleming offered to serve in this capacity but noted she is not familiar with bus service outside of the City.

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Ms. Weiser said the representative would use TCCOG meetings as a forum to solicit information and concerns and communicate that to TCAT and didn't see a critical need for this representative to be a rural representative.

It was MOVED by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Weiser, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to appoint Donna Fleming as the TCCOG representative to the TCAT Transit Services Committee. MOTION APPROVED.

Minutes Approval

October 27, 2016

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Elizabeth Thomas, Co-Chair/Town of Ulysses
SECONDER:	Ann Rider, Member, Town of Enfield
AYES:	Thomas, Shawley, Weiser, Goodman, Leifer, Fleming, Woodard, Monaghan, Murphy, Rider

November 17, 2016

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Elizabeth Thomas, Co-Chair/Town of Ulysses
SECONDER:	Ann Rider, Member, Town of Enfield
AYES:	Thomas, Shawley, Weiser, Goodman, Leifer, Fleming, Woodard, Monaghan, Murphy, Rider

Selection of 2017 Leadership

MOTION TO: (Motion No. 005-2016) Appoint Donna Fleming 2017 Vice Chair of TCCOG

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Irene Weiser, Co-Chair/Town of Caroline
SECONDER:	Ann Rider, Member, Town of Enfield
AYES:	Thomas, Shawley, Weiser, Goodman, Leifer, Fleming, Woodard, Monaghan, Murphy, Rider

Constitutional Convention: Update on Forum

Legislator John has been making plans to hold a public forum for the purpose of informing the community of what a Constitutional Convention is as this will appear on next year's ballot. He was not in attendance at the meeting; however, members discussed what is currently known about this and what they would like to learn. Mr. Goodman said the County's Democratic Committee held a forum at the Ithaca Town Hall a couple of months ago at which Barbara Lifton spoke against this and Hank Dullea spoke in favor. One of the main arguments against a Constitutional Convention was a fear that there could be some very damaging provisions to various efforts for civil rights protections put into the Constitution and it might take back some rights that have been achieved over the years. One of the main

arguments in favor was the element that this is an opportunity for grassroots democracy that doesn't exist in New York State as it does in other states and would make it easy to get provisions on the ballot through citizen initiative referendums. He said it would be useful to have more public forums to better inform the public when they go to the polls.

There was agreement that it would be worthwhile to hold a public forum and that both viewpoints should be represented at such an event. Ms. Weiser suggested also holding a forum specifically for the purpose of informing elected officials throughout the County about this. Further discussion on this will take place at an upcoming meeting.

Report from Subcommittees

Report from the Emergency Services Task Force

Ms. Weiser said the Committee held its second meeting this week and is working collectively to come up with a list of issues and topics the Task Force can work on. The first few meetings will be spent gathering information on things such as what the various structures, capacities, response times, and funding situations are of the emergency services response teams throughout the County. The initial conversations were very informative and eye-opening. Mr. Goodman agreed and said this is a very complicated area that is related to a larger issue of volunteer recruitment and retention that impacts many different services.

Ms. Weiser said it was interesting to hear from Lisa Holmes, the County's Office for the Aging Director, on health care models that are being explored that would allow people to live at home and surrounded by services as they age.

Report from the Community Choice Aggregation Work Group

Ms. Weiser reported discussion continues on whether to pursue Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and said they could want to proceed in a direction that doesn't only include procuring cheaper energy but also looks at how to encourage the promotion and development of renewables and local jobs and to have a CCA that does both of those things. There is also recognition that a feasibility study would need to be done to figure out how it would be structured. She said there is not enough expertise to administer this and a look would have to be taken at hiring a third party administrator to help establish and successfully move a CCA forward.

Ms. Weiser responded to a question concerning how this would be paid for and said the feasibility study and the administrators would be paid from the fees that the CCA is allowed to charge. The CCA would set up a power purchase agreement to procure energy purchases on behalf of the collective residents and a cost would be added to the fees in addition to the charge by the energy provider that would go towards program administration. The program administrator would do a lot of up-front work and education at their own cost until the CCA is up and running; however, there is a lot to learn and many questions that would need to be answered in order to make a decision to move forward. The two program administrators that Work Group has met with are MEGA (Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance) and Jewell Assets. Ms. Weiser said the primary difference between the two is MEGA is primarily interested in securing lower rates and Jewell Assets is more interested in CCA 2.0 which is defined as promoting more renewables. She will provide members with a link to information written by the person who created Community Choice Aggregation.

Report from the Energy Task Force

Ms. Thomas reported the group has been looking at NYSERDA's (New York State Energy

Research Development Authority) Clean Energy Committees and the DEC's (Department of Environmental Conservation) Climate Smart programs that both work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has decided the NYSERDA program is more appropriate for smaller municipalities and will be moving forward with that program. They are trying to work as a group to achieve some of the goals of the program and if goals are met there are larger pots of money that can be accessed to move forward to reach the goal of reducing greenhouse gasses by 80% by 2050. She presented the following resolution to formally establish and appoint the membership of the Task Force.

Ms. Thomas said they are required to achieve four goals and have chosen:

- Solarize campaigns;
- Benchmarking and doing an evaluation of energy use in buildings;
- Building Code Officer training; and
- Unified solar permit which a number of municipalities already use

There are additional initiatives that will increase its chances of receiving more funds such as swapping out street light bulbs to LEDs and Community Choice Aggregation. At today's meeting the Task Force will be looking at a County map of where three-phase electric exists and where larger solar farms can be placed.

Resolution No. - Establishment of TCCOG Energy Task Force (ID #6746)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Elizabeth Thomas, Co-Chair/Town of Ulysses
SECONDER:	Linda Woodard, Member, Village of Cayuga Heights
AYES:	Thomas, Shawley, Weiser, Leifer, Fleming, Woodard, Monaghan, Murphy, Rider

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2015, established a goal to reach the minimum of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 from 2008 levels, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels across all sectors, and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, the Tompkins County Legislature adopted the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap (Roadmap) which, as one of its objectives will identify local actions that can be taken in the short- and long-term to achieve these goals, and

WHEREAS, immediate actions are critical to reduce the impacts of climate change, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) supports the Roadmap and will work with the County to assist municipalities to understand and take actions that can help achieve the Roadmap goals, and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2016, TCCOG established the TCCOG Energy Task Force (ETF) for the purpose of gathering and sharing information on various initiatives and actions municipalities can pursue that are in-line with the County's Energy Roadmap and Tompkins County's goal of achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas by 2050, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following are appointed as members of the TCCOG ETF:

Roxanne Marino

Terrance Carroll

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CJ Randall
Megan McDonald
Bill Goodman
Nick Goldsmith
Darby Kiley
Liz Thomas

Irene Weiser
Joseph Wilson
Katie Borgella
Guillermo Metz
Ann Rider
Mark Witmer

RESOLVED, further, That the TCCOG ETF will appoint its own Chair,

RESOLVED, further, That the TCCOG ETF will report back to TCCOG on a regular basis.

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Cable Committee

There was no report.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were included in the list for future agenda topics:

- Update on the buildout of broadband
- Cradle to Career Discussion
- Planning for Forum on Constitutional Convention
- Presentation of Energy Smart Community (Sharon Anderson)
- Discussion of Highway Funding
- TC3.Biz Supervisory Training
- Municipal Courts Task Force update
- Develop a list of issues and concerns to discuss at a meeting with State representatives invited to attend
- Discussion of the number of school districts in Tompkins County
- Housing Summit follow-up

Ms. Thomas suggested TCCOG could be involved in helping with follow-up items from the Housing Summit. Ms. Weiser said the Steering Committee will be meeting next week to talk about next steps. Mr. Goodman said he would be interested in hearing TCCOG members report on housing developments being proposed in their municipality. He would also be interested in figuring out a way to get municipal boards and planning boards together in a forum to discuss housing issues., reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, and issuing a request for proposals for where housing is desired to be.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.