



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
126 N. Salina St., 100 Clinton Sq., Suite 200, Syracuse, N.Y. 13202 • Tel. (315) 422-8276 • Fax 422-9051
Paul Vickery, Chairman David V. Bottar, Executive Director

AGENDA

October 2007 Meeting Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Wednesday, October 17, 2007
12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.

**CNY RPDB
100 Clinton Square Building – lower level Conference Room
126 N. Salina Street, Syracuse, New York**

Chairwoman Kathleen Rapp, Presiding

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| 1. | Call to Order | Kathy Rapp |
| 2. | Approval of Day's Agenda and Minutes from the August 22, 2007 Meeting | Kathy Rapp |
| 3. | Program Presentation:
<i>New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness</i> | Jesse Olczak |
| 4. | Executive Director's Report | David Bottar |
| 5. | Old/New Business | Kathy Rapp |
| 6. | Adjournment | Kathy Rapp |



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MINUTES

CNY RPDB Board Meeting October 17, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Kathleen Rapp, Dan Dineen, David Elleman, Linda Hartsock, Mark Lynch, Stephen Lynch, Joseph Mareane, Jack Miller, Vijay Mital, James Murphy, Danny Ross, Clarence Rycraft, Daniel Schuster, William Southern, Don Spaulding, Walter Tennant, Michael Treadwell, Paul Vickery, Stephen Zabriskie, Mary Ann Messinger, William Meyer, Terri Bridenbecker, Rick Talbot

Guest: Jesse Olczak, Charlotte Holstein, Art Levy, Art Hamilin, Kaii Torrence, Christine Slocum, Patrice Bey, Clyde Ohl, James D'Agostino, Karen Kitney, Jennifer Haines, and Donna Scanlon.

Staff: David Bottar, Karen Novak, Theresa Stephen, Gerald Aloï, Kathy Bertuch, Anne Saltman, Kristi LaManche, and Michael Rosanio

BUSINESS MEETING:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kathleen Rapp called the meeting to order at 12:10 at the office of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board and stated that a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA/MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2007 MEETING

Chair Rapp asked if the Board members had any changes to the day's agenda and minutes from the August 22, 2007 meeting. There were two comments presented, one to add Terri Bridenbecker's name to the list of attendees at the August 22nd meeting and the other to correct the spelling of board member Don Spaulding's name. Hearing no further comments, a motion was introduced and seconded to approve the minutes as amended; the motion was approved unanimously. The day's agenda was approved as presented.

3. PROGRAM PRESENTATION:

New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness

David Bottar introduced Mr. Jesse Olczak, Senior Analyst with the NYS Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness (LGEC)

Mr. Olczak opened his presentation by providing handout material and discussing the background of the Commission. Mr. Olczak said Governor Spitzer created the Commission on April 23, 2007. The Commission has 15 members and is chaired by former Lt. Governor Stan Lundine.

Mr. Olczak reported that the Commission is holding hearings across the state on October 24th and November 28th. The Commission is looking at past studies and local initiatives that involve mergers, consolidations, regional governments, shared services, and smart growth. The Commission is required to submit a report to the Governor regarding its findings and recommendations by April 15, 2008.

Mr. Olczak noted that the Commission and staff have been at work over the past six months and have focused their attention on learning about the obstacles to government consolidation and the role that State government can play to help foster government efficiency initiatives at the local level. Mr. Olczak referenced several types of initiatives that have received attention including city and town mergers, village dissolutions, school district consolidation, joint town property tax assessments, justice courts consolidation, and numerous shared service examples around the State.

As part of his presentation, Mr. Olczak noted that the Commission solicited suggestions from counties across the entire State for efforts that could be undertaken to improve government services and efficiencies at the local level. The Commission is currently reviewing the suggestions that were submitted and will select several as case studies and will focus State resources on this specific projects to help facilitate there implementation. It was noted that several suggestions were submitted from counties in Central New York including a suggestion to consolidate the fire districts in Cayuga County with a focus on the City of Auburn and five adjoining towns. Other suggestions noted include merging the City of Cortland and Town of Cortlandville, undertaking a county-wide assessment and tax collection system in Madison County, and consolidating tax collection and forming joint purchasing arrangements in Onondaga County.

Following Mr. Olczak's formal presentation, Chair Rapp opened the floor for questions and discussion. Board members and guests asked numerous questions and offered comments and suggestions regarding the State's initiative. Some of the topics discussed included:

- The State's support for local initiatives that have been identified.
- The absence of a representative from Onondaga County on the Commission.
- The need for the State to incorporate principals regarding sustainability into the program.
- The need for the Commission to highlight some of the consolidation success stories that already exist across the State in the Commission's report.
- The need for sticks and carrots from the State to encourage consolidation.

- The disincentives that exist which inhibit consolidation of services.
- The issue of smart growth and a concern for better planning for development and how competitiveness of governments effects consolidation.
- The need for towns to receive funding to implement studies to provide information and gauge constituent's interests.
- The need for more information regarding the NYS DOS Shared Municipal Initiative for local governments.
- The role of Special Districts as a hindrance to consolidation.
- The need for accurate reporting of the number of Special Districts in NYS and an explanation for why this districts exist.
- The need for on-going appropriation of funds from the State for regional planning boards to help facilitate local government consolidation efforts.
- The potential for the Commission's report to become a tool for State mandates.
- The public's idea of preserving village identity.
- The need for a groundswell of support to modernize government.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Bottar thanked Mr. Olczak for taking time to come to Syracuse to make this presentation and noted that the discussion that took place is a clear demonstration of the interest that exist in this topic in Central New York.

Regarding Board matters, Mr. Bottar noted that the next Board meeting will be the organization's annual meeting, which will be held on December 12th at the Doubletree Hotel in Dewitt. Also, Linda Hartsock was recognized for her recent appointment to a new job as the regional director of the Empire State Development Corporation's Central New York office. It was also noted that Art Hamlin has been appointed as Director of Economic Development in Upstate New York for National Grid.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Rapp announced the following appointments to the CNY RPDB's Nominations Committee: Vijay Mital, Don Spaulding, Larry Baker, Clarence Rycraft, and Paul Vickery.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

With no additional business to be brought before the Board, Chair Rapp thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Bottar, Executive Director