



Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

NOT ON THE AGENDA

RESOLUTION

Meeting: 08/27/20 03:00 PM
Department: Clerk of the Legislature
Category: Public Safety
Functional Category:

DOC ID: 9539

NOT ON THE AGENDA

Resolution Urging the Tompkins County Legislature to Call Upon New York State to Allocate Funding to Local Municipalities to Support the Provision of Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

WHEREAS, volunteer Fire services and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in rural New York State have been under pressure for many years - ongoing declining volunteerism rates which leads to the closure of departments, which leads to the expansion of coverage areas for nearby agencies, which themselves struggle with staffing - in an environment of ever-increasing costs, and

WHEREAS, efforts to increase volunteerism, particularly in EMS, while noble, are neither sustainable nor effective enough to make a meaningful impact, and

WHEREAS, as a result of these circumstances, many municipalities have been forced to implement paid EMS Departments, contract for services with other paid departments, or do without timely EMS coverage for their residents, and

WHEREAS, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical nature of EMS, particularly in rural areas where EMS response is the primary source of frontline emergency healthcare to millions of New York residents, and

WHEREAS, as a subset of the healthcare field, annual EMS cost increases strain the budgets of rural towns and villages who are nevertheless morally and ethically obligated to provide these services to their constituents, and

WHEREAS, Article XVII §3 of the New York State Constitution states that,
*“The protection and promotion of the health of the inhabitants of the state are matters of public concern and provision therefore **shall be made by the state** and by such of its subdivisions and in such manner, and **by such means as the legislature shall from time to time determine.**” (emphasis added),
now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) requests the Tompkins County Legislature call upon New York State to allocate funding to local municipalities to support the provision of rural EMS,

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG requests that the Tompkins County Legislature advocate for a Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) or State Operating Assistance (STOA) model of funding wherein funds will be allocated to municipalities using formulae which takes into account call volume, coverage area, and funding needs,

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG requests that its member municipalities adopt resolutions of support for the foregoing and submit said resolutions to their respective State Legislators.