

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Glenfield, New York – July 22, 2008

Chairman Vigus opened the meeting at 9:14 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Messrs. Talgo, Stone, Maciejko, and Yerdon along with Mdms. Cheresnoski and Schuler. Staff members included Mr. Bartow and Mrs. Collins.

On a motion made by Mrs. Schuler and seconded by Mr. Talgo, the agenda was approved as presented.

On a motion made by Mr. Stone and seconded by Mr. Yerdon, the minutes of June 24, 2008 were approved as amended: third paragraph was a duplication of paragraph two, therefore this paragraph should be deleted; page three, fifth sentence, correct spelling of “seware” to “sewage.”

Chairman’s report followed.

Chairman Vigus welcomed members. He noted that members should have received a memo from him outlining the process for nominating officers for 2009-2011. Chairman Vigus designated Commissioners Stone and Talgo to commence a nominating process and report back to members at our October meeting. A resolution for nominations will then be proposed and put before the board with voting for officers commencing at our November meeting. Chairman Vigus stated that if anyone was interested in serving as an officer on the board to please contact either Commissioner Stone or Commissioner Talgo.

Chairman Vigus informed members that given the recent changes in leadership in the state Senate, it would be better to hold off on sending individual letters on upcoming term expirations to appointing authorities until the majority leader was appointed. Chairman Vigus also wished to review the letters once more before sending. A draft letter to Governor Paterson, Senator Skelos and Assemblyman Silver from Mr. Bartow and Chairman Vigus on members’ appointments can be found in members’ packets today for review. Chairman Vigus asked members to look the letter over and if everyone is fine with this letter, the letters will be sent out following today’s meeting. Also enclosed in members’ packets is a 2003 letter from Commissioner Schuler to her appointing authority that has been provided as a sample to be used when we send the individual appointing authority letters. If any member would like a similar letter sent to their appointing authority, please let Mrs. Collins know and she will draft such a letter for you. Each commissioner will handle this request on their own. Mr. Bartow will send this material to members not in attendance at today’s meeting. Commissioner Stone asked if the Commission could recommend to our legislators that it may be more suitable to have appointments staggered as opposed to all expiring at the same time. Mr. Bartow said that it was possible. Mr. Talgo suggested we should think about it and then act on it later. A short discussion ensued.

Our next commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at Katie and Karl’s Restaurant in Camden, New York. Since this is not a regular business meeting, Chairman Vigus and Mr. Bartow will mail out budget information to each member in between meetings just to keep everyone up to speed on Commission items.

Attendance

Agenda Approved

Minutes Approved with Corrections

Chairman’s Report

Welcome and Election of Officers Information

Appointment Letters

Next Commission Meeting

Report

The Executive Director's Report followed.

Mr. Bartow informed members that Mickey Dietrich's wife and Kathy Amyot's husband, have each been diagnosed with illnesses. We will keep them both in our thoughts.

OSC Training Session

The Office of the State Comptroller will be offering a fall town budget training session. One of the sessions will be held in Oneida County and the other will be held in Watertown. The Watertown session will be sponsored by the Center for Community Studies.

Local Government Session Ideas

Folks have expressed interest in seeing some tracks at our Local Government Conference on energy, fleet management, municipal concerns and municipal facilities, etc. The advisory committee for the LGC will be meeting next month to discuss these possibilities. Commissioner Stone suggested that energy workshop be longer than a 45 minute session at the Local Government Conference. Commissioner Talgo suggested that the Commission may want to entertain the thought of expanding the LGC to a two-day event. Mr. Bartow explained that this may be too ambitious for the Commission to undertake especially when Jefferson Community College has difficulty with providing services to us for a one day event. Commissioner Schuler then suggested that the Commission stay with the one-day event, but extend the conference into evening sessions. Commissioner Yerdon thought it might be a good idea to have fewer sessions and allocate more time at each one of them.

Home Rule Denied

Parish Sewage Treatment Plant Home Rule message did not pass in the Senate.

Low-Volume Roads

The low-volume roads bill that was proposed last legislative session was passed by the Senate but died in the Assembly Transportation Committee. The bill was supported by the Governor's office.

Northern Forest Meeting

Northern Forest Strategic Economic Initiative meeting was held on July 11th with ESD and ANCA. Will also meet in Albany on August 4 & 5.

Black River Watershed

Black River Watershed will be publishing a newsletter soon. The Memorandum of Understanding for watershed planning has been signed and contracts pending approvals are underway. There will be some stakeholder meetings in August and September.

Sage Nominations

Chairman Vigus thanked Commissioners Chereshnoski, Yerdon, and Schuler for their assistance in pre-screening the 2008 Tug Hill Sage nominations. Sage criteria is currently being developed and a draft was circulated for review by members. Chairman Vigus asked members to examine the nominations submitted and then he opened the floor to discussion. Members assessed the candidates and voted on a slate of nominees. Chairman Vigus asked that Mr. Bartow and Mrs. Collins count the ballots noting that a quorum was established for today's meeting with six members present out of a nine commission board which means that five votes will be necessary to carry a nominee. The slate of nominees was decided upon and the candidates were chosen.

Executive Session

Executive Session followed.

Executive Director's

On a motion made by Mr. Yerdon and seconded by Mr. Talgo, members moved to go into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. for the purpose of discussing litigation in the matter of Blackburn vs. the Tug Hill Commission. Members requested the presence of Mr. Bartow at this session.

Reconvene

At 10:20 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Yerdon and seconded by Mr. Talgo, members moved out of Executive Session and reconvened to the regular portion of the meeting.

Adjourn

There being no public in attendance at today's meeting and no further business before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Stone and seconded by Mr. Yerdon, to adjourn the meeting 10:21 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Yerdon, Sr.
Secretary