

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Leyden, New York

May 15, 2017

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdm. Chereshnoski and Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Maciejko, Yerdon and Talgo. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Passino, and CTHC Circuit Rider Angie Kimball. Guests included Betty Talgo.

Attendance

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Talgo members approved the agenda as presented.

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko, members approved the minutes of January 23, 2017.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked Rosalie White and the town of Leyden for hosting the meeting. He acknowledged the fact that it's been awhile since we last met formally. He publicly acknowledged the passing of Commissioner Vigus. Thank you to staff and commissioners that attended the services for Ken. Ken served the commission for 14 years as well as serving his nation and serving in the Vietnam War as well as being a federal firefighter for many years at Griffiss airbase.

Welcome

Mr. Bogdanowicz has been working with Albany on vacancies within the board and there are currently three pending appointments: Leona's reappointment and two new appointments, from Oswego County, Bill Scriber and from Oneida County, Gerry Ritter. Also looking at Ken's vacancy and checking to see if it can be an at large member and not tied to Oneida County.

Some of the staff and commissioners toured Fort Drum last Monday, amazing to see the changes over the last 25 years and ended the tour with a speech by Major General Piatt.

This year's Local Government Conference was another great success and Mr. Bogdanowicz thanked staff for all the work that goes into pulling this off. The commission is possibly looking at a date change for next year's LGC, more to follow. In your packets are the results from the survey of the LGC.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the commission is in the budget again this year at flat spending levels, and are being required to stay within our cash ceiling. Our budget officer called last week looking for all state agencies to take an additional 5.1% (\$47,000) reduction in cash ceiling. This reduction can't be taken from SRO balance or PS and needs to show as recurring. Per a follow up call to Jonathan Fanning at DOB we are to put this on hold for now, we are also projecting to be over cash on PS by 58K in 2017-18 due to M/C salary increases.

Administration

Mrs. Amyot is retiring in July and we have received five resumes at this time. RACOG asked us to re-advertise and extend the date to June 1st. We have listed the job with several online sites and are not listing in the newspapers this time around.

We are starting to think about the annual meeting in November and where to hold it. Some suggestions that the commissioners had were VFW, (Roger will check into that) and 3G Firehall. Tom had talked with Katie about honoring Ken at the annual dinner so would like to host it somewhere around the Boonville area. Also, talk about whether we would do sages this year or not, have handout in package on past sages and nomination guidelines. Commissioners will further discuss sages at the June meeting.

We are working on getting an intern on board. We interviewed three and the first one we offered it to had already accepted a job, our 2nd choice never replied and 3rd choice had already taken a job elsewhere. However Leif (our intern last summer) had a cousin looking for an internship and we interviewed him on Friday and he has accepted.

Our next meeting is in Deferiet in June.

We are planning a summer field trip on August 21st to the Core Forest, John Constable is helping organize the day. It will also include a guided tour of the new Tug Hill Traverse trail by Bob McNamara.

In your packets is the paper we released on Minimum Maintenance Roads. Also here on display is the map that Mickey put together for Legislative Map Day in Albany last week. The trip to Albany on May 9th included Phil Street, Angie Kimball, Ed Hayes, Terry Thisse, Vince Moore, Doug Leuenberger and Paul Pratt. We did several good meetings, including meeting with assembly transportation committee staff member Julie Barney, and she was engaged and asked a lot of questions. There is six weeks left of session, hopefully we'll see some movement.

Low Volume Roads

A lot happening with wind right now, Deer River PSS will be out in the next day or so and Mad River met towers are not all up yet. We were able to tour Fort Drum last Monday and tour traffic control tower but couldn't see too much of the Maple Ridge wind farm due to the weather. We talked about the radar and how they have to blank out the windmills but in doing so they end up with other blank spots and pickup no aircraft under 3,000 feet. Mrs. Malinowski was back in Albany continuing to participate in the statewide renewable roundtable discussions.

Wind

We are setting up a meeting with Jefferson Community College to talk through all the details of trying to move the LGC to June in 2018.

LGC

The Black River Watershed Conference will be held in Old Forge this year and the conference announcement and registration is a handout in your packets if you'd like to attend.

Black River Watershed Conference

Also enclosed is a handout on the Emerald Ash Borer and the new quarantine areas. We held a workshop in Lee last year and this summer will hold one in Oswego County. There will be a PILOT meeting this Thursday on the East Branch Fish Creek. During conversations with John Constable he asked if we are going to have a working group meeting, if we do it would be held at the end of August/beginning of September.

Emerald Ash Borer

Boylston Justice Court, the senate bill passed; working with Barclay's office on assembly side.

Projects

Barneveld has a public information session set for May 25 regarding potential dissolution, and a referendum June 6th. We met with mayor and clerk to provide information as they prepare. If referendum goes through, they want our assistance in writing their plan; preliminary estimate of their CETC payment once dissolved is \$49,000, their total property tax levy in 2015 was \$7,700.

CFA season is upon us and we are working on lots of grants, parks, snowmobile, salt sheds, etc.

**Commission Counsel
Contract**

CTHC

COG Reports

Boylston: They had their snow and ice contract with Oswego County cancelled at a county committee meeting the end of March. They haven't received anything yet from the legislature explaining why.

Florence: Spoke to the board about the renewal of the IMA for the Cooperative ZBA.

Lewis: The board discussed the findings from the Southern Lewis County Water study and they decided to set up a conference call with the engineers to get more information about going forward with the portion of the plan that dealt with their area.

Montague: Spoke to the board about the renewal of the Cooperative ZBA's IMA.

Osceola: They rescheduled the training on site plan review they had set up for the same night as the meeting to work on their Special Areas map.

Pinckney: Angie attended the meeting with Kay to speak to the board about the renewal of the Cooperative ZBA's IMA. The representatives from Avangrid also attended the meeting to give the Board an update on what was going on with the Deer River wind project. They reported that they anticipated filing their Preliminary Scoping Statement by the end of May.

Redfield: Angie arrived as a representative from their zoning commission reported on their progress to date. The board discussed the work that the county has left to do on two bridges in town. They also discussed the audit of the books that they have to finish.

Turin: Angie attended the meeting with Beth to talk to the board about the renewal of the Cooperative ZBA's IMA. They had several residents in to complain about the maintenance in their road and also about ATVs driving on the roads

West Turin: They discussed the work they will need to do on Cherry St., with the damage mainly done by the studded tracks on the snowmobiles crossing the road. They also discussed the possible purchase of a new furnace at the highway garage.

Misc: Angie spoke to those three towns about the Cooperative ZBA's IMA which needs to be renewed by the end of May, which hopefully should be done with no issues. She also had a conference call about the ANCA Energy Circuit Riders. Finally, CTHC pulled off a great spring meeting (if we discount the music- ARGGH!). She will probably be trying to catch the two remaining village meetings in June.

Osceola is set up with a Special Areas meeting for May and she will tackle Turin and Boylston later this summer. In court news, regarding Boylston's bill there has been some movement through committee on the Senate side, but it hasn't moved on the Assembly side yet. In the Lorraine/Worth situation, we have started a draft study with the information from the Supervisors while waiting for Judge Sheldon to provide the remaining information we need.

In your packets is the 2016-2017 finance report, this is not the final close out. We also have a proposed budget. On a motion made by Commissioner Mike and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko the 2017-18 budget was adopted. Also enclosed is the 2017-18 YTD spending.

Finance Report

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Chereshnoski members adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

**Public Comment
Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Arnie Talgo
Acting Secretary