

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parish, New York

January 28, 2019

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:09 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski, Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Maciejko, Scriber, and Yerdon. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, and Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests included Parish Supervisor Mary Ann Phillips, Parish Planning Board members Paul Gage and Den Paul, Parish Mayor Kathryn Perkins, Pastor Rodney Perkins, Parish Trustee Jacqueline Murphy, West Monroe Supervisor Vern Sundet and Debra Groom, Oswego County Weeklies.

Attendance

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko, members approved the agenda as presented.

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Chereshnoski and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko members approved the minutes of December 10, 2018.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and Introductions were made. He thanked Parish for hosting. Phil Street, Director of Planning will be retiring at the end of this year. He has been a cornerstone in our planning group at the commission and will be missed. Commissioner Ritter, Mrs. Malinowski and he will be in Albany tomorrow to meet with stakeholders at DOS and discuss the upcoming retirement and the need to replace the position. This will bring staff down a total of three people. It has been difficult to get new employees due to revenue. We are looking to get support from the Governor's office for transitioning. We also plan to visiting with Senators Griffo and Ritchie and Assemblyman Blankenbush, to discuss minimum maintenance roads legislation. Assemblyman Magnarelli is now on the chairman of the transportation committee, previously it was Assemblyman Gantt. We will also be taking copies of the Tug Hill book.

Welcome

Commission staff has assisted with several grant applications that were successful. Congratulations to staff and our communities!

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that we are in the budget and received an increase of \$20,000 for personal services. In your packets is a copy of the budget language and DOS statement. We are still listed with 15 employees. We have talked with DOB regarding Mr. Street's retirement and have requested an overlap to enable us to get someone on staff and gain some experience with Mr. Street before he retires. DOB seems supportive of it.

Administration

In your packets is a copy of our white paper We will be delivering it tomorrow in Albany, it's a requirement every 5 years to report. Mrs. Malinowski asked if commissioners have any changes to let her know by 2pm today. Staff is stretched and we would like to be able to hire a new employee. We also are asking for an increase in our dry appropriation. We have the FDRHPO grant and are receiving reimbursements. Robert Sauer suggested using a map in the

white paper so Albany knows where the Tug Hill is. Members agreed a map would be beneficial.

Mrs. Malinowski would like to advocate for improvements for the Tug Hill exhibit at the NYS Museum. She has reached out to the museum, however, no response at this time. Commissioner Scriber suggested getting into I Love NYS. Mrs. Malinowski would like to discuss this in Albany tomorrow.

Phil Street is retiring at the end of the year. We hope to get someone on board to learn from him before his retirement.

Financial disclosures need to be done by commissioners. Due date is May 15, 2019.

In your packets is a chart that shows the impacts of the AIM executive budget proposal for our region. All of our villages would receive no aid, and only four towns in the Tug Hill would receive AIM.

Mrs. Malinowski did an interview with Jay Matteson on the Homegrown show to promote the Tug Hill book. We secured a certificate of authority with tax and finance for us to sell the book at wholesale to area businesses. She asked if commissioners had ideas of business that may be interested in selling the book. Businesses would pay sales tax. Currently Kinney Drugs, Amazon, and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust are selling the book. Local school and community libraries have receive a complimentary copy and circuit riders have copies for municipalities. All our book expenses for this fiscal year have been reimbursed, so any sale money will be deposited in the special revenue account. The state sweeps \$10,000 yearly.

Mrs. Malinowski asked members to think about whether they would like to do sages at this year's annual dinner. A presentation on the landowners survey might be another idea.

Headwaters is underway and we're hoping to have it in mail mid to late February.

The strategic plan needs to be completed by end of the year. Mrs. Malinowski is open to ideas from members. She discussed that other organizations hire consultants for strategic planning, but doesn't feel it is necessary for our organization. Another idea is to have a booth at the Local Government Conference to get input from attendees that could be useful. Commissioner Bogdanowicz volunteered to man the booth.

The COG Chairs meeting for January 24 was cancelled due to weather. A reschedule date is planned.

COG Chairs Meeting

In your packets is a schedule of sessions and registration form for the Local Government Conference. Keynote was to be General Piatt, however, it may be someone else from Fort Drum. Registrations are coming in now. Currently we have two platinum sponsors, GYMO and BCA.

LGC

We continue to push for MMR legislation. Assemblyman Gantt is no longer chairman on the transportation committee. Assemblyman Magnarelli is now chairman. There is not a new bill for discussion as of yet. We continue communications with NYS Association of Towns who are looking at potential revised bill language. In your packets is a new issue paper the commission has put together regarding towns and snowplowing demands. A press release will be sent out for the new issue paper. Mr. Street has a great deal of knowledge that we would like him to share if we get someone on board to work with him before his retirement. Commissioner Yerdon suggested hiring someone to videotape his trainings. Mrs. Malinowski

MMR

shared that Mr. Street is being nominated for the Heissenbuttel Award that would be presented at the NY Planning Federation in April.

We met with JCC regarding the residents and landowners survey, and a grant application submitted by Center for Community Studies last week to Great Lakes Research Consortium. If accepted, there would be no cost to us. We should know in March.

**Residents and
Landowners Survey**

Mrs. Malinowski attended a wildlife management area meeting with town supervisors that have WMAs in their towns. A staffer from Senator Ritchie's office was also present. Currently only the towns of Montague, Lorraine, Redfield and Worth receive tax payments on WMA land. There is discussion of adding additional Tug Hill Towns, Mrs. Malinowski is preparing some calculations for the senator and assemblyman.

**Wildlife Management
Areas**

Mr. Baxter reported he suffered TIA (mini stroke) in September and had a regular stroke last week. Both times required hospitalization. The second stroke effected his left arm and hand. At this time, doctors are not sure what's causing the strokes. He is hoping for a good recovery and will be taking it easy.

COG Report

Mr. Baxter reported that the Parish Supervisor Mary Ann Phillips is doing a great job working on finance records that were left from previous supervisor. OSC also came to assist. Village of Parish is working on water. Town of Constantia is working on water and also looking at wind and solar farm. Constantia and Cleveland have a joint water & sewer meeting.

Vern Sundet, West Monroe Supervisor shared that they are working on the sewer project and hope to get the sewer tank off line soon.

In your packets is the financial report. We are starting to receive money from the FDHRPO grant. \$25,000 will be reimbursed to us for the first year. We will update computers in the office and switch to Windows 10. We would like to replace the RAV4. Its 7 years old with approximately 90,000 miles on it.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Paul Gage, Town of Parish planning board – Thanked the commission for all the assistance received from Mr. Street, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Baxter.

Mary Ann Phillips, Town of Parish supervisor – Thanked Mr. Baxter for his assistance with the financial records for the town.

Commissioner Ritter shared that she and Mrs. Malinowski attended a Legislative Breakfast on January 25 in Rome sponsored by the Genesis Group. Local, federal and state legislators were in attendance.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger
Secretary