

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Cleveland, New York

September 16, 2019

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 10:14 a.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Yerdon, Scriber and Maciejko. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, and NorCOG Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests – Supervisor town of West Monroe - Vern Sundet, Supervisor town of Camden - Richard Norton, Mrs. Norton, village of Cleveland Deputy Mayor – John Scatena.

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Ritter and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of June 17, 2019.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the village of Cleveland for hosting. Introductions were made. The staff retreat in August was at Constableville Hall. Peter Hayes provided a nice presentation of the history of the Constables and their role in the settlement of northern New York. THTLT (Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust) staff joined us for lunch and a tour of the hall. Commission staff did some brainstorming on the strategic plan that included economic development, community development, and training to be of top focus. Mr. Bogdanowicz, Mrs. Chereshnoski, and Mrs. Malinowski met with Assemblyman William Magnarelli last week regarding minimum maintenance roads. Assemblyman Magnarelli is the chair for the assembly transportation committee and his support would be very helpful to move the bill out of committee. Some issues discussed included property taxes and access, and access for emergency services including fire and police. He would like continued communication with us on this, and mentioned a regional bill or pilot bill as potential options. Based on the meeting, Mrs. Malinowski prepared a map of NYS showing towns eligible to designate minimum maintenance roads after the meeting, a copy of which is in your packets. We are also talking to Roger Tibbetts on the assessment/property tax issue. Mrs. Malinowski will follow up with him and stop in when she is in Albany.

Welcome

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's
Report
Administration**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that Alaina Mallette is anxious to start the planner position. We had planned for September 5, however, we are waiting for signed paperwork from DOB. We have reached out, but nothing yet. Mrs. Malinowski will be in Albany Thursday and will stop at DOB for an update if necessary.

The annual dinner meeting is November 7 at the Tug Hill Vineyards. In your packets is a draft of the annual dinner invites, which will be in the mail this week. Speaker for the dinner meeting is Joel Lalone, Research Director at the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College. He will provide an overview of the resident and landowners survey.

Mrs. Malinowski is attending the New York Forestry Stewardship Committee meeting in Albany on Thursday and the ANCA board meeting in Raquette Lake on Friday. Mr. Bartow,

executive director at ESFPA has asked her to speak at the Adirondack Research Consortium in October.

We continue to work on moving forward for support minimum maintenance roads bill, as discussed in the chairman's report. Mrs. Malinowski will follow up with Assemblyman Magnarelli.

MMR

In your packets is the Tug Hill Residents and Landowners Survey final report for 2019. The original survey was done in 2009 and served as a baseline of information. Section 2 on pages 16 and 17 summarizes the differences in 10 years and breaks down the percentages for quality of life, local economy, internet access, energy development, recreational development, economic development and government. 1,000 surveys were completed, approximately 800 year-round and 200 seasonal residents. 47% of respondents were on cells instead of land lines. Mrs. Malinowski will prepare Individual reports for circuit riders that covers each COG area. Copies will also be provided to municipalities.

Tug Hill Resident and Landowner Survey

In your packets is an article by the Watertown Daily Times on the Number Three project. The PSC pushed back on issues with noise level on turbines and recommends Invenergy remodel, as well as install an aircraft lighting detection system. The article provides a good summary. Commissioner Ritter raised some questions regarding solar.

Wind Farm Updates

Roaring Brook is expected to be under construction soon. Fort Drum has signed an agreement with the company, and they are developing a communications and testing plan to ensure contract compliance.

Deer River – Fort Drum met with company representatives on pending evaluation and concerns for their complex regarding Montague radar.

Mad River is quiet. The office in Redfield is closed.

Planning is underway for our Local Government Conference in March 2020.

LGC

Matt Marko has confirmed that the NYS DEC now owns the Cleveland Elementary School and is transitioning maintenance of the building and grounds that will be their new training facility. The Pulaski facility is currently their basic training academy. Operating the academy takes a significant amount of agency resources. After cadets graduate this fall, staff will assess how the facilities will be utilized for future academies and training activities. They will engage with the community as we evaluate options for future use.

Cleveland Update

There has been a minor delay in getting the Cleveland Docks project out to bid due to a technical issue with the steel sheet pile manufacturer. Tentative Schedule: Advertisement of Bid; Monday, October 7th; Bid Opening; Wednesday, November 13th; Anticipated Notice to Proceed Issued (largely dependent on Contract review process by M&B and OSC), February 2020; Substantial Completion; May 30, 2020.

Upcoming meetings and trainings include:

Upcoming Meetings

- CTHC – September 19, The Hideaway
- NOCCOG – September 26, Delta Lake Inn
- EBFC Working Group - October 2, The Alpine
- Wastewater workshop - October 29, Tailwater Lodge
- Minimum maintenance - October 24, Boonville
- Working on newly elected in November/December

Mr. Scatena, Deputy Mayor of Cleveland shared that the village is working on wastewater, and the engineering is moving along as anticipated. The cooperation with Constantia has been very good.

COG Report

Constantia will be meeting with Mr. Johnson from the commission office to work on their comprehensive plan. Parish has concerns about solar.

Vern Sundet, supervisor of West Monroe shared it budget time and the governor claimed 2% of the towns budget, a considerable general fund tax. They will look at sales tax distribution for Oswego County.

Mr. Baxter reported the local governments are adding extra meetings other than the monthly ones to work on projects. Websites are being transitioned to WordPress which is more user friendly for municipalities to use. Parish is working on town funding. Amboy is working on their comprehensive plan. There will be a change in supervisor in Albion as the current supervisor is stepping down. The town budget workshop held in Albion was well attended.

In your packets is the financial report and the appropriation chart showing staff totals. We are well within our budget and have no concerns.

Finance Report

At the CTHC executive meeting recently, a question was raised on what they can do for more staffing budget. Perhaps a letter with their concerns and request for funds? Mr. Boxberger shared that the letter should identify each municipality or perhaps municipalities could do individual letters. Mrs. Ritter shared that commission staff covering meetings take a lot of your day and time away from the office.

RACOG is meeting tomorrow evening and Copenhagen and Castorland are interested in joining, which would be an additional two municipalities for the cog.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Scatena thanked the commission for all the assistance they provide.

Public Comment

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 11:43 a.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger
Secretary