

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Watertown, New York

December 9, 2019

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting 4:06 p.m.

Opened

Commission members included Mdms. Cheresnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Yerdon, Maciejko and Scriber. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, Alaina Mallette; Circuit Riders Angie Kimball, Mickey Dietrich, and Paul Baxter. Guests – Lee Willbanks, Roger Tibbetts, and Associate Circuit Rider Karleigh Stuckey.

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members approved the minutes of October 21, 2019.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed Karleigh Stuckey as the new contractor for CTHC due to Kay Chapman's not renewing her contract. Introductions were made.

Welcome

Phil Street's retirement party will be at Boots Brewing following the meeting. Chairman Bogdanowicz shared that he met Phil in the 1980's while working on comprehensive plan and zoning in Montague. On behalf of the commissioners Chairman Bogdanowicz thanked him for all his 38 years of service with the commission.

Chairman Bogdanowicz has been reappointed by the Governor for another five years.

The annual dinner held last month at the Tug Hill Vineyards was well attended. The Landowners survey results presentation by Joel LaLone from JCC was well done. The results of the survey on the Tug Hill region evaluated quality of life, local economy, internet access, energy development and economic development. We trained over 1,400 people this year, more are seeing value in belonging to a COG.

Heading into new session, we will continue to support our communities with a strong emphasis on circuit riders, continued trainings, marketing, tighten budget, shared office space with state resources.

The 2020 commission meeting calendar is in your packets. With no questions or comments from members, Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for a motion to accept. On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko members approved the 2020 meetings calendar as presented.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported that she completed meetings with legislators. Discussions included our strategic plan, MMR, budget, and increasing our special revenue account. She will be in Albany, Wednesday, December 11, meeting with Barb Rice to discuss strategic plan, vacancies, and economic development. Personnel changes to move Matt Johnson to Grade

Administration

23. We will have three vacancies now with Mr. Street's retirement so she will ask to fill a vacancy, with a grade 14, as we will be under budget. She asked members for thoughts on a position – circuit rider, GIS, community development, natural resources, if we can fill a vacancy. In your packets is a copy of the organization chart and salary chart.

The Watertown Daily Times printed a nice article on the residents and landowners survey. We developed a one-page format for the municipal boards. A NCPR interview with Joel is pending.

At this time, Chairman Bogdanowicz asked for motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter for a particular individual. On a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members voted to go into executive session. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pending termination; process, timing, communications strategy. I would like board consensus.

Executive Session

Senator Griffo would like to modify the bill to become opt-in by county. The AOT and Highway Superintendents Association are not really supportive of this. Mrs. Malinowski is trying to encourage Senator Griffo and Assemblyman Magnarelli to have a conversation. She wonders if adding a permissive referendum would satisfy Assembly Transportation. Counsel Willbanks suggested asking to have it put in the budget for discussion. Commissioners are in favor of that idea.

MMR

We had a meeting combined with Lewis and Jefferson counties to discuss community planning for renewables. In your packets is a draft analysis map that shows potential locations for small and large solar farms. We hope to meet with other counties. We are still working on the map and will share it once finalized.

Renewables

We were successful in providing assistance to Parish for OCWA legislation for the water district.

OCWA

Legislation was introduced to the Senate bill 06873 for the Lorraine-Worth court consolidation. We now wait on the Assembly.

Lorraine/Worth Court Consolidation

The Tug Hill Recreation Guide is almost finished. A draft of the guide was passed around to members.

Tug Hill Recreation

We have videos available of Mr. Streets trainings on our YouTube channel that include Commonly Confused Planning and Zoning topics, Minimum Maintenance Roads, Subdivision/Special Use Permits/Site Review.

Workshops/Training

The Water and Wastewater session held in October at Tailwater was very well attended. We may do this again next year.

Newly elected workshops were well attended. We have new supervisors for Montague, Lorraine, Worth, Albion, Annsville, Rodman, Boonville and Osceola. We will be mailing out a letter and information to them in January.

Our Local Government Conference sessions are set, and we will be sending out the mailing at the end of this month. A copy of sessions in in your packets.

LGC

CTHC - Mrs. Kimball reported there are newly elected officials in five municipalities. Lorraine/Worth shared court consolidation is in the Senate. Pinckney agreed to meet on their special areas mapping. Constableville is dealing with fire department insurance issues. She

COG Report

welcomed Karleigh Stuckey, Associate Circuit Rider who is now on board. Karleigh provided a brief introduction and bio.

RACOG – Mr. Dietrich reported they are waiting to hear on LED lighting grant; three communities are working on complete streets. They are looking into climate smart communities. RACOG is thinking about an economic summit.

NorCOG/SRCG – Mr. Baxter reported a new supervisor was elected for Albion. Constantia and Cleveland working on joint sewer project. West Monroe is meeting Wednesday regarding a new sewer project. Matt Johnson been work with Constantia on comprehensive planning.

In your packets is the financial report. Everything is looking good. We purchased new computers to go with Windows 10, which may make that line slightly over what we had budgeted. We are waiting for NOCCOG to pay their contribution toward the survey. Currently we are under budget.

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Commissioner Scriber thanks Mr. Johnson for a job well done on the Parish moratorium. Commissioner Boxberger thanked Mr. Street and Ms. Mallette for attending the town of Watertown board meeting.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski members adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger
Secretary