

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Amboy, New York

January 27, 2020

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

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdms. Cheresnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Maciejko and Scriber. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, and Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests – Lee Willbanks, Town of Amboy – Supervisor Kathleen Wilkinson, Tim Kelley, Beverly Levreault, Dave Marzolf; Town of Albion – Supervisor Mike Faulkner; Town of Parish- Supervisor Mary Ann Phillips; Village of Parish – Mayor Kathy Perkins, Jackie Murphy; Town of Constantia – Supervisor Ken Mosley.

**Attendance**

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

**Agenda Approved**

On a motion made by Commissioner Cheresnoski and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members approved the minutes of December 9, 2019.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked the town of Amboy for hosting. Introductions were made. We are in the proposed budget, no increase in SRO, still showing 15 FTEs on the books.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Boxberger will go into another round of treatments for lymphoma that has come back. He is hopeful to be at the March meeting.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's  
Report  
Administration**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that Mr. Street is now retired, and we are working on Mr. Johnson's grade increase. The paperwork has been submitted to Albany to budget and appointments. Mr. Johnson working into his new role and Ms. Mallette is stepping up. We have room in the budget for another Grade 14. Mrs. Malinowski will be in Albany next week to meet on this.

In your packets is a NOCCOG job description handout. We are advertising for NOCCOG circuit rider position to fill the vacancy due the dismissal of Ms. Armstrong-Symonds last month. Advertisements are in the Queen Central, Boonville Herald, Rome Sentinel and online. Mrs. Waterbury is working with staff to cover meetings during the vacancy. Mrs. Kimball had a bad fall and has a broken femur and had surgery. She is immobile now and unable to drive. Staff are working to help with meeting coverage.

We are trying again this year to get approval to replace the RAV4, as we were unsuccessful last year. Painting is being done and new carpet installed to part of the office.

An extensive fire last week destroyed Boonville's Main Street. Mr. Johnson is meeting with them about rebuilding and will look at their zoning and provide assistance. There was a successful fundraiser last weekend.

In your packets is the Community Recognition Award draft. We included this in the new commission strategic plan and Ms. Mallette and Mr. Baxter have researched. There are a number of categories. A possible timeline for nominations could be in by June, selection in August, and award in November.

**Community  
Recognition Award**

We have not nominated any new Tug Hill Sages for some time, this would allow us to do something different. Mrs. Malinowski asked members to review and give feedback. A discussion took place with members. Chairman Bogdanowicz suggested putting in the Tug Hill Times. Mrs. Malinowski would have circuit riders to it share in communities. Chairman Bogdanowicz thinks COG involvement is important. It may be difficult for communities to get all three categories for nominations. Some communities have more resources than others so we may need to crank it down. Chairman Bogdanowicz suggested the Supercog meeting may be a good time to discuss. He asked members to review the draft and bring thoughts to the next meeting.

An updated Local Government Services brochure is in your packets. It is now a 4-fold format that includes the staff listing. In the past it was a 3-fold and the staff listing was included separately as an insert. We can print these in house.

**Local Government  
Services Brochure**

Headwaters is in progress. We hope to have it done by end of February.

**Headwaters**

In your packets is the schedule for the Local Government Conference. Registrations are coming in. We are working to confirm a keynote speaker. Commissioner Scriber suggested reaching out to Robert Simpson or Andrew Fish at Centerstate CEO. Mrs. Malinowski talked to Steve Hunt, Regional Director, NYSEDC about trying to get someone from Governor's office, but its bad timing.

**Local Government  
Conference**

We are waiting to hear the outcome of a meeting that Assemblyman Barclay is organized with Assemblyman Magnarelli. There has been no modified bill submitted by Senator Griffo to date.

**MMR**

Solar continues to be an important topic. We are working on a comprehensive issue paper that will be completed by February 14 and Mrs. Malinowski will be presenting it at Jefferson County farmers luncheon. There is a lot of discussion in Jefferson and Lewis County. Commissioner Ritter shared a public meeting will be held in Forestport by Apex Energy on February 19 on the proposed solar project that would be in the towns of Forestport and Boonville.

**Solar**

Legislation was introduced to the Senate bill (S6873/A9052) for the Lorraine-Worth court consolidation.

**Lorraine/Worth Court  
Consolidation**

In your packets is the completed Tug Hill Recreation Guide. This was a collaboration with all four-county tourism and promotion agencies, the land trust, and the commission. Mapswill also be downloadable and usable on cell phones. These will go in the LGC folders for the conference attendees.

**Tug Hill Recreation**

ACUB was proposed again in the Governor's budget at \$1 million. THTLT did a tour this past weekend.

**ACUB**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County reached out to us about a grant opportunity with them. The Complete Streets grant project with FDRLO will be done end of this month.

**Complete Streets**

## **COG Report**

NorCOG/SRCG – Mr. Baxter introduced Albion Supervisor Mike Faulkner who spoke about Solar issues. An \$8.2 million project with a 25-year PILOT has been proposed by the town of Richland who owns 35 acres of land in Albion. There was a public meeting in January 14 and on January 15 they voted to move forward. Albion didn't find out about the meeting until that December 28. Communication hasn't been good. There was no planning or zoning board. Commissioner Scriber recommended having a planning board for this is very important.

Amboy Supervisor Kathleen Wilkinson shared the solar moratorium has gone back to the planning board as there were concerns on what level the moratorium will impact agriculture. They are trying to be cautious and want to tone it down. The town received a justice court grant and will be getting new lighting and air, along with other upgrades this spring.

Parish Supervisor Maryann Phillips shared the planning board is working on moratorium that passed, and is also working on solar and updating zoning.

Mr. Baxter reported that Supervisor Phillips was so inspired by the speaker at the Water/Wastewater workshop the commission provided in Albion in October that she contacted the speaker to come and talk to the town of Parish.

Parish Mayor Kathryn Perkins shared they are dealing with cell service issues. A company is looking to build a new tower. The village of Parish has a law that regulates cell towers. There are a few issues with the wastewater plant that will be in need of upgrades.

Constantia supervisor Ken Mosley shared the town is working on a moratorium on solar power. He will share that with Supervisor Faulkner. The town was waiting for \$10 million funding for \$40 million sewer project, but now they will wait till next year due to a water improvement grant that DEC has required them to submit.

Mr. Baxter reported that Cleveland received \$1 million to repair the old Cleveland dock. West Monroe is working on sewer services.

Oswego County provided a presentation of their shared services plan. Communities can get funds to work together. There may be complications getting the funds.

In your packets is the financial report. We are in good shape this year. The report doesn't reflect payouts with Mr. Street retiring and Ms. Armstrong-Symonds departure. The NOCCOG circuit rider position that is currently vacant is a grade 18, we are proposing to fill it at a Grade 14.

## **Finance Report**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

## **Public Comment**

Commissioner Ritter shared the planning board is working on a moratorium the Forestport and Boonville properties that are in the proposed solar project.

NOCCOG is looking into coming up with criteria for a drone program.

Commissioner Cheresnoski shared we have vacancies for members. We need one in any county and one in Oneida County.

Tim Kelley, town of Amboy shared that Frontier Communications plans on filing bankruptcy. This could impact Amboy.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Maciejko and seconded by Commissioner Ritter members adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

**Adjourn**

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary