

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 18, 2022

Village of Sylvan Beach Municipal Building, 808 Marina Dr., Sylvan Beach, NY 13157

Via Zoom – us02web.zoom.us/j/84107437842 Meeting ID: 841 0743 7842

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Yerdon, Boxberger, Maciejko, Scriber, and Mdm. Chereshnoski and Ritter. Staff included Katie Malinowski; Circuit Riders Angie Kimball, John Healt and Paul Baxter. Guests - Tim Kelley, town of Amboy, Lee Willbanks, counsel.

Attendance

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

Agenda Approved

On a motion made by Commissioner Maciejko and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of March 21, 2022.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sylvan Beach for hosting the meeting. He noted that the Local Government Conference is tomorrow at Turning Stone with approximately 600 attending and we are hoping the weather holds off as a winter storm has been forecast. There are some COVID spikes in the area and we hope those attending will follow good hygiene practices such as masks as desired and spacing.

Welcome

Details are still forthcoming on the new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government to replace the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE). Reminder to members that Financial Disclosure Statements are due in mid-May.

Changes in Open Meetings Law in budget are still being broke down. We may need to take some action if we want to continue to offer board members limited access via remote means. He suggested Mrs. Malinowski reach out to Kayla Bogdanowicz who has taken an in depth look at the budget for details. Mrs. Malinowski commented there is also a presentation tomorrow by the Committee on Open Government on Open Meetings Law.

The board discussed a possible May meeting for a resolution to allow for remote meeting of members due to Open Meeting Law changes. A tentative date was set for May 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Turin Town and Village Hall. On a motion made by Commission Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members voted to hold a meeting on May 16.

Mrs. Malinowski's evaluation will take place at the close of the meeting.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported remote meetings are extended to June 8, 2022, then the Open Meetings Law changes will take effect.

Administration

Headwaters was published and distributed. A copy was provided to members.

The commission is in the 2022-23 budget at the same levels in governor, assembly, and senate proposals. The budget passed a few days late and she is still reviewing it. ACUB was funded at \$1 million again.

Community Recognition Awards nominations are open through June 1, 2022.

We received three resumes from the second advertisement for the planner position. A remote interview was done with one of the candidates. A follow up in-person meeting with the candidate is planned in a few weeks once he graduates from college.

Neither the Governor nor Secretary of State will be attending tomorrow. DOS will be providing a consultation center. We are expecting Assemblyman Blankenbush, Logan Eddy (Senator Ritchie staffer), and Mary Jo Richards (Congresswoman Stefanik staffer) to be in attendance. A handout of sessions was provided to members. Mrs. Malinowski noted that members should look at the new and improved THC display. The board discussed the new location and asked for feedback on the workload and any changes with the new venue. Mrs. Malinowski shared some differences and that the survey results from attendees will be key on deciding on a direction next year.

LGC

We will be forging ahead with MMR later this week with a list of Assembly majority members to reach out to again now that the budget is done. She has a list of appointments with legislators in the coming weeks and will be trying to get some more majority members to sign the bill. We will be pushing this now and anticipates that issues may remain with getting at the objections from the Assembly Transportation Committee's staff.

MMR

Mrs. Malinowski pointed out the Utica Observer Dispatch article on broadband in the board packets, and that we are continuing conversations with MVEDD and Oswego counties. DANC is working with Jefferson and Lewis County on solutions. We are working with Oswego and Oneida County and partners on the issue.

Broadband

The RACOG Economici Visioning Summit will be held on April 28.

Upcoming Events

CTHC Spring Dinner will be held May 19 at the Steak and Brew in Turin.

Civilian Conservation Corps webinar will be May 21.

Black River Watershed Conference will be June 8, the cost is \$30.

The board discussed the Snirt run and issues including law enforcement, mass gathering concerns, and road damage.

NOCCOG – Mr. Healt reported a new director has been appointed to the executive board, Tom McDonald, new town of Remsen Supervisor. The Local Government Education Committee (LGEC) has been disbanded. The Mohawk Valley Economic Development District has created a new subcommittee to take the place of the LGEC and have some new volunteers to help with training ideas and sessions. He spoke briefly about broadband and that Oneida County's Executive Anthony Picente in his "State of the County" address mentioned that he was including \$20 million for broadband expansion/improvement efforts. NOCCOG is updating their website. The NOCCOG executive board is considering the possibility of a drone purchase. He discussed information from Ben Simons from Steuben/Oneida Co. Association of Towns about expansions at Griffis and that there are 250 shovel ready acres which will bring new companies/subcontractors to the region. Ben recommended that the towns and villages look at their subdivision and zoning laws to make

COG Reports

sure they are adequate to be ready for possible population expansions in the area. John will be working on getting the word out to his communities.

The 2021-22 financial statement to date was provided, with an end-of-year report close to being finalized.

Finance Report

The 2022-23 proposed budget was reviewed. Included in personal services are the expected steps, longevity payments, and a possible raise, if the MC's follow the PEF contracts. Other specific items for the board's action are:

- Extend Mr. Petrie's contract – A motion was made by Commissioner Yerdon and seconded by Commissioner Boxberger to extend Laird's contract to March 31, 2023. Motion carried.
- Renew Mr. Willbanks contract at higher amount – The board discussed the current level of Lee's contract and the proposed increase in the retainer amount. A motion was made by Commission Scriber and seconded by Commission Yerdon to approve the contract with Mr. Willbanks for legal services at the amount of \$4,500. Motion carried.
- Black River Cultural Resources Survey – Mrs. Malinowski discussed the project and proposed contributing to match this project with the town of Lowville being the grant applicant. A motion was made by Commission Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Scriber to allocate \$4,000 in the budget to the Black River Cultural Resources Survey project. Motion carried.
- RAV – Needs ~\$2000 in repairs and has almost 111K miles and is 11 years old. Would like to replace with similar hybrid. The board discussed replacing the RAV and prefer purchasing a new vehicle over leasing. They discussed vehicles/dealerships on state contract and Mrs. Malinowski's proposed budget for the expense. A motion was made by Commission Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon to put \$45,000 in the budget category to purchase a new hybrid vehicle from an approved dealership offering state bid pricing. Motion carried.

Following the amendments listed above to the proposed 2022-2023 budget a motion was made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon to approve the budget as amended. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Mrs. Kimball reported that CTHC has contracted with a new circuit rider, Kelley Martin from Watson.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Maciejko members adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary