

TUG HILL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 20, 2022

Carthage Municipal Building, 120 South Mechanic St., Carthage, NY 13619

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Opened

Commission members included Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Yerdon, Maciejko, and Mdm. Cheresnoski. Staff included Katie Malinowski, Gwen Decker, and Mickey Dietrich. Guests – Pete Cheresnoski and Lee Willbanks, counsel.

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 Boxberger members approved the minutes of June 21, 2022.

Minutes Approved

Chairman's report followed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and thanked Carthage for hosting today's meeting. Introductions were made.

Welcome

Due to the cancellation of September's meeting, we are a month behind on a nominating committee for a slate of officers. After a discussion with clarification from Counsel Willbanks, Chair Bogdanowicz appointed a nominating committee of the whole, so we can be compliant with the requirements of our bylaws and be able to vote at the December meeting.

Commissioner Boxberger suggested the following slate of officers: Jan Bogdanowicz – Chair, Mike Yerdon – Vice Chair, Tom Boxberger – Secretary.

On a motion made by Commissioner Maciejko and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski members approved the slate of officers as presented.

Chair Bogdanowicz would also like to get more interest for new commissioners.

We look forward to our annual dinner at Zero Dock Street following today's meeting.

Executive Director's report followed.

Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Malinowski reported our new planner Matthew Smith, from Glens Falls, started work in August and is doing well. Alaina Mallette returned from maternity leave in August, however, left at the end of September for a position in NC and to be closer to family. We are advertising for a planner/senior planner position to fill the vacancy (handout). Gabriel Yerdon has accepted the project specialist position. He has natural resources background and good references. He will begin November 10.

Administration

A new RAV 4 hybrid has been ordered, with a cost of \$29,000. Expected delivery is February 2023. The current RAV will be taken off road by November 1. We are working through the state surplus process for that. We will be down to one vehicle, using the Fusion for the winter.

Currently, we have two copiers with leases expiring. The state now requires equipment to be purchased, not leased. We have received responses to a RFQ for a copier purchase on state contract and are reviewing our options. Once the leases expire and the purchase takes place, we will have one copier instead of two. The cost of a new copier is approximately \$7,000.

Mrs. Malinowski informed members that she will be attending the Installation Innovations Conference in Phoenix, AZ from October 31-November 2 for the Advocate Drum executive committee she serves on. They have asked her to attend as no one else from Fort Drum is able to attend. They are covering travel costs. She has checked with Mr. Willbanks to ensure that we are following ethics laws.

The contract for Turning Stone has been approved by OSC. We were made aware when the cost of the 2022 LGC came in over \$50,000, that pre-approval on such an amount is required. Planning for the conference is underway and sessions for the day of April 6 will be finalized hopefully by November 11. Something different for 2023, we are offering sessions the afternoon of April 5, and holding the reception that evening instead of having at the end of day of full sessions as done in previous years. (handouts)

LGC

THC 50th anniversary ideas include a logo design that Bob McNamara worked on to come up with two options (handout). Members all liked the same logo. We have reached out to Tug Hill Roasters about a special label on their coffee. The label would include our name but not our logo to avoid the appearance of product endorsement. We would purchase enough bags of coffee for speakers' gifts at 2023 LGC. Also, a commemorative poster contest could be done. Commission Boxberger suggested putting the contest out to schools. There is an App called Memento where videos can be uploaded and shared about the commission over the years. We are also working with WPBS TV on a documentary. We are hoping to secure the secretary of state to be speaker at our 50th anniversary. We also would like to have past executive directors of the commission speak.

THC 50th Anniversary

ReEnergy is coming to the end of their energy supply contract at Fort Drum but would like to extend the contract but are running into issues due to renewable energy definitions and the Climate Act. Last month a meeting was held in Lewis County. There were many loggers in attendance that help to supply wood to ReEnergy.

Renewable Energy

Staff worked with three Tug Hill communities on NY Forward applications: Trenton, Parish, and Boonville. Parish went to CNY Economic Development and presented to REDC. Cleveland, Constantia, and Lyons Falls also submitted paperwork. Lyons Falls submitted through Lewis County.

NY Forward

Ms. Fowler worked on a Restore NY grant submission for \$15 million for the former St. Regis Papermill demolition in Deferiet. NYSERDA is looking at the property for a potential Build Ready solar site, and a Brownfield Opportunity Area planning process will soon start for the area as well.

Restore NY

We are keeping an eye on the upcoming Micron computer chip plant coming to Clay (handout). This is a big deal for our area and will bring more jobs.

Micron

Laird Petrie will present a Budget and Accounting training on November 29 and 30 at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar (handout). There is cap of 50 slots and currently 14 are sold.

Budget Training

Mr. Smith created a zoning map of the Tug Hill towns (handout). There are only five towns in the region that don't have zoning.

Zoning Map

The census chart (handout) is broken out by our Council of Governments and shows population over a 20-year period.

Census Chart

SUNY Oswego's Lake Effect Electrification (LEE) project is taking off, and will involve both sensors and weather balloons. We are assisting in finding locations for the sensors, and will help with logistics in retrieving weather balloons.

Lake Effect Snow

RACOG - Mr. Dietrich reported the town of Croghan join RACOG. There are now 11 municipalities. A promotional video was done by CGI. LED lighting is almost finished. A meeting with municipalities is planned about maintenance. Next week a company will talk at the board meeting about solar radar signs. Seven communities are interested. Economic Visioning Summit has done a survey and will be working on future efforts.

COG Report

The 2021-2022 end of year financial statement shows we were under budget and spent just 85% of our allocation. The 2022-2023 current month financial statement shows we are on target. We expended 53% on salaries, including cost of living increases and performance advances. We will go over on IT with the new company ACC and having to make a lot of changes. The Black River Cultural Resources Survey, to which the commission allocated \$4000 grant application was not funded. (handouts)

Finance Report

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Cheresnoski members adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Adjourn

These minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Tom Boxberger

Secretary