

# TUG HILL COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING West Monroe, New York January 22, 2018

Chairman Bogdanowicz opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

**Opened**

Commission members included Mdms. Chereshnoski and Ritter, Messrs. Bogdanowicz, Boxberger, Scriber and Yerdon. Staff included Mrs. Malinowski, Mrs. Decker, and NorCOG/SRCG Circuit Rider Paul Baxter. Guests were commission counsel Lee Wilbanks, West Monroe Supervisor Vern Sundet and West Monroe Town Clerk Cortney Rhinehardt, Constantia Supervisor Ken Mosley, NorCOG Chair Richard Colesante, and Ken Parrott.

**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 Scriber and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members approved the minutes of December 11, 2017.

**Minutes Approved**

Chairman's report followed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bogdanowicz welcomed everyone and introductions were made. He thanked West Monroe for hosting. We have lost a commissioner with the passing of Arnie Talgo earlier this month. His approach to government and community service was no non-sense. He served as chair from 2002-2006 for the commission, and served 23 years on the NOCCOG executive committee.

**Welcome**

We have been included in the Governor's proposed budget for 2018-19 at the same funding levels as this year. Congratulations to staff and our communities for a very successful grant award season this year.

Executive Director's report followed.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mrs. Malinowski reported that the commission is in the Governor's budget with levels the same as last year. A handout of the executive budget is in your packet. We continue to live within the cash ceiling, although we will exceed our cash ceiling this year with Mrs. Amyot's payout, step increases and cost of living increases.

**Administration**

In your packets is a copy of the EFFI proposal prepared by John Bartow, ESFPA executive director that was included in Governor Cuomo's draft budget released last week. The proposal calls for amendments for 480 and 480a and a new section 480b. It includes a community forest grant program. There is other information in the initiative that needs reviewing. If passed this would go into effect in 2019.

**Empire Forest Future Initiative**

Mrs. Malinowski will attend Fort Drum day in Albany on February 6, which is earlier than typical, but allows General Piatt, the new commanding general of Fort Drum, to attend before he is deployed to the Middle East.

**Fort Drum Day**

We had a successful CFA grant season. In your packets is copy of the front page of the December 15, 2107 Tug Hill Times that lists the funded CFAs that we assisted with. On the

**CFAs**

back is a spreadsheet that tracks grants that the commission has worked on from 2006 to 2017. Also in your packets is a 2017 training events worksheet, tracking last year training, as well as year to date training information from 2010 to 2017.

The contract is signed with Pyramid Publishing and the manuscript sent to them this week. The book will be ready for the annual meeting in November.

**Tug Hill Book**

The Conservationist magazine will do an article about the commission in their fall issue, and will also highlight the new book. Mrs. Malinowski suggested a remembrance for Arnie Talgo. Mrs. Ritter offered to assist in planning.

**45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Local Leaders Survey is scheduled to go out April/May 2018. We will need to meet and review the survey for any updating that is necessary.

**Local Leaders Survey**

Headwaters progress continues. We hope to have it mailed by mid-February.

**Headwaters**

Apparel samples have been brought today for you to look at. If you interested please let us know.

**Apparel**

In your packet is a handout of the LGC registration flyer and registration form both are available on our website. The \$50 deadline is March 8. After March 9 the cost is \$100 and event day \$150 at the door. We are trying to get people registered before event day. This year JCC wants to bid on catering, they are higher than our other vendor, however, they have first right of refusal in the contract. We are working with them to get the catering finalized. Lee Wilbanks is in attendance today to advise us with the contract details. Platinum sponsors include GYMO, BCA, C2AE and DANC who are also providing tote bags.

**Local Government Conference**

Several statewide organizations including NYS Snowmobile Association, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, NYS Association of Highway Superintendents, and NYS Association Of Towns are trying to move this bill forward. If MMR went away it would greatly effect snowmobile trails. Mr. Street found a bill from 1989 that Assemblyman Gantt sponsored. Assemblywomen Gunther, the bill's assembly sponsor, is no longer on the transportation committee.

**Minimum Maintenance Roads**

The Black River Watershed conference is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12 at Camp Turck. In your packets is a post card on the event. Keynote speaker will be Meteorologist David Eichorn. He will speak on changing weather patterns.

**Black River**

Number 3 Wind full application has been filed. The TLTLT has filed comments with the PSC on the Mad River Preliminary Scoping Statement. THTLT also issued a press release, both are in your packets. We will continue to monitor the wind projects. Also, in your packets is an article regarding a bill introduced by Assemblywoman Jenne to ban subsidizing wind energy projects near Fort Drum. We will keep track to see where it goes.

**Wind**

In your packets is a handout of a spreadsheet we use as a tool to track goals and strategies that municipalities have adopted in comprehensive plans. We categorize them to be more efficient and to allow us to sort when grant opportunities, etc. arise. We also use for it for workshop identification. This is just one page of 15 that we currently have.

**Comp Plan List**

A discussion took place with members and Mr. Wilbanks, counsel for the Commission, regarding the JCC catering contract. He stated the contract is clear and suggests negotiating with them and emphasizing pricing. Commissioner Scriber suggests included the importance on getting people through the lunch line in 30 minutes. JCC's first bid submission was in the

**Catering Discussion**

\$60,000 and the second it has come down more in \$30,000 range, which is still more than the other caterer. Mr. Wilbanks suggests redoing the contract for next year. Brainstorm and come up with what should be in the contract. Mrs. Malinowski will reach out to the new president at JCC, Dr. Stone and try to schedule an introductory meeting with her. Commissioner Bogdanowicz was in favor of a meeting the new president.

Mr. Baxter, NorCOG Circuit rider reported:

## **COG Reports**

NorCog will meet later this week. There is discussion about getting an associate circuit rider for NorCog/SRCG to provide assistance in attending meetings. Village of Cleveland finished a canal application. The docks have been deteriorating and are unsafe. Central Square has heard no news about the race track in sometime. They may be having money issues. Super Dirt week will be at Oswego Speedway again in 2018. Albion is trying to put in a water system, they have done a survey. The town and village of Parish are working on water. Amboy is updating their comprehensive plan.

Mr. Colesante stated they are working on joint projects in Constantia, with the new water district to be under construction shortly. Sewer is a real issue, something needs to be done, and even with a grant it would be very expensive. They did a one question survey on sewer and got 46% return. He will push for a sub survey to try for the 54% that didn't return the first survey.

Mr. Sundet stated the West Monroe sewer project is in progress. The comprehensive plan and zoning need to be updated. The goal is to have it done with year with the assistance of the commission. Grant administration is always a challenge. As a town we are doing well financially.

In your packets is the finance report for 2017-18. Personal services may be over as we get closer to the end of the fiscal year. All COGs will be paying mileage for circuit riders starting April 1. Payment to Mrs. Machia for the first half of the book is not showing on the budget yet. Northern New York Community Foundation is interested in assisting with the book cost. We are trying to stay below the cash ceiling. We hope to be able to use LGC funds as much as possible to refund our appropriation, and not leave money in the special revenue.

## **Finance Report**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz opened the floor for public comment.

## **Public Comment**

Commissioner Bogdanowicz stated he is working on Mrs. Malinowski's appraisal and he would get the information from Commissioners Ritter and Yerdon.

There being no further business before the board, on a motion made by Commissioner Boxberger and seconded by Commissioner Yerdon members adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

## **Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Boxberger  
Secretary