

Member Communities

Towns of

Adams
Boylston
Florence
Harrisburg
Lewis
Leyden
Lorraine
Martinsburg
Montague
Osceola
Pinckney
Redfield

Rodman
Turin
West Turin
Williamstown
Worth

Villages of

Adams
Constableville
Lyons Falls
Port Leyden
Turin



Executive Committee

ROGER TIBBETTS, *Chair*
DOUGLAS DIETRICH, *Vice Chair*
CARLA BAUER, *Secretary*
IAN KLINGBAIL, *Director*
STEPHEN BERNAT, *Director*
PAULETTE WALKER, *Director*
FRAN YERDON, *Director*

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CTHC Fall Dinner Meeting Minutes 09/21/2023

The meeting was called to order following dinner at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman R. Tibbetts. Roll Call of Towns showed 13 towns and no villages in attendance for the meeting with representatives from Boylston, Harrisburg, Lewis, Leyden, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, Pinckney, Redfield, Rodman, Turin, West Turin and Worth present. Also present as guests were two Tug Hill Commissioners, four members of the Tug Hill staff, and 12 other guests for a total attendance of 41 people. Introductions of attendees followed roll call was completed and then a break was then taken for dinner and the meeting was reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from April 27, 2023, were reviewed (see attached). A motion was made by C. Bauer (Redfield) and seconded by F. Yerdon (Osceola) to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

Reports: Financial Report – A copy of the Financial Report as of August 31, 2023, was presented by Chairman R. Tibbetts (Rodman) for review by members (see attached). Year-to-Date Carryover: \$37,916.56; Receipts to Date: \$11,080.25; Distributions to Date: \$11,897.52; Current Net Funds Available: \$37,099.29. Following review, a motion was made by P. Walker (Boylston) and seconded by T. Thisse (Martinsburg) to accept the report as presented. All were in favor. The proposed dues structure through 2028 was also presented for review by members (see attached).

Discuss and Approve the 2024 Budget: The proposed 2024 budget was presented by Chairman R. Tibbetts (Rodman) (see attached). The budget was proposed to stay the same as last year. Chairman Tibbetts (Rodman) felt that the expense lines were adequate as they were and that it would be easier to judge revenues from the interest from the money invested with NY CLASS following this year. A motion was made by D. Dietrich (Martinsburg) and seconded by L. Wojnowski (Turin) to accept the budget as presented. All were in favor.

Speaker: Candy Akin, the Director of Real Property Services for Lewis County spoke to the attendees about the services they provide for the municipalities in the county. They assist assessors to file the tax rolls and make any changes, as well as printing and distributing the rolls and making their filing with the state. They file the assessor's monthly sales reports, enter these into the database and pin the sales with GIS. During a property revaluation they work with the local assessor to do costs and comparable property comparisons and they print any change notices and any other paperwork which results. They maintain the exemption database and monitor and update the STAR

exemptions. They deal with special franchise, agricultural land and forest tax exemption valuation and PILOT agreements and division of values to the affected municipalities. They also enter building permit data and cover the costs of the real property software the assessors use. In this year's budget request, they are asking for increased staff to be able to hire data collectors to be available to help the local assessors. A question was asked about the new RPTL 575b valuation method for renewable energy projects and she reported that the county didn't change any of the existing PILOT arrangements as they anticipate lawsuits coming which may change the law.

Tug Hill Commission topics: K. Malinowski (THC) reported on the following subjects:

Local Leader's Survey – They sent out 381 surveys and had a 55% return rate. She presented a copy of the results to the attendees for review (see attached). They are sharing the results with the COG memberships now and then the report on the results will be sent to many members of the state government as required by the Commission's enabling legislation.

Draft Outside Region Policy Revision – She provided a copy of a new draft policy for how to deal with communities which are outside the legislatively designated Tug Hill boundary (see attached). The policy hasn't been updated in many years and with several requests for service already and more expected the Commissioners felt it was time to update the policy.

Legislative Updates – The statewide minimum maintenance roads bill didn't get out of Assembly Transportation Committee again. The Lorraine specific bill passed both houses of the legislature and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. She has been talking to the Governor's counsel about the bill and trying to provide information and allay concerns so the bill will be called up. Letters of support are being sent at various times to keep the bill on the radar. If it is not signed by the end of the year, it will have to be re-approved.

Planning Updates - Katie read an update from M. Johnson (THC Planning Director) on the planning work going on in the CTHC. The next on the list for mini plan approval is Pinckney; zoning work is going on in Martinsburg, Worth, Osceola, and Florence; working on a comp plan in Rodman. She also reported on the soil maps that M. Smith (THC) had done for each of the Tug Hill towns to help with siting renewable energy project.

Old Business: Any old business - None

New Business: a) **Expansion of the Cooperative ZBA** – A. Kimball (CR) explained that there has been interest from several more communities to join the Cooperative ZBA. She and M. Johnson (THC) are looking at options to increase the size of the ZBA or more likely split the board into two different boards. Either option will include new IMAs, and she will be reaching out to the affected towns as they hammer out the best solutions.

b) **Vacancies in Elected and Appointed Offices** – F. Yerdon (Osceola) spoke about the increased number of vacancies in elected and appointed offices. The pay for most of these positions is low. Many young families have both people already working full-time and that means increasing issues getting people to serve in many of these offices and the new calendar for petitions and elections has made things even worse. Boards need to try and get the word out about what positions are open. No one had any other suggestions for how to increase participation in government.

Any other new business - None

Supervisor's and Mayor's Topics: None

With no other business before the Council, a motion was made at 8:21 pm by R. Tibbetts (Rodman) and seconded by F. Yerdon (Osceola) to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.