

**Minutes of Meeting
North Shore Council of Governments
Friday, November 13, 2020, 3:30 p.m.
Constantia Town Hall
14 Frederick Street
Constantia, New York**

Attending:

Constantia: Richard Colesante, Tom Moran

West Monroe: Vern Sundet

NorCOG staff: Paul M. Baxter

Tug Hill Commission: Katie Malinowski, Matt Johnson

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. and attendees were introduced.

Financial: NorCOG fiscal agent Vern Sundet presented a report of fund balances and 2020 transactions to date. Thus far, the transfer of certain expenses covered via contract with the Tug Hill Commission and now being paid directly by NorCOG has been cost-effective.

Discussion followed on possible future uses for NorCOG fund balance. There are outstanding expenses pending reimbursement. NorCOG will be paying for a contractor to assist the NorCOG circuit rider in meeting coverage. In the past, funds have been used to assist the Tug Hill Commission with regional surveys and the additional expense of breaking survey results down to subregional (COG-level) detail. NorCOG also funded the North Shore Design Project. Katie mentioned the Complete Streets program conducted in other parts of Tug Hill. Other annual expenses include co-sponsorship of the Tug Hill Local Government Conference, and domain name registration and web site hosting for NorCOG and member municipalities opting to utilize that additional service offered by the COG.

Discussion continued regarding certain specific upcoming expenses, including transition of circuit rider cell phone expenses to NorCOG and Salmon Rivers; replacement of the circuit rider's 2009 laptop; and purchase of a color laser printer. These would also be joint North Shore/Salmon Rivers expenses.

There was also discussion of Hastings as a NorCOG member. Hastings was a member of NorCOG's preceding organization, the North Shore Cooperative Planning Board, and NorCOG has since periodically contacted Hastings on any potential interest in joining the current group.

At the time NorCOG began establishing web sites for the COG and member towns and villages, NorCOG reserved townofhastings-ny.us should Hastings join NorCOG in the future. As this has not happened as of yet, the group decided to discontinue payment maintaining ownership of that domain name. Since, in the past, such abandoned domain names have been subsequently purchased and put to uses the municipality might wish not to see, Vern offered to reach out to Hastings supervisor Tony Bush regarding any current interest in joining NorCOG, and absent their action to join, any interest in a transfer of the townofhastings-ny.us domain name to their ownership to avoid any future use inimical to Hasting's interest.

Election of officers: The current officers were re-elected.

Report from Tug Hill: Tug Hill Executive Director Katie Malinowski reported on the commission's efforts to deal with COVID-19 and assistance to Tug Hill communities to adapt to current needs and requirements. These have included remote training sessions, remotely conducted meetings and hybrid meetings with limited in-person attendance. The 2020 Local Government Conference had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

Old Business: Covered under Financial, above.

New Business: The North Shore Council of Governments Intermunicipal Agreement, which is up for its periodic review and renewal, was adopted by the group unchanged save the new term of adoption. This will now be presented to each member municipality for their adoption.

Next meeting date, location, agenda items: January 2021, Constantia; status of individual municipality intermunicipal agreement adoption; status of circuit rider contractor; Katie to set up GPS demo.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Paul M. Baxter
Municipal Management Consultant
North Shore Council of Governments