

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**North Shore Council of Governments**

**Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**West Monroe Town Hall, 46 County Route 11, West Monroe, New York**

### **Attending:**

**Central Square:** Mudd Murphy

**Cleveland:** Laureen Tackman

**Constantia:** Ron Chapman, Richard (Rip) Colesante (chair); Frank Tomaino

**West Monroe:** Gary Harrington; Mike Hickey; Dale Maher; Vern Sundet (fiscal agent); Michael Walker

**NorCOG staff:** Paul M. Baxter

**Tug Hill Commission:** Katie Malinowski

**Guests:** New York State Senator John Mannion; Nick Capozza; John Mura

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and an attendance list was circulated and attendees were introduced.**

**New York State Senator John Mannion:** State Senator Mannion spoke of his background coming into office, and his approach to working in Albany. He talked about the upcoming Micron development, and state support to mitigate local impacts. He touched on CREST grants to municipalities, which are for capital needs, not operational support.

Mudd Murphy brought up problems the village had experienced in getting reimbursement after grants had been awarded.

John Mura raised the question of the prospect for some form of assistance for those property owners who provide access for ATV and snowmobile trails, possibly in the form of tax breaks.

Dale Maher suggested the weight limits need to be raised on ATVs further

Vern Sundet asked about the possibility of the state providing funding to address local Micron-related infrastructure needs. The senator noted that there was money in this year's budget, but it was allocated for statewide application.

Dale Maher raised the recent news stories about immigration buses coming upstate. The senator noted that upstate was already struggling and dealing with poverty. County executives have been doing what was necessary to address the possibility of an influx.

Nick Capozza noted that Onondaga County has a lot of money to spend on infrastructure, \$500 million won't go far enough, and we need a new way of doing this. He added that when it comes to businesses, it's more expensive to conduct business in New York compared to North Carolina.

Dale brought up propane and its future in New York State. The senator noted we need a diverse energy system, and propane works. The question came up about whether suppliers at some point

may say “I’m out” and leave the market. The senator is on the energy committee. Dale noted that having competing sources of energy helps contain costs. Nick noted there’s a steep learning curve with introducing a whole new energy system and equipment. The senator favors not moving too quickly in just one direction, and noted recent efforts by the nuclear industry to generate hydrogen..Laureen Tackman brought up the prospect of rolling blackouts.based on current plans.

Aid from state – Vern Sundet brought up that the state holds out the prospect of grants, but once awarded, it is difficult to collect on them.

The senator concluded his presentation and question and answers, and the meeting moved onto other subjects.

**MRB economic development study** – Additional representation from the communities in the study was discussed. Each one should bring up at least one name for consideration. Mudd Murphy brought up Paul Brasette as a possible Central Square representative.

**Micron preparedness** – Katie Malinowski noted Tug Hill has heard nothing from Oswego County. Mudd reported the county had met with Central Square and Hastings (Dave Turner and Austin Wheelock). Vern asked how NorCOG could leverage the state and county to get water and sewer. The county may be dusting off its old plans for countywide water and sewer. Rip Colesante noted that we should be at the table during county discussions. Katie suggested that NorCOG invite Dave Turner and Austing Wheelock to an August NorCOG meeting.

Nick Capozza noted that developers would be ‘driving the bus’ if we don’t know what we want. It will be important to stay in regular touch with Senator Mannion as a counterbalance on our side.

Mudd noted that when it comes to water and sewer, to make enough room in new facilities to allow for future expansion. Central Square is currently short on space with their existing facilities.

**Tug Hill Commission** - Executive Katie Malinoski gave succinct updates on Complete Streets, 480a legislation, Minimum Maintenance Roads legislation, Tug Hill’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Tug Hill’s purchase of a traffic counter for municipal use.

The next NorCOG meeting is tentatively August 2 or 1<sup>st</sup>. Katie will check on the availability of Dave Turner and Austin Wheelock.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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