

PRESENT: Trustees John Scatena, Trevor Maughan, and Eric Cartier. Absent: Mayor Laureen Tackman and Trustee Robin Wilson Also present, Paul Baxter, Code Officer William Hamacher.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Trustee Maughan at 6:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PAY BILLS: Trustee Maughan made a motion to pay December abstract #7, vouchers #291-338 for \$132,677.39, second by Trustee Cartier, all in favor. Trustee Maughan made a motion to approve H fund and Water Project vouchers 5 & 6 for \$158,649.49 and the treasurer's report and motion to move \$11,100 from A230 village hall reserves to A1620.4 buildings for the new generator, second by Trustee Scatena, all in favor. Trustee Maughan reviewed the change order from the water project, which is \$20,000 under budget for the electrical contract. Mayor Tackman will sign the change order.

TUGHILL REPORT: Paul Baxter gave the following report prepared by circuit rider Heidi Tompkins:

· Registration for our 34th annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference (LGC) is now open, and flyers are in the mail. The full day of sessions will be on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Turning Stone Conference Center in Verona. There is a fantastic lineup of sessions for town and village boards, planning and zoning boards of appeals, clerks, assessors, and anyone else involved in municipal government. Topics include fire protection in your community, regulating cannabis, understanding the equalization rate, lessons learned from the Chaumont solar facility battery fire, regulating short-term rentals, and much, much more. Register online or by mail with the downloadable form by February 28, 2025, to receive the regular registration rate for April 1 sessions of \$90. Find all this information and more, including details about hotel reservations here. We look forward to seeing you there!

· REMINDER: The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) related to its emergency response standard for fire brigades earlier this year. An informal public hearing was held November 12, 2024, through December 4, 2024 and OSHA is currently accepting post hearing comments. Post hearing comments can be submitted through January 17, 2025, here.

· The Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Training School has been scheduled for February 16-19th, 2025 at the New York Marriott Marquis in New York City. Hotel reservations must be made separately through <https://book.passkey.com/event/50888576/owner/1322/home>. There are add-on experiences available this year in addition to the traditional training classes, but they are an additional cost. Registration can be done online or by printing and sending in a paper registration form. For more information visit the Association of Towns website conference page.

· The NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government Services announced the 2024-25 round of Local Government Efficiency Grants. The Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Grant program is provided to municipalities as a funding opportunity to expand or develop new local service delivery initiatives that will reduce the cost of current or future municipal operations and incorporate enhanced technologies and processes to modernize the delivery of local services. There are three areas to be funded this year – Regional (developed in association with regional planning boards with four or more co-applicant counties); Local (local projects without a regional planning board or county as lead agency) and Qualification grants (which help regional planning boards or counties evaluate and develop a project for a future grant). Questions regarding the grant can be submitted through December 18th. Applications must be made through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) portal and are due by January 24, 2025. For more information visit <https://dos.ny.gov/2024-2025-local-government-efficiency-grant-program>.

· New York Planning Federation members can reach out to access some “bundled” training sessions to help complete their four hours of training required of planning and zoning board members annually. The bundles include five different selections: Introductory, Advanced, Housing, Meetings and Communication and Environment with four one-hour sessions in each bundle. Email nypf@nypf.org with your name, email address and municipality and the bundle you want to watch by December 30th and after you complete the sessions, you will receive a certificate of completion for your governing board's records. The bundles are available to NY Planning Federation members only.

· NYS DEC has announced proposed changes to the regulations for Real Property Tax Law Section 480a, also known as the Forest Tax Law. The comprehensive overhaul of the 50-year-old regulations aims to lessen the administrative burdens on participating forest landowners while maintaining and improving sustainable timber management on enrolled lands. DEC is holding two virtual public comment hearings on the proposed changes on Jan. 21, 2025, at 2 and 6 p.m. and you can find the links to register for the public comment sessions on the DEC's 480a webpage. They are also accepting public comments through Jan. 27, 2025 and you can submit comments by writing to: NYSDEC Private Lands and Forest Utilization Section, Bureau of Forest Resource Management 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7254 or by email to bslmregs@dec.ny.gov. The current revisions are made only to the DEC's regulations for the program and have

no impact on the bill language, so no change is made to the program's percentage of tax exemption, number of acres to enroll or municipal reimbursement for the program's impacts.

· Quick Reference Cards- Tug Hill staff receive dozens of technical assistance requests each month, and the requests often follow similar themes. Many years ago, staff developed two double-sided quick reference cards based on commonly asked questions: executive session guidelines and notification of meeting guidelines; and area variance criteria and use variance criteria. Staff recently worked on developing five additional quick reference cards, pictured below and available from your circuit riders! We hope these will help local officials as they serve their communities. As always, please consult with your municipal attorney for additional information and for situation-specific advice. Heidi and Paul will be handing out this month. Paul reported he will retire at the end of March 2025 but will continue to assist Heidi as they have several meetings that require coverage.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Code Officer William Hamacher report 2 building permits, 16 property maintenance violations and sent 2 violations to Court. Through the month of November, I have been in contact with the preservation companies for 33 and 39 Clay Street. I have also reached out to the county regarding 161 Center Street for taxes. I have 2 properties in Court for property maintenance issues. I have sent out mailings for fire inspections. The property at 176-178 St. Rt. 49 has been in Court and is now postponed until January. The property at 94 Bridge St has until 30th of December to move out.

DPW REPORT: Trustee Maughan read the report submitted by DPW Supt. Shaun House.
Sewer

Chemicals for the winter have been dropped off and stored in the chemical room this includes
1 hypo
5 pacL300
96 bags of soda ash light

Sampling completed for December all passed

Work continues at the plant we are still waiting on parts for the Koester project

Water

Samples and sanitary survey was completed
All of our mandated testing is up to date

Lead copper survey was turned in to the EPA

Highway

Put up new shelves and thoroughly cleaned the shop

Plow equipment is now on and we have plowed or salted on 8 events

Used plow was bought for the F 250
This was a used plow we bought for
\$1000 and the wiring and mount were \$1100
A new one was quoted at over \$7000

New employee Jeremy Fuller has started and has been learning a lot regarding the plant and plowing .

Christmas decor on poles and village hall has been decorated.

DOG CONTROL: Kennel inspection report has been received from Ag and Markets as satisfactory.

Next meeting, January 14, 2025. At 6:45pm, Trustee Maughan made a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Cartier, all in favor.