

PRESENT: Mayor Laureen Tackman, Trustees. Trevor Maughan, Eric Cartier. Absent: Trustees John Scatena & Robin Wilson. Also present, DPW Asst. Supt. David Hinds, John Hinds, Dan Lewis, Paul Baxter and Rod Campbell from the Tug Hill Commission.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Mayor Tackman at 6:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PAY BILLS: Mayor Tackman made a motion to pay February Abstract #9, vouchers #394-444 for \$43,485.79, approve the Treasurer's report, second by Trustee Maughan, all in favor.

TUGHILL IMA: Mayor Tackman made a motion to accept and sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Tug Hill Commission with the intent that covers membership, meetings and the board of directors and amendments that covers the period of January 2025 – December 2029, second by Trustee Cartier, all in favor.

TUGHILL REPORT: Rod Campbell gave the following report:

- American Farmland Trust (AFT) and Tug Hill Commission (THC) are working together to host a series of roundtables in upstate New York to discuss agrivoltaics – a practice that integrates solar energy development and farming on the same piece of land. Events are scheduled for 2/26 (CCE of Oneida County) and 2/27(C.I.T.I BOCES) from 6:00pm-8:00pm. For registration visit www.farmland.org/nyagpvroundtables or click here.
- The second session of the 2025 Tug Hill Winter Wildlife Series is happening on February 12th at 6 p.m. Join Lucara Aman, a bat technician with NYS DEC, for an engaging webinar titled Bats of New York: Challenges and Conservation. This fascinating session will explore the most common and endangered bat species on Tug Hill, threats like white-nose syndrome, and how the DEC monitors and manages bat populations. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about these incredible creatures. Register 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 Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced \$15 million in funding through the new Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program. This initiative supports Governor Hochul's goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033, aiming to expand, restore, and create urban forests to enhance climate resilience and community health. Funding Breakdown: \$12 million for municipalities, Indian Tribes and Nations, and non-profits to establish new forests or restore areas affected by invasive species. \$3 million for state agencies and educational institutions to expand forests on state lands. Eligible Projects: Tree planting, site preparation, and protection from deer browse. Priority will be given to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities or those with low Tree Equity scores. Application Deadline: March 12, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. (via the SFS Grants Management System) Visit the DEC website for details and registration. For further inquiries, contact urbanforestry@dec.ny.gov
- National Grid has submitted its Article VII application for the partial reconstruction of 28.6 miles of transmission corridor. The project spans the City of Oswego and the towns of Scriba, New Haven, Mexico, Richland, Albion, and Orwell. I have all the project documents on a thumb drive—let me know if you'd like to review them. You can also access the materials here: <https://upstateupgrade.nationalgrid.com/project-hub/south-oswego-tar-hill>. No details yet on the date and time for the public information sessions. National Grid will also build two new substations to support this project. Included are access roads upgrades, and technologies to improve response time and decrease maintenance costs.
- The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Environmental Resource Mapper has updated the layer featuring the new wetland maps, including the check zone, is now available in the Environmental Resource Mapper. Visit here to explore the new mapper.
- MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook are offering a free annual training program to assist local governments, municipal officials, and planning and zoning boards. The program will include 10 hours of remote training designed to provide a comprehensive education that encompasses all aspects of municipal governance. Each program in the series will be provided remotely on the fourth Thursday of each month with subject matter experts from MRB Group and knowledgeable attorneys from Hancock Estabrook, LLP. Topics will be lively, useful and – potentially as important – can qualify for the

education requirements for members of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals. To sign up for session 2: From big to small – Translating comprehensive plans into land use planning visit here.

· NorCOG Business:

- o The IMA, Bylaws, and the meeting-to-meeting associate contract were reviewed and approved at the January meeting. Officer elections were also held, with the following results:
 - § Chairman: Richard Colesante (Constantia) re-elected
 - § Vice Chairman: Mudd Murphy (Central Square) newly elected
 - § Fiscal Agent: Vern Sundet (West Monroe) re-elected

o Staffing Update: Rodney Campbell will begin covering meetings this month for Heidi and will be introduced to municipal boards he has not yet met. Paul has set retirement for 3/26.

o Local Government Services Brochure: Heidi and Rod will distribute updated brochures during this month's meetings.

o Next Meeting: March 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the West Monroe Town Building

Paul Baxter came to the meeting on his own time to personally say thank the Cleveland Village Board, Mayor and Clerk. He will be retiring the end of March and has worked for the Tug Hill Commission since he graduated college in 1979. He has loved working with everyone and has appreciated the opportunity to be able to be part of our community.

CLEVELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Company President, David Hinds spoke regarding the distribution of property of the now closed North Shore Ambulance. The Company didn't apply the first time the request was put out due to the fact that they were not a 501c3, which was stated in North Shore's request as the only entities that could accept distributions. North Shore then changed their criteria to include entities that were not 501c3s. There were only 3 days to apply and the department and the Village applied for the building, contents and vehicles. John Hinds spoke of the long history with the ambulance and fire department as it was originally part of the fire service and the building was built with donations from residents and to see it come back to them would be a great benefit. The department would like to start a BLS (basic life support) ambulance service as part of the Company. (An ALS (advanced life support) would be too difficult and costly.) There is a lot of grey area, but a BLS ambulance would be in service within the village limits for dire emergencies (stroke, heart attacks) and there would be no billing for this. The Village would need to apply for a CON (certificate of need.) We have a large number of medical providers for a fire department of our size. The Village applied to receive the building which could be used for a community center, house the food pantry, etc. The board of directors for the ambulance makes the decision, but it must be approved by the state comptrollers office. The Constantia Fire Dept., West Monroe and Camden Ambulance all applied to receive equipment. If the Cleveland Fire Company receives anything, they may require more monies from the Village from their utility account to maintain the equipment or building, but until we hear anything, this is all speculation.

DPW: David stated they have been moving snow banks along village streets, but are running out of room to put the snow. They removed snow from shoulders, sidewalks and cleared fire hydrants. They have done a few driveway ends on a case by case basis due to how snow was plowed and deposited during the storms. They had to clear out an entire area for a water shut off due to a homeowner issue. They also clear driveways of fire department active members due to the fact that if they cannot get out, it could be the difference between life and death in a medical emergency or fire.

Mayor Tackman stated there is no new information regarding the former St. Mary's Church, but the County Clerk is aware and working on it. At 7:03pm, Mayor Tackman made a motion to adjourn, second by Trustee Cartier, all in favor.