

PRESENT: Mayor Laureen Tackman, Trustees John Scatena, Trevor Maughan, Robin Wilson. Absent: Eric Cartier. Also present, Code Officer William Hamacher, County Le

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 January abstract #8, vouchers #339-394 for \$54,695.88, approve the treasurer's report and approve the following budget modifications: \$3,000 from A599 fund balance to A5110.4 Maintenance of Streets, \$3,000 from A599 fund balance to A1640.4 Central Garage, and \$3,500 from G599 fund balance to G8130.4 Sewer Contractual, second by Trustee Scatena, all in favor.

**TUGHILL REPORT:** Mayor Tackman read the following report submitted by Heidi Tompkins, who didn't attend due to bad weather:

· 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**DOG CONTROL REPORT:** Mayor Tackman read the following report submitted by Clayton Conover.

It was quite quiet in the Village for most of the second half of 2024. However, when it rains it pours. There were three stray dog calls in December. I picked up one and was able to get it rabies and licensed and back to its owner. The second one, the complainant asked me not to take as they wanted to return the dog themselves. I was not able to locate the third. This month, I stopped in to do a welfare check as there was concern that a dog was living in an abandoned home. I found that the owner still lived there and was caring for the dog appropriately. As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns they should contact me at 315-371-5429.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** Code Officer William Hamacher gave the 2024 year end report:

23 building permits, 54 violations, 43 closed out permits for 23/24, 5 fire inspections, 1 accessory structure, 2 additions, 1 shed, 4 decks, 6 renovations, 1 pool, 2 roofs, 2 demos, 1 fence, 2 others, 1 cell tower. Total fees collected \$2309.80.

**DPW REPORT:** Mayor Tackman read the report submitted by DPW Supt. Shaun House.

#### **Highway**

Plowing continues as needed.

Side walk will be cleaned as snowblower is currently down we are expecting parts this week.

#### **Water**

All labs completed and passed

Hydrants have been mostly cleaned out

We are currently waiting on the water project to be completed

- 1) Disinfect well
- 2) ts&v valve and line at the well near the tank
- 3) New water valve at North and Caswell
- 4) Apps Landing Road 5 new services and 2 inch sub main .
- 5) Atlas fence at the well house

#### **Sewer**

All samples completed and passed

Plant is running great. We are waiting for the new variable speed drive for blower number 3.

Hauled sludge from bed 1-2&4

4 was refilled and is drying 1&2 are open for sludge near spring.

We are expecting Koester soon to replace a few pumps and install the variables speed drive.

We are in the process of getting the generator quotes for installation the plant.

**FIRE CONTRACT:** Mayor Tackman read and signed the contract with the Town of Constantia for fire coverage in the amount of \$103,848.00.

Trustee Wilson reported she did some research regarding FIOS in Cleveland, and while some residents have it, FIOS is still not technically in Cleveland. Hopefully, some time soon and people will have an option to switch from Spectrum.

**LEGISLATOR'S REPORT:** County Legislator Reehil reported the County tax bill stayed about the same, the equalization rate is 60%. The County portion went down approximately 7%, while the Town portion went up. The town rate went from 2.51 to 3.47 per thousand this year. There is much discussion regarding a County wide sewer program that is proposed. Finally, discussion regarding 148 State Route 49 and that the property still hasn't been transferred from St. Mary's Church to the new owner. Roy suggested sending an email to the County Clerk, Treasurer, Head of the Legislature, the town clerk and assessor to see if anyone has any answers as to why this hasn't been done, it's been over 2 years.

Mayor Tackman made a motion to adjourn at 7:02pm, second by Trustee Wilson, all in favor.