State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2024

Present: Supervisor Edward Hayes; Town Board Members – Katrina Sullivan, Susan Smith, William McGovern, and Scott Markham; Highway Superintendent Doug Salmon, Tug Hill Commission Representative Christine Healt; Boonville Herald Writer Mary Ann Wilton

Town Supervisor Edward Hayes, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Hayes opened the public hearing for Local Law Introductory No. 2-2024 "A local law to override the property tax cap levy for fiscal year 2025." Supervisor Hayes read the proposed local law.

Clerk Schindler read the minutes from the August 12, 2024 board meeting. Minutes were corrected to read "Crofoot Hill Road" from "Crofoot Road" and were approved as corrected on motion by Councilman Markham, seconded by Councilwoman Sullivan; all ayes. Clerk Schindler read the minutes from the August 26, 2024 public hearing and the minutes were approved on motion by Councilman McGovern, seconded by Councilman Markham; all ayes.

Abstract bills #94-98 in the amount of $12,156.59 were reviewed and ordered paid on motion by Councilman McGovern, seconded by Councilwoman Smith; all ayes.

There being no further questions or comments on the proposed Local Law Introductory No. 2-2024, the public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m. on motion by Councilwoman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Markham. A motion to adopt Local Law No. 2-2024 "A local law to override the property tax cap levy for fiscal year 2025" was made on motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Sullivan, and adopted.

West Turin Local Law # 2 of 2024
A local law to override the property tax cap levy for fiscal year 2025.

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Town of West Turin as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent
It is the intent of this local law to allow the Town of West Turin to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority
This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Town of West Turin, County of Lewis is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Law 3-c.

Section 4. Severability
If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order of judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date
This local law shall take immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Supervisor Hayes reported he received a check from Justice Earl in the amount of $3,870.00 for August 2024 fines and penalties. Supervisor Hayes has not received a bill for state and county fines and penalties for July 2024 or for August 2024.

At 7:30 p.m. Supervisor Hayes opened the public hearing to discuss the contract with the Constableville Fire Department to provide fire protection and ambulance service. This contract between the Town of West Turin and the Constableville Fire Department is for 5 years with an increase of 5% each year.

Christine Healt from the Tug Hill Commission gave an update on the upcoming conference, grants, and training programs. This information can be found in their newsletter or on their website. There was discussion about the New York State Fire Districts and the proposed changes due to OSHA. The board directed Clerk Schindler to write a comment letter from the Town of West Turin opposing these changes. The deadline for written comments is October 18th.

There was discussion about forming a water district with the Village of Constableville. The engineering fees are $5,000 and the legal fees are $7,500. The Village verbally agreed to pay 1/2 of this cost. It is the understanding that the Village of Constableville will continue to do billing and will maintain the lines. Clerk Schindler was asked to reach out to Village Mayor Samantha Brown for clarification.

There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Hayes closed the public hearing for the contract with the Constableville Fire Department for fire protection and ambulance service at 8:00 p.m. on motion by Councilwoman Smith, seconded by Councilman Markham. A motion to approve the contract between the Town of West Turin and the Constableville Fire Department was made by Councilwoman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman McGovern; and adopted.

Warrant bills #154-167 in the amount of $2,495.99 were audited and ordered paid on motion by Councilman Markham, seconded by Councilman McGovern; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes reviewed some budget items. Health insurance costs will increase by 9% for co-pay plans and by 11.75% for HSA plans. The general liability insurance quote from Gates Cole Insurance Company is $34,546.00. The Workers' Compensation annual cost is $6,110.00 and the retirement cost is $57,504.00 which is an increase of $10,045.00. Supervisor Hayes has scheduled a meeting with the accountant Scott Lawrence to begin the 2025 fiscal year budget process. The meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Mr. Lawrence's office.

A transfer of $75,000 will be made from the highway reserves account to the highway equipment account to cover the cost of the highway expenses for the remainder of 2024. The transfer was approved on motion by Councilman Markham, seconded by Councilwoman Sullivan. All ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-2024
RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM
HIGHWAY RESERVES ACCOUNT TO HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, it is necessary to transfer funds from one budget classification to another within the Highway Department of the Town of West Turin to cover expenses for the remaining 2024 fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Board of the Town of West Turin authorizes the Town Supervisor to transfer $75,000 from the Highway Reserves Account to the Highway Equipment Account to cover expenses for the remaining 2024 fiscal year.

Section 2. That the said Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Councilman Markham, seconded by Councilwoman Sullivan, and adopted.

Supervisor Hayes distributed the 2nd quarter reports as well as the Supervisor's Report for August 2024.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on motion by Councilman Markham, seconded by Councilwoman Sullivan.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin