State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – Public Hearing - October 28, 2024

Present: Supervisor Edward Hayes; Town Board Members – Katrina Sullivan, Susan Smith, William McGovern, and Scott Markham; Highway Superintendent Doug Salmon; Boonville Herald Writer MaryAnn Wilton Town Residents – Joe Morczek, Frank Besciglia, Brian Semancik, Stan Kraeger, Robert & Paula Hoch, Matt Shisler, Josh Leviker, Mike & Emily Branagan

Town Supervisor Edward Hayes, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Hayes opened the public hearing to hear comments on the proposed Local Law No. 3-2024 entitled, "A Local Law for Plowing Seasonal and Minimum Maintenance Roads." The intent of this law is to set restrictions on individuals from plowing seasonal and minimum maintenance roads.

West Turin Local Law #3 of 2024
A Local Law for Plowing Seasonal and Minimum Maintenance Roads

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

Section 1. Finding and Purpose
The Town Board of the Town of West Turin hereby finds that the use of seasonal and minimum maintenance roads in the Town of West Turin for snowmobile and/or ATV trails has become an important part of the economy of the Town of West Turin and provides recreational opportunities to many town residents as well as others from outside the town. To ensure adequate maintenance of such trails, consistency of maintenance, to avoid damage to town roads, and to prevent injury to those who travel on these roads, the Town of West Turin Town Board finds it necessary to license the grooming of its roads for such usage. It is the purpose of this article to provide a method for doing so.

Section 2. Use Restrictions
No person, other than the Town of West Turin Highway Department personnel, shall be allowed to plow, groom, or in any manner maintain any seasonal and/or minimum maintenance road in the Town of West Turin without the specific written permission of the Town of West Turin Town Board.

Section 3. Penalties for Offenses
Any person plowing, grooming, or in any manner maintaining any seasonal or minimum maintenance road in the Town of West Turin for any purpose without such permission shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250) and/or imprisonment not to exceed five (5) days. Each day of such activity shall be considered a separate violation. Such person will also be responsible for any damage caused to such road.

Section 4. Effective Date
This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Supervisor Hayes opened the floor to hear comments. Mr. Stan Kraeger, Board of Director, Turin Ridge Riders, spoke in support of the local law as presented. He spoke of the safety issues and the liability to the town when individuals plow town roads.

Mr. Frank Besciglia stated he just purchased a place on the Plumber Road knowing the dwelling was on a seasonal use road. He agrees that the purchases in the area add to the local economy, but he also is in support of the local law.

Mr. Josh Leviker, President of the Lewis County Area Snowmobile Association, spoke in support of the local law. He stated the Town of West Turin did a good job in their zoning law and this local law would alleviate hazards to protect the town and the town's taxpayers.

Mr. Chris Skipper, President of the Turin Ridge Riders supports the local law and he reiterated the amount of money that impacts the local economy due recreation on the hill.

Mr. Brian Semancik, owner of Whiskey Jack's also bought property on the Plumber Road. He bought his with a plowed road and electricity while neighboring properties were seasonal. He said it's the choice of the individual as to what property they purchase. He supports the local law and without the trail system going to his business or any other business, there would be no business. He supports preserving the hill for recreation.

Mr. Robert Hoch who has property on the Smith Road spoke of the individuals that move here and spend a lot of money to purchase property, but cannot access their property due to it not being plowed. He said he feels that snowmobiling is a dying sport because of the lack of snow. If this continues, he feels the economy will be boosted by people purchasing houses. He asked for clarification between a seasonal road and minimum maintenance road. He spoke of his concern of not having plowed roads.

With no additional comments or questions, a motion was made at 7:26 p.m. by Councilwoman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Markham to close the public hearing.

A motion to adopt Local Law No. 3-2024 entitled, "A Local Law for Plowing Seasonal and Minimum Maintenance Roads" was made on motion by Councilman Markham, seconded by Councilman McGovern; all ayes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on motion by Councilman McGovern; seconded by Councilwoman Smith.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin