State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2026

Members Present:
Supervisor Edward Hayes; Town Board Members – Susan Smith, William McGovern, and Katrina Sullivan (7:22 p.m.), Tug Hill Commission Representative Christine Healt, Boonville Herald Writer Mary Ann Wilton, Highway Superintendent Douglas Salmon,
Tax Assessor Karen Shaw
Community Members – Susan Kish and Todd Constantine

Town Supervisor Edward Hayes, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hayes opened the floor to Tax Assessor Karen Shaw. She stated the 2026 Tentative Roll for the Town of West Turin is complete and Grievance Day is scheduled for June 2nd from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Constableville Fire Hall.

The current equalization rate is 62%. If the town board is interested in completing a revaluation for 2027, the data collection will begin in the summer of 2026. Lewis County pays for the postage for all the mailings. Assessor Shaw would like to hire a data collector at an hourly rate to help with the data collection for the revaluation. Lewis County uses Beacon which is a software program that automatically downloads data from a tablet. Assessor Shaw priced a tablet at Walmart for the cost of $224 which includes a 2-year warranty. The board agreed a revaluation needs to be completed. Approval was given to Assessor Shaw to purchase the tablet out of her contractual budget. Once the revaluation is complete, a trending is done every 2-3 years so the equalization rate will stay between 95-100%.

Assessor Shaw would like to pay Chandler Bolton as the data collector. A motion to approve Chandler Bolton as the data collector at a rate of $17.50/hour to assist Assessor Shaw with the data collection during the summer of 2026 in preparation for a revaluation in 2027 was approved on motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes. Ms. Bolton will track her hours and submit vouchers to the town board for payment.

Assessor Shaw stated that New York State pays between $2.00-$5.00 per parcel through a program titled State Aids for Cycle Reassessments. She submits the paperwork to New York State around November 1st.

A motion to approve the Town of West Turin Revaluation for 2027 was made on motion by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Smith; all ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2026
APPROVAL TO COMPLETE TOWN OF WEST TURIN REVALUATION
FOR THE 2027 TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin is responsible for establishing accurate, uniform, and equitable property valuations for taxation purposes in accordance with state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 102 requires that all properties within a municipality be assessed at a uniform percentage of value; and

WHEREAS, due to fluctuations in the real estate market, current assessments no longer reflect the true and equitable fair market value of properties, leading to disparities in the tax burden among taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin desires to conduct a comprehensive property revaluation to restore assessment equity, ensure transparency, and comply with state assessment standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Town of West Turin hereby authorizes the Town of West Turin Tax Assessor to complete a comprehensive town-wide revaluation of all locally assessed real property to establish full and fair market value.

Section 2. The revaluation shall include the physical inspection, data collection, and market analysis of all locally assessed residential, commercial, industrial, and vacant parcels. The goal of this project is to assess all properties uniformly at 100% of current market value.

Section 3. The resulting updated assessments shall be incorporated into the tentative and final assessment roll for the 2027 tax year.

Section 4. Upon completion of the revaluation, the assessor shall provide preliminary assessment disclosure notices to all property owners and conduct public disclosure meetings as required by law.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Moved by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2026

RESOLUTION ADOPTING UNIFORM ASSESSMENT STANDARDS FOR THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin seeks to ensure fairness, equity, and transparency in all property tax assessments and property valuations; and

WHEREAS, adherence to uniform assessment standards supports systematic, parcel-specific, and non-discriminatory appraisal practices based on current market values; and

WHEREAS, utilizing standardized procedures enhances public understanding and trust in the assessment administration process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of West Turin as follows:

Section 1. The Town of West Turin hereby formally adopts and incorporates the Uniform Assessment Standards as the guiding principles for all assessment administration within the Town of West Turin.

Section 2. The Town of West Turin Tax Assessor is directed to apply these uniform standards to ensure that all real property within the jurisdiction is assessed equitably, accurately, and at a uniform percentage of market value.

Section 3. The Town of West Turin is committed to maintaining transparent property records. All assessment standards, schedules of values, and guidelines shall be made readily accessible to taxpayers.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember McGovern, and adopted.

Supervisor Hayes then opened the floor to Christine Healt who gave an update from the Tug Hill Commission and the opportunities available. This information may be found on their website or in their newsletter.

Clerk Schindler read the minutes from the April 13, 2026 town board meeting. The minutes were accepted on motion by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes opened the floor to Susan Kirch and Todd Constantino. They expressed their concerns about the rural post offices and keeping them open. They specifically expressed the need for a handicap ramp at the Constableville post office.

Superintendent Salmon presented Abstract No. 5-2026 (Vouchers 42-51) in the amount of $89,168.28. A motion to pay the abstract was made by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Smith; all ayes.

Superintendent Salmon read the auction information for the surplus highway items. A motion was made by Councilmember Sullivan to accept the price of the items as bid on at the auction except for the 2015 Harder Dump Box Spreader and the Pressure Washer. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith; all ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-2026
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND/OR DECLINE THE BID AT AUCTION OF THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S SURPLUS ITEMS

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin Highway Department has surplus items in the equipment & machinery inventory that is no longer in use; and

WHEREAS, these items have been bid on at Absolute Auctions & Realty; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin **has accepted** the following bids –

1968 Mack Dump Truck - $8,000
1990 Mack Water Truck - $5,600
Kristi 6' x 10 ' Cargo Trailer - $800
Bridgestone 10.5R25 Loader Tires - $600
Metal Trailer Frame - $40
Shoulder Machine - $14
150 Gallon Storage Tank - $3

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin **declines** the following bids –

2015 Harder Dump Box Spreader - $550
Mi-T-M Pressure Washer - $275

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Town of West Turin authorizes Highway Superintendent Salmon to accept or decline the bids as listed above.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Moved by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and adopted.

Superintendent Salmon indicated the need to store used oil and recommended a shipping container. He received a couple quotes for a 40' long high cube. A motion to purchase the 40' High Cube from A-Verdi in the amount of $4,440.00 was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2026
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A SHIPPING CONTAINER
FOR THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin deems is necessary to obtain storage for used oil and various highway department items; and

WHEREAS, Highway Superintendent Salmon has obtained several quotes to purchase a shipping container to be used as a storage unit; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin has approved the purchase of a 40' High Cube Shipping Container in the amount of $4,440.00;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. Highway Superintendent Salmon is authorized to purchase a 40' High Cube Shipping Container in the amount of $4,440.00 from A-VERDI Storage Containers.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember McGovern, and adopted.

There was discussion about the purchase of a 2027 International truck and plow in the amount of $319,726.00 A motion to order the 2027 International truck and plow was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-2026
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2027 INTERNATIONAL PLOW TRUCK
FOR THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of West Turin deems it necessary and in the best interest of the Town of West Turin to purchase a plow truck for highway business.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Town Board of the Town of West Turin does hereby authorize Highway Superintendent Douglas Salmon to order and purchase a 2027 Hx620 SBA 6x4 Chassis with a Viking Plow Package from Allegiance Trucks, 105 7th North St, Liverpool, NY 13041.

Section 2. The Town Board of the Town of West Turin approves the total amount of the purchase is $319,726.

Section 3. That the within Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan, and adopted.

Supervisor Hayes read a letter from Senator Mark Walcyck regarding the resolution the town sent in opposition to the RAPID act.

Supervisor Hayes reported he received a check from Town Justice Earl for April 2026 fines and penalties in the amount of $2,611.00. He has not received a bill for the April 2026 fines and penalties.

Warrant No. 5-2026 (Claim Nos. 77-97) in the amount of $8,609.51 was presented for payment. A motion to pay the warrant was made by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes explained the budget transfer adopted at the March 2026 meeting was for tax payments of the quarry that was coded in the budget incorrectly.

Supervisor Hayes received a mortgage check from Lewis County in the amount of $20,955.74.

Supervisor Hayes presented the financial reports for January-April 2026 as well as the April 2026 Supervisor's Report.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember McGovern.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin