State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2025

Members Present: Supervisor Edward Hayes; Councilmembers – Katrina Sullivan, Susan Smith, William McGovern, J. Scott Markham; Highway Superintendent Douglas Salmon
Tug Hill Commission Representative Christine Healt;
Tug Hill Commission Planning Director Matt Johnson

Town Supervisor Edward Hayes, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hayes gave the floor to Tug Hill Commission Planning Director Matt Johnson. Mr. Johnson passed out the draft Town of West Turin Zoning Law with the proposed changes in language and adding battery storage. Mr. Johnson reviewed the recommended changes from the Lewis County Planning Board. A draft copy will be emailed to all town councilmembers as well as the Town of West Turin Planning Chairman Phil Bronson. More discussion will continue at the next board meeting with the introduction of a proposed Local Law adopting these changes.

Christine Healt then 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 June 9, 2025 town board meeting. The minutes were approved on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Smith; all ayes.

Clerk Schindler read the minutes from the July 9, 2025 public hearing regarding creating a water district. The minutes were approved on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

Superintendent Salmon presented Abstract No. 7-2025 (Vouchers 73-87) in the amount of $209,342.25. A motion to pay the abstract was made by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes read an email from Grace Metzler, Lewis County Planning Grant Coordinator, asking for the Town of West Turin's letter of support for Lewis County's application to complete a County-Wide Brownfield Site Inventory. The inventory will support subsequent targeted investments and projects, and Brownfield sites are eligible for additional redevelopment and environmental cleanup funding. A motion approving a letter of support for the County-Wide Brownfield Site Inventory was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes. Clerk Schindler was directed to send a letter of support.

Supervisor Hayes reported he received a check from Town Justice Earl for June 2025 fines and penalties in the amount of $2,802.00 He has not received a bill for June 2025 fines and penalties. The paid fines and penalties for May 2025 was $2,568.50.

Supervisor Hayes read an email from Casey Dickinson, BCA Engineer, regarding a "lateral restriction" resolution for the Town of West Turin to adopt in order for the Village of Constableville to access their funding for the Village water project.

RESOLUTION # 25-2025
LATERAL RESTRICTIONS – CONDITIONS ON FUTURE SERVICE

The Town of West Turin imposes the following conditions, on the management of water/sewer lines located along Crofoot Hill Road and Smith Road within an agricultural district, maps of which are attached to this resolution showing the boundaries of the agricultural district in relation to the parcels indicated:

(1) The only land and/or structures which will be allowed to connect to the proposed waterline or sewer within an agricultural district will be existing structures at the time of construction, future agricultural structures, and land and structures that have already been approved for development by the local governing body prior to the date of filing of the Notice of Intent by the municipality.

Land and structures that have been approved for development refer to those properties/structures that have been brought before a local governing body where approval (e.g., subdivision, site plan, special permit) is needed to move forward with project plans and the governing body has approved the action. If no local approval is required for the subdivision of land and/or the construction of structures, the municipality accepts the limitation under Public Health Law §1115 that defines a "subdivision," in part, as "any tract of land which is divided into five or more parcels." Water and/or sewer service will not be provided to more than a total of four residences, buildings and/or structures on any tract of land which has been divided into parcels after the date of filing of the NOI by the municipality, where no local approval is required and the land is located within a county adopted, State certified agricultural district.

(2) If a significant hardship can be shown by an existing resident, the lateral restriction to the resident's property may be removed by the municipality upon approval by the Department. It is the responsibility of the resident landowner to demonstrate that a hardship exists relative to his or her existing water supply or septic system and clearly demonstrate the need for public water or sewer service. The municipality shall develop a hardship application to be filed with the municipality, approved by the County Department of Health, and agreed to by the

Department of Agriculture and Markets.

(3) If it can be demonstrated to the Department's satisfaction that the landowner requested the county to remove his or her land from an agricultural district at the time of district review and the county legislative body refused to do so, lateral restrictions may be removed by the municipality if the Department determines that the removal of the restriction for the subject parcel(s) would not have an unreasonably adverse effect on the agricultural district.

(4) If land is removed from a county adopted, State certified agricultural district and the district has been reviewed by the county legislative body and certified by the Commissioner for modification, lateral restrictions imposed by the municipality are no longer in effect for the parcels of land that have been removed from the agricultural district.

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

A motion for Attorney Ian Gilbert to draft a local law overriding the tax cap for 2026 was made by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Smith; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes said Casey Dickinson is organizing a work session to discuss the Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Village of Constableville for newly created water district.

Senator Walczyk presented a resolution to the Town of West Turin commemorating it's 195th anniversary. This resolution was read in the New York State Senate.

Supervisor Hayes read Resolution No. 115-2025 from the Lewis County Board of Legislators "Resolution Accepting Ownership and Responsibility for Specific Town of West Turin Bridge Identified as (BIN #2220460)" which is the Town of West Turin bridge known as Sweeney Road over East Branch Fish Creek.

Supervisor Hayes has scheduled July 21st at 7:00 p.m. to audit the Tax Collector's records at the Town of West Turin Highway Department.

Warrant No. 7-2025 (Claim Nos. 111-135 in the amount of $6,007.44 was presented for payment. A motion to pay the warrant was made by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Smith; all ayes.

RESOLUTION #26-2025
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFER
GENERAL FUND TOWN-WIDE

Account	**Code**	**Increase**	**Increase**
Engineering – Contractual	1440.4	675.00	
Town Garage – Contractual	5132.4		675.00

Approved on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham, and adopted.

Supervisor Hayes submitted the January – June 2025 financial statement.

Supervisor Hayes read an email from Tax Assessor Karen Shaw regarding her October 1st appointment. She stated she's making preparation for a projected re-assessment project for 2027.

Supervisor Hayes read a letter from Sally Hill.

Supervisor Hayes submitted the June 2025 Supervisor's report.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember McGovern.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin