State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2025

Members Present:
Supervisor Edward Hayes; Councilmembers – Katrina Sullivan, J. Scott Markham
Highway Superintendent Douglas Salmon; Tug Hill Commission Representative Christine Healt; Highway Employee Robin (Bob) Green; Mari Louise & Brian Merkwa from Hybrid Building Solutions
Absent: Councilmember William McGovern; Councilmember Susan Smith

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

Supervisor Hayes gave the floor to Robin (Bob) Green. He requested the town board review the highway employee's pay scale as the same hourly rate is paid to an employee whether they've been employed 6 months or 28 years. There is no longevity although there is a benefit of additional vacation time depending on the length of employment. Supervisor Hayes asked Mr. Green to put the request in writing and they would review it at budget time.

Supervisor Hayes gave the floor to Mari Louise & Robin Merkwa from Hybrid Building Solutions. Mrs. Merkwa gave the history of their company specifically regarding salt storage sheds. She detailed the building of it and wanted to introduce their company as the Town of West Turin is in the planning phases of a salt storage shed.

Supervisor Hayes received a phone call from a concerned citizen that is planning to petition for a round-a-bout at Potter's Corners.

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 July 14, 2025 town board meeting. A correction in the amount of the July 2025 highway warrant was noted as a new total of $195,673.06 due to a V.S. Virkler invoice that had been paid previously. The minutes were approved as corrected on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham; all ayes.

Superintendent Salmon presented Abstract No. 8-2025 (Vouchers 88-96) in the amount of $23,610.12. A motion to pay the abstract was made by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes reported he received a check from Town Justice Earl for July 2025 fines and penalties in the amount of $3,378.00. The paid fines and penalties for July 2025 was $1,804.00. The paid fines and penalties for June 2025 was $2026.00.

Supervisor Hayes read Local Law No. 1-2025 entitled "A Local Law Permitting the Town of West Turin to Exceed its 2% Tax Cap Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2026".

**West Turin Local Law No. 1-2025**
**A Local Law Permitting the Town of West Turin to**
**Exceed its 2% Tax Cap Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2026**

Be it enacted by 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, 2026 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 the Town of West Turin, County of Lewis is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal 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 effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

A public hearing for Local Law No. 1-2025 was scheduled for September 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Hayes read a letter from Town Justice Earl requesting to apply for JCAP grant funding. The board approved for the Town of West Turin Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2025-2026 grant cycle up to $30,000.00 on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham, and adopted.

**RESOLUTION #27-2025**
**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN TOWN COURT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (JCAP)**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York Unified Court System is soliciting applications from local governments under the Justice Court Assistance Program to assist local Justice Departments with needed equipment, automation, furniture, supplies, training and other expenses;

**WHEREAS**, the funding available under the State of New York Unified Court System would facilitate local efforts in upgrading the Town's Justice Departments;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

**Section 1**. The Board of the Town of West Turin authorizes the West Turin Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2025-2026 grant cycle up to $30,000.00.

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

Moved by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham adopted on August 11, 2025.

Supervisor Hayes read an email from Town Justice Earl communicating to the Town Board that there is a jury trial scheduled at the town court for September 8th and September 9th. She is in need of a TV with a DVD player as well as additional court security and a court clerk.

The Town Board audited Tax Collector Beth McGovern's records. The audit was found to be satisfactory. A motion to accept the tax collector's audit as satisfactory was made by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes reported that he and Councilmember Markham were at the workshop for the agreement with the Village of Constableville for the newly formed Water District. Attorney Ian Gilbert is working on a draft agreement. Once that is provided to Clerk Schindler, she will forward it to the town board members for their review.

Supervisor Hayes read a letter from Pinsky Law Group PLLC requesting approval or opposition to changes in the Natural Bridge Ambulance service. As this is not in the Town of West Turin area, it was decided no response was needed.

Supervisor Hayes handed out paperwork for all town officials to complete the annual Sexual Harassment training as required by the state.

Warrant No. 8-2025 (Claim Nos. 136-154) in the amount of $7, 945.45 was presented for payment. A motion to pay the warrant was made by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes scheduled a budget workshop with Accountant Scott Lawrence for September 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**RESOLUTION #28-2025**
**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFER**
**GENERAL FUND TOWN-WIDE**

| **Account** | **Code** | **Increase** | **Increase** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Engineering – Contractual | 1440.4 | 289.61 | |
| Town Garage – Contractual | 5132.4 | | 289.61 |

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

**RESOLUTION #29-2025**
**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFER**
**GENERAL FUND TOWN-WIDE**

| **Account** | **Code** | **Increase** | **Increase** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legal Services – Contractual | 1420.4 | 142.86 | |
| Town Garage – Contractual | 5132.4 | | 142.86 |

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

Supervisor Hayes reviewed the January – July 2025 financial statement.

Supervisor Hayes asked Clerk Schindler to read an email that was sent to the Tug Hill Commission from Karen Hill regarding the Hoskins Road.

Supervisor Hayes read a letter from Kevin Waterman regarding a speed limit reduction on the stretch of Cherry Street from the village limits at Belmont Street to NYS Route 12. This had been requested previously and was denied by NYS DOT. Clerk Schindler was directed to contact Mr. Waterman.

Supervisor Hayes submitted the July 2025 Supervisor's report.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin