State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2026

Members Present:
Supervisor Edward Hayes; Town Board Members – William McGovern,
J. Scott Markham, Katrina Sullivan, Tug Hill Commission Representative Christine Healt,
Highway Superintendent Douglas Salmon; Attorney Joshua Navarra
Absent: Councilmember Susan Smith

Town Supervisor Edward Hayes, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hayes opened the floor to Attorney Joshua Navarra as candidate for appointment as the Town of West Turin Town Attorney. Attorney Navarra introduced himself and explained his professional practice.

Due to the resignation of Attorney Ian Gilbert, Joshua Navarra was appointed as the Town of West Turin Town Attorney effective July 13, 2026. Approved on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 29-2026
RESOLUTION APPOINTING ATTORNEY JOSHUA NAVARRA
AS THE TOWN ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN

BE IT SO RESOLVED; upon the resignation of Town Attorney Ian Gilbert, the Town Board of the Town of West Turin does hereby appoint Joshua Navarra as the Town Attorney for the Town of West Turin effective July 13, 2026. This is an annual appointment expiring on December 31, 2026. Approved on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan, and adopted. All ayes.

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 June 8, 2026 town board meeting. Supervisor Hayes made one correction to the minutes. There is an additional invoice that was paid in order to submit for CHIPs reimbursement. The corrected voucher numbers for the highway abstract is 52-64 and the correct amount is $52,501.36. The minutes were accepted as corrected on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

Superintendent Salmon informed the board of the Wynn Road culvert rehabilitation project.

Superintendent Salmon stated there is an invoice from Suit-Kote and an invoice from V.S. Virkler & Son, Inc. that needs to be paid before the next town board meeting in order to submit to CHIPs for reimbursement. The total of the two invoices will be a maximum of $278,582.17. A motion to approve payment of these invoices for a total amount of $278,582.17 or less in order to meet the deadline for CHIPs submission was made on motion by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Markham; all ayes.

Superintendent Salmon presented Abstract No. 7-2026 (Vouchers 65-73) in the amount of $67,797.93. A motion to pay the abstract was made by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes reported he received a check from Town Justice Earl for June 2026 fines and penalties in the amount of $2,076.00. The paid fines and penalties for June 2026 was $1,584.00. The paid fines and penalties for May 2026 was $1,251.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 30-2026
RESOLUTION APPROVING HIGHWAY RESERVE EQUIPMENT FUNDS FOR PAYMENT TO A-VERDI STORAGE CONTAINERS

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin approved the purchase of the 40’ High Cube shipping container for use by the Highway Department for storage; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the shipping container is $4,440.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Town of West Turin approves the payment to A-Verdi Storage Containers to be paid from the highway reserve equipment funds.

Section 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

The topic of the fees for the Zoning Board of Appeals was discussed. Currently the application fee is $150, but with the costs of the board meetings, the town board opted to raise the Zoning Board of Appeals application fee to $350.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 31-2026
TOWN OF WEST TURIN, LEWIS COUNTY, N.Y.
RESOLUTION INCREASING THE APPLICATION FEE FOR THE
TOWN OF WEST TURIN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

WHEREAS, the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of West Turin has proposed amending the application fee to address increased expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the need to adjust fees to ensure the Town of West Turin Zoning Board of Appeals can continue to provide effective zoning review and enforcement service; and

WHEREAS, the application fee for the Town of West Turin Zoning Board of Appeals has been amended to $350.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of West Turin adopts the fee increase of $350.00 for the Town of West Turin Zoning Board of Appeals effective July 13, 2026.

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

Superintendent Salmon said the Town of Pinckney would like to purchase the 2007 International Snowplow from the Town of West Turin. The town board discussed the value of the snowplow. Superintendent Salmon will contact the Town of Pinckney Supervisor to discuss the possible sale.

Supervisor Hayes gave an update from Tax Assessor Karen Shaw. She has started the revaluation process and currently there are 450 parcels that have been reappraised.

Warrant No. 7 (Claim Nos. 115-135) in the amount of $8,346.42 was presented for payment. A motion to pay the warrant was made by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Markham; all ayes.

The audit for Tax Collector Beth McGovern's records will be held on Monday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Highway Department.

Supervisor Hayes reported the Lyons Falls Fire and Ambulance Contract is up for renewal. Proposed fees are as follows – 2027 = $3,579.00; 2028 = $3,758.00; and 2029 = $3,946.00. A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Hayes read a letter from the Association of Towns encouraging a resolution in honor of our nation's founding and its 250th anniversary. The New York Association of Towns is asking

for a resolution in support of their Bill of Rights which affirms the importance of municipal home rule, local control over land use decisions, relief from unfunded mandates, modernization of public notice requirements, and a stronger state-local partnership.

RESOLUTION NO. 32-2026
TOWN OF WEST TURIN
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS BILL OF RIGHTS

WHEREAS, town government provides services essential to the vitality of New York State, including but not limited to maintaining and repairing roads, protecting neighborhoods and businesses, guiding economic development, and serving as the first line of defense, communication, and safety for residents every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, the 933 towns of New York State are home to more than 9.1 million New Yorkers and are diverse in population, geography, and demographics, such that decisions affecting daily life are best made at the local level by the government that best understands each community's character, challenges, and needs; and

WHEREAS, the towns of New York are partners in shaping the State's future, and a true partnership between the State and its local governments will propel New York State forward to the benefit of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the New York Association of Towns has adopted a Bill of Rights articulating the core principles that should govern the relationship between the State and its towns; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin shares and affirms those principles, namely:

1. **Protection and defense of municipal home rule**, recognizing that towns, as the level of government closest to the people, are best positioned to balance competing interests and make decisions that shape daily life;
2. **Local control of land use and zoning**, free from statewide zoning rules that override the voice of resident taxpayers and the officials they elect;
3. **Freedom from unfunded mandates**, so that local taxpayers are not made to bear the cost of orders imposed by State and federal authorities without the resources to carry them out;
4. **Modernized transparency, accessibility, and engagement**, including reform of outdated public-notice requirements that consume scarce municipal dollars on print notices often missed by the public; and
5. **A meaningful voice in State decisions** affecting the hometowns that towns govern, so that town government is treated as a true partner rather than an afterthought or a hurdle to clear;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. That the Town Board of the Town of West Turin hereby endorses and adopts the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights and affirms its commitment to the principles set forth therein.

Section 2. That the Town Board of the Town of West Turin calls upon the Governor and the New York State Legislature to respect and uphold these principles in the enactment of legislation and the administration of State programs affecting towns.

Section 3. That the Town Clerk of the Town of West Turin is hereby directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the State Senator(s) and Member(s) of the Assembly representing the Town of West Turin, and the New York Association of Towns.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2026
TOWN OF WEST TURIN RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
HIGHWAY FUND TOWN WIDE

Account	Code	Increase	Increase
Equip and Cap Outlay	DA5142.2	385,757.94	
BANS Redeemed from Appropriations	DA5731		385,757.94

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

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

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember McGovern.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin