State of New York
County of Lewis
Town of West Turin Board Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2026

Members Present:
Supervisor Edward Hayes; Town Board Members – Katrina Sullivan, Susan Smith, William McGovern, J. Scott Markham; Tug Hill Commission Representative Christine Healt; Highway Superintendent Douglas Salmon; Boonville Herald Writer Mary Ann Wilton, and Robert Greene

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

Supervisor Hayes opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. to consider Local Law No. 1-2026 entitled "A Local Law Permitting the Town of West Turin to Exceed its 2% Tax Cap Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2027". Supervisor Hayes read the local law. Supervisor Hayes opened the floor for questions or comments on the proposed local law. There being no questions or comments at this time the regular meeting continued.

Supervisor Hayes then opened the floor to Bob Greene. Mr. Greene submitted a budget request for an increase in highway employee's hourly wage as well as longevity. The information will be taken into consideration at the town budget workshop.

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 August 10, 2026 town board meeting. The minutes were approved on motion by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

Superintendent Hayes read a letter from the town highway employees for a salary increase and longevity increase. This will be taken into consideration at the town budget workshop.

Superintendent Salmon presented Abstract No. 9-2026 (Vouchers 89-101) in the amount of $67,671.12. A motion to pay the abstract was made by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember McGovern; all ayes.

There being no further discussion on the public hearing to consider Local Law No. 1-2026 entitled "A Local Law Permitting the Town of West Turin to Exceed its 2% Tax Cap Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2027", the hearing was closed on motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by

Councilmember Sullivan. A motion to adopt Local Law No. 1-2026 "A Local Law Permitting the Town of West Turin to Exceed its 2% Tax Cap Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2027" was made on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan, and adopted.

West Turin Local Law No. 1-2026
A Local Law Permitting the Town of West Turin to
Exceed its 2% Tax Cap Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2027

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, 2027 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, 2027 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.

Superintendent Salmon proposed sending the 2022 Ford F250 pick-up truck with a fisher plow to Auctions International as it is surplus highway equipment. A motion to approve auctioning the 2022 Ford F250 pick-up truck with a fisher plow on Auctions International was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Markham. All ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 36-2026
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF
THE 2022 FORD F250 PICK-UP TRUCK WITH A FISHER PLOW
ON AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin owns certain equipment described as one 2022 Ford F250 Pick-up Truck with a Fisher Plow which is no longer required for municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, the Town of West Turin may dispose of surplus property in a manner that serves the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin would like to advertise the sale of such equipment on Auctions International;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Town of West Turin does hereby authorize the sale of the 2022 Ford F250 Pick-up Truck with a fisher plow.

Section 2. The Town of West Turin Highway Superintendent is authorized to sell the above listed equipment by listing it for auction on Auctions International.

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Markham, and adopted on September 14, 2026.

Superintendent Salmon would like to accept the Town of Pinckney's purchase offer for the 2007 International 7600 with a Viking Plow in the amount of $20,000. A motion to accept this offer was made by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember McGovern. All ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 37-2026
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF
THE 2007 INTERNATIONAL 7600 WITH A VIKING PLOW
TO THE TOWN OF PINCKNEY

WHEREAS, the Town of West Turin owns certain equipment described as one 2007 International 7600 with a Viking Plow which is no longer required for municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, the Town of West Turin may dispose of surplus property in a manner that serves the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pinckney has expressed interest in purchasing said equipment for municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, the sale of this equipment will promote intergovernmental cooperation and efficient use of public resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Town of West Turin does hereby sell to the Town of Pinckney one 2007 International 7600 with a Viking Plow for the amount of $20,000.

Section 2. The Town of West Turin Highway Superintendent is authorized to sell the above listed equipment to the Town of Pinckney for the amount of $20,000.

Moved by Councilmember Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember McGovern, and adopted on September 14, 2026.

Supervisor Hayes reported he received a check from Town Justice Earl for August 2026 fines and penalties in the amount of $3,470.00. He has not received a bill for August 2026 fines and penalties. The paid fines & penalties for July 2026 was $668.00.

Lyle Carlisle will not be serving another term on the Town of West Turin's Board of Assessment Review. Cortney Markham has expressed interest in serving on this board. A motion to appoint Cortney Markham to the Town of West Turin Board of Assessment Review was made on motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan. All ayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 38-2026
RESOLUTION APPOINTING CORTNEY MARKHAM
TO THE TOWN OF WEST TURIN BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

BE IT SO RESOLVED; the Town Board of the Town of West Turin does hereby authorize the appointment of Cortney Markham to the Town of West Turin Board of Assessment Review. This appointment is effective October 1, 2026 for a 5-year term expiring on September 30, 2031. This is to fill the expired term of Lyle Carlisle.

Approved on motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan, and adopted on September 14, 2026.

Supervisor Hayes presented a resolution in response to Real Property 458-a Legislation in regards to Veterans' tax exemptions.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-2026
RESOLUTION IN CONSIDERATION OF REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 458-A ESTABLISHING THE ALTERNATIVE VETERANS' EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the intention to support those who have served is both understood and deeply respected, the current structure and execution of RPTL §458-a have resulted in significant operational challenges for local governments; and

WHEREAS, the law as it stands places considerable strain on municipal assessment systems, introduces inconsistencies in eligibility verification, and leads to unanticipated budget deficits—requiring increases to the tax levy or reductions in essential services to balance the shortfall; and

WHEREAS, local assessing units must undertake extensive documentation review, eligibility monitoring, and ongoing compliance responsibilities without additional administrative support or funding; and

WHEREAS, the exemption reduces taxable assessed value, thereby shifting the tax burden disproportionately to other property owners; and

WHEREAS, variations in interpretation and application across municipalities create inequitable outcomes for both applicants and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, if the State deems this exemption a priority, it should provide corresponding reimbursement or aid to mitigate negative impacts at the local level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that policymakers are respectfully urged to review RPTL §458-a, giving careful consideration to its administrative practicality and fiscal consequences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a revised approach—whether through clearer guidelines, modernized verification processes, or State-funded reimbursement—should be adopted to ensure the law's intent is honored while alleviating undue strain on local governments.

Moved by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and adopted on September 14, 2026.

Warrant No. 9-2026 (Claim Nos. 152-170) in the amount of $5,098.18 was presented for payment. A motion to pay the warrant was made by Councilmember McGovern, seconded by Councilmember Sullivan; all ayes.

Supervisor Hayes discussed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2027. Health insurance rates are up 11.5% for co-pay and 10.8% for the HSA plan. The auto and liability insurances are $36,988.00 which is up about $3,000. The salt shed and the new plow truck were added to the policies. Workers' Compensation is down about $92 for a total of $4,205.00**. The retirement is up $5,826.00 for a total of $75,041.00 Both Mercy Flight and the Volunteer Transportation Center has submitted letters requesting funding. The town board agreed at this time they would not be including their funding requests in the 2027 budget.

****Correction noted – amount should be $6,205.00**

A budget workshop has been scheduled with Accountant Scott Lawrence for September 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at his office.

Supervisor Hayes presented information regarding a possible a bi-county turbine project.

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

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on motion by Councilmember Markham, seconded by Councilmember Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany L. Schindler, Clerk
Town of West Turin