

Member Communities

Towns of

Adams
Boylston
Florence
Harrisburg
Lewis
Leyden
Lorraine
Martinsburg
Montague
Osceola
Pinckney
Redfield

Rodman
Turin
West Turin
Williamstown
Worth

Villages of

Adams
Constableville
Lyons Falls
Port Leyden
Turin

Website: tughillcouncil.com



Executive Committee

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STEPHEN BERNAT, *Director*
PAULETTE WALKER, *Director*
FRAN YERDON, *Director*

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CTHC Fall Dinner Meeting Minutes 09/18/2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman R. Tibbetts. Roll Call of Towns showed 15 towns and one village in attendance for the meeting with representatives from Boylston, Harrisburg, Lewis, Leyden, Lorraine, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, Pinckney, Port Leyden, Redfield, Rodman, T/Turin, West Turin, Williamstown and Worth present. Also present as guests were four Tug Hill Commissioners, three members of the Tug Hill staff, and 15 other guests for a total attendance of 48 people. Introductions of attendees followed roll call was completed and then a break was then taken for dinner at 7:05 p.m. with the meeting being reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from April 29, 2025, were reviewed (see attached). A motion was made by D. Dietrich (Martinsburg) and seconded by L. Wojnowski (T/Turin) to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

Reports: Financial Report – A copy of the Financial Report as of August 31, 2025, was presented by Chairman R. Tibbetts (Rodman) for review by members (see attached). Year-to-Date Carryover: \$30,768.68; Receipts to Date: \$13,499.42; Distributions to Date: \$11,134.07; Current Net Funds Available: \$33,134.03. Following review, a motion was made by J. Gillette (T/Turin) and seconded by T. Thisse (Martinsburg) to accept the report as presented. All were in favor. The proposed dues structure through 2029 was also presented for review by members (see attached) and Chairman Tibbetts (Rodman) reported that he felt that staying at \$600/year for dues should be fine for the next few years.

Discuss and Approve the 2025 Budget: The proposed 2025 budget was presented by Chairman R. Tibbetts (Rodman) (see attached). The budget was proposed to remain the same as the 2025 budget for a total budget of \$20,300 for 2026. A motion was made by M. Yerdon (Redfield) and seconded by N. Paradis (Worth) to accept the budget as presented. All were in favor.

Speaker: The speaker for the evening was Taylor McKinney, a project specialist at the Tug Hill Commission who was speaking about ATV consideration for municipalities. The Commission has recently completed a paper on this subject (Taylor was the lead author) which was provided to attendees for review. She talked about the process of finding the datasets for the mapping

associated with ATVs and the difficulties she encountered, which led to this update of a paper the Commission had done many years ago on ATVs. In the process of finding the data, she discovered that the off-road data was easy to find, but the data of the trails utilizing roads was much more complicated and led to reading many local laws, Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC's) Unit Management Plans and court cases.

There have been many changes since the last paper, including the size, weight and width of side-by-sides, which are increasingly popular and are currently not covered by NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law. She also talked about the section of Vehicle and Traffic Law which allows for local roads to be opened and the "trailhead to trailhead", off road unless "otherwise impossible" language in the law, which is the basis for many of the court cases which overturn local laws. The paper includes a "best practices" section to help municipalities who want to approve local laws to open portions of their roads to ATV travel. The paper also discusses the benefits and potential issues which can arise from municipalities opening their roads (see paper, attached).

Tug Hill Commission topics: K. Malinowski (THC Executive Director) reported on the following subjects:

a) New Commissioner, Fred Munk – Fred Munk, who recently retired from region 6 of the DEC, was introduced as the newest THC commissioner and was welcomed by the attendees.

b) Annual dinner: The Commission's annual dinner and meeting is scheduled for 10/9 at the Delta Lake Inn. The speakers for the evening will be focused on agricultural economic development.

c) Roads Legal Work with Ayers Law Firm: They have been working with the Ayers law firm on some road questions, including getting Lorraine's local laws updated in response to the state legislation allowing them to classify low volume and minimum maintenance roads. They expect to have some of the products the law firm has been working on to the Commission soon.

d) 2026 Local Government Conference – The dates have been set for April 20th and 21st and the event will be at Turning Stone again. They are working on the program now.

e) 480a: They are working on an analysis of the impact of the program on municipal budgets. They have a call with the Rural Resources Commission tomorrow on the subject. She also talked about the latest proposed legislation, which has a municipal reimbursement aspect, but it is complicated.

f) Super COG meeting: She talked about having a super COG meeting to discuss regional issues. The last one of these was in 2018. Let her know about interests and topics.

g) Planning Updates – M. Johnson, Tug Hill's Planning Director reported on the current work they are doing in the CTHC municipalities. They are working on a comp plan and some zoning amendments in Rodman, zoning amendments in West Turin and the T/Turin, and a first zoning law in Williamstown. They are also working on an issue paper on large lot zoning. They have lots of capacity for training if any of the planning and zoning boards need training.

Old Business: a) Any other old business - None

New Business: a) **Beth Steria-Rush Retirement:** Beth and her husband Jim were able to attend the meeting and dinner. A. Kimball (CR) gave a presentation about Beth's years of service with

CTHC (see attached), and she was presented with a retirement gift by Chairman Tibbetts (Rodman).

b) Discuss sharing Associate Circuit Riders – A. Kimball (CR) reported that she and the other Tug Hill Circuit Riders had discussed the possibility of sharing Associate Circuit Riders who are close enough to another COG to cover meetings when needed. She would like the Council to consider this plan and the possibility of offering some additional people meeting-to-meeting contracts in cases where this makes sense. The feeling of the attendees was that this was a good idea and that anything which helped with meeting coverage and less work should be considered.

c) Any other new business - None

Supervisor's and Mayor's Topics: The topic of dog control issues was brought up. The municipalities are going to be feeling the pinch as the new state regulations take effect and cause the Humane Societies and other kennels to raise their prices to pay for upgrades to facilities and additional staff, training and services etc.

Additionally, EMS issues were discussed. Costs for these services for ambulance services and fire departments continue to escalate, which means the costs for towns and villages continue to increase. The Lewis County towns and villages will be meeting 9/25 and discussing these issues among others.

Finally, issues with the new requirements associated with the NYS Department of Labor's Contractor Registry and municipalities having to verify contractors are on the registry were discussed with some solutions that people are using being discussed.

With no other business before the Council, a motion was made at 8:30 pm by L. Wojnowski (T/Turin) and seconded by I. Klingbail (Lewis) to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.