

Executive Committee

Robert Sauer, *Chair*
John Doiron, *Vice-Chair*
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*
Thomas McDonald, *Director*
Lawrence Mierek, *Director*

Municipal Projects Coordinator

John Healt
(315)941-2818
jhealt@tughill.org

noccog.org



Announcements

Work Zone Package Give Away

The NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program is very happy to announce their 8th Work Zone Package Program. This program provides sets of work zone equipment at no charge to highway and public works departments in New York State.

All highway and public works departments are eligible to request a package, but priority will be given to those agencies that recently lost equipment due to a flood, fire, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. This program started in 2009, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) to purchase over 65 sets of work zone equipment. This year's grant is from the GTSC and will allow for the purchase of 22 sets of equipment.



The work zone kit includes:

- 2 - ANSI Class II vests (Lime green, XL)
- 2 - Whistles with lanyards (pealess whistles, for all-weather use)
- 2 - Hard Hats
- 2 - 18" Stop-slow paddles
- 6 - 36" Roll-up signs: (2 - Road Work Ahead, 2 - One Lane Road Ahead, 2 - Flagger Symbol)
- 6 - Sign stands
- 20 - 28" Cones with stripes
- 2 - Work Zone Pocket Guides
- 2 - Flagger Pocket Guides

Applications must be completed and returned by November 15, 2024.

Fill out the application [online](#) or [download](#) it and email it to clrp@cornell.edu, or visit the NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program work zone giveaway webpage: <https://cals.cornell.edu/nysltap-local-roads/work-zone-packages>

If your municipality does not receive a free kit, the packet is available for purchase.

Towns: [Annsville](#) ~ [Ava](#) ~ [Boonville](#) ~ [Camden](#) ~ [Floyd](#) ~ [Forestport](#) ~ [Lee](#) ~ [Remsen](#) ~ [Steuben](#) ~ [Trenton](#) ~ [Vienna](#) ~ [Western](#)

Villages: [Boonville](#) ~ [Camden](#) ~ [Holland Patent](#) ~ [Remsen](#) ~ [Sylvan Beach](#)

Upcoming Webinars from the Office of the Comptroller

Join the NYS Office of the Comptroller Academy for Local Officials throughout November and December as they offer numerous, no cost, accounting related webinars. These webinars offer insight and training of the many principals and procedures relating to municipal fiscal operations.



Click the highlighted session titles to register.

November 6, 10:00am - 11:00am

[Accounting for Capital Assets](#)

A municipality's inventory of capital assets often represents its most significant investment of resources. This session will cover the proper accounting for these valuable assets. We will also discuss best practices to ensure these assets are properly safeguarded from theft or loss.



November 13, 10:00 am - 11:00am

[NYSLRS Record of Activities - Elected and Appointed Officials](#)

This webinar will explain how the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) determines service credit for Elected and Appointed Officials. Officials, who are not in a time-keeping system, are required to keep a Record of Activities (ROA). The purpose of an ROA is to establish an Official's service credit in NYSLRS. During this training, we will go over what is required on an ROA, as well as walk you through how to complete an ROA utilizing a template, available on the NYSLRS website.

November 20 - 21, 8:45am - 3:00pm

[Introduction to Governmental Accounting](#)

This multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with the basic concepts of governmental accounting and give them a working knowledge of basic bookkeeping procedures such as understanding debits and credits, a discussion of the modified accrual system of accounting, the practice of maintaining the books and records, developing and accounting for the annual budget, as well as the year-end closing process.

December 4, 10:00am - 11:00am

[Accounting for Length of Service Award Programs \(LOSAP\)](#)

This session will discuss accounting principles and work through journal entry examples to ensure the proper recordkeeping for length of service award programs (LOSAP). Participants will also learn about the establishment of the programs, applicable GASB criteria and reporting requirements.

December 11 - 12, 8:45am - 3:00pm

[Accounting Principles and Procedures](#)

This multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with accounting and financial reporting requirements for local governments in New York. The course provides guidance on certain operational issues, such as cash management, purchasing, processing claims for payment, accounting for capital projects and utilizing reserve funds.

Click [here](#) for more information, or visit the NYS Comptroller's Academy webpage, <https://www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/academy>

Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Training School, February 16-18



Registration is still open for the Association of Towns' 2025 Annual Dinner and Training School, scheduled for February 16-18, at the New York Marriott Marquis, in New York City. In addition to numerous informational workshops such as Speed Limit Reduction – How to Establish Safe Speeds in Your Community, Valuing Renewable Energy Projects and Negotiating PILOTs, Avoiding Insurance Pitfalls, and Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2), the multi-day, multi-session trainings also include a Justice Tract, a Continuing Legal Education Tract, and a Court Clerk Tract.

There are additional networking and entertainment opportunities offered this year, such as group discount pricing for a Broadway Show, discounts at area restaurants, and the 2025 Awards Reception and Dinner.

For more information, the full agenda, or to register, visit the Association of Towns' Training School webpage [here](#).

NYSLTAP - CLRP Webinars

The New York State Local Technical Assistance Program Center, hosted by the Cornell Local Roads Program continues their no cost foundational webinar series throughout November and December. These hour-long sessions run on Tuesday mornings, starting at 9:00 am.

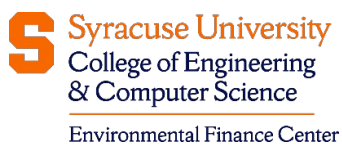
- 11.12.2024 - [Basics of a Good Road](#)*
- 11.19.2024 - [Traffic Safety](#)*
- 12.3.2024 - [Budget Basics](#)
- 12.10.2024 - [Grants, State Aid, Federal Aid, & other sources of revenue](#)*
- 12.17.2024 - [Pavement Management](#)*

**Anticipated to be worth 1 Engineering PDH credit*



For more information, check out the Cornell Local Roads Program training [webpage](#), or click each link above to register.

Solar Energy for Small Wastewater Systems: Savings, Sustainability, and Incentives Webinar, Nov. 19



Join the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center as they partner with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center on Tuesday, November 19, from Noon - 1:00pm, as they present a no cost webinar regarding an overview of energy use in small WWTPs and explore solutions for reducing energy costs while enhancing sustainability. Covered will be the breakdown of energy consumption in small WWTPs, the significant role solar power can play in cutting down electricity expenses, and how direct pay provisions under the Inflation

Reduction Act and other incentive programs can make solar adoption more affordable for tax-exempt and governmental entities.

Presenters Danish Kumar, Climate Change Program Manager, and Stephanie Dalke, Water Resources and Climate Adaptation Program Manager at the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, will help attendees understand the energy consumption patterns of WWTPs, explore the integration of renewable energy, with a focus on solar, in wastewater treatment operations, and learn about the use of direct pay and elective pay mechanisms to access tax incentives for renewable energy projects

For more information, visit the EFCN training webpage [here](#). Or click [here](#) to register,

Towns: [Annsville](#) ~ [Ava](#) ~ [Boonville](#) ~ [Camden](#) ~ [Floyd](#) ~ [Forestport](#) ~ [Lee](#) ~ [Remsen](#) ~ [Steuben](#) ~ [Trenton](#) ~ [Vienna](#) ~ [Western](#)

Villages: [Boonville](#) ~ [Camden](#) ~ [Holland Patent](#) ~ [Remsen](#) ~ [Sylvan Beach](#)

NYCOM Planning and Zoning Webinars



NYCOM General Counsel, Wade Beltramo, is presenting four separate one-hour webinars on Tuesdays, starting November 19, running through December 17, from 11:00am to Noon each day. These webinars are open to NYCOM members and non-members, including non-planning board and non-ZBA members. There is a cost of participating in each webinar of \$25 for members and \$75 for non-members.

November 19th: The Open Meetings Law

While the requirements of New York's Open Meetings Law (OML) are fairly straightforward, there are a lot of scenarios that can create confusion. Moreover, the OML's new videoconference procedures have left quite a few local officials scratching their heads. This webinar will provide a full explanation of the OML's fundamental requirements. The presentation will also highlight recent OML amendments, including videoconferencing, the public's right to access records that are scheduled to be discussed at meetings, the definition of "public body," and the posting of meeting minutes.

December 3rd: Understanding Article 78: Drafting Decisions That Will Withstand a Legal Challenge

Because decisions of ZBAs and planning boards are frequently challenged in court, ZBA and planning board members should understand the litigation process and the legal standards courts apply when reviewing ZBA and planning board decisions. This webinar will provide an overview of the Article 78 process which governs challenges to ZBA or planning board determinations, highlighting the arbitrary and capricious and substantial evidence standards. The webinar will conclude with a discussion of how to draft determinations that meet the standards for making administrative decisions.

December 10th: Ethics for ZBA and Planning Board Proceedings

The land use decision-making processes can be highly contentious, with costly projects at stake and peoples' property rights in play. An issue that constantly arises in proceedings before ZBAs and planning boards are claims of ethical lapses and misconduct. Sometimes charges of a conflict of interest or bias are well-founded, and sometimes such charges are merely attempts to disqualify local officials. The very nature of being a local official, namely having to be a resident of the municipality and in many instances being a property or businesses owner, creates some degree of interest in the applications that come before them. This webinar will address the basics of ethics for ZBAs and planning boards, including prohibited conflicts of interest and bias, ex parte communications, and prejudging applications. The webinar will also cover the steps officials can take to deal with such cases, including requesting ethics opinions from boards of ethics, recusal, having alternate board members, and disclosure.

December 17th: Parking: How It Impacts Community Development & How to Do It Right

This final webinar in NYCOM's 2024 planning and zoning webinar series will cover parking. No land use issue is more mundane and yet more controversial than parking. Off-street parking requirements can be found in practically every local zoning code. But Professor Donald Shoup has shattered the myths that have served as the foundation for parking standards for decades, standards that have caused substantial harm to communities across the country. This session will examine case law interpreting parking. In addition, this session will address Professor Shoup's research and what it means to local zoning codes and ZBAs handling variance requests for parking.

If your municipality allows webinars as a valid form of training, individuals who participate in each of the four webinars will satisfy the State's four-hour annual training requirement for planning board and ZBA members. Additionally, each of these webinars is eligible for one hour of CLE credit in the Area of Professional Practice. Attorneys wishing to obtain CLE credit for participating in these webinars MUST PRE-REGISTER. These CLE courses contain new content for 2024 and are not "repeat" courses for purposes of the NYS CLE Board's "no repeat" rule. In addition, these CLE courses are appropriate for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys and are a permissible format for newly admitted attorneys.

For more information or to register for any, or all, of the webinars, visit the NYCOM Planning and Zoning Webinar page by clicking [here](#), or by visiting: <https://www.nycom.org/115-news/1810-nycom-webinars>

Federal Aid 101 Webinar, Thursday, Dec. 5

Getting federal aid is only the first step in the process to complete a local project. To make a project successful, the local agency needs to understand the steps and the federal and state requirements. Join presenter David Orr, on Thursday, December 5, from 9:30am - 3:00pm as he walks through a federal aid project from start to finish, discusses the steps to a successful project, and reviews issues that have led to problems in the past. Ideally, attendees will learn the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved as well as ways to reduce stress for themselves and the agencies overseeing the work.

There is no cost to attend the webinar, unless Professional Development Hours are sought, then there is a \$20 registration fee.

To register, click [here](#). For more information, visit <https://cals.cornell.edu/nysltap-local-roads/training-events/webinars-online-training>

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments Annual Meeting



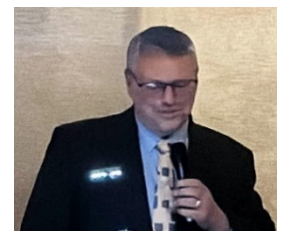
Thank you to all that attended the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) Annual Meeting, Thursday night, October 24, at the Woods Valley Ski Area in Westernville. Over 70 local government officials attended the event, including NYS Senator Joe Griffo, (53rd Senate District) and Mike Furner, representing Assemblymember Marianne Buttenchon (Dist. 119). Also present were NYS Tug Hill Commissioners Gerry Ritter and Bob Keller, Tug Hill Commission Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects, Jennifer Harvill, Project Specialist Jillian Lee, and Municipal Advisor Heidi Thompkins. Oneida County Sheriff Rob Maciol and Oneida County Legislator Steve DiMaggio (Dist. 17) attended as well.

The keynote speaker was Steven Smith, Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD.) One of nine Federal Economic Development Districts in New York State, MVEDD has been serving Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties since 1966. Steve spoke on many of the services MVEDD provides and offers to the communities in the group's six county region.

Also recognized was long time NOCCOG Director and former Chair, John Doiron. John has decided to step down after serving on the Board of Directors for 14 years. He will be missed!

Also recognized was long time NOCCOG Director and former Chair, John Doiron. John has decided to step down after serving on the Board of Directors for 14 years. He will be missed!

The slate of officers elected for 2025 were: Robert Sauer, from Camden, Chair, Thomas McDonald, from Remsen, Vice Chair, Betsy Mack, from Trenton, Fiscal Officer, and Lawrence Mierek, from Western, Director.



Towns: *Annsville ~ Ava ~ Boonville ~ Camden ~ Floyd ~ Forestport ~ Lee ~ Remsen ~ Steuben ~ Trenton ~ Vienna ~ Western*

Villages: *Boonville ~ Camden ~ Holland Patent ~ Remsen ~ Sylvan Beach*