

Executive Committee

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

Municipal Projects Coordinator

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Announcements

Webinars from the Office of the Comptroller



Join the NYS Office of the Comptroller Academy for Local Officials as they present their remaining two, no cost, accounting-related webinars in December. These webinars offer insight and training of the many principals and procedures relating to municipal fiscal operations.

Click the highlighted session titles to register.

December 2, 10:00am - 11:00am

[Required Reporting for Local Governments](#)

This webinar will review the reporting requirements for local governments, including an overview of required annual reports that are submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller and a review of basic internal reports that should be provided to the governing board. There will be an opportunity to submit questions to our staff which will be answered at the end of the presentation.

December 10 - 11, 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.



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

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

Small Wastewater System Funding Webinar Series



Successfully securing and managing federal funding for publicly owned and decentralized wastewater treatment systems is no small task, especially with shifting program priorities and uncertainty about future allocations.

This no-cost webinar series from the Capacity Collaborative will guide participants through the entire funding process: where to find nationally available funding, how to craft competitive proposals, and how to stay in compliance through project completion. Designed for small wastewater systems, each session focuses on a step in the funding application and management journey, equipping participants with tools and knowledge to increase their chances of funding success.

Session 1: The Current Funding Landscape - Tuesday, Dec. 2, 1:00-2:00 pm

While funding options continue to shift, well-established federal infrastructure funding such as the EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) and USDA Rural Development programs will continue to be primary sources for many small systems. This webinar will provide an overview of the current funding landscape and help participants get organized to identify options suitable for the needs of their local system. Click [here](#) to learn more, or [here](#) to register.

Session 2: Building Compelling Award Applications (Part 1) - Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1:00 -2:00 pm

This webinar will focus on federal award requirements and how to prepare your organization to apply for and manage a public grant. We will address typical grant compliance, organizational readiness, and components for a successful award application. Click [here](#) to learn more, or [here](#) to register.

Session 3: Building Compelling Award Applications (Part 2) - Thursday, Dec. 18, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

All strong funding applications start with a thorough understanding of local needs, supported by quantitative and qualitative data. This webinar will cover the process of developing a compelling application that clearly establishes needs, priorities, and goals for your project funding application. [here](#) to learn more, or [here](#) to register.

Click NYSLTAP - CLRP Foundational Webinars



The Cornell Local Roads Program's no cost Winter Foundational Webinar series has kicked off, focusing on many important principles which are key to local highway agency operations and management. Each webinar offers a convenient way to learn the basics of a particular topic. Taken together, they cover the foundation of local highway issues. These hour-long webinars start at 9:00am.

- December 2, 2025 - [MUTCD](#)*
- December 9, 2025 - [Road & Street Legal Issues](#)*
- December 16, 2025 - [Asset Management](#)*

For more information about these webinars, or to view the Winter Foundational Webinar series schedule, visit the NYS LTAP Center webinar webpage, [here](#).



Taking the Bench Certification Course for Justices

The Office of Justice Court Support is offering an in-person Fall 2025 Taking the Bench Certification Course for newly elected or appointed town and village justices. *Taking the Bench* is comprised of two separate training sessions. The first is a five-day in person training, Monday, December 8 through Friday, December 12, from 8:30 am to 4:30pm each day, at 500 Patroon Creek Blvd, Albany, NY 12206,



The second session will be a live-virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting, on Thursday and Friday, June 11th and 12th, also from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm each day. Each newly elected or appointed Town or Village Justice, who is not a member of the New York State Bar, is required pursuant to §17.2 of the Rules of the Chief Judge (22 NYCRR 17.2) to attend the first available Certification Course after appointment or election. A non-lawyer Town or Village Justice may not assume the functions of the office until a certificate of completion of the Certification Course is filed with the municipality (Uniform Justice Court Act §105). Attorney Justices are strongly encouraged to attend, and some Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits may be available for attending attorney judges. Justices will receive their certification to assume the bench after successful completion of the first session of Taking the Bench in December.

Click [here](#) to register. **Registration will close as of noon on Friday, December 5, 2025.** The *account name* is court and the *password* is court. Updated training materials will be available on the Town and Village Courts website [here](#). Registered Judges will receive an email with instructions on how to access the materials on the password protected website

Tug Hill Commission Meeting December 8



The Tug Hill Commission is scheduled to meet Monday, December at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Watertown Municipal Offices, 22867 County Rt. 67, Watertown. The meeting will include routine business of the commission, and a review of major projects and activities in the region. The public is welcome to attend.

ATV Recreation: Considerations for Municipalities, Thursday Dec. 11

NOCCOG and the NYS Tug Hill Commission will host an informational session regarding recreational ATV/OHV traffic, on Thursday, December 11th, at 7:00 pm at the Boonville municipal offices.



Join Tug Hill Commission Project Specialist, Taylor McKinney, as she presents on the factors municipalities should take into consideration when enacting or updating local road laws for ATV use. The session will derive from the commission's recently updated issue paper, [ATV Recreation: Considerations for Municipalities](#), originally written in 2004. Now, with over two decades of experience with ATV trails, as well as numerous court cases that shed light on best practices, municipalities are much better positioned to make informed decisions. Taylor will also discuss the detailed approach taken to create a map of the region's ATV trail system, which is based on trail data, local laws, and pertinent court cases.



There is no cost to attend, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact John Healt at jhealt@tughill.org, or 315-941-2818.



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NYS Town Clerk's Association Regional Training, December 15



Join the New York State Town Clerks Association on December 15, at the Radisson Hotel Corning, 125 Denison Parkway East, in Corning, for their final Regional Education Session of the year.

The presentation by Robert Blaisdell, of Comp Alliance, will focus on workplace violence and de-escalation technics. Given the current climate, this refresher will provide valuable tools and strategies for managing day-to-day interactions and maintaining a safe, professional environment in our offices. This is an excellent opportunity to gain practical skills and strengthen workplace preparedness. Registration will open at 8:30 AM and the session will begin at 9:00 AM, ending at noon with lunch to follow. The cost of the program, which includes breakfast and lunch is \$40.00. These regional sessions are a great time to meet new clerks, catch up with fellow clerks, and increase your clerk network.

For more information, visit nystca.com, or click [here](#), to register.

NOCCOG Executive Committee to Meet December 18

The NOCCOG directors are scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 18th at 2pm at the Town of Western municipal offices. Along with routine business, other items on the proposed agenda include the GPS mapping program, the ATV session recap, future trainings, and the 2026 scholarship program. The executive committee meetings are always open to the public.



For more information, contact John Healt at 315-941-2818 or jhealt@tughill.org.

The Best and Worst of 2025 Webinar, December 18

On Thursday, December 18, from 6-7 pm, the MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook will present their final training webinar of the year, *Santa's Naughty and Nice List: The Best and Worst of 2025*. This last session of their no cost annual training program will close out the year with a fun session on who got it really right and who might have missed the boat in 2024. Discussed will be case studies on the best examples of great development review, and a few pitfalls discovered by your neighbors that should be avoided going into the New Year.



These sessions are geared to assist local governments, town officials, and planning and zoning boards.

To register for this webinar, click [here](#). For more information, or to view the 2025 Municipal Bootcamp Program, visit the MRB Group Bootcamp [webpage](#).

NY Association of Towns Newly Elected Town Officials Training, Jan. 14-16 & Jan. 21-23

The NYS Association of Towns will offer their 3 day, in person, training for newly elected town officials twice in January 2026, in two different locations. Jan. 14-16 will be at the Albany Capital Center 55 Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12207, and Jan. 21-23 will be at Radisson Hotel Corning 125 Denison Parkway East, Corning, NY 14830.

The sessions cover many of the basics of local governments, including a separate tract for town clerks. There is a cost to attend either training

For more information, reserve a hotel room, view the agenda, or to register, visit the AOT registration page, [here](#).

State Agrees to Delay New York's All-Electric Buildings Mandate Pending Appeals Court Ruling

New York state will delay its statewide mandate to build all-electric buildings, which was scheduled to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2026. Attorneys for the state agreed in a filing in U.S. District Court to delay implementation of the law until the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals makes a ruling on the matter.

Known as the All-Electric Buildings Act, the legislation was tucked in the state budget in 2023 and bans new gas hookups in new buildings under seven stories starting Jan. 1. The mandate would apply to all other buildings constructed after Jan. 1, 2029.

Gas and construction trade groups sued to block the law two years ago, arguing it violates the federal government's rules around how gas appliances are regulated.

With the Jan. 1 date fast approaching, the law has faced new scrutiny as of late over increased construction costs at a time of already limited affordable housing, as well as potential strain on a future electric grid. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) released a report in October indicating the state's electric grid could have reliability issues in New York City, Long Island and the Hudson Valley within five years, due to greater burdens from cryptocurrency, data mining and a shift to electric energy over fossil fuels. Those concerns have prompted calls to delay the All-Electric Buildings Act. Moderate Democrats state Assembly last month signed onto a letter asking Gov. Kathy Hochul to do just that. Republicans in the Legislature have long opposed the measure.

Save the Date!

NYS Tug Hill Commission's 35th Local Government Conference

Monday & Tuesday April 20-21, 2026



*Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season from all of us
at the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments!*



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The
NORTHERN ONEIDA COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
and the
NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION
present:

ATV RECREATION: CONSIDERATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
7:00PM
BOONVILLE MUNICIPAL OFFICES
13149 STATE ROUTE 12, BOONVILLE, NY 13309

The Tug Hill Commission recently published *ATV Recreation: Considerations for Municipalities*. Taylor McKinney, project specialist at the Tug Hill Commission and primary author of the issue paper, will walk attendees through the content, including the impetus for writing the document, the approach taken to research local laws and relevant court cases, and best practices municipalities may want to consider when opening roads for ATV recreation in their town or village. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. The paper can be downloaded from the commission's website at tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/, or by contacting either your municipal advisor or the Tug Hill Commission for a hard copy.



**Register by
December 8**



Taylor McKinney, Project Specialist
NYS Tug Hill Commission

For more information, or to register, contact:
John Healt, jhealt@tughill.org or 315-941-2818

**THERE IS NO COST TO
ATTEND & REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE PROVIDED**

