

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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noccog.org



Announcements

NYS Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference, April 20 & 21, 2026

It's not too late to register for the 34th annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference!

Held once again at the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center in Verona, the full day of sessions is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, with a focused session, Planning for Growth, scheduled for Monday, April 20.

There is a great lineup of relevant sessions geared for town and village boards, planning and zoning boards of appeals, clerks, assessors, and all who are involved in municipal government. The hour-long conference reception will follow the Monday afternoon focused session, which will include hearty appetizers and a cash bar.

For more information, view the full agenda, or to register, including details about hotel reservations, visit the conference webpage, [here](#).

Registrations covered by NOCCOG must be received by John Healt, jhealt@tughill.org, prior to March 13.

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

The Cornell Local Roads Program's no cost Winter Foundational Webinar series continues, focusing on many important principles which are key to local highway agency operations and management. These hour-long webinars are on Tuesdays and start at 9:00am. *Please note only the person registered will receive credit and you need to attend 75% of the live session for an attendance certificate and 90% for a PDH certificate.*



- March 3, 2026 - [Snow & Ice Overview](#)
- March 10, 2026 - [Pavement Maintenance](#)

Click on each highlighted topic for more information or to register for these webinars. To view the Winter Foundational Webinar series schedule, visit the NYS LTAP Center webinar webpage, [here](#).

Tug Hill Commission Meeting March 18



The Tug Hill Commission is scheduled to meet Wednesday, March 18, at 10 am at the Lorraine Municipal Building located at 20876 County Route 189, Lorraine. 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.

Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) Grants

The New York State Archives is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant cycle. The LGRMIF provides grants to local governments, assisting local governments to establish records management programs or develop new program components. It is a competitive program based on the merits of the applications.

Application types include:

- Individual (up to \$75,000)
- Shared Services (up to \$150,000)
- NYC Dept. of Records (DORIS)

Project categories include:

- Disaster Management
- Document Conversion and Access
- Files Management
- Historical Records
- Inactive Records

The application deadline is 5:00 pm on April 1, 2026. If your records management officer does not already have an eGrants user account, or if your RMO has changed since the last time your institution applied for a grant, an online registration form must be completed. The deadline for requesting a new user account is 5:00 pm on March 18, 2026.

More information on the 2026-2027 LGRMIF grant cycle can be found by visiting the LGRMIF [webpage](#), as well as reviewing the [2026-2027 RFP/Application Guide](#). Please email archgrants@nysed.gov or call (518) 474-6926 with questions.

NOCCOG Executive Committee to Meet March 19

The NOCCOG directors are scheduled to meet on Thursday, March 19th at 2pm at the Town of Annsville municipal offices. Along with routine business, other items on the proposed agenda include the GPS mapping program, the annual dinner, and the 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.

Town & Village Budget and Accounting Technical Assistance with Laird Petrie

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is pleased to have extended its contract with Laird Petrie, providing no cost budgeting and accounting technical assistance to towns and villages within the Tug Hill's five councils of governments.

Examples of services include:

- Assistance with annual budget preparation, including attendance at budget workshops when requested.
- Assistance with preparation of the Annual Update Document (AUD) required to be filed with OSC each year.
- Training municipal accounting personnel and aid with developing accounting records required by OSC.
- Assistance with multi-year capital plans including establishing, accounting, and re-reporting for capital reserve funds.
- Assistance with long-term operational plans including the use of various reserve funds authorized by General Municipal Law.
- Assistance with the planning, budgeting and accounting for capital projects including those involving debt and grant funds.
- Assistance to local officials with shared service and government reorganization initiatives (dissolutions, consolidations, etc.).
- Assessment of various internal controls and policies and recommendations to governing boards as to how to effectively safeguard municipal assets.

For more information, or to set up a session with Laird, please contact John Healt at 315-941-2818 or jhealt@tughill.org.

Designing and Conducting an Income Survey, Hybrid Session, March 25

Looking to secure funding that requires an income survey, but not sure where to start? Join the [New York State Office of Community Renewal](#), [Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center](#), [RCAP Solutions](#), and the [New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation](#) on Wednesday, March 25, from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm, for this no-cost hybrid workshop to learn when an income survey is needed, receive step-by-step guidance on designing and conducting a statistically sound survey, and understand key procedural requirements of surveys per NYSEFC and CDBG.

Income surveys can be daunting, but they are often needed to secure vital funding when census data is outdated or does not accurately reflect the community's true economic status. Income surveys are commonly used to determine the Median Household Income (MHI) of a specific service area, establish eligibility for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, and improve a communities' chance of achieving hardship eligibility for other funding sources such as those administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In-person attendance at the Syracuse Center of Excellence, [727 E Washington St., Syracuse](#), is encouraged, but is also limited to 50 seats. Sessions will be live-streamed for hybrid viewing. If you would like to attend virtually, please indicate so on the registration form. Please note lunch is not provided.

For questions, please contact Jes Eckerlin, jeschn01@syr.edu, or click [here](#) to register.



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Running Your Highway Department Workshop, March 26

Got questions on the best way to manage your highway department? Then join veteran Highway Superintendent Marty Roberts, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on Thursday March 26, at the Oneida County Public Works garage, 5999 Judd Rd, Oriskany, as he discusses budgets, straightforward replacement plans, taking asset management plans to your board, and more. This is a great session for elected or appointed town or village highway superintendents or public works officials who supervise staff.

Click [here](#), to register. Or, for more information and to view other 2026 spring workshop topics, visit the Cornell Local Roads Program workshop [webpage](#).

Meeting Basics and Open meetings Law webinar, March 26



Join the MRB Group and Hancock Estrabrook on Thursday, March 26, from 6-7pm, as they present their second, no cost, training session of the year, *Getting it Together - The Basics of Running A Meeting and the Open Meetings Law*.

The operations of a public body can be complex at times, but a sound procedural playbook will help you navigate nearly any challenge. This session focuses on the basics of running a meeting, the review process, and New York's Open Meetings Law.

To register for this webinar, click [here](#). For more information, or to view the 2026 Municipal Bootcamp Program, visit the MRB Group Bootcamp [webpage](#).

NYS Town Clerk's Association Annual Conference, April 19-22



NEW YORK STATE
TOWN CLERKS
ASSOCIATION

Registration is open for the NYSTCA 44th Annual Conference to be held April 19-22 at the Crown Plaza-Desmond Hotel, in Albany.

The conference is designed specifically for the education and professional development of town clerks and their deputies, with a goal of helping each clerk succeed in their position and in their municipality, armed with up-to-date information and well equipped for their many daily tasks. There will be sessions with State agencies who are frequently contacted, topical speakers during breakout sessions, vendor specialty classes, and one-of-a-kind offerings. There will be classes for new clerks as well as seasoned clerks.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit NYSTCA's conference webpage [here](#), or click [here](#), to register.

NOCCOG Scholarship Program

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments is very pleased to announce the NOCCOG Scholarship program is continuing in 2026. The program is available to graduating seniors in the NOCCOG area school districts that are attending college in the fall. The current schools involved with the program are Adirondack, Camden, Holland Patent and Remsen.



The award is given to recognize the importance of local government, as well as the often-unacknowledged service, commitment, and dedication of community members who are essential in the daily operation of our towns and villages. Ideally, the candidate has been involved in school or community organizations, volunteering their time, usually behind the scenes, without the desire for recognition. The award is given with the hope the recipient will someday be involved in their local government.

The \$500 award is given upon the successful completion of their first college semester.

If you know of a deserving senior, encourage them to check with their local guidance office and apply!

For more information on the program, please contact John Healt, 315-941-2818, or email, jhealt@tughill.org.

Cut the Red Tape - EXPRESS NY Launched



Department
of State

In an effort to streamline regulations and improve how government works, New York State has announced the launch of EXPRESS NY, a new statewide effort to make government work better by tackling outdated and

burdensome regulations, policies, and practices.

The State has launched a new portal for New Yorkers to identify regulations, policies, and practices that add unnecessary process, undue burden, or are simply out of date. Specific areas of focus include recommendations that will:

- Speed up housing & infrastructure development by addressing obstacles that slow down the ability to build affordable housing and other infrastructure, such as transportation, child care centers, water infrastructure, parks, community centers, and more.
- Support small businesses by tackling burdensome requirements and fees that make it difficult for businesses to launch, serve customers, or grow.
- Streamline access to services by simplifying complicated processes or removing unnecessary hurdles that prevent families from accessing benefits and services that New York State supports or oversees (e.g., healthcare, child care, nutrition, mental health).

New Yorkers should submit ideas through the EXPRESS NY portal, [here](#). The call for ideas will be open until April 3.



When can the board go into executive session?

In New York State, a municipal board may enter an executive session (a private, closed-door portion of an open meeting) for specific, narrowly defined purposes under Open Meetings Law (§105(1)(a-h)). *A public vote and a motion identifying the subject to be discussed are required before entering the session.*

Specifically:

- a. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
- b. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
- c. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
- d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
- e. collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;
- f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
- g. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations;
- h. the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

As such, a public body cannot conduct an executive session to discuss the subject of its choice. Further, once in an executive session, no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public moneys.

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