



January 1, 2016

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Tug Hill Times

Tug Hill Times is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

Herrings Moving Toward Dissolution

The village of Herrings submitted and has had approved a request for \$25,000 to the Department of State (DOS) through their Expedited Re-organization Assistance program for professional services to support a dissolution study, plan and alternatives to dissolution. At the December 6th village board meeting, the board authorized Mayor Christal Loeffler to sign and execute all required financial and administrative contracts and agreements and appointed Charlie Burns to serve on the study committee, as well as another community representative.

In conjunction, the town of Wilna appointed Sue Storms, Councilwoman, and Paul Smith, Supervisor, to serve on the study committee at the town's December 14 meeting. In accordance with Article 17 of the NYS General Municipal Law, members of the newly appointed committee will meet with DOS representatives on January 6th, within 30 days of receiving funding approval, to review next steps.

Subject to a permissive referendum and according to General Municipal Law Article -17A, the village dissolution study, plan, and alternatives to dissolution will be submitted to the village from the study committee for final review and consideration by June 4, 2016. Once completed, the village will schedule a public hearing within 90 days to provide electors with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before going to a final vote. If residents call for a referendum vote and the referendum on village dissolution is rejected, the village will remain. If however, electors vote to dissolve the village, the dissolution plan will guide local officials through the process.

Helpful reference guides to dissolutions are available here:

<http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/ConsolidationDissolutionLaw.pdf>

http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/LocalGovernmentConsolidationHandout_071315.pdf

Rodman Park Improvements Continue

Established in 2007 as a memorial to former supervisor Gordon Cole, the town of Rodman has continued to make improvements to the facility using primarily grant funding. The park includes a Little League field, playground equipment, a walking trail and landscaping. Most recently, the town secured funding through Senator Ritchie to make improvements to the baseball field and pavilion, as well as for trees and benches throughout the park.

Information about the park can be found on the town's website, <http://www.townofrodmany.org/rodman-memorial-park/>.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet

January 25 at 10:00am at the Central Square village offices
3125 East Ave., Central Square, NY.

NEWLY ELECTED WORKSHOP

WHEN

Thursday, January 21, 2016

6:30pm - 8pm

Check in: 6pm

WHERE

Town of Trenton

Municipal Building

8520 Old Poland Rd.

(intersection of Rt. 12)

Barneveld, NY

DOWNLOAD A REGISTRATION FORM:

Go to: www.lgec.org and click on upcoming workshops

For more information call 315-792-7270

TOPICS INCLUDE

Roles & Responsibilities

Powers & Duties

Town Budgets

Agendas & Minutes

Transitional Issues

Conducting Board Meetings

Freedom of Information Law

Open Meetings Law

Appointments

Home Rule Law

Financial Reporting

Conflicts of Interest

Executive Session

Other Municipal Issues

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Newly Elected

Supervisors & Mayors

Board Members & Trustees

Planning & Zoning Members

COST

The workshop is \$15.00

**Registration and payment
are due by Monday, January,
18, 2016.**

SPONSORED BY:

Local Government

**Education Committee's
(LGEC)**

NYSERDA Offers Incentive for Streamlined Solar Permitting

Municipalities that adopt a standardized permitting processes to help remove barriers to local economic development in the growing solar and electric vehicle industries are eligible for a monetary award. Cities, towns, villages, or other entities having jurisdiction for permitting, land use planning, and zoning are eligible applicants. Total award amounts will be capped at \$5,000 per applicant for applicants representing a population of up to 30,000 residents and \$10,000 per applicant for applicants representing a population larger than 30,000 residents. More information about the permitting process can be found here: <http://ny-sun.ny.gov/For-Local-Government/Local-Government>.

Support is available on a first-come, first-serve basis through September 30, 2019, until all funds are exhausted, or until the solicitation is revised by NYSERDA, whichever comes first. Applications will be accepted through the Consolidated Funding Application pending NYSERDA approval of the following documentation demonstrating streamlined permitting process elements. Applications must be submitted after all work has been completed and with all relevant documentation attached. This documentation includes:

- Verification of the population size of the municipality.
- Copy of resolution from the municipality adopting the permitting process and permit for use.
- Copy of the officially adopted permit.
- Copy of parking ordinance amendment.
- And/or copy of zoning ordinance amendment.

Visit nyserda.ny.gov/cgc (click on Category 1 Fact Sheet) for more information and NYSERDA's CFA Guidance materials. Applicants should contact their circuit riders for assistance, or contact NYSERDA directly at CGC@nyserda.ny.gov with questions.

Environmental Finance Center Offers Mini-Grants for Asset Management Inventory Development

EFC is looking to fund up to three \$5,000 mini-grants, which seek to provide rural municipalities with the tools and resources to fully conduct an Asset Management (AM) inventory for their water or wastewater system. An AM inventory can serve as a useful first step for creating an AM plan, which can then be used as a decision-making tool to aid municipalities in the development of a capital management plan. Possible Mini-Grant Funding Utilization include:

- Staff and/or intern time to conduct AM inventory
- Hiring of a consultant to conduct AM inventory
- Materials to support the AM inventory
- Purchase of appropriate AM software for municipal computers

The application requires a quick turn around time, so please contact the Tug Hill Commission if you need assistance with writing a grant application. **Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 PM on January 31, 2016.** Awards will be announced no later than February 16, 2016 and work must be completed no later than August 31, 2016. Click here for full information about the grant: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/7dfb09ad16771349bbdb43da4/files/2015_AM_Inventory_Mini_Grant_RFP.pdf

All awardees will be required to prepare a final report that documents the work conducted, explains the municipality's plan for the results, and what the next steps will be. The Syracuse EFC will offer to provide no-cost AM training for communities who apply to this mini-grant program, regardless of award status.

Local Government Conference Brochure in the Mail

Municipal officials across the region will receive the 27th annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference brochure in their mail shortly! We look forward to seeing you at JCC on March 31st. The registration brochure will also be available on our website soon.

DEC Opportunities

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the
6th Floor of the Dulles
State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the
region:
1-888-785-2380

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gwen@tughill.org
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1-888-785-2380.
Electronic versions
appear in full color!**

Municipal Sewage System Asset Management Pilot Program

Due: January 20, 2016

DEC is offering municipalities the opportunity to be part of the state's [Municipal Sewage System Asset Management Pilot Program](#). [Asset management](#) is a tool to help municipalities manage their wastewater system so that it can meet consumer demands. The pilot program is expected to run for three years, and the state anticipates that up to twenty municipalities will be able to participate. At the conclusion of the program, the participating municipalities can expect to have a completed municipal sewage system asset management plan and the tools (e.g., computerized asset management system) to implement the plan. Please see the [DEC website](#) for details and application.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

Due: January 29, 2016

Two million dollars in grants are available to organizations for projects to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in New York State's waterways. The grants are part of the state's comprehensive efforts to combat aquatic invasive species and aim to foster outreach to users of water bodies, install decontamination stations and provide steward training programs in high priority areas. The New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is providing the \$2 million for eligible projects. Grant amounts will range from a minimum of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000. A 25-percent match is required. For a full list of eligible and ineligible forms of match, please view the [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) webpage at DEC's website. The highest scoring projects will have a statewide or regional focus rather than a local focus, involving multiple partners and stakeholders. Successful applicants will demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skill to complete the project. Priority areas are on or in close proximity to waterbodies where the shoreline is 50 percent or higher in public ownership, and waterbodies must be located wholly within New York State. The deadline for grant application is January 29, 2016. DEC anticipates announcing grant awards in April 2016. Applicants can apply for the grant through the [Consolidated Funding Application](#) website.

LGRMIF Sessions Scheduled

With the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant deadline coming sometime this spring, NYS Archives has scheduled both webinars and classroom training for potential applicants. For the full schedule, see <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule>. Below are the local opportunities.

Monday, January 11, 11am – noon, [LGRMIF Shared Services Grant Information Session Webinar](#)

Wednesday, January 20, 10am – 11am, [LGRMIF Grant Narrative Writing Information Session Webinar](#)

Monday, January 25, 11am – noon, [LGRMIF Grant Application Information Session Webinar](#)

Thursday, January 28, 9am - noon, [LGRMIF Grant Application Information Session](#), classroom training, Onondaga County

Wednesday, February 3, 9am - noon, [LGRMIF Grant Application Information Session](#), classroom training, Oneida County

Thursday, February 4, 9am - noon, [LGRMIF Grant Application Information Session](#), classroom training, Jefferson County