

JANUARY 13, 2017

## Assembly Bill on Minimum Maintenance Roads Introduced

On January 9, 2017, Bill A00418 was introduced by Assemblymember Gunther, to amend the highway law and vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the maintenance, improvement and repair of certain town highways. There are several co-sponsors on the bill, including Assemblymembers Barclay, Brindisi, and Blankenbush whose districts include portions of the Tug Hill region. It has been referred to the assembly transportation committee. There is no senate companion bill as of yet.



Rural communities across the state have been adopting low volume/minimum maintenance roads laws for the past two decades under home rule law. The purpose of the designation is primarily to avoid winter plowing. In March of 2016 the Weikel decision out of Lewis County Supreme Court added significantly more pressure to get state legislation passed. The decision upheld a lawsuit brought by a landowner along Bower Road in West Turin against the town. The decision, which would force West Turin to plow the road, has been stayed while under appeal with the NY Appellate Division's 4<sup>th</sup> Department.

On Tug Hill, 10 towns have minimum maintenance roads law on the books, with seven towns pending, awaiting the outcome of the court case and appeal. Total existing mileage of minimum maintenance roads on Tug Hill is approximately 158 miles; almost 50 miles of that has state land on both sides, and an additional 33 miles of road has state land on one side. The amount of state land along these roads makes the necessary upgrades problematic especially in Lewis and Oneida counties, which are forest preserve counties. Of the roads without this potential problem, some estimate that it would cost on average \$100,000 per mile to upgrade roads and buy necessary equipment, primarily to keep the roads plowed in the winter.

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## Grant Opportunity: Community Foundation for Herkimer and Oneida Counties

The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties awards grants to nonprofit organizations whose projects and programs have the potential to make a long-lasting impact on the community and a significant difference to residents in the two-county region. The foundation gives preference to projects that address one or more of the following priority areas: economic development and job creation, education, health and arts and culture. The first step in applying is to contact the foundation for an assessment of your project's funding potential. The grant deadline is March 15, 2017. More information can be found at: <http://foundationhoc.org/grants-for-non-profits/>

# Register for the Local Government Conference

Registration is now open for the 2017 Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference, to be held on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at Jefferson Community College.

There are two ways to register:

**Online:** Many attendees and exhibitors have asked about paying with credit cards—this year we are offering that option through our Eventbrite website at <https://lgc2017.eventbrite.com>.

**Mail:** For those that wish to pay with a check or voucher, please go to [www.tughill.org/lgc2017](http://www.tughill.org/lgc2017), complete and print the [registration form](#), which is a fillable pdf, and mail to the office with your payment. Alternatively, the blank form can be printed and filled in by hand.

If you need a hard-copy registration form mailed to you, email [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org) or call the office directly, toll-free in the region, 888-785-2380.

Early registration costs \$50 and ends March 15, 2017. Between March 16th and 26th, registration will cost \$100.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Zoning Board of Appeals Basics Workshop in Amboy, January 31

The Tug Hill Commission will be offering a workshop on zoning board of appeals basics on Tuesday, January 31, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Amboy Town Hall, 822 State Route 69, Amboy, New York. While this workshop will focus on the basics of what a zoning board of appeals member needs to know for their role, it is open to all who are interested in knowing more about this important function, including planning boards, codes officers, and town and village board members.

This workshop will be good for two hours training credit for planning board members and zoning board of appeals members.

Preregistration is requested for this workshop, so that adequate quantities of meeting materials are available, and in the event that the workshop needs to be rescheduled. Please register by e-mail at [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org), or via the Commission's toll free number, 888-785-2380, with your name, e-mail address and phone number. Preregistrations are requested on or before Friday, January 27.

## Ten Digit Dialing Required in 315 Area Code Starting February 11, 2017

Just a reminder – starting Saturday, February 11, 2017, it will be necessary to dial the area code of 315 for local phone calls in the 315 area. Local phone calls made with seven digits (xxx-xxxx) will not be completed. This is a result of the new overlay area code of 680 being implemented due to the 315 area code running out of available numbers. Calls to 9-1-1 will be unaffected and may still be dialed with just three digits. Mark your calendar! If you want to get an early start, ten digit dialing is enabled now, so dialing ten digits (315-xxx-xxxx) will work.

The Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications has a good article on this on their homepage: [www.ongov.net/911/](http://www.ongov.net/911/). A map of the 315/680 area code can be found at [www.ongov.net/911/images/315-area-code-overlay.png](http://www.ongov.net/911/images/315-area-code-overlay.png)



## Tug Hill Commission Meeting Scheduled

The next Tug Hill Commission meeting will be held January 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the Constantia Town Hall located at 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, NY 13044.

## Fulton Savings Bank Calendar Spotlights Tug Hill Region

Each year, Fulton Savings Bank ([www.fultonsavings.com](http://www.fultonsavings.com)) offers calendars to its customers. Its 2016 calendar featured the Salmon River Falls in March and in 2017, three Tug Hill locations are featured in its community calendar: the Village of Cleveland's gazebo and Oneida Lake in January, the Yerdon farm and Tug Hill lake effect snow in February, and the Salmon River in full fall foliage in November 2017.

The free 2017 calendars can be found at Fulton Savings Bank offices throughout Oswego county and northern Onondaga county.

## Developing Policies and Procedures to Manage and Secure Your Technology

Tuesday, January 24, 2017, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Check-in: 6:00 pm.  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Student Center  
5701 Horatio St. Utica, NY 13502

Who should attend: Supervisors, Mayors, Council Members, Trustees and other who use or manage technology in you municipality. There is a \$15.00 fee to attend the workshop. Registration and payment deadline is Friday, January 20, 2017.

This workshop is sponsored by the Local Government Education Committee (LGEDC). For more information and registration form visit [www.lgec.org](http://www.lgec.org) or call 315-792-7270.

## Preservation League of NYS & NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Preserve New York & Technical Assistance Grants

**Preserve New York** makes grants for historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys. Applicants must be a unit of local government or a not-for-profit group with tax-exempt status. State agencies and religious institutions are not eligible to apply. The program provides support up to 80% of the project cost. Applicants must provide 20% of the total project cost as a cash match. Grants are likely to range between \$3,000 and \$10,000.

**Technical assistance grants** of up to \$3,000, with a required \$500 match from each applicant, are available to nonprofit groups and municipalities that manage historic sites, museums, arts facilities and other important institutions that serve an arts or cultural purpose and are open to the public. Eligibility: Not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) arts/cultural groups and municipalities managing an arts/cultural facility only. The applicant group must be the owner of or have at least a 6 year lease on the resource that is the subject of the TAG application.

**Deadline: March 27, 2017** <http://www.preservenys.org/grants.html>

# FY 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Open

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Grants Program Directorate have issued a notice of the Financial Year 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants which began accepting applications on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017. The SAFER grant program is composed of two activities: 1) the hiring of firefighters by career, combination or volunteer fire departments and 2) the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters by combination or volunteer fire departments. The goal of this program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies and ensure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

Funding may be applied for by volunteer and combination fire departments in either category; by career fire departments in the "hiring of firefighter candidates" only and by municipalities and districts on behalf of fire departments which lack the legal standing to do so. Federal fire departments, for-profit fire departments and organizations, ambulance services, emergency medical service organizations, rescue squads, auxiliaries, dive teams, urban search and rescue teams, non-federal airport or port authority fire departments and state and local agencies such as forest service, fire marshals, emergency management offices, hospitals and training offices are ineligible to apply.

There is no requirement of matching funds for the SAFER Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity grants, however the SAFER Hiring of Firefighter Activity grants are required to contribute non-federal funds subject to a "position cost limit and a cost share" program. In order to apply for this funding opportunity you must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). Be aware that it can take up to 4 weeks after submitting your SAM registration for it to become active and then recognized by the Grants.gov system.

There is \$345,000,000 in funding available and there is no maximum grant award amount. For more information on the SAFER grant program visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/127856>. Deadline to apply for the SAFER grant program is 2/10/2017 at 5 pm Eastern Time.

## Oaths of Office

With towns currently holding their 2017 organizational meetings and welcoming new elected and appointed officers to office, it's worth remembering an important procedural step that goes along with that.

New York State Public Officers Law Section 10 requires public officers to take and file the oath required by law before they start performing official duties. The oath must be taken and filed within thirty days after the commencement of office for an elective officeholder, and within thirty days after notice of his or her appointment or within thirty days after the commencement of his or her term of office for an appointive officeholder. Failure to do so will result in the office being vacated.

More information can be found on the New York State Department of State's web page, [www.dos.ny.gov/corps/oath.html](http://www.dos.ny.gov/corps/oath.html)

## Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

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