

*NYS Tug Hill Commission*

# **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Conference**

**Turning Stone Conference Center – 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

**7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

**Monday, March 31, 2025**

Two Optional Four-Hour Focused Sessions from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
followed by

Reception and Mixer from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

# 2025 Local Government Conference

Turning Stone Conference Center – 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.



Attend one of two focused sessions on Monday, March 31, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Reception on Monday, March 31, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

All of this and more can be found at [www.tughill.org/localgovernmentconference](http://www.tughill.org/localgovernmentconference)

## TWO FOUR-HOUR FOCUSED SESSIONS (pick one) Monday, March 31, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Budgeting and Accounting for Small Communities Mini-Course

Laird Petrie, Municipal Consultant, and representatives from the NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers, will deliver this course about town and village requirements and regulations related to budgeting and accounting. Topics will be beneficial for elected town and village officials as well as bookkeepers, accountants, and comptrollers.

or

### Tackling Vacancy, Blight, and Housing in Small Towns & Rural Communities

This solutions-focused workshop will address the separate yet connected challenges of housing shortages and vacant, dilapidated properties in upstate New York. In partnership with the New York State Conference of Mayors, multiple speakers will explore actionable strategies and funding tools related to housing and abandoned/neglected properties, with the goal of fostering community growth.

**\$25**  
if postmarked by 2/28/2025

**\$50**  
if postmarked 3/1/2025 or later

## Two Ways to Register

[Register Online  
\(credit card only\)  
lgc2025.eventbrite.com](http://lgc2025.eventbrite.com)

Open through  
March 7, 2025.

or

[Register by Mail  
\(check only\).  
Complete this form and  
mail  
it back with your check.](#)

## RECEPTION

Monday, March 31, 2025  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to mingle with exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, agencies, and other conference attendees. Hearty appetizers are included and a cash bar will be available.

**\$20**  
if postmarked by 2/28/2025

**\$40**  
if postmarked 3/1/2025 or later

## FULL DAY of TRAINING

Tuesday, April 1, 2025  
7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Session Descriptions Here](#)

The conference features four concurrent sessions, an individual class for assessors, breakfast, lunch, coffee break, and a printed program. Certificates of Attendance will be given to all attendees at the conclusion of the conference. Free parking is available in the covered garage.

**\$90**  
if postmarked by 2/28/2025

**\$180**  
if postmarked 3/1/2025 or later

Registrations will not be accepted over the phone or by fax or email.

Please call the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 with any questions.

**ABSOLUTELY NO  
REFUNDS AFTER  
FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

## TURNING STONE HOTEL INFORMATION

For overnight reservations, please call Turning Stone at 1-800-771-7711 by Friday, March 7, 2025. To ensure you receive the group rate, please tell the attendant you are booking under the **NYS Tug Hill Commission room block**. Rooms are limited, so please book early. Hotel rooms on-site at Turning Stone are \$149. Hotel rooms off-site at the Inn (\$80) or Sandstone Hollow Inn (\$104) are also available with free shuttle service to and from Turning Stone Conference Center.

If you are paying with a check, complete this registration form and mail it back with your check. One sheet per attendee please (payment can be made together). Make check payable to: **NYS Tug Hill Commission**, 317 Washington Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Watertown, NY 13601. **If you are paying with a credit card**, you must register online by **March 7, 2025**, at [lqc2025.eventbrite.com](http://lqc2025.eventbrite.com). Please see the fee schedule below.

**★ Step 1: Circle your registration and payment choice:**

	<b>Housing or Budgeting Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Reception Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>All Day Conference Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.</b>
	Choose from one of two focused sessions	Includes hearty appetizers (cash bar)	Includes breakfast and lunch
<b>Regular Fee</b> If registered online or postmarked by <b>February 28, 2025</b>	\$25 (Circle one session below) Housing or Budgeting	\$20	\$90
<b>Late Fee</b> If registered online or postmarked on <b>March 1, 2025 or later</b>	\$50	\$40	\$180

**NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 28, 2025**  
No registrations by phone, fax, or email.

**Step 2: Fill out your contact information:**

<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Email:</b> (required for registration)	
<b>Organization or Municipality:</b> (If it is a municipality, please specify town or village.)	

**★ Step 3**  By checking this box, I acknowledge that audio or video streaming or recording of the conference sessions is prohibited and will result in removal from the venue if attempted (failure to accept this will result in your registration being declined and payment being refunded).

**★ Step 4: Make your session selections:**

Assessors Only  
(circle below):

<p>Assessor Training</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – Noon and 1:15 – 4:15 p.m.</p>
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OR

Circle the four sessions you will be attending below (select only one choice per column):

<u>Session 1</u> 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	<u>Session 2</u> 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<u>Session 3</u> 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<u>Session 4</u> 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
1A	2A	3A	4A
1B	2B	3B	4B
1C	2C	3C	4C
1D	2D	3D	4D
1E	2E	3E	4E
1F	2F	3F	4F

Session titles and speakers are on the next page. Please be sure to choose one session per column!



**Step 5: Mail This Entire Sheet Back – Keep a Copy For Yourself**

# Tuesday, April 1, 2025 – LGC Sessions

Complete session descriptions can be found on our website at

[www.tughill.org/local-government-conference-presentations/](http://www.tughill.org/local-government-conference-presentations/)

7:30 a.m.

Registration opens

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30 a.m.

Opening Remarks

<u>Session 1</u> 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.	<u>Session 2</u> 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<u>Session 3</u> 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<u>Session 4</u> 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
<b>LUNCH SERVED AT NOON</b>			
<p><b>(1A) Crime and Fidelity: Protecting Your Municipal Financial Assets</b></p> <p>Susan O’Rorke, New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal</p>	<p><b>(2A) Code Enforcement: What Every Local Official Should Know</b></p> <p>Local Government Specialist, NYS Department of State</p>	<p><b>(3A) Fiscal Responsibilities of Governing Boards</b></p> <p>Staff, NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers, and Laird Petrie, Municipal Consultant</p>	<p><b>(4A) Equalization Rates: What Are They and Why Do We Need Them Anyway?</b></p> <p>Warren Wheeler, NYS Assessors Association</p>
<p><b>(1B) Providing Fire Protection in Your Community</b></p> <p>Dan Acquilano, Office of the NYS Comptroller, and Katie Hodgdon, Association of Towns of the State of New York</p>	<p><b>(2B) Large Scale Renewable Energy Permitting and Local Governments</b></p> <p>Charles A. Voss, NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting</p>	<p><b>(3B) Lessons Learned from Solar Farm Battery Fire and Considerations for Development</b></p> <p>Joseph Plummer, Jefferson County Emergency Services and Will Lipczynski, Chaumont Fire Department</p>	<p><b>(4B) Preparing for Grant Opportunities</b></p> <p>Jay Grasso, G&amp;G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing</p>
<p><b>(1C) Planning Board Overview</b></p> <p>Local Government Specialist, NYS Department of State</p>	<p><b>(2C) Land Use and SEQR Case Law Update</b></p> <p>Matthew Fitzgerald, Phillips Lytle LLP</p>	<p><b>(3C) Navigating the Haze: Regulating Cannabis in Your Town</b></p> <p>Sarah Brancatella, Association of Towns of the State of New York</p>	<p><b>(4C) Regulating Short-Term Rentals</b></p> <p>Charles Malcomb and Alicia Legland, Hodgson Russ LLP</p>
<p><b>(1D) Proper Use of Alternate Members of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeal</b></p> <p>Mark Schachner, Miller, Mannix, Schachner &amp; Hafner, LLC</p>	<p><b>(2D) Public Participation: The Good the Bad and the Ugly</b></p> <p>Mark Schachner, Miller, Mannix, Schachner &amp; Hafner, LLC</p>	<p><b>(3D) General Municipal Law 239 and County Referrals</b></p> <p>Kristin Campbell, Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program</p>	<p><b>(4D) Questions and Answers for Zoning Boards of Appeal</b></p> <p>Matthew Fitzgerald, Phillips Lytle LLP</p>
<p><b>(1E) Freshwater Wetlands Regulations Changes: An Overview</b></p> <p>Krista Spohr, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</p>	<p><b>(2E) Powering the Fleet Forward - Alternatives to Gas and Diesel</b></p> <p>David Orr, NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program and Scott Wajda-Griffin, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</p>	<p><b>(3E) Speed Limit Reduction – How to Establish Safe Speeds in Your Community</b></p> <p>Jesse Vogl, LaBella Associates</p>	<p><b>(4E) Abandoned Cemeteries and Municipal Responsibilities</b></p> <p>David Fleming, Jr. Featherstonhaugh, Wiley &amp; Clyne</p>
<p><b>(1F) Basics of Electronic Records Management</b></p> <p>Michael Martin, NYS Archives</p>	<p><b>(2F) Hot Topics for Clerks</b></p> <p>Staff, Association of Towns of the State of New York</p>	<p><b>(3F) Employee Well Being in the Public Sector</b></p> <p>Michael Kenneally, Comp Alliance and Bob Blaisdell, Wright Insurance</p>	<p><b>(4F) Write This Down: The Basics of Conducting Meetings and Taking Minutes</b></p> <p>Wade Beltramo, New York Conference of Mayors and Staff, NYS Society of Municipal Finance Officers</p>
<p><b>Assessor Session: “Architectural Features That Influence Property Values” with Rob Bick, AIA, CSI, SCA</b></p> <p>Assessors will receive 6 hours of CE credits for attending the entire session (9:00 a.m. – Noon and 1:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.).</p>			



**KEEP THIS PAGE AND YOUR SESSION CHOICE, ONE PER COLUMN, FOR YOUR REFERENCE!**

