



315-785-2380 / 2570

315-785-2574 (fax)

e-mail: tughill@tughill.org

website: www.tughill.org

Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, New York 13601-3782

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2025

CONTACT: Katie Malinowski, Executive Director
(315) 778-4193, katie@tughill.org

Chair
Geraldine J. Ritter

Vice Chair
William W. Scriber

Secretary
Thomas E. Boxberger

Members
Jan J. Bogdanowicz
Leona M. Chereshnoski
Robert K. Keller
Fred Munk
Michael G. Yerdon, Sr.

Executive Director
Katie Malinowski

Tug Hill Local Government Conference Focus on Municipal Challenges and Planning for Growth

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK - The **NYS Tug Hill Commission** will host the **Tug Hill Local Government Conference** at the **Turning Stone Conference Center**, 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478, bringing together local government officials from across the Tug Hill region for two days of education, networking, and professional development.

The conference begins on **Monday, April 20, 2026**, with a special afternoon session titled **“Planning for Growth”** from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** As major developments such as Micron, Chobani, and the Tech Hub drive unprecedented economic growth in the region, this session will explore how towns and villages can adapt land use policies and planning practices to address housing demand, infrastructure needs, and fiscal impacts while strengthening community character.

A **networking reception** will follow on Monday evening from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**, offering attendees the opportunity to connect with fellow municipal officials, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and agency representatives in a relaxed setting with hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

The **full day of training** will take place on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**, featuring four concurrent session tracks throughout the day. Session topics include land use and SEQR updates, zoning enforcement, clean energy development, procurement and RFPs, litigation avoidance, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence for local government, assessor responsibilities, dog control, sign regulation, rural ambulance services, highway operations and budgeting, and vital records.

Presenters include experienced municipal attorneys, state agency representatives, and practitioners from organizations such as the New York State Tug Hill Commission, New York State Department of State, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Office of the State Comptroller, the Association of Towns of the State of New York,

county departments, and private law and consulting firms.

Conference registration includes breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, printed program materials, a certificate of attendance, and free covered parking.

Registration rates:

- *Planning for Growth (Monday session):* \$25 if postmarked by March 20, 2026; \$50 after
- *Monday Reception:* \$20 if postmarked by March 20, 2026; \$40 after
- *Full Day Training (Tuesday):* \$90 if postmarked by March 20, 2026; \$180 after

The Tug Hill Local Government Conference highlights the importance of proactive planning, collaboration, and continued education as municipalities prepare for growth and emerging challenges across the region. See the website www.tughill.org/localgovernmentconference for complete details.

###

The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.