





Roeliff Jansen Historical Society

ANCRAM ✦ COPAKE ✦ GALLATIN ✦ HILLSDALE ✦ TAGHKANIC

8 Miles Road • P.O BOX 172 • Copake Falls, NY • 12517

website: roeliffjansenhs.org • email: roeliffjansenhs@gmail.com •  

Dear RJHS Member,

December 2025

Thanks to the continuing support of our loyal members, the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society has had yet another successful year! In this annual appeal, we are delighted to share the many activities and events your renewals and donations made possible over the past twelve months. Your generosity enables us to preserve and promote the remarkable history of this special corner of Columbia County. This year's exhibition, *Sites to Celebrate*, generated widespread interest, and nearly three hundred people participated in Sunday site visits to historic locations from July through October.

Along with the ongoing cataloging of our growing museum collection, the continuation of public programming, and the publication of our monthly online newsletter, here is a partial list of what we accomplished in 2025:

2025 Author Talks at RJHS and Co-sponsored with the Roe Jan Community Library

- Jeanne Kiefer – Who Were the Revolutionary War Veterans of Hillsdale?
August 17 – at the RJCL
- Maryann Proper --The Hill: Trying Times, September 10 at the RJCL
- Janet Mackin – The History of the Copake Grange, September 13 at the RJHS
- Pamela McColl – Wondrous Mrs. Claus, December 3 at the RJCL

2025 Summer Exhibit: Sites to Celebrate: Local History Revisited

Our major 2025 exhibition showcased the breadth and depth of preservation efforts across the Roe Jan area. This collaboration brought together individuals, organizations, and community partners dedicated to safeguarding local history—from cherished buildings to long-lost foundations, from former transportation centers to quiet rural byways.

The exhibition highlighted successful examples of adaptive reuse, including the Hillsdale General Store, Roe Jan Brewery, the Copake Little School, the Astor Guest Cottage in West Copake, the former Bash-Bish Inn, the 1731 Survey Marker at Boston Corner, the foundations of the Pure Water & Ice Co. at Copake Lake, and the Copake Iron Works in today's Taconic State Park. Also featured were the former Copake Falls Methodist Episcopal Church (now home to RJHS), the 1824 Gallatin Community Church and Revolutionary Churchyard, and Copake Auction—the longest continuously running auction in Columbia County.

2025 Site Visits

Much of the exhibit extended far beyond the walls of the museum, reaching into the community through free guided visits to the historic sites themselves. These visits, held from July through October, explored agriculture, industry, innovation, recreation, commerce, transportation, worship, and education—all set within the heritage landscapes and vistas that define our region. Attendance was exceptional, and we are deeply grateful to every homeowner, business owner, and site steward who welcomed groups into their historic spaces.

Documentary Films & Publications

Two videos first posted in 2024 have continued to reach large audiences:

- *A Changing Scene: Farming in Copake Circa 1990*
- *Hillsdale in the 1930s – A Swinging Town*

These have now each received or exceeded 2,000 views on the RIHS website and *YouTube*.

Sites to Celebrate Video & Catalog

This year we produced a 37-minute documentary accompanying the exhibition, playing continuously in the gallery and available on our website. It highlights each featured historic site and the individuals and organizations working to preserve them.

RIHS also produced a full-color 28-page catalog, funded by the Hudson River, Bank & Trust. Designed by Nick Fritsch and edited by Ron Otteson, it documents the exhibition and site visits while telling the stories behind the region's historic buildings and landscapes.

New Publication: “Copake Cowpaths: Growing up on a Family Farm in the 1950s”

A new RIHS publication by David Dunning “*Copake Cowpaths: Growing up on a Family Farm in the 1950s*”, is now available as a free downloadable PDF on our website, Roeliffjansens.org, (QR code below). The book is a richly detailed family memoir chronicling the Dunning brothers' boyhood on their family's Copake, dairy farm in the 1950s. Written by David, along with his five brothers, the book is also a treasure trove of local historical tidbits such as the locations of several still-remembered iconic stores, schools, homes, farms, train lines, and depots. Remnants and minutiae of a small-town world - now gone, but not forgotten

The narrative is also a treasure trove of local historical tidbits such as the locations of several still-remembered iconic stores, schools, homes, farms, train lines, and depots. Remnants and minutiae of a small-town world - now gone, but not forgotten.

Annual Copake Falls Winter Walk in the Wilderness — December 7

This year the RIHS Museum hosted a splendid Yuletide exhibition featuring:

- *hundreds of vintage Santa Claus items*
- *editions of The Night Before Christmas*
- *handcrafted wreaths by Vinegate Lavender Floral Farm*
- *holiday cards by Sharon Flitterman-King and Mayuko Fujino, who also demonstrated her traditional stencil technique*
- *holiday harp music performed by Patrick Gubler*

Here Comes Santa Claus: Children and families enjoyed baked goods, hot cider, and a visit with Santa in our festively decorated building. We were delighted to welcome Jim Jensen of Copake Falls—former Miami Dolphins professional and a longtime supporter of children with special needs—as Santa for the third consecutive year. Santa was assisted by Elsa Benken (“Elsa the Elf”).

RIHS's Expanded Social Media Presence

Our Instagram following has grown significantly, driven by regular posts featuring Society events and fascinating snippets of Roe Jan area history. Follow us at [@rjhscopakefalls](https://www.instagram.com/rjhscopakefalls).

Expansion of Climate-Controlled Collections Storage

Thanks to the Town of Copake and generous funding from longtime RIHS member Gary Williams, RIHS acquired new climate-controlled storage space for our collections. The area is dedicated to Gary's parents, Lloyd and Helen Williams, early supporters of RIHS and instrumental in saving the Old Copake Falls Church in the 1980s. Shelving will be designed by master builder Bob Callahan and will greatly expand our ability to store existing collections and accept future donations representing the history of our five member towns: Ancram, Copake, Gallatin, Hillsdale, and Taghkanic

Your 2026 Gift Calendar

Please enjoy the enclosed holiday gift calendar—and stay with us through the next four seasons and many more years to come!

RIHS Membership Dues & Donations

We continue to keep our membership dues reasonable and rely on your support to fund events, exhibits, and programs.

Annual Member Dues:

- \$15 Individual
- \$125 Lifetime

By Mail: Roeliff Jansen Historical Society PO Box 172 Copake Falls, NY 12517

Online: Visit the “Renewal” button at the Roeliff Jansen Historical society [website](#)

Help us continue to go green—please include your email address to ensure you receive our newsletter and important notices.

Let's keep this momentum going! We truly could not do any of this without the generous contributions of members like you. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your donations may be fully tax deductible.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I send sincerest thanks and best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year!



Lesley Doyel, President.

The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society

Donate or Renew **QR Code**



**QR LINK TO: DONATE TO
THE ROELIFF JANSEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

RIHS Website **QR Code**



RJHS website

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CRARYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT
POST OFFICE BOX 154
CRARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12521

December 10, 2025

Dear Town Clerk,

Enclosed find a copy of the result of the annual election held last night at the Craryville Fire House #1.

According to Town Law, I am required to send you this information.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Scutt

Barbara L Scutt
Secretary, Craryville Fire District

Encl.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CRARYVILLE FIRE DISTRICT
POST OFFICE BOX 154
CRARYVILLE, NEW YORK 12521

December 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

The Undersigned, respectively, the Chairman, Election Inspectors and Ballot Clerks duly appointed by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Craryville Fire District for the annual election of the said Fire District held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at the Craryville Fire Co., Station #1, located in the hamlet of Craryville, Town of Copake, Columbia County, New York in said District do hereby certify that immediately upon closing of the polls at said election of Fire Commissioner for a five (5) year term found that the following number of ballots were respectively cast for the following person:

Five (5) year term for Commissioner:
Robert Delamater

9

In witness whereof, the undersigned do affix our respective signatures of the
9th day of December, 2025:

Chairman: [Signature]

Inspector: [Signature]

Inspector: [Signature]

Ballot Clerk: [Signature]

Ballot Clerk: [Signature]



Cheryl Rogers <crogers42857@gmail.com>

Fwd: 2025 in-service training completed for your Code Enforcement Officer certification

1 message

Vincent Santarelli <vincentsantarelli90@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 22, 2025 at 11:55 AM

To: Cheryl Rogers <crogers42857@gmail.com>

Hi Cheryl,

Wanted to forward you the below email for your records from the state that my certification is up to date.

Have a great Christmas!

Vinny

Begin forwarded message:

From: "codetraining, dos (DOS)" <dos.codetraining@dos.ny.gov>

Date: December 22, 2025 at 11:37:42 AM EST

To: [Vincentsantarelli90@gmail.com](mailto:vincentsantarelli90@gmail.com)

Subject: 2025 in-service training completed for your Code Enforcement Officer certification

Dear Vincent,

This notice confirms, according to our records, that as of 12/4/2025 you have fulfilled all in-service training requirements for 2025 required to maintain your active status as a Code Enforcement Officer (certification #0622-0291). You are now active for the calendar year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Janet Miller

Program Aide, Division of Building Standards and Codes

KISS 2026

MARCH 9th – 20th

June 1st – 12th

SEPT 14th – 25th

DEC 7th – 18th

Zoning Homework

1 message

doug <doug@taghkanic.org>

Sun, Jan 4, 2026 at 3:12 PM

To: "betsyalbertfortaghkanic@gmail.com" <betsyalbertfortaghkanic@gmail.com>, Perry Ascher <perryfortaghkanic@gmail.com>, "Linda J. Mirabelli" <ljsnop918@gmail.com>, Skoda <Ryan.skoda@columbiacountyny.com>, "crogers42857@gmail.com" <crogers42857@gmail.com>, "doug@taghkanic.org" <doug@taghkanic.org>, Hannah Calhoun <HBCKAP@gmail.com>

Hello and Happy New Year Board Members / Zoning Enthusiasts,

I would like to propose that prior to the next Zoning Working Session we all do some homework, trying to address the remaining questions from Rob. As you may recall, they are indicated with a blue font in the text, next to the relevant item. I have arranged five sets (see below), each consisting of 5 rob items. The first set is longer and includes a series of issues related to the Section 40B Use Table. I will attempt to tackle Set 1.

If you want to do this, then decide which set you want to take and let the rest know what you selected. When we meet next, we can go over each solution and either accept and move on or make further revisions.

Hannah - you don't need to take a set, but I wanted to send this to you as an introduction to the process that is underway.

The copy of the document to work from is on the website, under Documents/Laws & Codes:

LAWS, CODES, ORDINANCES

[Zoning Code](#)

[\(Local Law #3 2024\) Short Term Rental Law](#)

[\(Local Law #2 2024\) Accessory Dwelling Unit Law](#)

[Local Law 4 - 2024 Public Event Moratorium](#)

[Local Law 5 - 2024 Allowing insertion of information materials in mailed tax bills](#)

[Subdivision Regulations](#)

[Zoning Definitions](#)

[General Code](#)

[Amended BD Fee Schedule \(effective Jan 2025\)](#)

Revised Zoning Draft

The Zoning Draft is currently undergoing review/revision by the Town Board. The number in the title indicates the date of the most recent revision (for example, 251210 refers to Dec 10, 2025).

[251215 Zoning Draft](#)

Set 1: **p46** ([RF: The language "There shall be only one principal building or use...") thru **p55**, including the

Table.

Set 2: **p58** (RF: requires any accessory structure larger than 1 an ½ the size ...) thru **p72** (RF: 60-D.8.f refers to content of signs, ...)

Set 3: **p73** (RF: Please note supplemental regulations ...) thru **p111** (RF: This section states if the CEO finds a violation ...)

Set 4: **p112** (RF: Revocation of Special Use Permit...) thru **p170** (RF: requires the public hearing notice be mailed ...)

Set 5: **p172** (RF: Attachment of Conditions – states the ZB...) thru **p178** (RF: Uses you may want to consider to add...)

Yours,
Doug

Hillsdale and Granicus collaboration on STR

1 message

Perry Ascher <perryfortaghkanic@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 1, 2026 at 10:02 AM

To: "Skoda, Ryan" <ryan.skoda@columbiacountyny.gov>, "Linda J. Mirabelli" <ljsnop918@gmail.com>, Elisabeth Albert <elisabethmalbert@gmail.com>, Cheryl Rogers <crogers42857@gmail.com>, Doug Craig <dcraig112@gmail.com>, hbcalhoun@gmail.com

Happy New Year to you all. Let's make this a healthy one!

I found this interesting to see how Hillsdale is making use of their extended relationship with Granicus to address their STR issue.

Launch of 24/7 Short-Term Rental Hotline

The Town of Hillsdale announced the implementation of the Granicus 24/7 Short-Term Rental Hotline, a service designed to improve transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in managing short-term rental (STR) concerns. It provides residents with a clear, reliable, and confidential way to report issues related to STR properties, ensuring that community standards are upheld.

What is the Hotline?

The Granicus Hotline makes it easy for neighbors to report, prove, and resolve non-emergency short-term rental problems in real time—any day, any hour—by phone or through a secure web form. Common concerns such as noise, parking, occupancy, or safety violations can now be documented and addressed consistently.

Why It Matters

For Residents: Every complaint submitted is logged with time-stamped records and routed to the appropriate municipal staff for follow-up. This structured process promotes fairness, reduces misunderstandings, and ensures that all residents are treated equitably.

For STR Owners: Property owners benefit from clear documentation and a predictable enforcement process, helping maintain compliance and accountability.

Over time, the data collected through the hotline will help town officials evaluate the effectiveness of local STR regulations and make informed policy decisions. This system strengthens communication between residents and local government, reinforces transparency, and helps balance the economic benefits of short-term rentals with the need to protect neighborhood character and community standards.

How to Report

Call the Hotline: **518-255-7514**
Submit Online: <https://secure.hostcompliance.com/town-of-hillsdale/complaints/type>

Hillsdale, NY

NEW SHORT TERM RENTAL HOTLINE SERVICE

Granicus Hotline Improves Transparency and Responsiveness for Short Term Rental Issues:

The Town's use of the Granicus Hotline provides residents with a clear, reliable, and confidential way to report concerns related to short-term rentals (STRs). Rather than relying on informal complaints or unclear reporting channels, citizens can submit issues through a centralized system that is available 24 hours a day. This ensures that concerns such as noise, parking, occupancy, or safety violations are documented accurately and addressed consistently.

For Residents:

The hotline offers reassurance that complaints are not only received but also tracked and routed to the appropriate municipal staff for follow-up. Each report is logged with time-stamped records, allowing the Town to monitor recurring issues and identify properties that may require enforcement or corrective action. This structured process promotes fairness, reduces misunderstandings, and ensures that all residents are treated equitably.

For STR owners:

Property owners benefit from clear documentation and a predictable enforcement process. The data collected through the hotline helps Town officials evaluate the effectiveness of local STR regulations and make informed policy decisions.



24/7 HOTLINE

Hotline number: 518-255-7514

Hotline webform:

<https://secure.hostcompliance.com/town-of-hillsdale/complaints/type>



Dear Town Clerk,

On behalf of the New York Association of Towns, thank you for the essential role you play in keeping your town's operations running smoothly. Town clerks are often the first point of contact for newly elected and appointed officials, and we greatly appreciate your partnership in helping ensure those officials have access to timely, reliable information as they begin their service.

Enclosed, please find a brief letter and flyer intended for any newly elected officials in your town. We respectfully ask that you share the enclosed letter with them, and if possible, post the flyer on your municipal signboard or other appropriate public-facing location. These materials highlight the Association's Newly Elected Town Official training, which is designed to provide practical guidance, legal insight, and a strong foundation for effective local governance.

These trainings are especially valuable during the early months of service, when officials are navigating new responsibilities, statutory requirements, and procedural obligations. By connecting them with these resources early, we can help set them up for success and support your town's overall operations. For event details, registration, and additional resources, please visit www.nytowns.org or call (518)465-7933.

We also want to take this opportunity to share that, beginning in 2026, the Association will be expanding the use of electronic and digital communications for many of our mailings and member updates. This transition is intended to improve timeliness, reduce administrative burden, and ensure important information reaches the appropriate officials as efficiently as possible. We recognize the critical role you play in information sharing at the local level, and we are grateful for your continued cooperation as we modernize our communications.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Koetzle, Executive Director,
New York Association of Towns

Christopher A. Koetzle
Executive Director

Sarah Brancatella
Deputy Director

Kimberly A. Splain
Chief Fiscal Officer

Lori A. Mithen-DeMasi
Chief Counsel

Katie Hodgdon
Association Counsel

150 State St. Suite 203
Albany, NY 12207

(518)465-7933

info@nytowns.org

www.nytowns.org



Dear Newly Elected Town Official,

Congratulations on your recent election! Stepping into town government is both an honor and a tremendous responsibility, and the staff at the New York Association of Towns is here to support you every step of the way.

Since 1933, the Association has been the trusted partner for New York's town officials. As a dues-paying member, your entire town government gains access to a full suite of services designed to make your work easier, more informed, and more effective. Our in-house municipal attorneys are ready to assist with the day-to-day questions that inevitably arise or to connect you with the right resources. We also offer member-focused insurance, workers' compensation and investment programs – like NYMIR, Revive NY, Comp Alliance, and EPIC Fund NY – to help protect your employees and your budget.

But one of the most valuable benefits of membership is our training and education events, crafted specifically for town officials like you.

Newly Elected Officials School

Held right after the first of the year, this program is co-sponsored by the Office of the State Comptroller and gives you the essential knowledge you need to start your term with confidence. If you've seen our Talk of the Towns & Topics magazine or recent mailings, you've already gotten a preview. This school has helped generations of local leaders build a strong foundation for effective service.

Our two regional schools are in Albany (Jan. 14 – 16, 2026) and Corning (Jan. 21 – 23, 2026). All officials are welcome to attend and can benefit from these trainings, so we highly encourage all first- and second-term town officials to attend.

Annual Training School & Meeting – February at the New York Marriott Marquis

Each February, hundreds of town officials gather in New York City for our flagship education event. By attending, you'll have access to dozens of sessions tailored to every role in town government including mandated training and certification

Christopher A. Koetzle
Executive Director

Sarah Brancatella
Deputy Director

Kimberly A. Splain
Chief Fiscal Officer

Lori A. Mithen-DeMasi
Chief Counsel

Katie Hodgdon
Association Counsel

150 State St. Suite 203
Albany, NY 12207

(518)465-7933

info@nytowns.org

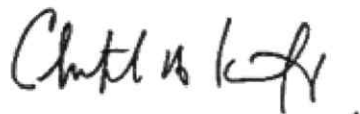
www.nytowns.org

opportunities. It's your opportunity to learn from experts, connect with peers from across the state, and bring back practical solutions and tools your town can put to work immediately. Our 2026 Annual Meeting & Training School will be held Feb. 15 - 17, 2026 at the New York Marriott Marquis. On top of our newly elected town official training, this conference will help provide all attendees a solid foundation as you embark upon and advance your public service career.

For event details, registration, and additional resources, please visit www.nytowns.org or call (518)465-7933.

Once again, congratulations on your election. You've stepped into an important role, and we're here to help you succeed. Please don't hesitate to reach out - the Association of Towns has your back!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Koetzle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher A. Koetzle
Executive Director, New York Association of Towns

are you a

NEWLY ELECTED TOWN OFFICIAL?

**Register to attend one of
our 2026 Newly Elected
Town Official Schools**

- Jan. 14 - 16, 2026 | Albany, NY
- Jan. 21 - 23, 2026 | Corning, NY

Who should attend?

All newly elected and first-
and second-term officials and
any town official looking for a
refresher or to connect with
new local government leaders!

*Complete hotel and registration info at
www.nytowns.org or*

REGISTER HERE





New York Association of Towns



**We're
going
digital!**

About Us

We're trying to do our part to cut back on unnecessary mailings and paper usage. But we still don't want you to miss a thing (cue Aerosmith) - from legislative news, training announcements and general association updates - so here's some helpful tips to make sure our emails get delivered to you!

If after following these steps, you are still not getting our emails, please give our office a call so we can try to troubleshoot.

Email Delivery Tips

Add us to your safe sender list ✓

Add our domain @nytowns.org to your trusted, safe or allowed list to keep out of that pesky junk/spam folder.

Verify your email address on file with us ✓

Sign in to your member profile on www.nytowns.org and complete your profile.

Double check with your IT staff ✓

Some servers block bulk messages by default. Please reach out to your IT Dept. to ensure our emails and domain are allowed.

☎ 518-465-7933

🌐 www.nytowns.org

✉ info@nytowns.org

From: Robert Fitzsimmons

Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 2:35 PM

To: chris.liberati-conant@columbiacountyny.gov

Cc: Lynelle Toye <lynelle0579@gmail.com>; Ryan Skoda <taghkanicsupervisor@yahoo.com>; Cheryl Rogers (<cef@valstar.net>) <cef@valstar.net>; Andrew Howard <howard@freemanhoward.com>

Subject: Taghkanic Town Court Vehicle & Traffic

Chris:

Hope all is well.

Supervisor Ryan Skoda in the Town of Taghkanic asked me about the possibility of supplemental traffic ticket enforcement in the town.

Andy Howard is the Town Attorney and as I understand neither he nor I are available for this service.

I spoke with Andy and he would accept your designation of authority, then as the Town attorney he could by letter assign the duties to Lynelle Toye. Lynelle is available for this service in Taghkanic.

For reference, your prior Greenport delegation letter and judicial contacts as well as an NYS AG opinion that authorizes this type of service are provided.

Thanks

Rob

CC: Ryan Skoda Supervisor, Cheryl Rogers, Town Clerk, Andy Howard, Town Attorney, Lynelle Toye, Esq.

Taghkanic Justices

Robert C. Prochera

Nicholas L. Zapp

909 State Route 82

Ancram, NY 12502

Robert J. Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Law Office of Robert J. Fitzsimmons, PLLC

(518) 758-1637

8 McNary Avenue

Kinderhook, New York 12106

<http://www.fitzattorney.com>



Chris Liberati-Conant

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
County of Columbia
State of New York

Cheryl Botts
Nicholas Rohlffing
Kenneth Golden
Lucas Machado
Carlyanne Cicero
Valentina Annunziata
Kathleen Anderson
Brett Fuller

May 5, 2025

Justice John Porreca
Justice Barry Sack
Greenport Town Court
600 Town Hall Drive
Hudson, New York 12534

Dear Justice Porreca and Justice Sack:

I, Chris Liberati-Conant, District Attorney for Columbia County, New York, hereby delegate the prosecution of violations in the Town of Greenport arising under the Vehicle and Traffic Law, as well as the prosecution of municipal building and zoning code violations in the Town of Greenport, to the Greenport Town Attorney, the Law Office of Robert J. Fitzsimmons, PLLC, Robert J. Fitzsimmons, Esq., and his assistants or designees. This delegation does not include any violation under section 1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

My office will continue to make available to VTL defendants our online plea bargain system. When plea offers are made for traffic violations in the Town of Greenport, the offers will be forwarded to the Law Office of Robert J. Fitzsimmons in addition to the defendant.

Sincerely,

Hon. Chris Liberati-Conant

cc: Law Office of Robert J. Fitzsimmons
by email

325 Columbia Street, Suite 260, Hudson, New York 12534
DistrictAttorney@ColumbiaCountyNY.gov
www.ColumbiaCountyDA.us
(518) 828-3414

1964 N.Y. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 90 (N.Y.A.G.), 1964 WL 108868

Office of the Attorney General

State of New York
Informal Opinion
March 6, 1964

COUNTY LAW §§ 400(4), 500, 501; TOWN LAW § 20(2).

*1 A county attorney may properly render part-time legal services to towns when not in conflict with the interests of the county.

Hon. Robert L. Williamson
Ithaca

This is in reply to your letter dated February 27, 1964 in which you ask whether you may properly render legal services to towns concurrent with your holding the office of county attorney. You state that various towns employ you on a per diem basis as your services are needed and that you do not act as town attorney. You also point out that you are careful to avoid rendition of legal services in town matters which might conflict with the interest of the county.

The county attorney is an appointive officer whose duties include giving advice to, and providing representation for, the officers of the county in all matters involving an official act of a civil nature ([County Law §§ 400\[4\], 500, 501](#)). In addition, the board of supervisors may direct the county attorney to render advice and service to town boards and town officers when not in conflict with the interest of the county ([County Law § 501\[4\]](#)).

The town board of a town, under the circumstances set forth in [Town Law, § 20\(2\)](#), may employ an attorney to give it such professional service and advice as it may require.

Based upon the facts and statutes set forth herein, there appears to be no statutory objection such as might arise under [County Law § 412](#) and other similar laws. Nor do I find that there is a problem of incompatibility (*People ex rel. Ryan v. Green*, 58 N. Y. 295) or common law conflict of interests (*Matter of Clarke v. Town of Russia*, 283 N. Y. 272, 28 N. E. 2d 833). See also 1962 Atty. Gen. (Inf.) 123; 1961 Atty. Gen. (Inf.) 156; 1960 Atty. Gen. (Inf.) 185; 1962 Op. State Compt. 458.

As an attorney, you, of course, must be constantly alert to the possibility of a conflict between the interests of the town which you are advising and those of the county, and the propriety of your dual status can be upheld only so long as situations involving such a conflict are avoided.

Louis J Lefkowitz

1964 N.Y. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 90 (N.Y.A.G.), 1964 WL 108868