Nightmare on Main Street: The Fight against Community Blight
TJ Ruane, Esq., and Jon Crain, Esq., Whiteman Osterman and Hanna LLP
Monday, February 15, 2021
10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Stage D
The presentation will provide a brief overview of the tools available to towns to combat community blight by enforcing against property owners, first lien mortgage holders, and mortgage loan servicers. The presentation will include a discussion of New York Zombie Property Laws (Real Actions and Proceedings Law 1308, 1309, and 1310), Real Actions and Proceedings Law Article 19-A, and applicable sections of New York Town Law. This presentation will also discuss the recent New York Court of Appeals decision in In the Matter of Town of Irondequoit v. County of Monroe and what it means for towns. This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

*This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Planning and Zoning area.

Town Budgets: A Practical Guide to Implementation during States of Emergency and Fiscal Stress*
Sarah Brancatella, Legislative Director and Counsel, and Katie Hodgdon, Counsel Association of Towns
Monday, February 15, 2021
11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Stage D
Nearly a year into the global pandemic and state disaster emergency, towns have been tasked with doing more with less: more services and support to provide and more mandates with which they must comply, with reduced state aid and sales revenue. This course will provide a thorough overview and analysis of the town budget process, from the basic – by when does the budget have to be adopted? – and the not so basic – can we cut healthcare benefits midterm? – while offering tips and insights into how town boards can effectively manage the budget during tumultuous times. This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

* This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Supervisor area.

Collective Bargaining During a Crisis: Strategies and Techniques*
Peter C. Godfrey and Jeffrey F. Swiatek, Hodgson Russ
Monday, February 15, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m., Stage D
[Editor: Course description pending.] This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

*This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Supervisor area.

Land Use Case Law Update*
Donald Young, Esq.
Monday, February 15, 2021
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Stage D
This session will focus on new judicial decisions that are relevant to planning and zoning boards. In addition, it will provide up-to-date information on how the state and federal courts are ruling on land use issues. Many of these cases relate to the key decisions made by boards on a regular basis such as site plan, subdivision, and use and area variances, for example. This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

*This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Planning & Zoning area.

Local Laws: The More Things Change, the More They Remain the Same*
Katie Hodgdon, Counsel, and Lori Mithen-DeMasi, General Counsel, Association of Towns
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
10:10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Stage D
In this session, we will discuss some of the more recent (and not so recent) changes to the procedural requirements for adopting local laws, as well as delve into the artistry involved in drafting legislation. A thorough review, analysis and discussion will leave you with the tools to ensure* that your local laws will withstand court scrutiny if challenged (*note -results cannot be guaranteed). This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

* This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Town Board area.

Employee Leaves and Accommodations: Navigating the Complicated Web of Pandemic-Related Rules*
Luisa D. Bostick and Elizabeth D. McPhail, Hodgson Russ
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Stage D
[Editor: Course description pending.] This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.
*This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Town Board area.

Regulating Private Speech in Public Places*
Matthew Deluca, Cuthbertson Law
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m., Stage D
This presentation will examine the legal standards applicable to government regulation of private speech, including the public forum and government speech doctrines. It will also discuss how towns can regulate specific types of First Amendment activity on public property, including marches and protests, picketing, distributing leaflets, etc. Finally, the presentation will discuss how towns and their officials can moderate private speech on their official social media pages without violating the First Amendment. This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Town Board area.

Municipal Review of Religious Projects*
Terresa Bakner and Rob Rosborough, Whiteman Osterman and Hanna, LLP
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Stage D
The presentation will focus on the municipal review of religious projects and the special requirements that apply to such projects under New York State and federal laws. Case law imposing and interpreting these requirements will be covered in depth with a particular focus on recent cases involving challenges by religious institutions to land use decisions by planning boards and zoning boards of appeal. Methods for ensuring that boards accommodate religious uses as required by state and federal statutes and past judicial decisions will also be discussed. This course is eligible for continuing legal education credit.

*This session is eligible for Certified Town Official credit in the Planning and Zoning area.