

**PRESENT** Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Law Counsel Leone, Superintendent Mang, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick, Police Chief Salada, Historian Piper

**EXCUSED** Trustee Fittante, Engineer Marino, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella, Recreation Director McDermott

**PUBLIC HEARING Proposed 2026-27 Budget**

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00pm.

No public was present to speak. A motion was made and passed unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:02pm.

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**LEGISLATURE MICHAEL CASALE TO PRESENT NIAGARA COUNTY 250 ANNIVERSARY FLAG**

Second District Niagara County Legislator Michael Casale presented the Village Board of Trustees with an America 250 flag. Casale said this will be the Village of Lewiston's flag to fly proudly on the flagpole. The Niagara County Legislature created the America 250 Committee in 2023 and have been working really hard to put together a list of recognition-type events to commemorate our 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, which will be on July 4, 2026. Casale also gifted the trustees with a commemorative America 250 coin.

**RICHARD F. SOLURI PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Professional engineer John Battaglia presented a proposal to add pickleball courts; a paved or reinforced concrete four-court with a windbreak and fence around it, including lighting and a possible pavilion at Richard F. Soluri Park. Town of Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick was there with Battaglia and stated that the town has been looking for pickleball locations for a couple of years now but have had trouble due to the noise. The dog park area is a perfect location because it will not cause disturbances for neighbors. This is a village property, but this would be a town Greenway project. We will tie this project to a two-pickleball court at Lewiston No. 2 Fire Hall. Battaglia will be providing in-kind engineering services. This is something that we would love to do, we would love to combine with the village and provide it.

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to allow John Battaglia to complete drawings for pickle ball courts to be installed at Richard F. Soluri Park and for Town of Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick to ask the Niagara River Greenway Commission to fund this project.

**NEW BUSINESS Village 2026-2027 Budget and Tax Rate Adoption**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt and seconded by Trustee Conde to adopt the following resolution to approve the 2026-2027 Budget and tax rate:

**WHEREAS**, the tentative budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027 has been duly presented to the Board of Trustees by the Budget Officer and

**WHEREAS**, a duly advised public hearing has been held thereon,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to section 5-508 (4) of Village Law, that the said tentative budget as changed, altered and revised, be and hereby adopted as the Budget of the Village of Lewiston, in the total amount of \$5,304,407.00, for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the tax rate for the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget be set at \$8.594858 per thousand.

Clerk Fundis polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:  
Coppins – Yes      Conde – Yes      Eydt – Yes      Welch - Yes

**Levy of Real Property taxes for 2026-2027**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to authorize the levy of real property taxes for the 2026-2027 Tax Warrant directing the Clerk to receive and collect taxes, in the amount of, \$1,388,612.49; a re-levy of water and sewer charges in the amount of \$32,758.73, for a total warrant to collect \$1,421,371.22 and to establish the tax rate at \$8.594858 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

**Village 2026 Election Inspectors**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde and seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt to adopt the following resolution appointing an Election Chairman, Election Inspectors and to compensate the Election Custodian for the Village Election to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 3-302 of the NYS Election Law the Village Board of Trustees appoint Paul Naus as Chairman, Richard Gworek, Ashlee Chmiel and Barbara Landree as Election Inspectors, for the forth coming Village Election to be held on June 16, 2026, and

**RESOLVED**, Phyllis Hardie and Candace Nolle as Alternate Election Inspectors, who shall assume the Office of Inspector of Election and who shall perform duties, in the absence of the above-mentioned Election Inspectors, and

**RESOLVED**, Bruce Gonka as a Voting Machine Custodian,

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, to compensate said Inspectors and Alternate Inspectors of Election, at the hourly rate of \$16.00, and to compensate the Chairman an extra \$10.00, and the Voting Machine Custodian \$100.00 each per voting machine.

Clerk Fundis polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:

Coppins – Yes      Conde – Yes      Eydt – Yes      Welch - Yes

**Loren Tonemah - Facilities Use Request at Hennepin Park**

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the facilities use request for Hennepin Park made by Loren Tonemah to host a Native American music and arts event on Friday, August 14, 2026 from 5pm to 9pm.

**YMCA Buffalo Niagara – Facilities Use Request at Academy Park**

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the facilities use request made by YMCA Buffalo Niagara for use of Academy Park to hold yoga classes on Sundays from 10am – 11am from June 7, 2026 through August 30, 2026.

**Memorial Day Ceremony at Academy Park**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Veterans of Foreign Wars Down River Post 7487 to hold its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Academy Park on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026 from 9am to 3pm.

**Inter-Community Services Monetary/Food Collections**

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request by Inter-Community Services. to set up monetary/food donations during the 2026 Artpark Summer Concert Series at the entrances on S. 4th Street and Portage Road on the following dates:

May – 29  
 July – 10, 11, 14, 30  
 August – 4  
 September – 12, 29

**Budget Amendment Requests**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the budget amendment requests from Treasurer Longwell, Superintendent Mang and Recreation Director McDermott as follows:

From: A00-3410-4150 – Fire Other – \$2,984.00

To: A00-3410-4050– Fire Contracts - \$2,984.00

From: A00-5142-1000 – Snow Removal Payroll – \$4,612.00

To: A00-5142-4102– Snow Removal Salt - \$2,449.00

To: A00-5142-4150– Snow Removal Other - \$2,163.00

From: A00-7310-2000– Youth Equipment – \$191.41

To: A00-7310-4130 – Youth Programs Supplies - \$191.41

**Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Conditional Memberships**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Conditional Membership of Miranda M. Manning and Jeremy H Klever.

**Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Fire Department Line Officers 2026-2027**

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the following Lewiston Fire Co. N. 1 Fire Department Line Officers for 2026-27:

Fire Chief – Spencer Lilly

1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief – William McEvoy

2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief – Jacob Meagher

3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief – Chris Copland

President – Tracy Grant

**Catching Dreams Charters Fishing Tournament Fundraiser**

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Catching Dreams Charters for use of Lewiston Landing Park to host a fishing tournament fundraiser on August 7, 2026 from 7:00am to 12:00pm.

**Lewiston Garden Club Perennial Plant Sale**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the Lewiston Garden Club for use of Academy Park Pavilion on Saturday May 16, 2026 to host the Perennial Plant Sale from 9am to 1pm.

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to enter into Executive Session immediately following the close of this meeting to discuss litigation.

**DISCUSSION****Red Brick Exterior Updates**

Superintendent Mang said he has been working on the issue with the moisture behind the wall in room #10 at the Red Brick building. I have contacted a few contractors for quotes and wanted your thoughts, and the approval to get more estimates. Coppins said yes, and the board agreed for Mang to get more estimates.

**Academy Park Electric**

Superintendent Mang said he contacted Electrician Dave Rulli on where he stands regarding this project. Rulli said he will put something together, we should have a bid to review and approve at the April 20, 2026 meeting.

**Lewiston Landing Boat Slips**

Clerk Fundis said she contacted Engineer Marino for an update, who said that he met with Bidco at the docks last week and is waiting on a quote from them, and hoping to meet Buffalo Marine down there this week. Our insurance adjusters are waiting on an estimate from contractors before they can proceed.

**Mohawk Storm Pipe Erosion**

Superintendent Mang updated the Village Board on an erosion issue around a storm pipe on Mohawk Street. Some of the storm pipe has broken off but is still functioning as it should. We have contacted NYS because it is on their land, they advised us to apply for a permit to grant easement if and when repair work needs to be done. I do not believe the storm pipe is the initial cause of erosion. If erosion continues and affects the storm system, the work is beyond what our DPW is capable of doing.

**Chamber of Commerce Updates**

Trustee Coppins noted that she followed up with Engineer Marino, emphasizing that the project needs to be put out to bid since the funding may not be available forever.

**Red Brick – Electric, AC Units & Windows**

A discussion ensued on the proposed updates. Since repairing the existing windows is a more cost-effective option than full replacement, the Town of Lewiston has suggested to pay the village utilities for six months since the energy grant will not cover window repairs.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session at 6:37pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**PRESENT** Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick, Law Counsel Leone

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the Executive Session to order at 6:38pm.

**BUSINESS** A discussion ensued regarding litigation. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:20pm.

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Shannon Fundis, Clerk