

PRESENT Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Fittante, Law Counsel Leone, Engineer Marino, Police Chief Salada, Superintendent Mang, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick, Fire Inspector Beebe, Recreation Director McDermott, Historian Piper

EXCUSED Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Welch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00pm

RESIDENTS Michael Dowd of North 1st Street commented on the concerns with some dead, overgrown trees on the hill across the street from his property, with some hanging over the road and at risk of coming down. Dowd asked the board to allow him to pay an arborist to evaluate the trees, and to remove and clean up what is needed.

Mayor Welch said that we do try to remove what we can every year, but it is a difficult area to get equipment into.

Trustee Fittante suggested that Dowd have an arborist come back with a plan for the area, that will include ground cover to remain to prevent erosion.

Superintendent Mang suggested Dowd also contact the homeowner below the hill and ask for a survey to ensure any removal isn't encroaching on their property.

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to grant approval for Michael Dowd to move forward with using an arborist to evaluate and trim the hill across from his property at his own expense.

MINUTES A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the February 17, 2026 and March 2, 2026 meeting minutes

BILLS A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the March 2026 bills presented by Treasurer Longwell in the following amounts:

General Fund: \$761,138.70
Trust & Agency: \$7,433.03
Total: \$768,571.73

REPORTS **Police Chief Salada** said we have a new hire that is part time. Her name is Amy Thompson, who has retired from a detective level position with the Niagara Falls Police Department.

Recreation Director McDermott gave an update on the basketball program, and that they are about to transition into the spring sessions. The annual Spring Fling will be held on May 10, 2026.

Historian Piper gave an update on local donations he has acquired, as well as the final donation from the American Legion Portage Post in the amount of \$2,000 for the memorial monument in the Village Cemetery. Piper has also been working with Tom Collister on the list of Veterans to be placed on the monument.

NEW BUSINESS **Lew-Port Youth Football & Cheer Facilities Use Request**
A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the facilities use request from Lew-Port Youth Football & Cheer for use of Richard F. Soluri Park for football and cheerleading practice from April 13, 2026 through June 12, 2026 and July 27, 2026 through October 30, 2026 from 5:00pm – 8pm.

Mason FOREVER 5K Run

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request from Mason FOREVER Foundation, Inc. to host the Mason FOREVER 5K Run on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 855 – Memorial Day Flags

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Boy Scouts of America Troop 855 to place flags at the intersections on Center Street from 4th Street to 9th Street. Installation would occur mid-May in place prior to Memorial Day weekend. The items needed for this year’s installation are as follows:

U.S Flag	25 @ \$5.09	\$127.25
Flagpoles	6 @ \$21.99	\$131.94
Brackets	4 @ \$8.99	\$35.96
Total		\$295.15

DPW Seasonal Hire Request

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Superintendent Anthony Mang to hire Gary Ferenc for a seasonal labor position at the pay rate of \$17.85 an hour, with a start day of May 1, 2026.

Skylighters – July 4, 2026 Fireworks Contract

A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the 2026 Skylighters pyrotechnic display and services agreement, in the amount of \$30,000 for July 4, 2026 with a rain date of July 5, 2026.

2026 ELECTION - POLLING PLACE RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt and seconded by Trustee Conde to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Lewiston, New York that the General Village Election for the Village of Lewiston, New York in the County of Niagara will be held at the Village of Lewiston Municipal Building, located at 145 N 4th Street, Lewiston, NY 14092 on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 and the polls for said election will be open between the hours of 12:00 (noon) until 9:00 PM (Election Law 15-104 3).

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

LEWISTON FIRE CO NO 1 LOSAP 2025 CERTIFIED POINTS APPROVAL

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt and seconded by Trustee Fittante to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Village is the sponsor of a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) on behalf of the Lewiston Fire Company No. 1 in accordance with Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law (GML);

WHEREAS, as required by GML § 219-a(2)(c), the Lewiston Fire Company No. 1 has submitted the attached list, certified under oath, of active members of the Fire Company, indicating those volunteers who earned at least fifty (50) points during 2025 to qualify for service credit;

WHEREAS, the certification made by the Fire Company includes a statement that the points recorded on the attached list have been tabulated in accordance with the Point System adopted by the Village to be in effect during calendar year 2025, and to the best of the knowledge of the Fire Company, is a true and accurate reflection of the activities performed by the active members;

WHEREAS, GML § 219-a(2)(d) requires the Board of Trustees (Board) to review and approve the attached list, then return it to the Fire Company to be posted for thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, the Board has completed its review of the attached list; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the attached list of volunteer firefighters of the Lewiston Fire Company No. 1 and the points earned by these firefighters during calendar year 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this adopted resolution and the attached list shall be returned to the Fire Company for posting for a minimum of thirty (30) days.

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

REPORTS **Treasurer Longwell** stated that she distributed the 2026-27 tentative budget. Our first budget meeting will be on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 5pm in the Mayor's office.

Superintendent Mang gave an update on the work the DPW is doing on Water Street.

Engineer Marino gave an update on a federal grant we just applied for funds to help the lead service replacement project. Follow-up questions have already been sent and responses have been submitted.

BOARD **Trustee Conde** inquired about engineering drawings for the AC units to be installed in the Red Brick gym. **Engineer Marino** said the drawings are with the contractor to submit a change order.

Trustee Coppins inquired about the upgrades to the Chamber of Commerce building. **Engineer Marino** said he is waiting on bid specs to come back then will send out the bid notice.

Trustee Fittante said he spoke with Superintendent Mang regarding the striping for parking spots on Center Street, hoping to start work on this when time is available.

Trustee Eydt said he has started working on the Memorial Day Parade.

Mayor Welch inquired about the proposed window upgrades at Red Brick. Welch briefly discussed the recent reassessment letters that were sent out to all residents; the town will have a grievance day for residents. In the past when reassessments have taken place, the tax rate dramatically went down. We still have to collect the same amount of money for the budget, this allows for a more even distribution of collection of taxes.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:29pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk