

PRESENT Mayor Cota, Deputy Mayor Coppins, Trustee Collesano, Trustee Conde, Trustee Fittante, Law Counsel Leone, Engineer McNamara, Police Chief Salada, Superintendent Mang, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick, Fire Inspector Beebe, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella, Recreation Director McDermott, Historian Piper

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

MINUTES A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve June 15, 2026, and July 6, 2026, Organization minutes.

BILLS A motion was made by Mayor Cota seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the July 2026 bills presented by Treasurer Longwell in the following amounts:
General: \$637,973.39
Trust & Agency: \$38,670.65
Total: \$676,644.04

REPORTS Recreation Department
Recreation Director McDermott announced that he had 26 additional families sign up for the Family Fun Nights, totaling 1,408 participants. I am also working jointly with Tim Smith from the Town of Lewiston on the Youth Advisory Committee. Notices have been sent out that this program is open to the village and town.

Planning Commission

Trustee Collesano said there is a public hearing scheduled on August 10, 2026 in the Red Brick gym to discuss the Ellicott Development / 8th & Center development plan proposal.

Historian Piper gave an update on the replacement of the flagpole and other updates in the cemetery and the relocation of the Morgan Lewis bust to a public park.

LIAISON Upward Niagara

REPORTS Mayor Cota discussed his tourism initiative with creating Haunted October, which will focus on history, events and much more. Cota is working with Upward Niagara on this event, and more details will be brought up at the next board meeting.

Beautification

Deputy Mayor Coppins is looking to set up a meeting with Trustee Collesano and Lewiston Beautification member, Tasia Fitzpatrick, to discuss future plans.

Lewiston Council on the Arts

Trustee Collesano announced upcoming Arts Council events and will schedule a meeting with Trustee Conde and Director Maria Fortuna-Dean after the 60th anniversary of the Lewiston Art Festival.

Planning Commission

Trustee Fittante said he attended the Planning Commission meeting; nothing was discussed that we didn't already know.

Zoning Commission

Trustee Conde inquired about an updated zoning map proposal that was submitted by ZBA Chairman Mike Swanson. Clerk Fundis said that was submitted to Engineer Marino and that the office will follow up on it.

Department of Public Works

Trustee Fittante met with Superintendent Mang and is looking to finish up striping parking spots on Center Street and are ensuring all requirements are being met. Police Chief Salada said there are a lot of issues with hydrants and asked for some extra stripes to be painted on the 400 block.

American Legion & VFW

Trustee Collesano is working with the VFW and a new vendor for the Hometown Hero Banners which will be hung along Center Street.

Lewiston Library

Trustee Collesano has been unable to connect with anybody from the library.

Master Plan Advisory Committee

Mayor Cota said the current application process is outdated, and once updated, the application process can begin.

Teen Advisory Committee

Mayor Cota said there is a lot of interest from the Town of Lewiston to be involved in the committee, so they will be coordinating with the village, and we are lucky to have Recreation Director McDermott to do this.

**OLD
BUSINESS****Michael Dowd – Property Purchase Request**

A discussion ensued on Michael Dowd's request to purchase village property adjacent to his. Trustee Conde explained the code of ethics, that first the board would have to declare the land a surplus, then send it to the Historic Preservation Commission, then discuss price, to be determined by the board to sell fairly to people who own property which is the Village of Lewiston.

Law Counsel Leone said Dowd is looking to extend the driveway turn around for the safety of his family.

Dowd said the only way to get out of the driveway without backing into the street is to use the existing turnaround that has been on village property for 50-60 years. I thought it would be best to square it off. If purchased, the proposed addition won't even encroach into that parcel. If purchased, I would never be able to turn around and sell it as a buildable lot.

The survey was reviewed and a discussion ensued on determining the value and price. Mayor Cota commented on an assessment of the value of the land Dowd is looking to purchase but would like to know what the value of the larger lot would be, then remove the percentage of the desired land to be purchased or look at this village property as a stand-alone piece of property.

The following letter submitted by a concerned resident was read at the meeting:

Hi Mayor Cota,

I am writing to you concerning the agenda item tonight about selling some village property to an adjacent owner. I am sure you are familiar with the reason for the request, so I won't go into that.

My concern is that if you sell this property, the other 3 adjacent owners on the public Onondaga Trail will also want to increase their property size and you will have set a precedent for this to happen. If all that gets sold then all you are left with is a thin strip of land for the current walking trail or future purpose.

Also, if you allow this sale to happen, then you may also have to sell other village land to adjacent owners, e.g. Claudia Marasco's driveway is also on village land and I am sure she would purchase that strip of land if you start selling village property.

In closing, I am not in favor of selling this or any village property, especially without full disclosure and a public hearing. No back door deals please.

Best regards,
James,
village property owner.

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins and seconded by Trustee Coppins to determine the proposed land for purchase is a surplus, that the village does not need.

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

Fittante – Yes Coppins – Yes Collesano – Yes Conde – Yes Cota – Yes

**NEW
BUSINESS****Resident Request**

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano and seconded by Trustee Conde to approve the request made by Claudia Marasco to move the porta-potties located in the driveway at 400 Plain Street.

Mayor Cota and Superintendent Mang reviewed the placement and believe the best place is on S. 4th Street. Marasco has an easement with the Village of Lewiston for use of that driveway. This will only be for events held at Hennepin Park.

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

Fittante – Yes Coppins – Yes Collesano – Yes Conde – Yes Cota – Yes

Sewer Pardon Request

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Collesano and passed unanimously to approve the request from Jamie Connor, at 900 Oneida Street, for a one-time sewer pardon for a pool liner replacement. The total pardon is \$107.54 off the July 2026 water/sewer bill. This request was already approved by the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Budget Amendment Request

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the budget amendment request from Superintendent Mang as follows:

To: A00-7180-1000 – Lewiston Landing Payroll – \$831.84

To: A00-5142-1000 – Snow Removal – \$170.79

To: A00-8560-1000 – Shade Trees Payroll – \$249.90

To: A00-8810-1000 – Cemetery Payroll – \$285.60

From: A00-7110-1000– Parks Payroll - \$1,538.13

The accounts that are being transferred to are closed accounts as of June 1, 2026 therefore had no budget and are currently negative.

Residency Requirement Waiver

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Deputy Mayor Coppins and passed unanimously to waive residency for Tom Collister for the HPC Alternate.

Artpark – Extended Noise Ordinance Request for Rain Delays

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed with four yes votes to approve President of Artpark, Dave Wedekindt's request to extend the noise ordinance hours to no later than 11pm for weather delays which are very seldom. Trustee Collesano voted no.

RESOLUTIONS REQUIRED FOR THE NEW YORK LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (LWRP) APPLICATION

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

Authorization and appropriation of Local match (25% local match):

Whereas, the Village of Lewiston (Village), is seeking a grant for the Lewiston Landing Phase VI Project and intends to submit via the New York Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP); and

Whereas, the Village project cost estimate for the Lewiston Landing Phase 6 Project is \$800,000 and

Whereas, the LWRP, through the NYS Department of State (NYSDOS), is authorized to fund up to \$600,000 of the project cost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the Village authorizes and appropriates a minimum of 25% local match as required by the Local Waterfront Revitalization Grants Program. Under the LWRP, this local match must be at least 25% of the total project of \$800,000. The maximum local share appropriated, subject to any changes agreed to by the Mayor, shall not exceed \$200,000 pending receipt of an LWRP grant and available funding. The total estimated maximum grant is \$600,000. The Mayor may increase this local match through the use of in-kind services without further approval from the Village.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the source of the 25% match be from the Lewiston Landing Dock insurance claim.

Authorization for a representative to sign documents:

Whereas, Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc. is authorized to prepare a grant application on behalf of the Village of Lewiston (Village) via the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to the NYSDOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Lewiston Landing Phase VI Project; and

Whereas, the Mayor is required to sign the grant application on behalf of the Village of Lewiston as well as a Grant Agreement with the NYSDOS and any and all other contracts, documents, and instruments necessary to bring about the Project if a grant is awarded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign a grant application on behalf of the Village via the CFA to the NYSDOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Lewiston Landing Phase V Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should an LWRP grant be awarded to the Village, the Mayor is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement with the NYSDOS and any and all other contracts, documents, and instruments necessary to bring about the Project and to fulfill the Village's obligations under the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program through NYSDOS.

SEQR Type II Determination Resolution:

Whereas, the Village of Lewiston (Village) has reviewed the proposed project for the Lewiston Landing Phase VI Project in conjunction with 6 NYCRR 617, commonly known as State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), for a determination as to the level of required environmental review for the proposed Project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the Village Board does hereby determine that the proposed action is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2) "the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, and on the same site has been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment." as defined under SEQR, and that the Regulations specify that Type II actions are not subject to review.

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

Fittante – Yes Coppins – Yes Collesano – Yes Conde – Yes Cota – Yes

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to enter into Executive Session immediately following the close of this meeting to discuss contracts and negotiations.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Cota gave an update on his research for live streaming village meetings. The budget amount needed for this will be between \$3,700 to \$4,000. Alternate financing is being looked into; this will be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor Cota made an announcement that the village would remove penalties from the July 2026 water/sewer bills due to mailing issues this quarter including March 15, 2026 through June 16, 2026.

REPORTS

Superintendent Mang gave an update on completing the Mohawk Street project, future scheduling for milling/patching holes and striping on Center and Water Street.

Engineer McNamara gave an update on the LWRP application, which is due July 31, 2026 and finalizing and getting contracts in place for the EPA grant.

**BOARD
REPORTS**

Trustee Collesano said nobody is maintaining the gardens surrounding the Tuscarora Monument. One plant is an invasive species, and we are requesting the use of the DPW to excavate a small area to remove this.

Trustee Coppins will be working with Trustee Collesano with the direction of Beautification going forward.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session at 7:04pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRESENT Mayor Cota, Deputy Mayor Coppins, Trustee Collesano, Trustee Conde, Trustee Fittante, Law Counsel Leone, Superintendent Mang, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick

BUSINESS A discussion ensued on contracts in current negotiations.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Deputy Mayor Coppins and passed unanimously to close the Executive Session and return to a public meeting at 7:44pm.

PUBLIC MEETING

BUSINESS Non-Union Employee Benefits

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to tie non-union employee benefits to the existing approved union contract until such time a new union contract is approved and how that effects everything is determined.

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

Fittante – Yes Coppins – Yes Collesano – Yes Conde – Yes Cota – Yes

ADJOURN A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk