

PRESENT Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Gibson, Law Counsel Leone, Engineer Marino, Police Captain Salada, Clerk Fundis, Historian Piper

EXCUSED Trustee Conde, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Vazquez, Superintendent Wills, Recreation Director McDermott, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella, Fire Inspector Beebe

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Welch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01pm

Mayor Welch said I would like to thank our brave Lewiston Fire No. 1 firefighters and the other responding fire companies for fighting the devastating fire on Center Street last Wednesday – Youngstown, Upper Mountain, Sanborn, Niagara Active, Niagara Falls Reserve Station with Ransomville and Lewiston No 2 on standby. They had to fight the cold, wind and the rain while fighting the fire. They did a fantastic job containing the fire especially with the wind. Our Lewiston Police, DPW Supt Larry Wills, Fire Inspector Barry Beebe and Building Inspector Ken Candella were also on site.

Our hearts go out to the businesses and tenants of that devastating fire and we hope they will rebuild. Thank you to our businesses and people in the community who stepped up to help. I know Anthony Dimino gave the fire victims TOPS gift cards, Brickyard is selling their 17 and Lewiston Lager Beer and donating the proceeds to them. Century 21 Realtor Sam Talarico is working with Sue's Frame of Mind to help relocate her business temporarily in the Rite Aid Plaza. We have a wonderful caring, generous and supportive community and I am very proud to live here.

Thank you Supt Larry Wills and the Village DPW for the beautiful Christmas Lights along Center Street. The Village looked beautiful this weekend! There is a lot of hard work that goes into this event and they always do a wonderful job. I would like to commend Tasia Fitzpatrick and Susan Hofert and the Lewiston Beautification and Garden Club for decorating the Village for the Christmas Walk and Holiday Season.

Thanks to Trustee Tina Coppins, Kelly Weber, Lynn Piechowski and the Women of the Lower Niagara Moose Lodge #584 for helping to decorate the Band Shell - it was outstanding this year! Thank you to Trustee Coppins and Trustee Gibson and the "Heart of the Community" volunteers who decorated the Chamber Office – great job!

Also, thanks to our Recreation Director Brendan McDermott for the Christmas Tree Lighting at Academy Park and for the great Holiday Programs for the kids. I would like to thank Jennifer Pauly and her staff for all the hard work that goes into the Christmas Walk and Electric Light Parade. Center Street was filled for the Parade and everyone loved it. Also, I would like to thank Vince Canoso for another great job as "Santa". I know the kids love it and you really look the part. I know how much you do for this community and we appreciate everything you do. I would also like to give a special thank you to Chris Stanek for the time he donated for the work to light the stage, tree and the set up and take down at the Academy park band shell.

Last, but not least, thank you to Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, who was at our Christmas Tree Lighting and was the Master of Ceremonies for the Electric Light Parade. Angelo, you did a great job! You are always there to support our events and we appreciate it. Thanks to the Parade Judges also. I know it was cold up there on the judging platform – next year we should get some heaters!

OLD BUSINESS **Relaxation of Sign Laws**
A discussion ensued regarding the relaxation of sign laws to allow businesses to use sandwich board signs to promote business during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Planning Commission requested that the Village Board end the sign relaxation now that the pandemic is over.

Donna Garfinkel, owner of Sgt. Peppers Hot Sauces Etc. explained how the sandwich board signs benefit small businesses, being a cost effective way to advertise; our signs are the first customer service representative. The village code can be amended to allow for the sandwich boards with stipulations. Garfinkel stated that this was allowed in 2020 to help us and we ask that you please continue to allow them.

Mayor Welch stated that we used to allow sandwich board signs, but it got out of hand, they became tripping hazards, and they were not uniform. During the pandemic, we told businesses to do what you have to do; now that the pandemic is over, I think we should revisit the code to allow these and make them uniform. Certain businesses like Sgt. Peppers Hot Sauces Etc., Brewed and Bottled and Queen B's Cottage need that visibility, we need to address these situations. Welch also suggested that the mentioned businesses add projecting signs on the front of the building with arrows to show where they are located.

Deputy Mayor Eydt said that he is not against sandwich board signs, but would like uniformity. I would like to sit down with the businesses and the Planning Board to come up with a plan. For now, I think we should keep things as is, then meet and discuss a plan to move forward.

Eric Matthews, owner of Brickyard and Brickyard Brewing Company, stated that they only utilize the sandwich board signs for curbside pickup. We also use two others to advertise our beer. If you have a mercantile, or a shop with trinkets, you can put these out on the street to show what you sell. We cannot do that. I do agree that sandwich board signs should be uniform.

Chris Budde, owner of Brewed and Bottled, said that the entrance to his business is in a vestibule. The sandwich board signs have been a huge help for us. We also want to put a directory sign in between the vestibule entrance and the doors to Battle Flag Tavern.

Trustee Gibson said that he is in favor of sandwich board signs, they just need to be uniform and taken in at night.

Trustee Coppins added that she is in favor of the sandwich board signs.

The Village Board of Trustees agreed to allow the use of sandwich board signs to continue, and to set up a work session with the businesses and Planning Board to discuss amending the code to permit these signs and have some type of uniformity and guidelines to follow.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Budget Transfer Request

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Treasurer Longwell to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Capital Fund as follows:

From: A00-9710-6000 – Bond Principal - \$43,000.00
 From: A00-9710-7000 – Bond Interest - \$6,577.88
 To: H15-0391-0000 – Due from other funds - \$49,577.88

This is to pay for the interest and principal on the Lewiston Landing BAN.

Budget Transfer Request

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the budget amendment request from Treasurer Longwell as follows:

Decrease Revenue line: A00-0689-0000 – Other Liability ARPA - \$7,250.00
 Increase Expense line: A00-1440-4150 – Engineer – Other - \$7,250.00

315 Center Street – Development Plans

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to table the development plans as presented for 315 Center Street. This was approved by Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions on November 14, 2022 and by the Zoning Board of Appeals on November 29, 2022.

Village Cemetery Survey

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the quote submitted by Nussbaumer & Clarke to survey the cemetery, in the amount of, \$2,700.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held at 6:00pm, followed by the Planning Board meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022.

The Village Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Monday, December 21, 2022.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday, December 22, 2022.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:36pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk