

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Welch said I would like to make a statement; as you all may know the Frontier House has sold.

**RESIDENTS**

No residents came forward to speak

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was brought forward.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the January 22, 2019 Village Board meeting minutes and the February 4, 2019 work session minutes.

**BILLS**

Trustee Eydt said I reviewed the vouchers and experienced auditing the new payroll vouchers; I found all the February 2019 vouchers to be in order as presented by the Village Clerk’s office, and I make a motion to pay them. Trustee Conde seconded the motion and it passed unanimously to pay the following amounts for February 2019:

GENERAL FUND	\$228,646.55	TRUST & AGENCY	\$2,470.07
CAPITAL	\$45,341.20		

**REPORTS**

**Police Chief Previte** reported; I want you all to be aware the Lewiston Police recently did an active shooter drill at Lewiston Porter on February 15, 2019, it was very successful. There is another active shooter drill scheduled for Niagara Wheatfield School system on March 15, 2019 and we are working on a date for St. Peter’s School in the near future.

Trustee Marasco thanked Chief Previte for the recent active shooter presentation he gave to the Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees and department supervisors.

**Building Inspector Candella** referenced his written report and said that the current projects are moving along pretty well. This time of year is a little slow with the winter weather. The Rivers Edge project will be dry walling the walls soon.

**Zoning Officer Ed DeVantier** said his written report was submitted. Officer DeVantier commented that there has been new activity at 300 Kerr Street, a lot of unregistered vehicles, this has been an ongoing problem all along. There is a court appearance scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

**Fire Inspector Beebe** said his written report was filed with the clerk’s office. There were no questions asked in regards to his report.

**Recreation Director McDermott** began his report by thanking Ben and Josh for the recent articles in the Niagara Frontier Sentinel and the Niagara Gazette. McDermott said I appreciated having the opportunity to speak with them about the village recreation programs.

Recreation Director McDermott added we had the annual Compeer Niagara Group of both adults and children come to our facility and partake in arts and crafts along with some recreation activities. This is a great opportunity for us to offer community service.

We have floor hockey starting in March of 2019 this is a program we started last year and had great success with.

Director McDermott closed by announcing that the Parks, Recreation Conservation Commission will be meeting on Thursday February 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

**Norm Machelor Planning Commission** Chairman reported things are going fine we have two new members Doreen Albee and Tasia Fitzpatrick are excellent selections. I am looking forward to the Frontier House development coming before the Planning Commission and gets on its way.

**Brendan McDermott** reported for the Parks Recreation Conservation Commission saying we are having a meeting on February 21, 2019 and we will work on the future budget requests to turn into the Village board for approval.

**Russ Piper Village Historian** reported I have a meeting tomorrow to attempt to get the only Paul Thomas Hanover painting of Lewiston. I have also been talking to John Morrow about his collection of rare books, and transcripts. This is his private collection and I have been given first dibs on acquiring it. He is having Christies appraise the collection. John Morrow has said he is closing in four years and would like me to add this local history to my collection. I may have to ask for some funding to assist with the purchase of this collection.

Trustee Eydt asked what types of material is in this collection.

Russ Piper answered it is a combination of mostly bound, very rare first edition books.

Mayor Welch asked if it early local history.

Russ Piper answered yes and entire collection dating back to 1700 there are rooms and rooms of history.

Trustee Marasco asked the value of a collection like this.

Russ Piper said several thousand dollars, most likely close to \$5,000 depending on what we can come to terms on for a price. We may not want some of the pieces in his collection.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

**Trustee Marasco said**, I attended the Lewiston Business Group meeting this past week; They have a new event coming for Center Street businesses on March 2, 2019 called Sip, Shop and Eat. This should bring a lot of people into the village. The business groups enthusiasm is outstanding. The Como Restaurant plans to make its appearance for this event. I think this will turn into something that will help the village businesses during the winter months. I suggested that they consider doing this event bi-monthly. Come to Lewiston roll out of your car and you will find something to do. We need to get the message out that Lewiston is open for business all year round.

Trustee Marasco continued saying she attended the LEAP meeting for Mayor Welch this is a leadership group which emphasizes the future plans being made for our area. The guest speaker was Greg Stevens Executive director of the Niagara Greenway Commission. He spoke of how extensive the Greenway Trail will be. How it will affect the Village of Lewiston with bike paths and walking paths with everything a family would need to enjoy an outdoor event. This will be big for our community.

Trustee Marasco reported on the VFW Memorial Day event; saying Trustee Eydt, Planning Chairman Machelor and I attended a VFW meeting to plan the 4<sup>th</sup> annual three-day Memorial Day parade, moving ceremony where we honor those who have given their lives for our countries freedom, and a free lunch donated by the Brickyard and Hibbard's custard stand.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Welch opened the old business for Center Plaza Ltd. at 731 to 739 Center Street: Entrance and Exit into parking lot.

Police Chief Previte said I think this is inviting a huge problem. If the owners are planning on putting the drive through window where it was before creating confusion and change with no delineation of where and how the lanes will change; you are asking people to criss-cross at some point to reach the drive through window. It does not sound like there will be lanes painted on the pavement. There could be four to five cars stacked into the driving lane at a time waiting at the drive through window, blocking the fire lane. I do not see the benefit of this.

Mayor Welch said this still has to go to the Planning Commission. I am sure the Planning commission will take those concerns up. The original design in this plaza specifically the drive up window for the bank and the exit and entrance lanes where there also.

Chief Previte I think traffic has changed dramatically since the original development plan. The other thing Fire Inspector Beebe and I discussed is if you get three or four cars lined up for that drive through window you will block that whole fire lane.

Trustee Marasco asked Josh Meloni reporter for the Niagara Frontier Sentinel if he would put these concerns and changes in the next edition to inform the people.

Mayor Welch asked law counsel Joseph Leone if there is a problem with the drive through since it is original to the plaza and has been a previous use.

Law counsel Leone answered there has been a discontinuance of the use; so the development plan needs to go before the Planning Commission with the changes.

Mayor Welch said I know the owner wants this drive through development to happen and he referenced the prior use.

Trustee Eydt said that drive through will be going down the left hand side of the hill, the people coming up will not see them, there should be signage on the Cayuga Street side of the parking lot informing them of the traffic pattern.

Chairman Machelor said when they first came before the Planning Commission they had a very elaborate plan for stop and go lights and signage. We tabled this request at our last meeting. We will be revisiting this most likely at our next meeting. On the surface we were not in favor of this change to the plaza.

Police Chief Previte said if you are coming up from Cayuga Street and turning right into the parking lot with cars in line for the drive through you will not be able to see. I suggest that the hill be a one way down only, toward Cayuga St. Two-way traffic will cause problems and most likely head on situations.

Chairman Machelor said one of our issues is the tenants behind the plaza. The tenants in back count on the traffic from Center Street to get to the back of the building.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **LEWISTON FIRE CO NO 1 MEMBERSHIP**

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the request from Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 to accept the Restricted membership of **Giuliana R. Nicoletti**.

### **HOMERULE 25 MPH SPEED ON CENTER STREET**

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to approve the request from Senator Robert Ortt for four copies of the Home Rule form to reduce the speed limit on Center Street to 25 miles per hour to be processed and mailed out as Senator Ortt has instructed.

Mayor Welch open discussion on the request to reduce Center Streets speed limit to 25 miles per hour. I did read this request and I know it was previously taken up by the past village board. I do not think a twenty-five mile per hour speed limit is necessary; moving at a snail's pace will not make a difference.

Chief Previte stated the advantage is that the twenty-five miles per hour will help with the crosswalk problems; at thirty miles per hour you have a greater chance of being rear ended if you stop suddenly for a pedestrian crossing. Twenty-five miles per hour might help with recognition of a crosswalk and the yielding to the pedestrians. It is that much harder to stop when you are moving at thirty miles per hour.

Trustee Marasco said as a walker I go along with the reduction of speed on Center Street. I think this would be consistent with the other signage for reduced speed at playground areas.

Trustee Conde said if the speed is twenty-five miles per hour the drivers will go thirty-five if it is thirty miles per hour they will go forty miles per hour.

Mayor Welch said I think thirty miles per hour is a decent speed, I do not think people will go twenty-five miles per hour.

Trustee Eydt said we are looking at repaving Center Street and removing the cement and brick crosswalks in two years; the current crosswalks which help to get vehicles to slow down will be gone, the twenty-five miles per hour might be a good idea in this case.

Trustee Conde said I also think that the slower speed will help our business district with visibility.

Mayor Welch asked Chief Previte; are there other communities with a lower speed limit on the main streets.

Chief Previte answered: Niagara on the Lake has a twenty or twenty-five mile an hour speed, the Village of Youngstown has a thirty mile per hour speed.

Engineer Marino added in N. Tonawanda near Old Man River on Niagara Street the speed limit is twenty-five miles per hour.

Chief Previte added I think this would benefit the crosswalks and pedestrian traffic on Center Street. In the summertime we have heavy pedestrian traffic, and during the festivals you will see individuals crossing the street where there is not crosswalks, past the street closed boundaries. Center Street is a congested street.

Kathy Federspiel of S. Seventh St. asked if there would be an expense to replacing the speed limit signage. I have concern with the crosswalk at Orange Cat Coffee House, cars park blocking that crosswalk regularly in the morning. I come up that way to enter onto Center Street and it is a hazard.

Chief Previte answered the Lewiston Police write a lot of tickets at that Particular place.

Mayor Welch said I do not think five miles per hour will make much of a difference.

Chief Previte said for stopping distance the five miles per hour does make a difference, again for the pedestrians it does make a difference in the stopping time.

Law Counsel Joseph Leone spoke saying historically there was an accident on Center Street which ended in a fatality. New York State was contacted with a request to lower the speed limit, St Peter's Church and School also sent a request and it was

denied. This is the third attempt to lower the speed limit for safety on the entire length of Center Street.

Mayor Welch said maybe it is a good idea to lower the speed to twenty-five miles per hour.

Fire Inspector Beebe added a very large plaza is being built at the intersection of Center Street and N. Eighth Street; slowing the traffic down might not be a bad idea.

Mayor Welch said okay you have convinced me.

### **MIGHTY FITZ 5k**

A motion was made by Trustee Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the request from Paul Beatty to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mighty Fitz 5k on Saturday, November 2, 2019 starting at 2:00 PM at 432 Center Street. This event is held on Center St., Portage Rd., goes through the Artpark facility, onto S. Fourth St back on Center St. onto N. Water St. one block on Onondaga St., S. First St., and ends on Center St. at the starting point.

### **REVISE DATES OF PEACH FESTIVAL /ACADEMY PARK USE**

A motion was made by Trustee Marasco seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the revised application for use of facilities request from the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston to allow them to begin preparation for the annual Peach Festival starting August 26, 2019 to September 14, 2019.

Mayor Welch requested that Kiwanis make sure that their insurance covers the requested dates of August 26, 2019 to September 14, 2019.

### **OTHER**

Trustee Marasco asked how the security camera project for the Redbrick school grounds and building was coming along.

Supt. Brolinski said he had nothing to report on that at this time, he was waiting for the company to get back to him.

Police Chief Previte asked if the village had been contacted by National Grid regarding connecting the security cameras to poles at Center Street and the N. Ninth Street between the dentist office and the mini mart. The other camera will be attached to the telephone pole at fourth and Center Streets. Chief Previte said any billing that comes in should not be paid because we do not have the connection yet. We filled out an agreement but we have not heard any more about his.

Supt. Brolinski said it appears that National Grid is preparing to place a new pole at the location you mentioned for Center Street and N. Ninth. This may be the hold up.

Mayor Welch said if Chief Previte could get her a contact number she would call National Grid.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Welch said we have received a letter from Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Fire Chief Les Myers regarding a study conducted in 1970 that outlined many needed improvements for our potable water infrastructure and low water pressure.

Mayor Welch said I have spoken to Engineer Marino and there is a grant for infrastructure coming available in the spring of 2019. I am going to have Engineer Marino apply for this.

Mayor Welch said we received a letter from Patricia Falk owner of 360 S. Fourth Street; about a 80' Elm tree on the village right of way in front of that property which has caused property damage. Patricia Falk would like to have this tree cut down.

Mayor Welch continued Supt. Brolinski said this tree is a Chinese elm which are dirty nasty trees known for dropping a lot of branches.

Mayor Welch addressed Patricia Falk the owner of 360 S fourth Street; saying we did talk about your request today, and you have offered to take the tree down in the past.

Patricia Falk said yes, we came here before maybe four years ago and at that time the village did not think the tree was un healthy and did not need to come down. This property is two houses from the entrance to Artpark, the branches continue all year round to come down like spears, we have thousands of people walk by in the summer, we are concerned. Our tenants have to park on that side of the property where the tree is located.

Mayor Welch said normally we don't take healthy trees down but under the circumstance if you were willing to split the difference would that work for you.

### **APPROVAL TO TAKE THE 80 FOOT CHINESE ELM DOWN IN FRONT OF 360 S. FOURTH STREET**

Trustee Eydt made a motion to have the eighty-foot elm tree down in front of the 360 S. Fourth Street, splitting the cost of removal with the property owner fifty / fifty. Trustee Marasco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Welch open discussion on scheduling a time for Pat Brown of Brown & Company come to review the Village of Lewiston Financial Statement, March 4, 2019 at the Village Board work session was suggested. After a brief discussion 5:00 PM on March 4, 2019 before the Village Board meeting was agreed upon.

### **REPORTS**

**Clerk Treasurer Salada** said no report.

**Law Counsel Joseph Leone** reported yippee the Frontier House has sold.

Mayor Welch said Joe Leone did a lot of work for this closing of the Frontier House. He did an awesome job getting this done, writing all the paperwork, taking care of the liens, all the back and forth, I can't say enough about the awesome job he did getting this closing done.

Trustee Marasco added I want to add a few titles to your name like "the closer" and "the ring master". Trustee Marasco asked how many people were in the room for at the closing.

Law Counsel Leone said a half a dozen maybe more.

Trustee Marasco said it must have been full of illusions and surprises; "joe the ring master got all those lions to come together". You are an amazing Attorney and great representative of the village residents, thank you very much.

Mayor Welch said yes Joe Leone called me on Friday and said we were not going to close, I was on pins and needles, calling back and forth, back and forth. But then on Tuesday Joe Leone called again and at first I couldn't believe it, after all this time the Frontier House was sold. Thank you for all your hard work, and now you will see a nicely restored building; the jewel of the village will be back to its former glory. This restoration will not happen overnight so please be patient it will have to go to the Planning Commission. The people who are renovating the Frontier House are very reputable and they have the resources to do this project, they will do a good job.

**Supt. Brolinski** reported that the past storms beat us up pretty good, this last storm caused a lot of damage. The snow blower is down, one dump truck is out of commission, and we lost a plow wing. We have another ice storm coming our way tomorrow. Our

main salt truck is out getting repaired in Buffalo, we are using the backup truck. Come on spring Supt Brolinski said.

Supt Brolinski said we have had six water breaks so far, Page Avenue, North Ninth Street, North Fourth and Mohawk Street, and Fairchild Place. All of these were stress breaks from the ground shifting. In reference to Chief Myers letter; yes, our infrastructure it sucks but the water pressure is sixty to seventy pounds, below the hill the pressure is eighty pounds. We regulate the water coming into the village at 41 pounds, Mr. Gravity has a lot to do with the pressure.

Trustee Marasco asked should we get a schedule together for the problem points in the village to start fixing them.

Supt. Brolinski answered, we know where our problems points are and we are working on them. Yes, grant funding would help, that way we could hire a contractor to replace the lines.

**Engineer Marino** reported I have been working through the contracting scheduling for the Lewiston Landing project. We will we scheduling a preconstruction meeting at the Village Hall soon. This will be exciting to get this project going. The construction scheduling will be tight. On other projects I have been having various conversations with various folks about grants, walking paths, bicycle paths and future grant funding.

Trustee Eydt asked Engineer Marino have you heard more about the DASNY funding in the amount of \$250,000 originally for Lewiston Landing.

Engineer Marino said yes I have had conversations with DASNY they got back to me and said they need to check with the supervisor. The Ways and Means Commission has to weigh in on this funding also.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

**Trustee Conde** said no report I would just like to thank everyone for all their hard work on the Frontier House; Mayor Welch, Attorney Leone, and everyone else.

**Trustee Gibson** said I have no report.

**Trustee Eydt** reported on the proposed changes for village street lighting; we are trying to get the area Mayors and supervisors together to work together on the PASNY offer to lower street lighting costs.

Trustee Eydt continued saying as of this morning I received information that there is a water board meeting this Thursday at 10:00 AM (February 21, 2019). This meeting is for supervisors and they are making the PASNY electric proposal apart of their agenda to have an opportunity to discuss this. PASNY has not gotten back to any of the town supervisors either on this proposal.

Trustee Eydt added I want to thank supt. Brolinski for all the hard work you and your guys do.

**Trustee Marasco** said I would like to personally like to thank Stephanie Myers our Deputy Treasurer for all her hard work on the FEMA project. She handles all the meetings, attending them, processing the information and giving out needed information. She does a phenomenal job; you all have seen the damage down at the waterfront so you can imagine the work that had to go into that. Stephanie has the respect of all those people who come to those meetings so she deserves a public thank you from us.

**Mayor Welch** reported I am glad things went well with the Frontier House sale, I am relieved. I will be moving on the with the playground and our waterfront. At the Ellicott Development project located at N. Eighth and Center Street they are putting pipe lines in the ground and then they grade the soil over the pipe. They are moving ahead on that project they will be putting in foundations soon. The Fairchild Place project is near completion.

Mayor Welch asked Engineer Marino if he received any feedback on the electric pole issue on Fairchild Place.

Engineer Marino answered no they have not answered my questions; they are coming at the issue from a different angle.

Mayor Welch said okay I am not giving up on this, I will be calling National Grid tomorrow about this.

Mayor Welch asked Clerk Treasurer Salada to read the announcements.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**All meetings are held in the Village Board room at 145 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street unless notified:**

The next Village Board meeting will be on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

The Parks, Recreation, Conservation Board will be meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

The next Historic Preservation meeting will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

The next Historic Preservation meeting will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

## **ADJOURN**

Trustee Marasco made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 6:59 PM Trustee Conde seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Amy Salada, Clerk Tresurer