

**PRESENT** Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Gibson, Law Counsel Leone, Engineer Marino, Superintendent Wills, Police Chief Previte, Deputy Clerk Vazquez, Treasurer Longwell, Recreation Director McDermott, Historian Piper

**EXCUSED** Clerk Fundis, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02pm

**PRESENTATION – Heart of Community Committee/Lewiston Beautification**

Lower Niagara Moose Lodge 584 presented Lewiston Beautification with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 for all their hard work throughout the village.

**RESIDENTS** Lewiston Council on the Arts executive director Maria Fortuna Dean stated that the LCA and Lewiston Beautification will be hosting the annual holiday tree lighting at 7pm on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> at the band shell in Academy Park.

We will have performances by Harmonia, St. Peter’s School choir, the Greater Niagara Ballet, Lewiston Dance Center and Janet Dunstan’s Dance Academy. Also, for the first time, there will be a special community sing-along.

**MINUTES** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the October 16, 2023 minutes

**BILLS** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the November 2023 bills presented by Treasurer Longwell in the following amounts:

General:	\$409,725.24
Capital:	\$151,316.91
<u>Trust&amp;Agency:</u>	<u>\$2,747.89</u>
	\$563,790.04

**REPORTS Police**

Police Chief Previte said he has been working with the village on a grant for an emergency notification system and a separate grant for an area platform to use at the festivals.

**Recreation Director**

Recreation Director McDermott said that they had a very good turnout at the Halloween events and thanked Police Chief Previte for all of the police presence.

Also, we will be having Cookies with Santa at the Red Brick School Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Historian**

Historian Piper stated he acquired some new pieces and received a local picture of the Frontier House that is now hanging in the board room.

**LIAISON Deputy Mayor Eydt**

**REPORTS** Deputy Mayor Eydt and Trustee Conde attended a joint meeting at the Water Pollution Control Center. It was explained that the Water Pollution Control Center is going through a lot of upgrades on all of their systems.

**Trustee Coppins**

Trustee Coppins said she attended the Veterans Ceremony and there was a great turnout.

**OLD Local Law #17-2023 – Amend Historic Preservation**

**BUSINESS** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt and seconded by Trustee Gibson to approve Local Law #17-2023 - to amend ARTICLE IV. HISTORIC PRESERVATION of the Village Code to read as follows: (see attachment) Deputy Clerk Vazquez polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:

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

**475 Ridge Street – Special Use Permit Request for non-conforming sign**

Mayor Welch discussed the conversation that Clerk Fundis had with Rebecca Ruscito from NYCOM. Ruscito said that owner Chuck Barber's request to have an off premise sign on Center St. is not a special use permit situation and the Village Board should be consistent and follow the zoning guidelines and regulations.

Trustee Gibson suggested that Chuck Barber ask another business to place a sign on their building which would have to get approved by Planning Commission.

**VFW Banners**

A discussion ensued about putting smaller Veteran Hero banners on the sidewalk side of the antique light poles so they can be viewed by the walkable community.

The Village Board recommended starting with 2 to 3 banners and for the VFW to measure the poles and come back before the Board with the exact size before they would go up in the spring.

Deputy Mayor Eydt suggested we could all walk up and see exactly what they are going to look like.

Vince Canosa said the members of the VFW will put the banners up and take them down.

**NEW  
BUSINESS****Tree Removal Request – Lewiston Landing**

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed with three YES votes to approve the removal of the blue spruce tree and the crab apple tree at Lewiston Landing by the DPW. Deputy Mayor Eydt and Trustee Conde voted NO.

**Facilities Use Request – LPYF Family Carnival @ Academy Park**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the facilities use request from Lew Port Youth Football for use of Academy Park from 9am to 5pm on Sunday, July 14, 2024 to host a family carnival fundraising event from 12pm to 4pm.

**65 Center – Fence Installation**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed with three YES votes to approve the fence as proposed at 65 Center Street. This proposal was approved by the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions on November 13, 2023. Trustee Coppins and Trustee Gibson voted NO.

**125 S. First Street – Fence Installation**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt to approve the fence as proposed for 125 S. First Street. This proposal was approved by the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions on November 13, 2023.

Deputy Clerk Vazquez polled the Board and the motion passed with the following results:

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

**Parking Lot @ Corner of Water & Center Street – Fence Installation**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed with three YES votes to approve the fence as proposed for the parking lot at the corner of Water Street and Center Street with the stipulation that the fence be placed six inches from the property line. This proposal was approved by the Historic Preservation and Planning Commissions on November 13, 2023. Trustee Gibson and Trustee Coppins voted NO.

**Budget Amendment Request**

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

Decrease Revenue line: A00-2660-0000 – Sale of Real Property - \$1,475.00

Increase Expense line: A00-1620-4052 – Village Hall Outside Contractor - \$1,475.00

**Budget Amendment Request**

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

Decrease Fund Balance line: A00-0909-0000 – Fund Balance-Unreserved - \$63,656.25

Increase Expense line: A00-9710-6000 – Bond Principal - \$45,000.00

Increase Expense line: A00-9710-7000 – Bond Interest - \$18,656.25

**Budget Amendment Request**

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

From: A00-1325-4150 – Clerk/Treasurer Other - \$100.00

To: A00-1325-4050 – Sick Leave Incentive - \$100.00

**Executive Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and proposed litigation immediately following the close of this meeting.

**OTHER****476 Center St – Exterior Little Yellow House**

Deputy Mayor Eydt expressed his concern on the deteriorating exterior of the Little Yellow House at 476 Center St. and would like the Board to look into repairs.

**DISCUSSION****Spirit of Victory Monument**

After receiving negative feedback on the relocation of the Spirit of Victory Statue a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to leave the Spirit of Victory at its current location in Joseph Davis State Park.

**Eclipse Events – April 8, 2024**

Lee Simonson is requesting to have Center St. closed to host an Eclipse Step Back in Time event on April 8, 2024. We will like to give people something to do and make Lewiston something special at this once in a lifetime event.

Police Chief Previte said we will treat this like the Jazz Festival event and told Simonson to contact him and they will go over the safety and operations plan.

Treasurer Longwell reminded Simonson the organization responsibilities for hosting this event will be applying for the DOT permit for the street closing and the Village Clerk's office will get insurance from our insurance company.

Law Counsel Leone said due to liability the Village Clerk's office will not be providing eclipse glasses.

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to close Center St. from 4<sup>th</sup> St. to 6<sup>th</sup> St. at 11am to 5pm on April 8, 2024 for Lee Simonson to host an Eclipse Step Back in Time event.

**REPORTS****Superintendent Wills**

Superintendent Wills thanked Town of Lewiston Supervisor, Steve Broderick for helping purchase the new LED Christmas lights and wires.

A reminder to the residents the last day of leaf pick up is Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Law Counsel**

Law Counsel Leone reported he spoke with the Bond Counsel and the 1.2 million dollar bond will be closing on November 21, 2023 and will move forward.

**Engineer Marino**

Engineer Marino discussed the bid opening for the Lewiston Landing phase V project. We had two bids come in which both were very high. We will have to tweak the project and rebid.

**BOARD  
REPORTS****Trustee Conde**

Trustee Conde thanked Jeff Ritter for all the information received on the Water Pollution Control Center.

**Deputy Mayor Eydt**

Deputy Mayor Eydt reported that he went to a LEAP meeting which is a group of community leaders and one of the biggest conversations was about the eclipse. In Western New York all the State Parks are 98% booked for camping. The Chamber in Niagara Falls said the hotels are all booked solid. It has been reported that three to four hundred motor coaches are coming to the area so it is going to be very busy here.

**Trustee Gibson**

Trustee Gibson would like to thank Superintendent Wills and his team for the great job on the Christmas lights.

**Trustee Coppins**

Trustee Coppins asked Engineer Marino what the whole bid process entails.

**Mayor Welch**

Mayor Welch thanked Lewiston Beautification for all of their hard work decorating the village for the holidays and would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm.

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Donna Vazquez, Deputy Clerk

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**EXCUSED** Clerk Fundis

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the Executive Session to order at 7:35pm.

**BUSINESS** A discussion ensued on litigation and personnel. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the executive session at 8:29pm.

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Donna Vazquez, Deputy Clerk

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**PRESENT** Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Conde, Trustee Gibson, Treasurer Longwell, Law Counsel Leone

**EXCUSED** Clerk Fundis

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 8:30pm.

**BUSINESS** A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to authorize Law Counsel Leone to seek outside counsel to represent the Village in the Baumeister v. Village of Lewiston et al. and to allow Mayor Welch to sign the retainer agreement for that purpose.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to send correspondence to attorney Gary Abraham supporting the decision to file an Article 78 lawsuit seeking to challenge a decision and further seeking a stay to require RMU-2 to cease discharging into the Great Lakes within five years.

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

From: A00-1990-4000 – Contingent – \$7,500.00

To: A00-8110-1000 – STR Personal Services - \$7,500.00

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve a pay incentive effective immediately to Anthony Mang, in the amount, of \$7,500.00. This will come out of A00-8110-1000 - STR Personal Services.

Deputy Clerk Vazquez polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:

Coppins – Yes    Conde – Yes    Eydt – Yes    Gibson – Yes    Welch – Yes

A motion to remove Norman Machelor from his duties as the Chairman/member of the Planning Commission effective immediately per EBC Human Resources review.

Deputy Clerk Vazquez polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:

Coppins – Yes    Conde – Yes    Eydt – Yes    Gibson – Yes    Welch – Yes

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to prorate Short Term Rental licenses for all new properties.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm.

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Donna Vazquez, Deputy Clerk