

**PRESENT** Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Gibson, Law Counsel Leone, Superintendent Wills, Engineer Marino, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Vazquez, Historian Piper, Police Chief Previte, Fire Inspector Beebe

**EXCUSED** Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella, Recreation Director McDermott

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:58pm

**RESIDENTS Tom Deal** discussed the recent façade grant he had acquired for 335 Center Street, and will begin redoing the entire building in about a week. Deal addressed concerns regarding the sidewalk and concrete that is on village property. When it was redone years ago, it caused a lip and there is some cracks; this is a huge liability issue.

Mayor Welch stated the sidewalk along the front of the building and the other section discussed is your responsibility to maintain.

Deal stated that pavers were installed in front of his building, and he did not put those in. Welch replied stating that those were installed by the NYS Department of Transportation, not the Village of Lewiston.

Trustee Conde stated that as a resident, the village owns about 50-60 feet of my driveway; but I am responsible for it. If we open that door to repair and replace your sidewalk, we would have to pave every resident's driveway. If the taxpayers have to pay for this, then the taxpayers have to pay for everyone's.

Law Counsel Leone stated that the village does have exposure liability. The Village of Lewiston needs to spend money for a public purpose. Once we open the door to do this, we open it up to the entire village. Many Village of Lewiston right of way's are on private property – do we start cutting grass on resident's private property?

Deal also inquired about a section of parking in front of the sidewalk that is filled with stone that is on village property. Deal said that the parking in front of Gallo and Hardison's are black topped and he would want the same thing for in front of 335 Center so that people know these are parking spaces.

Mayor Welch and Deputy Mayor Eydt stated that Mr. Hibbard and Mr. Hardison both paved and regularly maintain those parking spaces at their own expense.

Superintendent Wills added that the DPW did not pave the Gallo and Hardison parking spaces. Eydt added that the village has had three others ask to have the same thing done and we have said no; if we do it for one we have to do it for all.

Trustee Gibson also stated that if we do for one we have to do for all; taxpayers should not be responsible for this.

**David Guisiana** thanked Clerk Fundis and Superintendent Wills for their prompt response to an issue with the ground at Academy Park. I came to the Clerk's office and spoke with Fundis who immediately contacted Wills. I didn't even make it home and Wills contacted me stating that it was all taken care of, and sent images of the area that was fixed.

**Ron Craft** addressed concerns about noise ordinance issues and favoritism occurring in the village regarding a tree that was trimmed last week near the corner of N. 4<sup>th</sup> and Center Street.

Mayor Welch stated that Police Chief Previte asked Superintendent Wills to trim that tree. Chief Previte agreed, stating that the tree was blocking the cameras that were recently turned back on.

**MINUTES** A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Deputy Mayor Eydt and passed unanimously to approve the August 15, 2022 Board Meeting minutes and the September 6, 2022 Work Session minutes.

**BILLS** A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the September 2022 bills presented by Treasurer Longwell in the following amounts:

General Fund: \$392,136.43  
 Capital Fund: \$123,095.77  
 Trust & Agency: \$19,048.93  
 Total: \$534,281.13

**REPORTS** **Police Chief Previte** stated the commotion over the weekend was from a high speed chase that began in Erie County. They are still investigating the situation, and there was minimal damage in Lewiston, as most occurred in Erie County. Four police officers were injured, three in Erie County and one in Lewiston. One of our cars was ran off the road and damaged.

**LIASON REPORTS** **Trustee Coppins** gave a report that the Garden Club and Beautification are all set with Christmas decorations being all set for the holiday season. The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce is looking to hire an Executive Assistant, and are preparing for the Harvest & Hops festivals this weekend.

Deputy Mayor Eydt stated that he, Mayor Welch and Historian Piper took first place in the Historic Association of Lewiston Jeopardy Fundraising Event. Mayor Welch added that HAL raised over \$10,000 that night.

**OLD BUSINESS** **Additional Street Lighting**  
 A motion was made by Trustee Gibson and seconded by Trustee Coppins to approve a resolution for B-25w LEW Roadways street lighting to be installed by National Grid on poles #861, 42, 42-1, 43-1 on the 800 block of Center Street, and on pole #171 on the 100 block of N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Clerk Fundis polled the board and the resolution passed with five yes votes.

Trustee Gibson – YES                      Trustee Coppins – YES  
 Trustee Conde – YES                      Deputy Mayor Eydt – YES  
 Mayor Welch - YES

**115 S. Water Street – Development Plans**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the development plans as presented for a second story addition and a concrete pad to be added on the North side of the building at 115 S. Water Street. These plans were approved at the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022.

**NEW BUSINESS** **Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 – Member Update**  
 A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to accept the resignation submitted by Lewiston Fire Company No. 1 for **Caroline Radke**.

**DISCUSSION Rural Niagara Transportation**

Mayor Welch stated that Rural Niagara Transportation would like to have a bus stop at Academy Park, at the widest section of Center Street. The buses are smaller, about the size of the Niagara Shuttle. Rural Niagara travels all over Niagara County. Chief Previte expressed concerns of the proposed location for the bus stop; I do not think it is a great place to stop. There was recent discussion on placing a crosswalk in that area.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the Rural Niagara Transportation proposal.

**Fox Fence Estimates**

Member of Beautification and the Garden Club, Tasia Fitzpatrick, gave a proposal for fence replacements with commercial vinyl along Center Street. Fitzpatrick stated that this is the charm of the village when you come in. The proposal includes all of the fencing along Center Street, with the exception of the chain-link fence in front of the CVS and Rite Aid Plazas, and fencing in front of the gas station. Fitzpatrick added that multiple companies were called for estimates, but they either wouldn't travel to Lewiston, or only worked with wood.

Mayor Welch stated that we have approximately \$177,000 remaining from the sale of the 475 Ridge Street property. The existing fences are a safety hazard.

Trustee Eydt added that we have been discussing the replacement of the fencing for the last couple of years. We walked down Center Street, I just touched a fence, and it fell right over. I agree 100% with Fitzpatrick that this is the charm of the whole village, and we should not wait and miss this price and opportunity.

Law Counsel Leone ask that Fitzpatrick provide a list of what businesses were called for estimates.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the Fox Fence estimate for replacement of fencing along Center Street as presented, to exceed the price estimate of \$94,486.00.

**REPORTS** **Law Counsel Leone** gave an update on Coulter Farms farm stand; I have not received proper insurance and the agreement I drafted, above and beyond the existing facilities use agreement. It was also unclear exactly where they would be setting up the farm stand, so I stipulated it was permitted right next to the fish cleaning station, using the two corners of the building as the defining lines.

**Engineer Marino** stated that grants were recently submitted, as well as drawings for the 9<sup>th</sup> street project, which we will announce and be able to be awarded soon. The DPW garage addition is advancing slowly; we hit some soil issues and will need to dip into the contingency to address the issues. We are waiting on proposals for the electronic vehicle stations, and we are working with National grid on the other half of the grant for this project.

**Mayor Welch** inquired about the boiler replacement in the Red Brick building. Superintendent Wills stated that Bryk has had some equipment come in, and the rest should be here in mid-late October. The replacements should take place in November, and should only take a few days.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Zoning meeting will be held at 6:30pm on September 27, 2022.

The Village Board of Trustees Work Session will be held at 6pm on Monday, October 3, 2022.

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held at 6pm, immediately followed by the Planning Board meeting on **Tuesday**, October 11, 2022.

The Village Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 6pm on October 17, 2022.

The Village Clerk's office and DPW will be closed on Monday, October 10, 2022 in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Eydt seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:47pm.