

- PRESENT** Mayor Cota, Deputy Mayor Coppins, Trustee Collesano, Trustee Fittante, Law Counsel Leone, Engineer Marino, Police Chief Salada, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick, Superintendent Mang, Historian Piper
- EXCUSED** Trustee Conde
- CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Cota called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00pm.
- NEW BUSINESS** **Circle of Honor Monument – Flag Addition by VFW Downriver Post 7487**
Bill Justyk of the VFW presented the proposal for six flag poles to be added around the Circle of Honor Monument located in Academy Park to honor all branches of the military.

Engineer Marino requested that a final design be submitted for review.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Collesano and passed unanimously to approve the proposal submitted by VFW Downriver Post 7487 to add six flagpoles, each bearing the insignia of each of the branches of military service and a bench to the Academy Park Circle of Honor monument as presented, once Engineer Marino reviews the plans.

Trick or Treating in the Village

A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Deputy Mayor Coppins and passed unanimously to approve Trick or Treating in the Village of Lewiston for Halloween on Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 4pm – 8pm.

Boy Scout Troop 855 Christmas Tree Sale at Academy Park

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Deputy Mayor Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Boy Scout Troop 855 for use of Academy Park on the corner of Cayuga and 9th Street from November 21, 2026 through approximately December 20, 2026 for their annual Christmas Tree sale.

360 N. 2nd Special Use Permit Request – SEQR / Negative Declaration

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Deputy Mayor Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the prepared Environmental Assessment Form for the special use permit application for the dog grooming business at 360 N. 2nd Street. The proposed action will not result in any adverse effect or environmental impact, and a Negative Declaration will be filed.

Teamsters Local Union No. 2064 Union Agreement

Mayor Cota reviewed the negotiation process that took place for the most recent Teamsters union agreement. The goal was for pay increases to be equitable and competitive in the market. There are no flat percentage rate increases, as separate classifications were created in the DPW; Mechanic, MEO II, MEO I and Laborer. It was established that with these new titles, everyone is still responsible for laborer responsibilities

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano and seconded by Trustee Fittante to approve the Teamsters Local Union No. 264 tentative union agreement.

Clerk Fundis polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:
Collesano – Yes Fittante – Yes Coppins – Yes Cota – Yes

Non-Union Employee Collective Bargaining Agreement

A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Deputy Mayor Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the same benefits for non-union employees as provided to full-time union employees, as referenced in the Collective Bargaining Agreement, excluding the annual pay rates.

Non-Union Employment Rate Increases

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the payrates for all non-union employees as established by the 2026-27 budget, retroactive to June 1, 2026.

Mighty Fitz 5K & 10K

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Paul Beatty Jr. to host the 12th Annual Mighty Fitz 5K & 10K on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 2pm.

Academy Park – Stored Items

Deputy Mayor Coppins inquired about orange fencing, poles, and garbage cans that have been sitting near the bandshell at Academy Park. It was established that the items belonged to an event organizer from a recent event held there. The organizer will be contacted, told to remove all items, and reminded that items cannot be left in the park beyond the approved rental period.

DISCUSSION**Tree Removal Requests:****340 Merrie Road**

Superintendent Mang said the pine tree being requested for removal is not in great health and recommend that we take it down. It has contact with communication wires. National Grid was contacted, but they would not do anything about this tree.

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the property owner of 340 Merrie Rd. for the removal of a tree located in the village right of way.

724 Onondaga Street

Superintendent Mang said the 2 trees in question are Norway Maples; the resident has an existing issue with root infiltration, but I believe this damage already existed due to the pipe being crushed. The pipe is plastic, without existing damage, the roots would not be able to infiltrate. Mang recommended the board allows the residents to remove the trees at their own cost, as they are relatively healthy trees. The homeowner provided an arborist evaluation report, whose opinion was that these trees be removed and replaced with trees that do not have roots that will extend as far as the existing trees. The residents requested that the village remove the two trees and are willing to replace with two new trees that are better suited for this space.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Collesano and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the property owners of 724 Onondaga St. for the removal of two trees located in the village right of way, pending a quote from an arborist.

320 Merrie Road

Superintendent Mang said that the property owners are only looking to have some branches trimmed. Some of the limbs are dead and a potential hazard; I am ok with the village being responsible for trimming this tree. I recommend that the village hire a contractor, to do some light trimming on the middle tree, and more extensive trimming to the tree on the far north side.

A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the property owners of 320 Merrie Rd for the DPW to trim trees in the village right of way.

Tourist Initiative

Mayor Cota gave an overview of a tourist initiative running through the month of October, hosting a series of events to benefit businesses in the village. The initiative will include a special edition Haunted Sentinel; this will be a companion guide for all the events, and will be distributed five times throughout the month, with the first being released during the Harvest & Hops Festival. Upward Niagara will be adding information on their app, and Destination Niagara will be promoting this heavily on all their platforms. The events will include a scarecrow contest, wicked and warm food contest where QR codes will be provided for live voting, the Marble Orchard Walks, a pumpkin chucking contest, special haunted artisan market, and the annual Trick or Treat on Center event. This is the first of many, we want to help keep our shoulder seasons busy for our businesses.

Beautification Committee

A discussion ensued on the current status of the Beautification Committee. Mayor Cota stated that as it stands, it is problematic from a financial standpoint. They have a bank account within the village, but we have no control of it. This is not a formal committee of this village, and our auditor has flagged this as an issue. I suggest we either separate Beautification completely, allowing them to become their own 501(c)(3), or we create an official committee within the Village, where we will be able to manage the relationship, bank accounts and coordinate to define areas of focus.

All board members agreed to move forward with a resolution to create a formal committee within the village to get in compliance with our auditors.

Michael Dowd – Property Purchase Request

Mayor Cota discussed the official purchase offer put forward by Dowd, in the amount of \$7,500.00. We have multiple appraisals that vary up to \$15,000. Law Counsel Leone said he spoke with Dowd who agreed to cover the costs for the abstract of title, search and survey, as the village will not be financially responsible for this. Cota, Coppins and Collesano agreed to return with a counteroffer of \$15,000 and any additional fees, while Fittante suggested \$12,000 plus any additional fees. Leone asked Clerk Fundis to send a letter to Dowd with the counter offer of \$15,000 plus any additional fees.

VFW Hometown Hero Banners

Trustee Collesano commented on the hometown hero banner that was recently placed along Center Street; we have a prototype up, but the program is not fully put together yet. It is coming along, but we are not ready to accept applications yet. Mayor Cota added that we are being mindful of creating a straight forward process for this program.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Coppins seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk