

Village of Leicester

February 24, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Briffa called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:

Mayor: Barry Briffa

Trustees: Don Jacobs, Ken Rizzo, Dan Christiano, Tom Frantz

Clerk-Treasurer: Deborah Beardsley

Deputy Clerk: Samantha Bodratti

Highway Superintendent: Russ Page

Water Operator:

Zoning/Code Enforcement:

Residents: Jim Kane, Karen Roffe, Louise Wadsworth, John Yasso

EXCUSED:

MINUTES: The minutes of the January 27, 2025 Board Meeting were accepted on a motion by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs. [Motion Carried 4-0]

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire District: Report presented by Commissioner Yasso:

- January 1 to February 24, 2025: 5 motor vehicle crashes, 1 hazardous condition, smell of gas, 1 structure fire mutual aid to Mt. Morris and 8-19 EMS calls.
- All equipment is working.
- Truck ID numbers are changing to 19 (ex. Pumper P135 is now 195. Chief 16 is now Chief 19).
- Fire District Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at Station 13 (Leicester).
- Company Meetings for Leicester and Cuylerville are held on the second Tuesday of each month at their respective stations.
- The Kiwanis will hold a chicken BBQ on March 25, 2025 at Station 13 (Leicester).
- Commissioners have been to the training sessions required and the Secretary and Treasurer are completing their online training. Commissioners are working on administrative policy with the lawyer. District Incident Command structure is 1 Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs, 2 Captains and 4 Lieutenants. Elections are in December.
- Deed to Fire Hall and property it sits on needs to be transferred to the fire district.

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF LEICESTER

WHEREAS, the Village of Leicester, New York has resolved to form and become part of a Joint Fire District including all of the town, and including all of the limits of the Village;

WHEREAS, the process for the formation of the new joint fire district required a public hearing with the village and town boards and was subject to permissive referendum;

WHEREAS, the time for permissive referendum on the formation of the Joint Fire District has elapsed without valid petition;

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WHEREAS, the village will no longer be required to operate its own fire department; and

NOW THEREFORE, upon motion made, seconded and discussion held, it is hereby:

***RESOLVED** that although compliance with Village Law § 10-1020 is not mandated by statute, the fire department of the village is hereby “abolished” and fire protection shall now be provided by the Joint Fire District; and it is further*

***RESOLVED**, that the firehouse (including the plot of land on which the building is situated), fire apparatus, and fire equipment owned by the Village of Leicester shall be transferred to the title of the Leicester-Cuylerville Volunteer Joint Fire District pursuant to Town Law § 189-b without consideration.*

Motion made by Mayor Briffa, 2nd by Trustee Christiano to approve the Resolution to transfer the firehouse (including the plot of land on which the building is situated), fire apparatus, and fire equipment owned by the Village of Leicester to the title of the Leicester-Cuylerville Volunteer Joint Fire District.

Roll Call Vote: Mayor Briffa - Yea
Trustee Christiano – Yea
Trustee Frantz – Yea
Trustee Jacobs – Yea
Trustee Rizzo – Yea

[Motion Carried 4-0]

Highway Department Report: Superintendent Page reported the following:

- Route 36 Water Break – Discussed events of the water break on February 14th. Road repaired by State.
- Twenty-six of last twenty-seven days have had ice / snow removal. As a result, still working on looking at what equipment would be needed to clear the water main path.
- Working on quote for suction hose for leaf vac.

Water Report:

- Increased water usage indicating another potential leak, nothing found. Determined to have resolved.
- Water Tower Inspection – Tabled.
- Telemetry needs additional amplifier (antenna) to connect to Verizon to receive signal. Quote received from PlantIQ for \$4,085.75.

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Motion made by Trustee Jacobs to accept the quote for Booster Kit, External Antenna, Cables and Commissioning for the Pump Station and Tank System in the amount of \$4,085.75, 2nd by Trustee Frantz.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Jacobs - Yea
Trustee Christiano - Nay
Trustee Frantz - Yea
Trustee Rizzo - Nay
Mayor Briffa - Yea

[Motion Carried 3-2]

Zoning Report: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget – Reviewed line items with explanation for cost. Proposing increase in office equipment cost for two new computer CPU's. Current ones are not upgradeable to Windows 11. Insurance costs should decrease from what is listed. Meeting with insurance representative March 7, 2025. Decrease street lighting costs due to LED installation. Proposed Zoning Codebook update under Zoning Contractual. Deputy Clerk Bodratti gave an overview of what the Codebook included. No other changes are noted. Will have any changes in place prior to March board meeting for public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Louise Wadsworth presented information about the Downtown Partnership. In the past 10 years \$607,000 has been invested into downtown Leicester. That includes streetscape improvements, building improvements, creation of residential units, business expansion, signs and lighting. The Village's contribution was \$42,000. Future plans include a Downtown Roundtable of quarterly meetings of Village representatives to share successes and challenges and learn about available resources. Implement county wayfinding system.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

CLERKS REPORT:

Discussed if LENS access (DMV) is needed now that the Fire District has applied on their own for access. Village will no longer need access. Clerk will discontinue Village access.

Deputy Clerk Bodratti shared that municipalities now need a .gov address/webpage. Current website is .org and has all the same requirements that the .gov is requiring. Higher security level needed for .gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to enter Executive Session made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to discuss staff at 8:01 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to exit Executive Session made by Trustee Frantz, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs at 8:26 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Motion made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs to increase the Clerk-Treasurer's hourly pay from \$22 to \$24. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Motion made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to increase the Deputy Clerk hourly pay from \$18 to \$20. [Motion Carried 4-0]

AUDIT OF BILLS:

Trustee Christiano motioned, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to accept the bills as audited. [Motion Carried 4-0]

General Fund Vouchers 3285 - 3295 \$1,820.02 Water Fund Vouchers 1225 - 1231 \$1,8748.03

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

Board of Trustees Meeting, March 17, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall. Public Hearing on 2025-2026 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Rizzo motioned, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Beardsley
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Leicester