

Village of Leicester

May 19, 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, Tom Frantz

Clerk-Treasurer: Deborah Beardsley

Deputy Clerk: Samantha Bodratti

Highway Superintendent: Russ Page

Water Operator:

Zoning/Code Enforcement:

Residents: Lance Hilyard, Frank Mazzearella, Carl Johnson, Megan Johnson

EXCUSED: Motion made by Trustee Frantz, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to excuse Trustee Christiano.

[Motion Carried 3-0]

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 21, 2025 Board Meeting were accepted on a motion by Trustee Rizzo, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs. [Motion Carried 3-0]

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Highway Department Report: Superintendent Page reported the following:

- Quotes received for the suction hose for the leaf vacuum for include Valley Fab at \$1499.85 plus shipping and LoCal at \$1,011.24. Superintendent Page is more confident on the part from Valley Fab as they are a distributor for the actual model of leaf vac we use. There is one more quote pending.

Motion made by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to spend no more than \$1700 on replacement leaf vac replacement hose (including shipping costs). [Motion Carried: 3-0]

- Mark Koslowski (LCWSA) to come out to assess storm drains in Oak Manor, Eastman Place and throughout the Village and create list and possibly utilize the County's jet vac truck for clean out. Water coming off hill above Oak Manor and flowing as far as North St.
- Mayor Briffa asked Superintendent Page to look at size of drain pipe from Constantino to Dunleavy homes In Oak Manor.
- Will mow roadsides.
- Discussed keys and use of the "dump". Is open Monday through Thursday during Highway Department hours.
- Trustee Rizzo stated he reviewed the area behind the Truax houses and Pleasant St. and it is getting overgrown with logs and debris. Superintendent Page shared a video of the intersection at Jones Bridge and Upper Mt. Morris Rd of water running over the road during the recent heavy rains.
- Discussed Village vs. Town right of way on Jones Bridge Road for maintenance of ditches. Pleasant to South St is Town responsibility.

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Water Report: Mayor Briffa reported the following:

- Water Tank Inspection quote received from Atlantic Underwater Services for \$1600.

Motion made by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to accept quote from Atlantic Underwater Services In the amount of \$1600. [Motion Carried: 3-0]

- Water Rules - tabled.
- Telemetry system had a “bug” in the software but has now been corrected and is working correctly.

Zoning Report: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget – Village Tax levy was cut 20% due to the creation of the Fire District, not by Village Board decision. Board provided with three different comparison budget samples showing different tax levies. Future tax increases above the 2 percent tax cap to bring the current levy back to 2024 levels requires a law to be passed. Tax levy for 2013 was \$60,008. If tax levies were still at that level and had not been cut, there would be an approximate \$8000 surplus. Taxes need to be brought back to the 2024 levels in the 2026-27 budget. Budget deficits need to be part of the discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Board – Ron Jennings applied for one of the open positions on the Planning/Zoning Board. He would replace Charles Metz. Trustee Christiano supports the addition. There is one other opening as Pete Fanaro did not respond to phone calls regarding his desire to continue on the Board.

Motion by Trustee Rizzo, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to approve Ron Jennings as a Planning/Zoning Board member. [Motion Carried: 3-0]

During the meeting, Lance Hilyard expressed his willingness to also join the Planning/Zoning Board to replace Mr. Fanaro.

Motion by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Frantz, to approve Lance Hilyard as a Planning/Zoning Board member. [Motion Carried: 3-0]

MAYORS REPORT:

CLERKS REPORT:

Standard Workday: Motion by Trustee Frantz, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs for Resolution to Establish Standard Workday for Mayor and Trustees Based on Record of Activities (3 days/month for Mayor and 1 day/month for Trustees), and Code Enforcement Officer (6 days). Resolution to be posted for 30 days prior to submission to NYS Retirement System. [Motion Carried 3-0]

Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley brought to the Boards attention the new insurance estimate which is lower than anticipated with the elimination of the Fire Department.

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CHIPS funding letter was received. The amount indicated, which is spread between all programs, is \$23,983 which is slightly above what was budgeted.

Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley advised the Trustees that they can still register for the Downtown Roundtable being held on Tuesday, May 20th at the Big Tree Inn. No one expressed interest in attending.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Briffa invited Carl and Megan Johnson to speak regarding their recent home water damage. They currently are rebuilding their foundation due to flooding damage. The drainage the homeowner had installed did not help to contain the excess water and the water eroded additional ditch areas. Discussion included where the water came from above Oak Manor from the farm field and that the Village cannot go into private property to work on individual homeowner's property. Discussion also involved if the current culverts will handle additional water directed to flow into that culvert. Heavier rains are happening more frequently. Question regarding has something been done on the farmland above Oak Manor that is altering the water flow? Is the farmland having changed from pasture to tillable land adding to the problem? Can the Village assist with this? Village Engineer will be asked to review the current drainage and offer viable solutions. It was stated this is the worst it's ever been. Frank Mazzarella stated he is good with whatever has to happen to fix the situation. Carl stated Bob Stryker was at his property and he stated there are grants available, but it has to be a fix all for everyone. Mayor Briffa stated he would contact Mr. Stryker and the Village Engineer regarding the problem. It was suggested to have a meeting with the farm owner and the Village residents affected by the water drainage issue to discuss possible solutions. Carl Johnson expressed his concern over the lack of response from the Code Enforcement Officer.

June 2nd at 6:30 at the Village Hall was determined to be the date for a meeting with the farm owner and the residents, and the Village Board. Megan Johnson inquired about receiving a break on the water bill during the period of restoration of their home.

Motion made by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to waive the \$65 basic fee per quarter until they move back into the home. [Motion Carried: 3-0]

Discussion continued on the homeowner having moved the 8" pipe and taking it to the road and ran the swale, and they still had severe damage. Further discussion centered on the amount of water that came through and the possibility of road damage if it all is directed to the roadside. Superintendent Page shared that these events are happening in many communities, especially to the south of us where entire villages are gone. He states this is an issue and is very sympathetic, and will try what they can within the means and powers to be able to help. The homeowner stated that he knew the answer he would get to move the water from the field to the road ditch would be that it was their responsibility. To try to obtain the grant, Mr. Stryker will work with the Village. Homeowner further stated it's only a matter of time before houses down (Smiths, Parks) will be more affected. Mayor Briffa stated a home on North St also lost everything in their basement as a result of the same event.

Trustee Rizzo asked about laws pertaining to the camper located on Pleasant St. Deputy Clerk Bodratti shared that the camper is not considered a dwelling, but a recreational vehicle. There are currently no laws that cover the situation. Trustee Jacobs expressed that it needs to be addressed so it does not become a problem in future. Deputy Clerk Bodratti shared currently it falls under the NY State law allowing for the camper to be lived in from May to October. It is one of the many Village laws that needs review and or updating. Other municipalities do not allow even the storage of campers on homeowner's property.

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AUDIT OF BILLS:

Trustee Rizzo motioned, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs to accept the bills as audited. [Motion Carried 3-0]

General Fund Vouchers 3325 - 3338 \$4,345.39 Water Fund Vouchers 1250 - 1252 \$578.24

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Oak Manor Drainage Issue, June 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

Board of Trustees Meeting, June 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Frantz motioned, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.
[Motion Carried 3-0]

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Beardsley
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Leicester