

Village of Leicester

June 2, 2025 Board of Trustees Special 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, Dan Christiano

Clerk-Treasurer: Deborah Beardsley

Deputy Clerk:

Highway Superintendent: Russ Page

Water Operator:

Zoning/Code Enforcement:

Residents: Lance Hilyard, Renee Parks, Jay Lynch, Frank Mazzarella, Carl Johnson, Megan Johnson, John Yasso

Mayor Briffa shared that last Tuesday (May 27) he met with Jeremy DeLyser (engineer), Bob Stryker (Soil & Water Conservation for Livingston County), Superintendent Page, Trustee Rizzo, Mr. Mazzarella and Mr. Lynch to review the drainage situation in Oak Manor near the Johnson residence. Mr. Stryker stated that no one should have built homes there ever, even though it is not a flood zone. It was suggested to speak with Mr. Yasso regarding the field above Oak Manor to see what's possible. The engineer suggests piping work within Oak Manor. He will also be attending the June 16th Board Meeting, hopefully with a plan.

Dan Morin was the previous contractor who laid 15" pipe from Rizzo down past Constantino. It drains into an original pipe about 8". Those pipes can't hold the capacity. There is a 24" pipe near the Tusso home. Mr. DeLyser is indicating that new pipe from the top down and larger pipe from Rizzo to Constantino is needed. Mr. DeLyser will work with MRB Group to obtain the previous maps.

Mayor Briffa asked John Yasso if there was anything he would be willing to do on his land to help the drainage situation. Mr. Yasso stated he does not know what he can do since that's the way the land has been for thousands of years. The water starts at the cemetery and comes down from that point. If he were to tile it, it would create more water down through. Mayor Briffa asked about putting in a pond. Mr. Yasso stated what if that pond breaks loose, you will have an instant flash flood. Lance Hilyard asked about a winter crop instead of the bare ground that is there now.

The discussion continued on how we have never received the weather that we have had lately and the amount of rainfall as well as how quickly it has fallen. Mr. Yasso was asked if the water comes from a ravine. Mr. Yasso stated it's natural flow of the land. Mr. Lynch states if you look at the satellite view of the field there are three veins that come down across the field ; one from the cemetery which got Mr. Johnson's basement; the far one that comes down into the woods, which comes down behind Johnsons and surrounds Ms. Parks house and goes down from there and the other one comes down to "his house" indicating Trustee Rizzo. Trustee Jacobs states even if you ditched that, where do you send it? Mr. Yasso states they have had issues with water washing out the driveway in the cemetery. The Town was able to go in and put in a swale and large rocks and culvert to direct the water from the road. Mr. Yasso further stated the one that runs toward Trustee Rizzo's house runs constantly. They originate from Dunkley Road. There are a few springs in the field on the west side of Dunkley road plus whatever rainfall that comes.

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It was mentioned that the storm drains need to be kept clean as well as the original small pipe that was put in when the development was done also needs replacement.

Mr. Mazzarella states he has been there since 1978 and has never seen anything close to what happened during this event. He feels they can fix it so it never affects the home again, but the problem is making sure the culvert by the road holds the extra water so it doesn't undermine the road.

Ms. Johnson shared she has videos and pictures of the water and how it flowed around their house taking out the basement and doing further damage to the ditches around the home.

Mr. Hilyard said he heard an idea last time that seemed to be cost effective and may fix it with a storm drain in between his home and Trustee Rizzo's into a catch basin. And then on the other side maybe a retaining pond, and once it fills up if piped correctly that would hold a lot and would not need a lot of road work. Mr. Johnson stated that is pretty much what they have on the other side of Mr. Mazzarella's driveway with a 6- or 8-inch pipe underneath the driveway and that couldn't handle the water they got.

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

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 7:51 pm.
[Motion Carried 3-0]

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Beardsley
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Leicester