

Village of Leicester

December, 2024 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: Absent
Deputy Clerk: Samantha Bodratti
Fire Chief: James Kane, President Yasso
Highway Superintendent:
Water Operator:
Zoning/Code Enforcement:
Residents: Karen Roffe

EXCUSED:

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 18, 2024 Board Meeting were accepted on a motion by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo. [Motion Carried 4-0]

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Company Report: President Yasso reports the following:

- 2 calls (see attached report).
- December Training- Joint training with Cuylerville and Leicester on air packs.
All of Cuylerville's air packs will be out of service due to discontinuation by manufacturer —Fire District to give Cuylerville 6 air packs from Leicester's Fire Department.
- Leicester to be part of the Cuylerville Christmas Parade
- Will participate in local 'Operation: Light it Up' with Sheriff's department.
- Everything good with trucks.
- District meeting Wednesday 12/18- will be looking at:
 1. Cuylerville contract:
 - Will contract with Cuylerville one more year to finalize plans with Cuylerville's department.
 2. Insurance quotes:
 - Looking at 2 companies
 - Trying to keep a January 1, 2025 deadline of switching over, but may not happen
 - Board discussed possibility of paying for insurance past the January 1 deadline. Village should maintain payments until asset ownership is transferred from Village to Fire District. The Village lawyer is working on the deed transfer from the Village to the Fire District.
- Has already switched RGE and NYSEG bills from Village to Fire District- Starting January 1
- In the process of switching Spectrum and WEX(fuel card)
- Grants- working on fulfilling the state's paperwork requirement for the 20 sets of turnout gear and washer and dryer totaling \$108,441.00.
- Going to apply for Assistance for Firefighters. Updating from last year's request of 16 air packs for \$194,000 to include 11 more to replace Cuylerville's outdated air packs for a total request of \$360,720.
- Jamie Watson appointed to district Chief. Jim Kane and Joey Semmel will be 1st Assistant Chiefs.

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- President Yasso thanked the board for the \$1000.00 they donated to the Fire District and wished the Board a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- The Mayor asked President Yasso if he was willing to give a report to the board every two months. President Yasso was amenable to that.
- The Mayor also expressed his gratitude to President Yasso for everything he's done for the Fire Department and Village over the years.

Highway Department Report: Mayor Briffa reported the following:

- List of Village Streets and last maintenance performed.
- Mayor okay with waiting at least a year to perform any more street maintenance.

Water Report: Mayor Briffa reports the following:

- Discussed possibility of new Water District for Town of Leicester.
- LCWSA approved project to run waterline down Dewy Hill, along River Rd, to Seneca Foods and Letchworth State Park.
- Jason Molino requested a copy of the Mt. Morris 5 yr. contract.
- Start working on new contracts for LCWSA and Seneca Foods, both expire in 2026
- Overflow at the tank- Chris is concerned, but Jeremy determines we only have total 5% water loss system wide and that's the best in the area. Most other municipalities are 10%-20%. Potential issues could be coming from pump at pump house or Telemetry, but Mayor is okay with waiting to see what happens due to such low water loss, it will never be 0%.
- Mayor mentions Chris does a great job with our water system.

Zoning Report: Mayor Briffa reports the following:

- No report received.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget – Mayor Briffa distributed the budget prepared by Clerk Beardsley. Instructed the board to look it over and offer changes to make up for the budget shortfall. Mayor commented on not wanting to raise Village taxes and won't reduce Village tax due to the creating of Fire District. The Mayor is confident the interest from the CDs will cover some of the shortfall and is looking to reinvest a large amount of the monies from the sale of the Community Building. The Mayor is also still actively pursuing the S.A.M Grant funds. Comment was made about getting the news involved. Having a news organization may put pressure on the state.

WIIA Grant – The village did not receive it and the Mayor isn't going to pursue the grant next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Audit – Mayor, Clerk and Trustee Christiano sat for an initial meeting with the 3 Auditors. Currently auditing files for June 2023 through June 2024. Interviewed Clerk and Deputy Clerk and will want to interview the Trustees, but the Mayor states he will refuse any one-on-one interviews with the Auditors. He continued to express his frustrations with the Grant system and wondered if the Comptroller office should spend time trying to fix that system. Trustee Christiano will be happy to have a 'reset' and have closure from the past, but pointed

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out from his past experiences the auditors will make recommendations based off their current views and best practices that will inevitably be criticized and contradicted by the views and best practices of future auditors. And unless the Auditors find something groundbreaking this was nothing more than a paperwork exercise with no real benefit in the end. Overall the Mayor is not concerned about the auditor's findings.

- Resolution for Continue Support State Aid for Local Governments – Motion made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to accept resolution in support of continued and increased state aid for local governments. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Jacobs – Aye; Trustee Christiano - Aye; Trustee Frantz – Aye; Trustee Rizzo – Aye; Mayor Briffa - Aye. [Motion Carried 5-0]

Resolution in Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments

Whereas, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

Whereas, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

Whereas, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

Whereas, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

Whereas, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

Whereas, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

Whereas, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Leicester calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

Be it further resolved, that the Village of Leicester urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

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A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Helming, Assemblymember Byrnes and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).

– Keeping of Dogs – Trustee Christiano spoke with Livingston County Dog Control and was told to speak with the Village of Lima about their current laws. Trustee Christiano then spoke with the Deputy Mayor and discovered the Village of Lima doesn't contract with the county for dog control. Trustee Christiano still requested a copy of their dog control law to compare it with the current law in the Village of Leicester. Clerk Beardsley is still waiting for it to be emailed. Trustee Christiano noted that with the colder weather there are less people walking and less chances of pedestrian and dog interactions so the board has time to ensure the updated law will protect the needs of the village residents. Trustee Christiano has plans to have draft changes to the law ready for the next meeting that Livingston County Dog Control will be expected to enforce once changes are filed with the state.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Village Office Gutters – Check has been sent, and company to come Friday 12/20 to finish project.

CLERKS REPORT:

Chips – Received EWR funds of \$3,191.16 on 12/13 and are due to receive the rest of the Chips funding of \$18,600.00 by 12/18.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A question was asked if there was a report from Zoning Officer. Deputy Clerk Bodratti confirmed there was no report submitted in time for the meeting. Discussion about zoning personnel, enforcement and previously noted properties with violations followed.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

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

General Fund Vouchers 3250 - 3266 \$6,554.18 Water Fund Vouchers 1212 - 1215 \$917.56

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

Board of Trustees Meeting, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Rizzo motioned, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Bodratti
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Leicester