

Village of Leicester

June 16, 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, Dan Christiano

Clerk-Treasurer: Deborah Beardsley

Deputy Clerk: Samantha Bodratti

Highway Superintendent:

Water Operator:

Zoning/Code Enforcement:

Residents and Guests: Jeremy DeLyser (Engineer-CPL), Renee Parks, Jay Lynch, John Yasso, James Kane, Frank Mazzarella, Carl Johnson, Ed Russell (Attorney)

EXCUSED:

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 19, 2025 and June 2, 2025 Board Meetings were accepted on a motion by Trustee Rizzo, 2nd by Trustee Christiano. [Motion Carried 4-0]

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire District: Commissioner Yasso reported the following:

- Things are going well. District has acquired all of the Cuylerville equipment and are leasing the grounds and building.
- Two trainings scheduled this week with both departments.
- Next report in September.

Highway Department Report: Mayor Briffa reported the following:

- The Mayor received a call regarding the poor condition of the road between the post office and the fire hall and Trustee Rizzo shared that the individual who purchased the post office building owns the road. The property owner is responsible for maintaining the roadway.

Water Report: Mayor Briffa reported the following:

- Mayor Briffa asked Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley for an update on the Water Tank Inspection. Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley shared that Atlantic Underwater Services had conducted their inspection and they responded that all looked good. The official report should come within three weeks.
- New modems were needed in the telemetry system, which were installed over the weekend. The tank has not been overflowing.

Zoning Report: No report.

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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:

Oak Manor Drainage – Mayor Briffa introduced the Village Engineer, Jeremy DeLyser to discuss Oak Manor Drainage.

On May 27th, Mr. DeLyser, Engineer with CPL, met with Mayor Briffa, Trustee Rizzo, Superintendent Page and several residents in Oak Manor to discuss the drainage issues on the North end and notes that drainage on that end is undersized and the farm field drains down into that corner lot. He noted that there is a 4” drainpipe and a couple indentations of the land that act like “ponds” but that none of that is adequate. He discussed the crops and maintenance of the soil conditions of the field which is a small contributing factor. The south end and center section of Oak Manor seem to have no issues. Need to evaluate what can be done and understand what rain was received the day of the event and what preceded it, review maps and other resources, prepare a drainage model, which helps to identify how large everything needs to be to alleviate the issue. Residents received clarification on the current plan. Mr. DeLyser explained that we need to be sure that the possible solution does not cause a further problem for someone else beyond Oak Manor.

Trustee Christiano mentioned a similar situation that occurred in Oak Manor in 2019 whereby the Village had discussion with residents regarding the homeowners adding ditching on their properties to bring the water to the road where the Village would handle the drainage from that point. Was any of the recommended additions completed? Mr. Johnson explained what the drainage had been when he purchased the home and that was taken from the pipe under Mr. Mazzarella’s driveway and extended into the tree line behind his home and then dead ended in a pile of rocks. He directed the water to the road and installed a swale on his property down to the road ditch per what he had been told by the Village board at that time. Mr. Johnson further shared that Mr. Hilyard’s leach bed is in an area that is also getting inundated with this water runoff from the field requiring him having to continually pump his septic. Mr. DeLyser stated this is all information he is collecting to devise a plan.

Mayor Briffa introduced Ed Russell, the Village Attorney, who joined the meeting. Questions for Mr. Russell include if the Village is able to enter a residents property to do any work in the area. The Village Board declined the offer of Mr. Mazzarella giving the Village part of his property. Other areas for investigation include what money is available for any type of work on the issue including grant monies, etc.

Mayor Briffa noted there are residents on North Street, Pleasant Street, and South Street that also have drainage issues and have been affected.

Mr. DeLyser provided a preliminary engineering proposal to the Board outlining the steps needed and a timeline for these steps along with timing for grant application. He stated the Village size plays into grant approval possibility. Possible report in September 2025.

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Trustee Christiano questioned if the goal of this proposal is to never have a problem again. Mr. DeLyser stated mother nature tells you no. The goal would be to evaluate and outline improvements that would hopefully reduce the severity of a further occurrence because mother nature always wins. Trustee Christiano further stated that it would be improper to only look at the rainfall in May of 2025 as it was 100% higher than it was in 2024 and further pointing out that April 2025 was +30% and during January through March 2025 it was 10% higher. "Historically, looking back 5 years, you don't find anything that looks like this year's statistics. If we are paying a bill, I want to make sure it's getting done to the satisfaction of the people so you need to broaden the scope rather than just to this one-year anomaly." Trustee Christiano further stated we don't want the project to be so big it takes up people's yards and he wants everyone to understand. Mr. DeLyser stated understanding and stated that if something can be put in place to handle 85% of the overflow to reduce the problem, because ultimately mother nature always wins. Even if we design based on this May event, mother nature will throw something even better and so we want to take care of most of it.

Trustee Jacobs questioned the Village Attorney about the Village going on private property. Mr. Russell responded that the first thing is to get an easement from the property owner or consider if you want to do eminent domain. Mr. DeLyser stated there are some easements already in place. May need temporary easements in some locations.

Mr. Mazzarella stated they know what they could do to help prevent this problem from occurring but were told not to do it. Trustee Rizzo stated that it was soil and conservation that recommended they not do anything at a previous meeting they had. They discussed if putting in larger pipes on their property would endanger others further down. Everyone agrees that no one wants that to happen.

Trustee Jacobs states he is all for trying to assist Mr. Johnson, but at the same time, he does not want to put the Village in jeopardy and there are other people to protect in the Village also. Mr. Russell agrees that the right first step is having the engineer develop a plan which adds a level of protection for the Village.

After all discussions concluded a motion was made by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo, to accept the preliminary engineering proposal for drainage in Oak Manor at a cost of \$5,500.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Jacobs – yes; Trustee Christiano – yes; Trustee Frantz – yes; Trustee Rizzo – yes
[Motion Carried: 4-0]

Local Law for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles – Tabled till July meeting.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mr. Russell presented a Corrected Deed for the Fire District. All of the property did not get transferred over when the original building and property was transferred. Document signed by Village and Commissioner Yasso and Mr. Russell will record the corrected deed.

Mayor Briffa shared that he is not planning to run for Mayor in 2026.

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CLERKS REPORT:

Resolution for Corrected Tax Roll – 36 South Street

Whereas, 36 South St, Leicester NY, has been purchased by the Livingston County Land Bank on May 15, 2025; and

Whereas, pursuant to Article 16, Section 1608 (a) of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, this parcel should be exempt from taxation on the 2025 Village of Leicester Tax Roll;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Leicester approves this Resolution for the Corrected Tax Roll for 36 South St, Leicester NY for the 2025 Village of Leicester Tax Roll at the regular Village Board meeting on June 16, 2025.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Livingston County Department of Real Property Tax.

The motion was made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Frantz. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Budget Modifications: Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley presented the following budget modifications for the 2024-2025 Budget Year that were approved on a motion by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo. [Motion Carried 4-0]

A1325.4	to	A1210.4	\$	88.42	A1325.1	to	A1325.12	\$	136.70
A1325.1	to	A1325.2	\$	1,589.82	A1920.4	to	A1910.4	\$	401.38
A3410.4	to	A3410.41	\$	275.00	A8010.11	to	A8010.1	\$.08
A1620.1	to	A1620.41	\$	60.00	A5182.4	to	A5110.4	\$	2,969.42
A1620.4	to	A1620.41	\$	3,126.11	A5410.2	to	A5110.4	\$	1,000.00
A1990.4	to	A1620.41	\$	2,000.00	A7110.2	to	A5110.4	\$	200.13
A1920.4	to	A1620.41	\$	598.62	A7110.4	to	A5110.4	\$	373.57
A1362.4	to	A1620.41	\$	12.32	A8510.4	to	A5110.4	\$	1,483.63
A1420.4	to	A1620.41	\$	79.00	A8560.4	to	A5110.4	\$	1,000.00
A1440.4	to	A1620.41	\$	1,000.00	A8170.4	to	A5110.4	\$	1,120.00
A3410.41	to	A1620.41	\$	9,216.90	A1325.1	to	A5110.4	\$	1,566.23
A8010.11	to	A1620.41	\$	999.92	A1325.4	to	A5110.4	\$	232.33
A7140.4	to	A1620.41	\$	1,059.11	A7140.4	to	A5110.4	\$	8.25
					A9010.8	to	A5110.4	\$	950.00
					A9030.8	to	A5110.4	\$	117.92
					A9035.8	to	A5110.4	\$	69.32
					A9040.8	to	A5110.4	\$	180.00
					A9050.8	to	A5110.4	\$	500.00
					A9055.8	to	A5110.4	\$	260.96
					A1120	to	A5110.4	\$	4,065.73
					A1130	to	A5110.4	\$	2,001.17
					A1255	to	A5110.4	\$	40.00
					A2750	to	A5110.4	\$	5,514.14
					A3005	to	A5110.4	\$	1,315.44
					A3501	to	A5110.4	\$	6,916.47
					A599	to	A5110.4	\$	14,273.21

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Commissioner Yasso asked if the Village has received the reimbursement for the Fire District study or any updates. Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley advised that the Village has not received any money or information on the subject. Commissioner Yasso will contact the Town Clerk to check the status.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

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

General Fund Vouchers 3339 - 3354 \$6,610.23 Water Fund Vouchers 1253 - 1259 \$5,119.65

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

Board of Trustees Meeting, July 21, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Jacobs motioned, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.
[Motion Carried 4-0]

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Beardsley
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Leicester