

Village of Leicester

March 17, 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: Absent

Deputy Clerk: Samantha Bodratti

Highway Superintendent: Russ Page

Water Operator:

Zoning/Code Enforcement:

Residents: Jim Kane

EXCUSED:

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 24, 2025 Board Meeting were accepted on a motion by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo. [Motion Carried 4-0]

OPEN BUDGET HEARING: Mayor Briffa opened the Public Budget Hearing for 2025-2026 at 6:31 pm on a motion by Trustee Rizzo, 2nd by Trustee Frantz [Motion Carried 4-0].

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Highway Department Report: Superintendent Page reported the following:

- Wind took down the Village of Leicester Sign heading into the Village from Mount Morris on Rt. 36—the posts were rotted. The Town Highway Department will replace the posts and sign.
- Received quote to clear the full water main path from the pump station to Upper Mount Morris Road. The quote includes an 8-ton Kabota, skid-steer with Brush Hog on a Livingston County bid (bid only good until April 1, 2025), and two days of Highway Department labor. Estimate quote is \$6,380.00. The Board discussed how long ago the path was cleared and consensus was at least 3 years ago, at least. Trustee Jacobs commented that once the path was cleared Mark Bonadonna could monitor the trail with the Gator once or twice a month. This could also help keep the path clear and detect any leaks that may occur.

Motion to approve the project to clear the path from the pump house to Upper Mount Morris Road made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Jacobs [Motion Carried 4-0].

Water Report:

- Insurance won't cover the February 14, 2025 water leak on Route 36. There is a clause in the Village insurance that states that there is no coverage for water breaks. Mayor Briffa described his conversation with the insurance company and explained how the damage to the road was due to the Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority's mistakes. The cost of the current repairs from the NYDOT is \$4500.00, with the expectation of more costs. The insurance representative suggested the Water Authority's insurance should cover the cost of the damage and repairs. The mayor has been trying to reach Jason Malino on the phone unsuccessfully to explain the scope of the repairs which include digging the road back up to ensure the cement and rebar are set correctly. Discussion followed about the method and procedure on how the water break was handled by the County Sewer and Water Authority and who should be liable for the costs.

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- Mayor Briffa discussed his meeting with Supervisor Rich White about the new water district within the Town of Leicester. 120 residents are looking to connect to public water. Supervisor White is looking at several different options, including connecting to a cistern within Letchworth State Park. Other options for water access include waiting for the County Sewer and Water Authority to build the proposed lines from Geneseo to Letchworth State Park, but Geneseo has not yet committed to the project and is several years, at least, from completion. The mayor suggested to Supervisor White that the town could connect to the main water line along Mt. Morris Rd or even build a line directly from the Village of Leicester Water Tank. Both options would be faster, easier and cheaper than pulling water from a future County Sewer and Water line. Discussion followed about the potential of the Town obtaining water directly from Perry Center rather than the County Sewer Authority or the Village of Leicester. Mayor Briffa also reiterated that Supervisor White has no desire to pursue a sewer district.
- Telemetry project is being finished by adding additional antennas for better reception.
- Health department report. County determined the Village water met county health standards, only requirement made was to hire a diver for a routine inspection of the water tank.
- Water contracts with Livingston County Sewer and Water Authority and Seneca Foods. Both are expiring at the end of 2025 and the Mayor wants to get Seneca Foods to commit to a 3-4 year contract.

Zoning Report: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget – Mayor opened the floor for discussion on the 2025-2026 budget. Mayor Briffa and the Board all agree Clerk Treasurer Beardsley did a great job in preparing the information to present to the board. The mayor pointed out the negative number and asked Deputy Clerk Bodratti to explain. Deputy Clerk Bodratti explained the large negative number comes from the cost of updating the village code book which hadn't been done since 2002. A question was asked if there was any grant funding available for the code book. Deputy Clerk Bodratti said money from the American Rescue Plan could have been used, but the Village had already spent the money. Mayor Briffa requested Deputy Clerk Bodratti to contact the County grant writer to see if they could help with grant funding.

The mayor also pointed out that if the taxes hadn't been reduced by 60% in 2013 the village likely wouldn't have the budget deficit it has today and admitted the taxes should have been raised over the years to get the tax levy back to where it was in 2012. The mayor spoke about the money invested in the CDs collecting interest for the Village. Mayor is still trying to pursue the 2018 SAM Grant.

-Public question: 'Can the Village raise the taxes 2% each year until the tax levy is back to the 2012 rates?'
Answer: Yes, since the sale of the community building the village has been raising the taxes to just below the 2% cap each year and the mayor pointed out with the income from BOCES and the community building tax revenue wasn't as important as it is now. And this year specifically the village will lose roughly 20% tax levy due to the transfer of function of the fire department, which was mandated by the state Comptroller's office. The mayor mentioned in the future the Board can override the tax cap. A hypothetical question was posed, how would a homeowner feel about seeing a sudden 40% increase in taxes and it was agreed that it may be too much too fast, and smaller more manageable increments would be best, but everyone agreed that if the Village of Leicester wishes to continue it will need to raise revenues because costs aren't going down.

-Mayor asked Superintendent Page if the town highway crew would be willing to take responsibility for village water breaks. Superintendent Page told the mayor to ask the Town Board because the town is trying to get out

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of the water business. Superintendent Page also brought up his concern about manpower and prioritizing water coverage, for example if a water break occurred during a snowstorm, does the highway department prioritize fixing the leak or plowing the roads. The highway department is willing to be back up to Chris Young, but they don't want to be the primary response crew. Trustee Christiano posed the question: 'is the village going down a dead-end road with paying for the town highway's water licenses if the village can't count on them to help in an emergency.' Superintendent Page reiterated the town highway crew would act as backup to Chris Young. After a little more discussion the decision on the Town's Highway Department involvement was to be determined by Supervisor White and the Town Board.

Motion to close public hearing on 2025-2026 budget made by Trustee Christiano and 2nd by Trustee Jacobs. [Motion carried 4-0].

Motion to approve budget from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026 made by Trustee Rizzo, 2nd by Trustee Frantz

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Christiano – Yea
Trustee Frantz – Yea
Trustee Jacobs – Yea
Trustee Rizzo – Yea

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR'S REPORT:

CLERKS REPORT:

-Need approval to continue to fund the Williamson Account and Water system support contract from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 for \$1506.00.

Motion to approve payment for the Williamson Account and Water system support contract made by Trustee Frantz and 2nd by Trustee Christiano [motion passed 4-0]

Newsletter will go out by April 10th.

Hometown hero banners. Deputy Clerk Bodratti has a waiting list with at least seven people looking to order banners. Discussion follows about where to put the extra banners. Possibilities include extending them along Rt. 36 towards Mt. Morris, potentially have the Town of Leicester Highway Department help and extend them into Cuylerville or possibly double up on banners on poles.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss water and staff made by Trustee Christiano, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to discuss staff at 7:28 pm. {Motion Carried 4-0}

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EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to exit Executive Session made by Trustee Rizzo, 2nd by Trustee Christiano at 7:49 pm.

[Motion Carried 4-0]

Motion made by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Rizzo to add 32 Pleasant Street overdue water payments to the property's 2025 Village taxes for the amount of \$483.93 [Motion Carried 4-0]

Motion made by Trustee Jacobs, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to increase Mark Bonadona hourly pay from \$20 to \$21. [Motion Carried 4-0]

AUDIT OF BILLS:

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

General Fund Vouchers 3296 - 3306 \$4,274.64 Water Fund Vouchers 1232 - 1238 \$3,325.34

NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:

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

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Jacobs motioned, 2nd by Trustee Frantz to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

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