

A Town Board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on February 14, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor	Tony Gonçalves
Council Members	Andrea Rendo, Mary Shah, Richard Sklarin and Daniel Welsh
Town Clerk	Janet L. Donohue
Absent	None

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Deputy Supervisor/Comptroller Leo Masterson, Maintenance Assistant Shawn Johannessen, Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger and Confidential Secretary/Benefits Coordinator Mary Hafter.

Approximately 8 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 22 participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURE**

Supervisor Gonçalves noted the exits to be used in the event of an emergency.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD I**

Three residents spoke during public comment period I.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

A resident stated he feels that we are at a tipping point with global warming, and we need to stop using fossil fuels. He feels that the resolution passed a few months ago by the board was a step in the right direction but we need action. During polling of the board Councilman Welsh stated that we need to incorporate these considerations into operations and hopes to get this moving right away.

**INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A resident expressed that she was in favor of the creation of the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Advisory Committee.

**TOWN OWNED PROPERTY LISTINGS**

A resident asked if the Board had put together a town owned property listing yet. During polling of the board Supervisor Gonçalves stated that they are still working on this list.

WILDER BALTER

A resident asked if any further funds have been received by the town from Wilder Balter. During polling of the board Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he is not sure of the status on the additional payments but will investigate this.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A resident asked if the town still has an active Chamber of Commerce and if not, how do we get it back up and running. During polling of the board, Councilwoman Shah stated that Chuck Tator, from Tator's Garage, has been the President for the Chamber of Commerce, but she does not think that it is very active at this time. Ms. Shah is very interested in starting this back up.

COMMUNICATIONS

POLICE OFFICER – Commendation

Supervisor Gonçalves read the following email regarding Police Officer Terwilliger:

*Dear Sergeant Llewelyn:*

*A few weeks ago, one of my tires blew out on Rte. 35 just west of Katonah. I called 911 hoping they would send me a help truck. Instead, they sent Police Officer Terwilliger. Neither he nor I had a jack so he offered to call a local gas station he knew could help me. I thanked him and tried to tip him \$20, but he declined taking my money, telling me he wasn't allowed to accept cash. Then he told me to stay in my car and that he would stay behind me until the mechanic came. I told him I didn't want to tie him up, and that since where I was, Rte. 35 had two lanes, I'd stay there with my emergency lights on freeing him to leave. He was concerned that I could be rear ended and told me he would prefer to wait until after my tire was changed.*

*I was very lucky such a conscientious, kind officer came to my help. You are very lucky to have him on your squad.*

*All my best, Town Resident*

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the minutes of the January 24, 2022, Town Board meeting were approved.

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

REPORTS – Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Building and Police Department monthly reports were received and filed.

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

TOWN PARK PLAYGROUND – Discussion Regarding Engineering Services Proposal (7:40 – 7:49 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that in order to go out to bid for the demolition of the old Town Park playground and the installation of the new playground, a bid package needs to be developed. Kellard Sessions is the engineering company that the town uses, and Supervisor Gonçalves asked them for a quote for base mapping, site plan phase, notice of intent phase, NYSDEC freshwater wetland permit phase, bid documents phase, bidding phase, and construction phase. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he also consulted another company for a quote, however, they could not put something together that quickly, but did look at the bid spec and their price was more than double that of Kellard Sessions.

On motion by Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro does accept the proposal from Kellard Sessions Consulting for civil engineering and wetland consultation services required for the preparation of a site plan package, reports and bid documents for improvements to the Lewisboro Town Park playground project located at Route 35 with a total cost not to exceed \$28,250.

HIGHWAY – Speed Limit on Town Collector Roads

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the Town Board did do a resolution for reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on June 04, 2021. However, the State will need a new updated renewal resolution from the Town Board in order for them to move forward.

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to send a letter to the State Legislators requesting that they exempt collector roads in the Town of Lewisboro via home rule resolution from the State speed provisions, pursuant to S2991/A7944.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section sixteen hundred twenty-two of the vehicle and traffic law, in lieu of making a request of the department of transportation pursuant to such section, the town board of the town of Lewisboro in the county of Westchester, with respect to town highways which have been functionally classified by the department of transportation as rural major and minor collector roads on official functional classification maps approved by the federal highway administration pursuant to part 470.105 of title 23 of the code of federal regulations, as amended from time to time, and which are outside of cities and villages, may by local law, ordinance, order, rule or regulation:

(a) Establish maximum speed limits at which vehicles may proceed on or along designated town highways lower than thirty miles per hour, but no less than twenty-five miles per hour unless in a designated school zone in accordance with State and Federal law. The roads in question are listed in the Town of Lewisboro Code under the Vehicle Traffic and Safety section 212-22 schedule 1 titled "Speed Limits" and attached hereto with their current thirty mile per hour designation:

Name of Street	Speed Limit (mph)	Location
Bouton Road	30	Entire length
Main Street	30	From the intersection with Bouton Road to the border with the State of Connecticut
Oscaleta Road	30	Entire length
Spring Hill Lane	30	Entire length
West Lane	30	From the intersection with Spring Hill Road to the border with the State of Connecticut

LIBRARY – Presentation (7:55 – 8:32 p.m.)

Jay Luzzi, town resident and President of the Lewisboro Library's Board of Trustees, introduced Library Director Cindy Rubino and Head of Circulation/Technology Coordinator Kathy Iglesias. Ms. Rubino made a presentation (see attached) regarding services and financial aspects of the library.

Councilwoman Rendo stated that when she questioned the budget of the library during the Organizational meeting, her words were not appreciated by all. She stated that she does not want to see the demise of the library. She asked where are we drawing from in the community. Are we serving the same 100 households or is it spread out throughout the town? How many employees, how many librarians? If we are spending 6% of the budget, or \$455,000, community wide and only a small portion of the community is taking advantage of the library, then what can the Town Board members do to make that change. She explained that she is a new set of eyes and just wants to know how we as a town and the library can do better.

Mr. Luzzi stated that the shape of the town is very challenging. Councilman Sklarin also spoke about the benefit of the library during Covid. Councilman Welsh stated that it is not always easy to translate this into a ledger equation. Councilwoman Shah stated when she served on the library

board, there was a movement to move the library to the town park which did not go over well. She suggested a mobile service or a satellite office in Goldens Bridge and/or Vista.

Ms. Rubino also mentioned that the library raised \$1.5 million for the library renovation and the town did not contribute any of that money. The yearly library fair and library concerts are fundraisers that the community enjoys.

The Board thanked Mr. Luzzi and Ms. Rubino for their presentation.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION –  
Resolution (8:33 – 8:40 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that Lewisboro is part of the Westchester County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, and a resolution needs to be updated every five years in order for individual jurisdictions to be eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance.

Councilwoman Rendo stated that the Westchester County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is over 2,500 pages long and she did not have the time to read the entire document. For this reason, she abstained from the vote.

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(4)
	No	- None	(0)
	Abstain	- Rendo	(1)

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LEWISBORO  
AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE  
2021 WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, all jurisdictions within Westchester County have exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

WHEREAS; pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS; a coalition of Westchester County municipalities with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Lewisboro:

- 1) Adopts in its entirety, the 2021 Westchester County Hazard Mitigation Plan (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
- 2) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 3) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
- 4) Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
- 5) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 6) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
- 7) Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Creation of Committee (8:40 – 8:51 p.m.)

In honor of Black History month, Councilman Sklarin read a quote by Martin Luther King Jr. titled “Courage”.

*“Courage is an inner resolution to go forward despite obstacles;*

*Cowardice is submissive surrender to circumstances.*

*Courage breeds creativity; Cowardice represses fear and is mastered by it.*

*Cowardice asks the question, is it safe?*

*Expediency ask the question, is it politic?*

*Vanity asks the question, is it popular?*

*But conscience ask the question, is it right? And there comes a time when we must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because it is right.”*

Councilman Sklarin stated that racism and antisemitism still exist along with anti LGBTQ bias. And members of our community with disabilities of all kinds are not provided with all the support that they need.

Councilman Sklarin thought that with all this in mind it might be a good time to discuss the creation of this type of committee, similar to Bedford and help us grow as a community. He suggested a community outreach and an educational component and an advisory component.

Councilman Welsh feels that the time is right to introduce this type of committee.

Councilwoman Rendo suggested that there be youth members involved and bring it back to the school. Councilwoman Shah looks forward to working on this whether it is called Human Rights Council or Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. But whatever is decided it needs to work for Lewisboro. Supervisor Gonçalves agreed. The Board will reach out to the community and possibly have a gathering to have a community discussion and will regroup on this next month.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – Increase Membership

On motion by Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Shah, Sklarin, Welsh	(5)
	No	- None	(0)
	Absent	- None	(0)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro does increase the membership of the Sustainability Committee from 9 members to 11 members.

BOND APPROVAL – Discussion of \$500,000 for Highway Trucks (8:55 – 9:48 p.m.)

Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger summarized what the highway department was looking to replace as far as vehicles. He stated that he is looking to replace a large dump truck and a sweeper, both of which are almost 20 years old. The cost of these items has increased dramatically. The large dump truck currently retails for \$230,000 and the sweeper is \$260,000. Mr. Ripperger also explained that they don't look at the mileage on the vehicles, but rather the number of years that the vehicles have been in use.

The sweeper is used from April through October on our 93 miles of roads. He also explained that it can't be shared with other towns as everyone wants to use it during those months. Mr. Ripperger stated that the town could rent the vehicles, outsource for the work or to buy the vehicles, and that is what he suggests. If purchased, they would be on State Contract.

Councilwoman Rendo asked if the purchase could be put off for one more year and Mr. Ripperger stated that in his opinion no, and if they did, the costs could even go higher.

Councilwoman Rendo stated that in the past several years the town has bonded over \$1 million for new highway vehicles and this bonding would add another \$500,000. Mr. Ripperger stated he would like to look at building these types of purchases into his budget, maybe as capital improvement projects moving forward.

Supervisor Gonçalves asked Comptroller Leo Masterson about the time frame with the bonding resolution to borrow the money. Mr. Masterson explained they would need approximately 50 days to authorize the borrowing with municipal bonding. The Board would also need to pass this resolution with 4 votes of yes by the Board.

The Board discussed the possibility of ordering just the dump truck, which would equate to \$250,000 of borrowing. The Board asked Mr. Masterson what his opinion was of borrowing at this time and he feels it is best to put it off.

After further discussion, the Board decided not to borrow this money at this time and defer it for a year.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II

A total of three residents spoke during the public comment period.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger thanked all the taxpayers for their cooperation during this winter. He asked that they talk to the people who plow their driveways and ask that they do not plow the snow back into the road.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A resident stated that he feels that it is time to look at who we are and have discussions about it and make things right without blame or judgement.

Another resident asked why antisemitism could not be discussed alone and highlight it. Will the LGBTQ Pride Committee and Board of Ethics be included in this group? Who is qualified and who will head up the committee and will it further divide the community again?

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$300,592.87.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARKS & RECREATION UPDATES

Councilwoman Shah read the following:

*Ice-Skating Update for Monday, February 14th*

*After the weekend snowstorm, our dedicated Parks staff were able to get out on the ice today and clear an area for skating, so we are open for ice-skating, indicated by the green flags and signage on-site. Please note that some of the ice is a wee bit rough. Please remember you skate at your own risk, there is no supervision at the pond for skating and please do not skate alone. The lights are on and working so evening skating can take place tonight from 5 to 9 p.m.*

*Teen Treks Camp Registration was successful on Saturday, February 5th and we will be having 3 buses of teenagers traveling this summer. We still have a few spots on a 5-day bus if anyone is interested.*

*All other Camp registration (Main Event, Little Explorers, After Camp Care) will start the week of Monday, April 18th – more information can be found in our Spring/Summer 2022 brochure that will be out in early March.*

*There is a new neighbor network event scheduled for Sunday, February 27th from 4 to 6 p.m. so any new residents who moved into town in the past two years are welcome – this is an adult only social. A family ice cream social is scheduled for June.*

*Parks and Recreation is accepting summer employment applications for day camp positions and pool positions. If interested, visit [www.lewisbororecreation.com](http://www.lewisbororecreation.com).*



DRUG ACTION PREVENTION COUNCIL

Councilwoman Rendo stated that they will be posting for resumés for 3 DAPC seats soon. Also, there is a virtual program that will be taking place on February 16, from 7-8:30 p.m. called “The Dangerous Truth About Today’s Marijuana: Johnny Stack’s Life and Death Story”. More information can be found at [KNOW2Prevent.org](http://KNOW2Prevent.org).

ELECTRIC RATES

Councilman Welsh stated that he knows that residents have been complaining about high electric rates and there are a lot of factors out there. He did state that Westchester Power Program that the town participates in offers a fixed rate.

HIGHWAY

The Board thanked the Highway Department for all the work that they do with keeping the roads safe during the winter months.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

An upcoming meeting of the Town Board will include a meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:03 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue  
Town Clerk