

A Town Board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on February 28, 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, Facilities Maintenance Director Joel Smith, Maintenance Assistant Shawn Johannessen, Police Chief David Alfano 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 7:31 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

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

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. We need to protect the future now while we still can.

UKRAINE

A resident stated that his prayers are with the Ukrainian people.

MULCH TIMBER PILE AT SALT DOME

A resident asked who owns the mulch timber pile at the salt dome site on Spring Street. She stated that the Highway Superintendent recently responded that Hickory Homes owns it. If that is the case, why has the town issued an RFP to have the product removed that the town does not own. Why are the taxpayers on the hook? Why not offer the mulch to taxpayers and businesses.

COMMUNICATIONSNEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION – Letters

Supervisor Gonçalves stated he received 2 comprehensive inspection notices from NYSDEC – one for the Oakridge sewage treatment plant and one for the Wild Oaks sewage treatment plant and both had overall satisfactory ratings. He also received an inspection report from NYSDEC on the salt storage dome after they received a complaint about improper salt storage at this facility. The report concluded that the facility had no violations.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – Permit to Operate Community Well

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he received the 2022 Certificate to Operate Community Water Supply at Oakridge.

CONSENT AGENDAMINUTES- Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the minutes of the February 14, 2022, Town Board meeting were approved.

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

CITY SCAPE CELL TOWERS – Presentation (7:43 – 8:37 p.m.)

Susan Rabold from City Scape, made a presentation regarding wireless telecommunications, zoning and polling results from a survey that was sent out to Lewisboro residents (see attached).

Once the presentation was completed, Supervisor Gonçalves opened it up for comments or questions. Councilwoman Rendo asked if the larger macro towers would become obsolete with the rollout of 5G. Ms. Rabold feels that more larger towers are needed, and they will not become obsolete. 5G is the next step in the wireless evolution and they are installing that infrastructure on their towers now and will install on future towers. These larger towers are needed in our topography.

After a few other questions from residents Ms. Rabold stated that their next steps would be to finish the polling with the other towns and then present the town with a draft of its wireless telecommunications Master Plan. They would then collect comments from the Board, finalize it and they would be complete.

FALSE FIRE ALARMS – Discussion Regarding Fines (8:38 – 8:43 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that there have been repeat offenders with false fire alarms. Currently, the Town Code has a very low penalty for offenses, and he would like to have the fines doubled. The Board agreed and a public hearing was scheduled for March 14, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED – Chapter 117, Fire Alarm Systems

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)

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro will hold a public hearing on March 14, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., or soon thereafter as time permits, at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York, 10590, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 117, of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled “Fire Alarm Systems” subsections 117-6 and 117-7 pertaining to penalties for offenses. The Town of Lewisboro is committed to equal access for all. Anyone needing accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting is encouraged to call the Town Clerk’s office at 914-763-3511 in advance.

OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS & SALES PERMIT – Permit Issued to Farmer’s Grind

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, 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 does authorize the Town Clerk to issue an Outdoor Special Events & Sales Permit to the Farmer’s Grind for a period of one year.

FIREWORKS – Waiving Procurement Policy Requirements

Parks & Recreation Superintendent Dana Mayclim stated that the town had a 3-year agreement with International Fireworks, who have done the fireworks for the town for the last 21 years. The town has 2-years left on the agreement as we only used them in 2019. The agreement timed out, however, Ms. Mayclim is hoping that they will keep the price as is and extend the agreement for 2-years. Town Attorney, Gregory Folchetti suggested that they wait to hear back from the firework company and put this item on a future agenda.

POLICE OFFICER – Retirement & Reappointment

On motion by Councilwoman Shah , 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 does accept the retirement letter submitted by Police Officer Drew Conetta for NYS retirement purposes effective on February 28, 2022, as stated therein and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does move to reappoint Drew Conetta to his position as a Lewisboro Police Officer as a non-contributing member, effective March 1, 2022.

JOHN JAY YOUTH LACROSSE – Authorize Use of Town Park

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, 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 does authorize the John Jay Youth Lacrosse to hold their fundraiser at the Lewisboro Town Park on Saturday, April 23, 2022 and be it further

RESOLVED, that all fees be waived and subject to proper insurance being obtained.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II

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

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Town resident, LaTeasha Stapleton inquired about the initial planning for the Juneteenth celebration that she worked on last year with two other residents Cynthia Ryan and Dawn Brown-Berenson. She stated that she would like to hold it on Saturday, June 18th as June 19th is Father's Day. Ideally, Ms. Stapleton would like to hold the event at the Lewisboro Town Park from 12 – 4 p.m. with Onatru being her second choice. She also asked if there would be a budget for this celebration. Councilwoman Rendo asked how this was funded last year and it was through private donations. Councilwoman Rendo suggested that they set up a Venmo or Go Fund Me page where people who were interested could donate. The Board suggested that Ms. Stapleton start by filling out an application with the Parks & Recreation Department and then once submitted to the Board, it would be placed on an upcoming agenda for further discussion and approval.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

A resident asked about the 5,000-gallon brine holding tank which she claims hasn't been pumped out in 20 years and it sits within 20' of a nature preserve and a stream. She feels that the DEC has not spoken to either the success or failure of this tank.

CELL TOWER

A resident stated that she was surprised that there was no discussion about the cell tower that is being proposed at a Town owned property which is on Route 35 close to the South Salem Animal Hospital. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that no proposal has been given to the town as Homeland Towers is still waiting to see if Verizon is interested and once they have more information, they will share it with the public along with proper public hearings, etc.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$382,748.99, except for deferring the \$10,000 rent payment to the Katonah-Lewisboro School District until the next meeting, which is on March 14, 2022. Councilman Sklarin feels that the landlord does not take good care of 79 Bouton Road. Supervisor Gonçalves is meeting with the Facilities Director this week and they will look at next steps.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTSPARKS & RECREATION UPDATES

*** New Neighbor Network event – great turnout, a great diverse group of people moving to Lewisboro. A family ice cream social is scheduled for June for the next New Neighbor Network.

*** Camp registration (Main Event, Little Explorers, After Camp Care) will start the week of Monday, April 18th & they will take as many campers as they can get until April 30th. Starting May 2nd it will be on space availability only. More information can be found in the Spring/Summer 2022 brochure that will be out in mid-March.

*** Now accepting summer employment applications for day camp and pool positions. Anyone interested can visit the website at www.lewisbororecreation.com to fill out an application. This includes counselors, lifeguards, camp specialists, pool gate attendants to name a few.

*** Our Senior Citizens are back to meeting weekly at the South Salem Fire Department. Anyone over the age of 55 is welcome to join in on the socialization, educational opportunities, and celebrations that they have on Wednesdays

*** The Town just posted a new job for a Recreation Supervisor for the Lewisboro Parks and Recreation Department. This is a Civil Service title with certain requirements needed for the position. For more information, please email or call the Parks and Recreation Department for details or to receive the job posting. Resumés are being accepted until Friday, March 11th.

*** The Playground Committee had such a great response to the “Leave your Mark in the Park” that they are still accepting brick orders until May 1st, 2022. Please go to their website www.lewisboroplayground.com for more information or to order a brick. They are also offering kid, couple or family portraits as their next fundraiser with or without the Lewisboro Bunny in a picture or two which could make great gifts. An email blast is going out this week about it. We are happy to report that the playground bid documents are being prepared now for installation. Equipment should be here in the late summer so not to interrupt our favorite time to be in Town Park June, July and August.

*** Recreation Basketball Championships are coming up at John Jay High School on Sunday, March 13, 2022, after a near normal season. We have a great day planned with a DJ, professional announcer, and a bit of our own basketball March Madness. All are welcome to come out and support the playoff final two teams in each division.

HIGHWAY

Councilman Sklarin, as the Highway Department liaison, sent a letter to the Highway Department stating that he has some concerns with the snowstorm protocol.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councilman Sklarin urged anyone who was interested in being part of the above-mentioned potential committee to send in their letters of interest.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Councilman Sklarin read the below letter from a resident regarding the recent swastika that was found on the John Jay Middle School boy's bathroom wall.

To the K-L SD Administrators and Lewisboro Town Council,

We are appalled at the news that a JJ Middle School individual scrawled a swastika on the boy's bathroom wall. You speak of diversity committees and panels. However, it is evident that not enough has been shared and taught in the K-L SD about the horrors of the holocaust and as a result has not discouraged actions of this sort to occur.

We reside in Cross River. My husband Henri Wolfe is a holocaust survivor. A rescued hidden child. His background and story has been covered in many writings and publications, some of which were translated into several languages. Most recently, his story as well as those of 50 other WWII Jewish war orphans - also hidden children - were covered extensively in the book referenced in the link below. We receive no compensation for his participation in these books, nor any proceeds from book sales.

Instead, like many other holocaust victims, their quest is "never forget". This book, or others like it, should be required reading at the middle and high school levels. Your educational curriculum, diversity committees or panels, should also include discussions of the persecution of Jews as well as recent and relentless anti-semitism seen throughout the US and the rest of the world.

At the least, once discovered, this individual owes Henri as well as other holocaust survivors an apology.

*Sincerely,
Linda Press Wolfe
Cross River, NY*

<https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Home-Gas-Chamber-avoided/dp/B091F5SJLL>

LIBRARY UPDATES

Upcoming Lewisboro Library events include Author Talk with Fionna Davis at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 6th, and Historic Town Quilts, presented by Town Historian Maureen Koehl at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 13th. More information can be found at <https://lewisborolibrary.org/events/>.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

An upcoming meeting of the Town Board will include a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Library, 15 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Appointments and a Legal Issue

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 9:17 p.m. to discuss appointments and a legal issue.

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 10:40 p.m.

POLICE OFFICER – Appointment of Lieutenant

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, 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 approves the hiring of Harry Thompkins as a Lieutenant with the Lewisboro Police Department, effective March 1, 2022, on a part-time basis, with the probationary period in accordance with past practice for police department hires.

CABLE TELEVISION COMMITTEE – Appointment of Member

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, 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 does appoint Thomas Pernice to the Cable Television Committee for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Appointment of Member

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Welsh, 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 does appoint Nadege Deseure Plumridge to the Stormwater Management Committee for a 2-year term expiring December 31, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:44 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk