

A Town Board meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on October 11, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewisboro Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

PRESENT:

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

*Daniel Welsh arrives at 8:55 p.m.

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Facilities Maintenance Director Joel Smith and Confidential Secretary/Benefits Coordinator Mary Hafter.

Approximately 19 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 19 participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:36 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

Six residents spoke during public comment period I.

LIBRARY SUPPORT

A total of 4 residents spoke in support of the Lewisboro Library proposed budget. Ronnie Thompson read the below letter of support:

Dear Supervisor Gonçalves and Lewisboro Town Board members,

A library is the center of the community. One of the first places that new people to the community go to is the public library in town to secure a library card for members of the family. A library is more than lending of books, periodicals, and DVD's. Today, libraries are "increasingly moving in the direction of functioning as information centers as well as being repositories of book collections". This quote from Susan Orlean, The Library Book, reflects the thoughts from librarians in the 1960's. Surely this quote shows how librarians are on the forefront of innovation.

Many towns in the surrounding areas are spending millions of dollars to improve and transform their libraries. These renovated libraries will add additional meeting rooms, small auditoriums, quiet spaces, etc. where people can conduct business. The new facilities are so flexible, they can be reconfigured almost daily to meet the needs of the community.

While nothing like this is happening in the town of Lewisboro, our library, somehow, meets the demands of our community due to the dedication and flexibility of our library staff. Rarely, do they say “no”, when presented with new program ideas. They go above and beyond to make things happen, either in person or via Zoom. This only brings the community closer together. We must remind ourselves that a public library is FREE TO ALL and serves everyone in the community. Name one other community activity or service that reaches out to EVERY member of the community.

I implore you, as a resident in the Town of Lewisboro for 31 years, whose children grew up in the Lewisboro Library and who took advantage of many of the toddler through teen programs, whose library staff still asks about my children, to increase the town’s financial contribution to the Lewisboro Library in 2023.

A town without a well-funded library is a very sad place to live.

Thank you, Ronnie W. Thompson, Ronnie W. Thompson, South Salem, NY 10590

HIGHWAY

A resident questioned the upcoming agenda item of no through traffic on a road. She asked if traffic studies were done, what the criteria for these requests were, how does it effect other roads and she would like Increase Miller on as a no through traffic road. During polling of the Board Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he would have the police chief go out to Increase Miller Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

A resident stated that she has sent several emails to the Board and Supervisor, but they never get answered. She also asks questions during the public comment period, and they get “left in the wind”.

FARVUE FARM PICTURE

A resident asked that another resident stop using the picture of the Farvue Farm on social media.

COMMUNICATIONS

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he and the Board had received many emails in support of the library proposed budget. He read the below 3 emails into the record:

Dear Supervisor Goncalves and Town Board Members Shah, Rendo, Welsh and Sklarin:

The Lewisboro Library is an essential, treasured and unique part of our community. Reaching well-beyond the scope of checking books in and out, the Lewisboro Library serves as a knowledge center through its rich programming, an intergenerational community center through its dedicated focus on children, teens, adults and seniors and a technology leader through its Digital Media offerings.

We are so proud to live in a community that values its Library. The residents of Lewisboro have a wide range of learning opportunities and close community relationships through the on-going vision and advocacy of the amazing library leadership team. From mahjong to James Joyce to "Discovery Backpacks" to fishing equipment, there is something for everyone.

We respectfully ask the Town Supervisor and Councilpersons to continue and increase financial support of the library in the 2023 budget. The Lewisboro Library truly is the heart of our community and we hope that you will facilitate its continued role and advancement.

With gratitude. Rory & Lisa Burke Vista 16-year residents

Good Morning Tony,

I understand you are reviewing the budget support for the Library next week. As a 25-year resident of Lewisboro I am so proud of our library. It's a welcoming, efficient, and inclusive space for all residents. Being able to go to sit and read quietly, attending a concert, special speakers and programs... where else in this town do you have so many diverse opportunities to expand one's knowledge and creativity? It is a critical and desirable place to bring all members of our community together.

I believe it is important to provide the most robust funding for our library as is possible.

Best, Priscilla Schaefer, South Salem

Dear Supervisor Gonçalves and Lewisboro Town Board members,

It's easy to take a library for granted.

Libraries are welcoming, interesting and happy spaces. Librarians and library staff select books and programs to enrich, educate and appeal to all members in a community. They provide expertise in finding and interpreting information and navigating the numerous resources available through visual and written media and digital tools.

The obvious way to quantify the value of a library is to look at patron visits, checkouts and other statistics. What is more important, and key to understanding the intrinsic value of a library, is that it is a place where anyone ...rich or poor, from any background, regardless of beliefs, can find a wealth of information and entertainment.

A library is the home to many free programs and events. In a town without a staffed community center, the Lewisboro Library provides a structure that can be used in a variety of ways to bring people together. The building itself is a valuable asset to the town, but it is the library staff who bring the real value by organizing the resources in the building, and producing the programs and events.

It is well known that you can count on the library. You rarely hear the word "no" when they are asked for help. The Director and staff figure out how to make things happen. The programs offered in person and via Zoom, the on-going support given to community partners like the

Lewisboro Garden Club and Lewisboro Land Trust and the open access to resources would simply not be possible without the library staff who are always willing to go above and beyond. They work days, nights, weekends, in weather emergencies and during school vacations to stay open and serve the people of Lewisboro. They do it quietly and without fanfare.

Every dollar spent on the building, technology, grounds, media and programs is looked at critically to see if we can stretch it further. The library staff complete many tasks in-house rather than pay outside contractors. Library trustees meet Sunday mornings to maintain the grounds and fix small issues with the building, programs are co-sponsored with other libraries to reduce expense, grants are used to cover new technology and large capital expenditures whenever possible. On-going contracts like insurance, heating and air-conditioning are reviewed carefully to spend the lowest amount necessary to ensure that the library will be ready when needed during a weather emergency.

I ask you to acknowledge and support the contribution of the Lewisboro Library to our community, and the Director and staff who are responsible for this contribution. The Board of Trustees, Library Director and library staff have a mission to ensure that free, unrestricted access to media and information is available and accessible to all community members, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

I sincerely hope that you will stand behind the Lewisboro Library by increasing the town's financial contribution to the library in 2023.

When you advocate for the library, you advocate for our whole community.

Sincerely, Priscilla Luckow, Lewisboro Library Trustee

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES & REPORTS - Approved

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the minutes of the September 27, 2022, Town Board meeting, as amended at Councilman Sklarin's request, and the monthly September Building & Police Reports were approved and filed.

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

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE – Presentation (8:00 – 8:15 p.m.)

Katie McGinn, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, gave a quarterly update (see attached). The Board thanked Ms. McGinn and all the committee members for all of the work that they are doing.

BUDGET REQUEST LIBRARY 2023 – Discussion (8:16 – 8:53 p.m.)

Cindy Rubino, Director of the Lewisboro Library, made her budget request presentation to the Town Board (see the two attachments). There were approximately a dozen residents who either spoke or wrote in favor of the requested additional \$33,000 in annual town funding, which is a

10% increase. The library is an association library, and they currently receive approximately \$445,914 of its operating budget from the town and must fundraise for the remainder. They are asking the town for a 10% increase which comes to \$455,913.85 and would be 75.3% of their operating budget. The library in turn would raise 22.1%.

The Board thanked Ms. Rubino for her presentation and thanked all who came out or wrote in support of the proposed library budget.

OAKRIDGE HAULING LLC – Renewal of License Agreement

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

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized to issue a Commercial and Residential refuse license to Oak Ridge Hauling (formerly Winters Brothers Hauling of CT, LLC), for a period of one year ending August 4, 2023.

HIGHWAY – Schoolhouse Road No Through Traffic (8:54 – 9:19 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that Schoolhouse Road is a dirt road used as a cut through from Mead Street in Waccabuc to Route 121 in Cross River. Since it is a dirt road the condition of the road gets worse with weather conditions and the amount of use it gets. Also, there is a garden triangle at the intersection of Schoolhouse Road and Mead Street that in the Supervisor's opinion needs to be removed or have the flow of traffic reorientate with appropriate signage. There has been a lot of near miss head on collisions. He has spoken to the Highway Superintendent about this, and further discussion will be had with the Board regarding the triangle.

Supervisor Gonçalves also stated that he spoke with Police Chief Alfano and with the speed signs that collect traffic data they were able to find that there is a lot of volume on that road with people using this road as a cut through. Supervisor Gonçalves would like to see a "No Thru Traffic" sign on either end of Schoolhouse Road on Mead Street and on Route 121.

Councilwoman Rendo feels that these signs do not work. She is on Kitchawan Road, and they have a no thru traffic and no commercial traffic sign, however, there is not enough coverage to enforce this. Councilman Sklarin asked if someone was complaining, and Supervisor Gonçalves said yes. Councilman Sklarin would like to have the Police Chief attend a meeting and discuss this with the Board and he would also like to have a study done on all the roads in town and make one public hearing for all the troubled roads as opposed to piece meal. Supervisor Gonçalves disagreed.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED – Vehicles & Traffic, No Through Traffic on Schoolhouse Road

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, 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 November 21, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., or soon thereafter as time permits, at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York, 10590, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 212, of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro entitled “Vehicles & Traffic” specifically Subsection 212-24.1 entitled “Schedule IIIA: No Through Streets” is hereby amended to add Schoolhouse Road.

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.

HIGHWAY – West Road, Commercial Vehicles Excluded (8:54 – 9:19 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he and Police Chief David Alfano met with the Pound Ridge Supervisor and Police Chief and read a letter that he received from the Pound Ridge Police Chief (see attached).

It was decided that the Board would hold a public hearing for having commercial vehicles excluded on West Road. Councilman Sklarin would like to have our Police Chief present at the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED – Vehicles & Traffic, Commercial Vehicles Excluded on West Road

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, 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 November 21, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., or soon thereafter as time permits, at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York, 10590, for the purpose of hearing the public with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 212, of the Town Code of the

Town of Lewisboro entitled “Vehicles & Traffic” specifically Subsection 212-27.1 entitled “Schedule VIA: Commercial Vehicles Excluded” is hereby amended to add West Road.

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.

TOWN OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES – Maintenance Employee

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, 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 does hereby rehire Joel Smith as a Lead Maintenance Mechanic (Repair) on a part-time basis, effective immediately and at the salary set forth in the Maintenance Agreement.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL – Approve Additional Mailer Money

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that at the September 12, 2022, Town Board meeting, a resolution was passed that approved the Conservation Advisory Council to spend up to \$2,000 to send out a mailer educating the public on the current tree ordinance, however, they miscalculated and are looking for another \$1,000 for the mailer. After some discussion, it was decided that this would be discussed in Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT II (Current Agenda Items Only)

Seven residents spoke during public comment period.

WOOD DEBRIS REMOVAL AT SALT DOME

A resident asked where the Request for Proposal (RFP) was for the timber pile at the salt dome.

HIGHWAY

Four residents spoke about the no through traffic that is being proposed and questioned how this could even be looked at for a public road that the residents pay taxes on. Also, how would this even be enforced.

Another resident stated that there used to be speed humps on West Road but in time they went away due to paving and suggested the Board speak to the Highway Superintendent about this.

Another resident feels that the town will be starting a dangerous precedent and feels that preventative maintenance is the answer.

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Two residents spoke in favor of the Lewisboro Library proposed budget.

LIBRARY

A resident questioned why a family who has donated to the library for many, many years and who lives in town during the summer months only is always met with resistance as to whether they are residents.

FARVUE FARM PICTURE

A resident asked that another resident stop using the picture of the Farvue Farm on social media.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$296,527.52.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE HOUSE EVENTS

The Vista Fire Department will have a pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 15 from 8 – 11 a.m. and the South Salem Fire Department will have their 15th Annual Open House on Saturday, October 15 from 11 am to 3 p.m. Goldens Bridge Fire Department will have their Annual Community Day at the Firehouse on Saturday, October 22, from 10 am – 2 pm.

GARIBALDI SOCIETY

The Board attended the Garibaldi Society event at the Horse & Hound on Monday, October 10, 2022.

NEW NEIGHBOR NETWORK

A New Neighbor get together, hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department, was held on Sunday, October 2, at the Fox Valley Park. New neighbors enjoyed donuts and cider.

SENIOR CITIZEN HALL OF FAME

The County Executive office has announced the winners of the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Town resident and Lewisboro Community Television (LCTV Channel 20) Special Program Producer Henri Wolfe is one of the 52 recipients. The 40th Annual Awards Ceremony will be held remotely on December 2, 2022, at 11 a.m. Congratulations Henri!

WOOD DEBRIS REMOVAL AT SALT DOME

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that they are still working on a solution for the wood debris removal at the salt dome.

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is taking orders for mailbox swags for \$35 each. They can be ordered through any garden club member and will be delivered to you by December 4th.

OAKRIDGE WATER

The Oakridge water updates and the expansion of the water filtration plant to remove the PFAS is in the works, and it will happen in 2023. They are testing every quarter and notices will be posted which is a Department of Health requirement.

LIBRARY UPDATES

Updates for the library can be found on their website at [Lewisboro Library](#).

LEWISBORO PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Town Park Playground will be closed starting October 11, 2022 until next year for the installation of the new playground equipment. The Committee is still fundraising and bricks can still be purchased and Portraits in the Park will be done on October 15, 2022.

OCTOBER

The Board mentioned that in the month of October, it is Italian Heritage month, German month, Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day, National Coming Out Day, Health Literacy month, and Breast Cancer Awareness month.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

An upcoming meeting of the Town Board will include a work session meeting on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss a Property Issue with 3 Lake Kitchawan Association Members, Litigation and Personnel Issues

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 10:05 p.m. to discuss a property issue with 3 Lake Kitchawan Association Members, litigation, and personnel issues.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Supervisor Gonçalves, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 11:55 p.m.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – Consulting Contractual Services

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, 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 does accept the proposal of Steve Sauro for consulting contract services in the Building Department at a rate of \$65.00 per hour.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Shah, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 11:56 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk