

A Town Board Work Session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on October 24, 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 (remote), Richard Sklarin, Daniel Welsh
Town Clerk	Janet L. Donohue
Absent	None

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Maintenance Employee Joel Smith, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Nicole Caviola, Comptroller/Deputy Supervisor Leo Masterson, and Maintenance Assistant Shawn Johannessen,

Approximately 2 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 11 participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. (There was a problem with the sound so meeting started about 8 minutes late)

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

LEWISBORO PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Supervisor Gonçalves read the below letter from Valerie Cancro, President, and Project Manager for the Lewisboro Playground Improvement Project:

*Dear Tony Gonçalves, Supervisor,
The Lewisboro Town Park Playground Improvement Corp. (LPP) is pleased to present a check for \$140,000 to the Town of Lewisboro, NY. These funds were donated by Lewisboro community members, local businesses, and committee members of LPP. This is the first of two checks intended for the Lewisboro Town Park Playground Project. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Town of Lewisboro and it's Parks and Recreation department.
Regards, Valerie Cancro, President and Project Manager*

NYS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – Route 35

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the NYS Department of Transportation is now committed to repairing and paving the area on Route 35 from the Pound Ridge Reservation Route 121 up to the light at Route 35 and Mark Mead Street. This is a major project that will be on the schedule in 2024. Supervisor Gonçalves thanked Westchester County Legislator Erika Pierce, State Assemblymember Chris Burdick and State Senator Peter Harckham for advocating for the

project. Legislator Pierce was in attendance and stated that they put together a packet regarding Route 35 and LVACs information was a critical part of the packet along with the school district who put together wear and tear information on their busses.

OAKRIDGE WATER – Letter

Supervisor Gonçalves read the following email:

Good morning Mr. Goncalves,

Thank you again for sincerely caring about the Oakridge Water District situation and arriving early on a weekend morning to observe my plumber changing the filter on the condo water filtration system.

Happily, for all, the previously observed sooty black water after filter removal was not observed and almost clear water with a slight grey tint was noted.

The flush valves installed in the Oakridge building water closets apparently has resulted in clearer water. When I posted this information on Nextdoor, a neighbor (street not indicated) shared that in June, almost clear water was noted upon her filter change as compared with brown water during previous filter changes.

This bodes well for going forward with the proposed and planned expansion of the OWD plant.

Thank you for expressing your commitment to see this major project through to completion.

Have good day! Patti Jean Jacke

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES - Approved

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the minutes of the October 11, 2022, Town Board meeting were approved.

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin, Welsh	(4)
	No	- None	(0)
	Remote	- Shah (no voting privilege)	(1)

RESCIND PUBLIC HEARING FOR NO THROUGH TRAFFIC ON SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that at the last meeting a public hearing was set to have no through traffic on Schoolhouse Road, however, it was later confirmed that by doing this it would make it a private road, and this cannot be done. It already is a street that has no commercial traffic. The public hearing needs to be rescinded.

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin, Welsh	(4)
	No	- None	(0)
	Remote	- Shah (no voting privilege)	(1)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does rescind the resolution setting a public hearing to have Schoolhouse Road as a no thru traffic road.

COUNY LEGISLATOR ERIKA PIERCE – Presentation (7:45 – 7:55 p.m.)

County Legislator Erika Pierce made a brief presentation to the Board regarding a few items. The first was a new legislation that the County has passed which has made it easier for seniors and handicapped individuals to qualify for reduced property taxes. County taxes income ceiling has gone up from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The County has also included the ability for residents to deduct their income by the amount of unreimbursed medical bills that they have had. A form would need to be filled out at the Assessor's office. Legislator Pierce also stated that this can be done on a local level and encouraged the Board to look at their options.

Regarding NYSEG, Legislator Pierce suggested that residents lock into a rate this year. She also stated that if residents are on auto pay, they may want to get out of that because it is harder to get your money back and negotiate with NYSEG.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) begins November 1st. This is a federally funded program run by the County specifically for low-income seniors and handicapped individuals. There is also an Emergency HEAP and she urged residents to reach out to either herself or to Pam Veith, the senior coordinator. The income benchmark for a couple is \$3,730/month.

The Board thanked County Legislator Erika Pierce for this information.

PARKS & RECREATION - Fox Valley Playground (7:55 – 8:15p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the town received a SAM grant that has \$30,000 allocated for a playground at Fox Valley Park. The Parks & Recreation Supervisor Nicole Caviola stated that she reached out to the vendor "Game Time Playcore Company" who was offering a grant discount of 35.5% on a purchase of \$25,000 or more. This is the only vendor that is meeting the town's needs. The quote was given, and the town was approved for the discount, however, the purchase needs to be made by this Friday, October 28th, 2022, in order to receive the grant/discount of 35.5%. The equipment cost is \$30,505.00, the installation is \$10,750.00, the grant/discount is \$11,439.32, a material surcharge is \$4,232.57 and freight is \$2,301.14 for a grand total of \$36,349.39. With these numbers, another \$10,000 would have to come from the general fund and/or the ARPA funds.

Delivery of the equipment will be made by the end of the year and there should be room in the barn at Onatru.

Councilmember Rendo stated that departments have repeatedly come to the town asking for more money for projects on an emergency basis. The town has already designated \$350,000 to the

Town Park playground from the ARPA funds. Many things in town need to be repaired in town. While Councilmember Rendo thinks the idea of a new playground is nice, she did not feel that this was a smart expenditure. She also feels that it is the equivalent of putting in an inground swimming pool so that you can go swimming in the summer, but your roof has a big hole in it.

Councilmember Welsh stated that he feels the extra \$10,000 equates to \$2.50 per household and that the town parks do need playgrounds and he feels it makes good economic sense.

Councilmember Sklarin stated the pools and bathrooms also need to be addressed at the pool facility. Councilmember Shah would like to go ahead with this playground. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he has heard from parents with older children that they would like a playground at Fox Valley. The question regarding the condition of the Fox Valley bathrooms came up and Ms. Caviola stated that the bathrooms are not in the greatest of shape, however, they still work.

After further discussion it was decided that the purchase would be made.

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Sklarin, Welsh	(3)
	No	- Rendo,	(1)
	Remote	- Shah (no voting privilege)	(1)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does authorize the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Fox Valley Park, up to \$40,000, from Game Time Playcore Company, as a sole source supplier and inclusive of the grant amount.

BUDGET 2023 – Discussion (8:16 – 8:54 p.m.)

Comptroller Leo Masterson presented the Town's requested budget. This budget will be reduced and then the Supervisor will present the tentative budget to the town clerk by October 30, 2022. The Town Clerk presents the tentative budget to the Town Board by November 10. A public hearing on the budget needs to be held by December 10, a final revision of the preliminary budget is due by December 15 and the budget needs to be adopted by December 20. If the Board decides to go over the tax cap, a public hearing will be needed.

TOWN OF LEWISBORO								
2023 BUDGET TAX RATE SCHEDULE								
as of October 24, 2022								
						2023	2022	
			Less	Amount to be	Current	Tax rate	Tax Rate	% Change
		Less	Applied	Raised	Assessed	\$ per	\$ per	From
Fund	Appropriations	Revenues	Surplus	By Taxes	Value	Thousand	Thousand	2022
GENERAL	\$10,358,024	\$6,066,400	\$0	\$4,291,624	\$295,668,510	14.51499	12.52581	15.881%
HIGHWAY	4,123,281	170,000	\$0	3,953,281	295,668,510	13.37065	12.49640	6.996%
TOTALS	\$14,481,305	\$6,236,400	\$0	\$8,244,905	\$295,668,510	27.88564	25.02221	11.444%
	<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Total</u>				
2022 General Budget	\$9,892,196	\$6,198,552		\$3,693,644				
2023 Increase/Decrease	\$465,828	(\$132,152)		\$597,980				
% Increase/Decrease	4.709%	-2.132%		16.189%				
2022 Highway Budget	\$3,854,974	\$170,000		\$3,684,974				
2023 Increase/Decrease	\$268,307	\$0		\$268,307				
% Increase/Decrease	6.960%	0.000%		7.281%				
2022 Total Budget	\$13,747,170	\$6,368,552		\$7,378,618	\$294,882,748	(Assessed Value @ 2022 Adopted Budget)		
2023 Increase/Decrease	\$734,135	(\$132,152)		\$866,287	\$785,762			
% Increase/Decrease	5.340%	-2.075%		11.741%	0.266%			

Town of Lewisboro								
2023 Budget Tax Cap Calculation								
		Tax Base	Allowable		Available	2023	2023	Under /
	2022	Growth	Levy Growth		Exclusions	Tax Cap	Proposed	(Over)
	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>& Carryover</u>	<u>Levy Limit</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Tax Cap</u>
Town	\$ 7,378,618	1.0061	1.0200	\$ 7,572,100	\$ -	\$ 7,572,100	\$ 8,244,905	\$ (672,805)
Oakridge Sewer	490,000	1.0061	1.0200	502,849	-	502,849	499,000	3,849
Wild Oaks Lightin	14,000	1.0061	1.0200	14,367	-	14,367	19,000	(4,633)
Wild Oaks Sewer	130,000	1.0061	1.0200	133,409	-	133,409	133,409	(0)
Totals	\$ 8,012,618	1.0061	1.0200	\$ 8,222,725	\$ -	\$ 8,222,725	\$ 8,896,314	\$ (673,589)
NOTES:	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
				(a) x (b) x (c)		(d) + (e)		(f) - (g)

Mr. Masterson ended with the following:

Significant Components of \$866,000 Increase in 2023 Requested Town Tax from 2022 Adopted Town Tax

Building Dept. Revenue Decrease	\$ 50,000
Mortgage Tax Revenue Decrease	\$150,000
Highway Dept. Expense Increase	\$268,000
Parks & Rec Net Expense Increase	\$139,000
Police Dept. Expense Increase	\$128,000
Library Subsidy Expense Increase	\$ 46,000
Finance Dept. Expense Increase	\$ 44,000
General Fund BAN Expense Increase	<u>\$ 31,000</u>

\$856,000

Mr. Masterson explained that the budget's requested tax rate increase is \$866,000 which equates to 11.71% more than what was adopted in 2022. In order to stay within the 2.62% tax cap, Mr. Masterson said the town will have to find budget savings of at least \$674,000 from the total requested amounts.

The Board thanked Mr. Masterson for his thorough and concise explanation of the budget.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Councilwoman Rendo, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 4-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$140,452.74.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIBRARY UPDATES

There will be a Trivia Night fundraiser at the Horse & Hound. More information can be found at [Lewisboro Library](#).

PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE

Trunk or Treat was held at Onatru Farm Park on Saturday, October 22, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Fun was had by all. A special thanks to the Lewisboro Lions Club for cooking.

Also, the Board thanked several students from John Jay High School that helped in the preserves.

DIWALI

The Board wished all who celebrate a happy Diwali.

FIREHOUSES

The Board thanked the 3 firehouses for their open houses this past month.

OAKRIDGE WATER

Councilman Sklarin shared some of his thoughts regarding the Oakridge Water District. He has his reservations about the claim being made that the Oakridge water district daily water use did not exceed the 80,000 gallons per day capacity of the system at least during the summer drought of 2022. After doing some research and looking at a report from the Department of Health, Councilman Sklarin stated that there were 4 days in August of 2022 where the district did in fact go over 80,000 gallons per day. Councilman Sklarin stated that he asked the town attorney to draw up and circulate to the town board a possible local law for a moratorium on any additional water connections within the Oakridge Water district for a period of time. His thoughts and observations are as follows: 1. He feels that the overwhelming majority of homeowners and residents generally are happy with their water quality, 2. Complaints have continued to diminish in numbers and frequency which he feels is in large part due to the Supervisor's focused and dedicated efforts which include many in person visits. 3. Those that have made complaints have not presented any independent water reports. However, he does believe all of the complaints that have been made and he takes them at face value. Councilman Sklarin would like to discuss this at the November 7, 2022 Town Board meeting and then depending on what the board thinks, have a public hearing on this at the November 21, 2022 Town Board meeting.

VETERANS UPDATE

Supervisor Gonçalves read the below from our Veteran's Committee:

Today is a day of remembrance (sad day especially for our town and school district).

Thirty-nine years ago today on 23OCT83 at 6:22 AM., a large delivery truck drove to the Beirut International Airport where the Marine Barracks was located. After turning onto an access road leading to the compound, the driver rushed through a barbed-wire fence, passed between two sentry posts, crashed through the gate, and slammed into the lobby of the barracks. The driver detonated explosives with the power equal to more than 12,000 pounds of TNT. The explosion crumbled the four-story building, crushing service members to death while they were sleeping.

The terrorist attack killed 220 Marines and 21 other U.S. service members who were stationed there to help keep the peace in a nation torn by war. It was the bloodiest day in the Corps' history since World War II when Marines fought to secure Iwo Jima.

This tragic event has a local effect as well –

United States Marine Corps Corporal James J. Jackowski of South Salem, NY was Killed in Action while serving at the Marine Barracks – Beirut, Lebanon.*

United States Marine Corps Corporal Bert D. Corcoran Katonah, NY was Killed in Action while serving at the Marine Barracks – Beirut, Lebanon.

Another Marine from Westchester County NY-

United States Marine Corps Corporal Craig L. Wyche Ossining NY High School Alumni was Killed in Action while serving at the Marine Barracks – Beirut, Lebanon.

**Also, a graduate of John Jay High School*

A small monument sits at the Vista Fire Department firehouse that memorializes Corporal Jackowski.

NYESEG

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that in 2023, Smart Meters will be installed at homes. There will be an informational meeting at Heritage Hills Activity Center, at 8 Heritage Hills Drive, Somers, NY, on October 26, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Personnel & Union Issues

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 4-0 to go into executive session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss personnel & union issues.

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 4-0 to come out of executive session at 10:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – Authorize Supervisor to Sign

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

THE VOTE:	Yes	- Gonçalves, Rendo, Sklarin, Welsh	(4)
	No	- None	(0)
	Remote	- Shah (no voting privilege)	(1)

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does authorize the ratification of the United Public Service Employees Union Municipal Unit Memorandum of Agreement and Side Letters of Agreement for Service Credit and Classification of Full-time and Part-time Employment for fiscal years 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2025 and authorizing Town Supervisor to execute all documentation required in connection therewith.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk