

A Town Board Work Session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on November 21, 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

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Jennifer Herodes, Maintenance Employees Joel Smith and Shawn Johannessen, and Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger.

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

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 HEARING – No Commercial Vehicles on West Road (7:35 – 7:41 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves called the public hearing to order for a proposed local law of the Town Code of the Town of Lewisboro which would amend Chapter 212 entitled “Vehicles & Traffic”, specifically Subsection 212-27.1 entitled “Schedule VIA: Commercial Vehicles Excluded” to include the entire length of West Road. There was no objection to the time or form of the public notice (attached). Supervisor Gonçalves asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Lansdale, a West Road resident stated that she is in favor of the no commercial traffic on West Road. She also asked if the town was considering reinstalling the speed humps that she feels cut down on the traffic and high speeds on that road. Supervisor Gonçalves stated that this is not currently being considered.

Councilman Sklarin asked about the humps in town. Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger was in attendance and stated that most towns do not like to use them as they ice up and cause problems. Councilman Sklarin asked what is being used as the state of the art for slowing devices. Mr. Ripperger stated that Bedford is using speed tables which are extremely expensive.

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, 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 public hearing for amending Chapter 212 entitled “Vehicles & Traffic”, specifically Subsection 212-27.1 entitled “Schedule VIA: Commercial Vehicles Excluded” to include the entire length of West Road, is now closed.

TOWN CODE - Chapter 212 entitled “Vehicles & Traffic”

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)

LOCAL LAW #6 OF THE YEAR 2022

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LEWISBORO, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, STATE OF NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 : AUTHORITY

This chapter is adopted pursuant to the authority, of Article 2, §10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

SECTION 2 : AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 212

Chapter 212 of the current 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 the following to the existing list of streets/roads:

NAME OF STREET	LOCATION
WEST ROAD	ENTIRE LENGTH

SECTION 3 – HOME RULE

Nothing in this Local Law is intended or shall be construed to limit the home rule authority of the Town under State Law or to limit the Town’s discretion in setting fees and charges in connection with any applications requiring Town approval.

SECTION 4 – SEVERABILITY

If any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro hereby declares that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

SECTION 5 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect *immediately* upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

COMMUNICATIONS

PLANNING BOARD LETTER RE OAKRIDGE WATER

Supervisor Gonçalves read a letter from the Planning Board regarding extending the water connections for new building by Smith Ridge Associates (see attached).

Councilman Sklarin asked about Kellard Session's opinion and Councilman Welsh read the following synopsis from Kellard Sessions:

Upon review of the above, it is the opinion of this office that there is adequate capacity in the water treatment facility to serve the project as proposed. We would recommend the continued monitoring of water usage within the District and, if needed, consider water restrictions during summer months for irrigation use when water demands are at their peak. In addition, the Town may wish to consider additional metering both at the discharge of the plant and at various locations throughout the distribution system to isolate and better understand the water usage for the multiple components of the development (i.e., townhomes, condominiums, single family residences, commercial/retail uses and irrigation). This would not only provide a better accounting of the water usage but would also offer a means to monitor the overall system for and leakage or areas of excessive use.

OAKRIDGE WATER

Supervisor Gonçalves read the following email:

Excellent decision to hire Kellard Session to evaluate water usage. Also review wastewater flow with regard to the SPDES permit. Phil shouldn't play PE without a license. Happy Thanksgiving, Joe M.

COMMENDATIONS

Dear Supervisor Gonçalves:

My wife, Devon, and I purchased our home at Gilbert Street in South Salem in mid-May 2020, and have recently completed an extensive renovation.

I am writing to express our thanks and appreciation for the several members of the Town's administrative and professional staff who were consistently professional, friendly and most helpful as we worked our way through our initial application for a building permit and wetlands permit, and then a second wetlands permit to do some work in the yard.

*Our first point of contact was building inspector **Joe Angiello**, who was helpful up until his relatively recent departure from the building department. Joe explained at the outset that in addition to a building permit we would need a wetlands permit due to the fact that our home is on Lake Truesdale. That led us to get in touch with Ciorsdan Conran, who could not have been nicer or more helpful explaining the process for making an application for a wetlands permit with the Planning Board.*

*Ciorsdan put us in touch with **Jan Johannessen** at Kellard Sessions, and Jan was also very helpful in spelling out the requirements for submitting a wetlands-permit application.*

*We applied for our building permit and wetlands permit in September 2020 and following a virtual hearing with the Planning Board, which **Ciorsdan** was also very helpful in explaining and facilitating, we obtained both permits in October 2020. The members of the Planning Board were terrific, as well as thoughtful in their questions about our project.*

The work on our house was substantially complete by about this time last year, but we had some final steps to complete this year, including work in the yard we had to complete to close our second wetlands permit. Very happy to report that we are now completely finished with our project, and both the building permit and the two wetlands permits are closed.

*It was a such a pleasure to get to know Ciorsdan and Jan, as well as Joe. We also got to know **Kara Sullivan and Jeff Farrell** at the building department, who were also both terrific—always professional, responsive and helpful—during what we all know has been an extraordinarily busy time in the last few years at the building department.*

*We also got to know Jan's Kellard Sessions colleagues, **Danielle Cinguina and Steve Sicignano**, who were equally helpful and a pleasure to work with. We had a brief meeting at our house with **Highway Superintendent Peter Ripperger** just over a year ago, because Jan wanted us to confirm the location of some steps we were rebuilding near the street, and that too was a very positive experience.*

*Just before the permits were issued in October 2020, we had three very large silver maple trees taken down from our property (three tree surgeons and a landscape architect all recommended taking them down as they were old and all three in striking distance of the house). Because there was one—actually a three-trunk tree—near the street, I checked with **Chief David Alfano** to see if there were any safety steps we needed to take or coordinate with the town. He was also super pleasant and helpful, offering the let both the fire department and the school know that there might be brief delays by our house the day the tree by the street came down, though happily there were not (life-long South Salem resident John Gurtler of Timberland Tree Care with his 75-foot crane got all three trees, including the three-trunk tree, down in a day and a half without disrupting traffic on the street).*

*We love South Salem and look forward to being residents for many years to come. Complex (and sometimes stressful) as any major renovation can be, everyone we dealt with helped to make it a very positive experience in the end. Our sincere thanks to **Ciorsdan, Jeff, Kara, Jan, Danielle, Steve, Peter, Chief Alfano and the members of the Planning Board.***

You have a great team, and Devon and I feel as though the positive experience we've had with everyone with the Town has been a major factor in helping us feel welcome and at home in South Salem.

*I would also like to compliment **Deirdre Casper**. Though I have not met her, we've communicated with notes in our correspondence back and forth and by e-mail, and she too has always been thoroughly professional, helpful and friendly.*

Sincerely yours, Daniel and Devon MacEachron

Thank you very much, Ciorsdan. It is a pleasure to work with such wonderful, supportive people. I really appreciate all that you do.

Sincerely, Elaine Feldman, Cross River Pharmacy

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the minutes of the November 7, 2022, Town Board meeting were approved as amended on page 6 to read as follows by Councilwoman Rendo:

Councilwoman Rendo stated that she disagrees with how funds were allocated in the bill and would have liked to see more money for infrastructure. She feels that the timing is bad for us as state supported debt has increased, not to mention inflation.

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

STORMWATER – MS-4 Interim Report

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 does accept the Interim MS4 Report and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign said report.

BUDGET 2023 – Discussion (7:55 – 11:20 p.m.)

Supervisor Gonçalves highlighted some of the changes to the 2023 Tentative Budget. Three additional employees have now signed up for the town's medical benefits which equates to an increase of \$81,475, the Building Inspector line will decrease by \$5,000, shared services will decrease by \$12,000, the Police Department will go down by \$35,000 due to one less vehicle and traffic part-timer, the library will be reduced by \$5,700 since they were asking for a 10% increase and it was reduced to 8.75%, grants increased by \$5,000, road repair will be reduced by \$20,000 and the Park & Recreation revenue will increase by \$70,000. He also stated that he put a 5% raise in for non-union employees. As a result of these changes, Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the 6.55% tax rate increase that they started with has now been lowered to 5.49%. The tax cap rate is set at 2.66%.

Councilman Sklarin suggested that the library open later and stay open later one day a week as a convenience to residents. Cindy Rubino, Library Director, will discuss this idea with the library board for 2023 and will take it under advisement.

The Highway fund was reduced by \$310,000 as this was specifically for culverts around town, and the Supervisor feels he can obtain the funds through grants. Road repair and maintenance line was reduced by \$20,000 which will bring that line back down to \$80,000, which is the same as 2022. Councilman Welsh again stated that he feels more money should be put into the road resurfacing line. There is \$180,000 for surfacing and \$170,000 in CHIPS funding, for a total of \$350,000. The life of a road is 12-14 years. Councilman Welsh feels that at least 6 miles of roads should be done per year, but with these numbers it is only 3 miles of roads, and he feels we are falling behind in paving. He brought up the Cornell Road Study that was done about 8 years ago. He would like to see money added to the road resurfacing line and feels that it would increase each households' taxes by \$100.00.

The additional revenue for Parks & Recreation would come from additional pickleball and platform tennis courts. These courts are located at the Town Park where the old tennis courts are located. Supervisor Gonçalves feels that ARPA funds can be used for this and Kellard Sessions feels that the courts are structurally fine and can be resurfaced. Minimum wage is also going up for part-time seasonal help, however the salaries & wages line will decrease by \$4,718. A reduction of \$5,000 was also seen for Parks & Recreation which is for a sign in the Town Park, which they will try to obtain via grant money.

The Board discussed the removal of \$35,000 from the Police Department line which is a Vehicle and Traffic part-time police officer. Councilman Sklarin asked why this line would be removed if this police officer could generate revenue. He also questioned why the increase of \$80,000 in the part-time officer budget line. The Police Chief was unavailable to attend this evening's meeting so Councilman Sklarin will follow up with him.

Councilman Sklarin suggested that the Town Board freeze their salaries again this year, and the Board agreed, which would reduce this line by \$3,240.

Councilman Sklarin questioned the hours of the Court Clerks and asked why there was an extra hour's line of \$15,000. The Board stated that it is most likely night court hours. Councilman Sklarin will follow up with court, as the liaison, with these questions.

Supervisor Gonçalves also stated that the actual salary lines are not shown in this report because of the union negotiations, so most salary lines for the Actual 2022 would be approximately 4% more than what is shown.

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that he added a new line in his budget in the amount of \$5,000 for grant administration. He stated that his Confidential Secretary has undertaken the bulk of the town's grant work. Both Councilman Sklarin and Councilwoman Rendo questioned this line since the town already has a grants advisory committee. Supervisor Gonçalves responded that the town currently does not have a chair for this committee and most of the grant work, which is extensive, still has to go through his office.

Councilman Sklarin and Councilwoman Rendo agree that the employee deserve a raise, however, they feel it should be closer to 3.35%. Councilwoman Shah stated that with the high rate of

inflation, the town residents are paying more for everything. The employees deserve raises but she also feels the Board must be fiscally responsible and approve a lesser increase.

Councilman Welsh mentioned that the Board has the option of pulling money from the general fund surplus restoration which is \$115,000. He suggested that they see where they are in December and possibly make this line zero.

After further discussion, it was decided that the entire Board was not ready to adopt this budget as the preliminary budget and there was more work that needed to be done to reduce this tentative budget. It was decided that an additional work session meeting was needed before having a public hearing on December 5, 2022. The Board will hold an additional work session on Monday, November 28, 2022.

The Board agreed to hold the public hearing on the preliminary budget at the December 5th, 2022, Town Board meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED - Budget 2023

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

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

TOWN OF LEWISBORO NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the preliminary budget of the Town of Lewisboro for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 has been compiled and filed in the office of the Town Clerk at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York where it will be available for inspection by any interested person at all reasonable hours. It can also be viewed on the town's website at <https://www.lewisborogov.com/finance/page/budget-reports>.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro will meet and review said preliminary budget and will hold a public hearing thereon at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter as time permits on the 5th day of December, 2022, and that at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled, or for or against any item or items therein contained. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following officers are hereby specified:

Supervisor	\$103,590
Councilmen, each (4)	\$ 16,215
Superintendent of Highways	\$113,500
Town Clerk	\$101,275

The Town of Lewisboro is committed to equal access for all citizens. Anyone needing accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting is encouraged to notify the Town Clerk in advance.

CLAIMS – Authorized for Payment

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to authorize payment of the Town's bills in the amount of \$191,456.17.

POLLING OF BOARD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIBRARY UPDATES

A nightclub fundraiser will be held on December 2, and an earring design workshop will be held on November 29th. More information can be found at [Lewisboro Library](#)

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The Parks & Recreation holiday tree lighting will take place at the Town Park on Tuesday, December 6th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

VISTA FIREHOUSE

Toys for Tots Holiday Toy Drive will take place at the Vista Firehouse on December 3rd, 2022, from 9 am to 5 pm. The Candy Cane Run will take place on December 10, 2022, from 9 am to 12 pm. More information can be found on their website.

PARKS & RECREATION UPDATES

A successful food and coat drive was held on November 16, 2022 at the Town Park. Thank you to all who contributed.

Leon Levy Preserve purple trail bridge has been completed and thank you to all who volunteered.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

November 20th was Transgender Day of Remembrance. There were 33 transgender people that were murdered last year and that does not include the 5 who were murdered in Colorado.

KATONAH LEWISBORO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Councilman Sklarin stated he attended and spoke at the recent KLSD Board of Education meeting. He hopes that the school board will reconsider their position in regard to coach Bill. Councilwoman Rendo voiced her support for coach Bill Swertfager and his family following the disappointing decision of the KLSD decision to not reappoint Bill as a coach in our district. She feels that this is a huge loss for our young athletes.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS

An Eagle Scout award presentation took place over the weekend for two new female Eagle Scouts. The event was well run.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

MEETINGS – Dates Set

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to add an upcoming Executive Session meeting of the Town Board at 6:45 p.m. on November 28th, 2022, at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York. There will also be a work session meeting on Monday, November 28th, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

There will also be a Town Board meeting of the Town Board that will take place at 7:30 p.m. on December 5th, 2022, at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Personnel Issues

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 11:28 p.m. to discuss personnel.

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 12:05 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 12:08 a.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk