

A Town Board work session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on June 26, 2023, 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
Absent Town Clerk	Janet L. Donohue

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Gregory Folchetti, Maintenance Employees Shawn Johannessen and Joel Smith and Police Chief David Alfano.

Approximately 12 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 12 participated via Zoom.

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:30p.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 12 residents spoke during public comment period.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND

Eight residents spoke out in favor of the pedestrian & bicycle safety bond and one resident stated that she would prefer NY State pay for these pedestrian and bicycle paths since most of them are on state roads.

Supervisor Gonçalves read the following email also in favor:

Hi Tony,

I hope you had a good weekend. I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting, but I just wanted to write an email in my support of the Vista community, receiving a portion of the bicycle and sidewalk bond. As you know, we have created a Vista stewardship Council And are trying to raise awareness of the need for a walkable pathway in Vista. Not only will this pathway improve safety on our streets, it will also create a sense of community as well as beautification to our area. I hope you will consider Vista receiving some of the bond money. Please let me know if you have any questions. Hope the meeting goes well tonight.

Thank you for consideration. Daniela Goldman

SALT DOME LEASE AGREEMENT

A resident read the following regarding the salt dome lease.

"I am talking tonight in regard to the salt dome lease agreement for timber/debris/soil/mulch that has appeared before the Town Board on several occasions.

Last time I communicated with Tony (6/14) and the Town Board I was told by Tony that they were waiting on language to be changed on the current contract and the only bidder (HH) and he planned on putting it on tonight's agenda and would keep me posted. When the agenda was issued for tonight's meeting and I saw it was absent, I contacted Rich and other TB members. I had previously spoken to Andrea and did speak to Rich with an update. I never heard back from the remaining TB members. My hope is that someone will speak to the decision as to why this was tabled and be transparent with the community as to why that decision was made.

I appreciate the TB listening to the collective voices of those who are impacted and the concern for our local environment and resources and to look outside the box to deal with the timber/debris/soil at the salt dome site. Again, a brief explanation would be most appreciated as this has been a constant almost 3 year process.

I encourage everyone to speak their mind and don't be intimidated by roadblocks. Don't give up because everyone has a voice in the community and everyone's voice matters.

Thank you, Carol Cernak"

JUNE EVENTS

Two residents complemented the town on wonderful events that took place during the month of June such as Juneteenth, the Onatru fireworks and Pride.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

A resident thanked the playground committee for a job well done and for upgrading the playground without the use of taxpayer's money.

COMMUNICATIONS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Gonçalves read the following:



Brookfield Police Department

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 09, 2023

On 3/8/2023, the Brookfield and Danbury Police Department executed 18 search warrants and one arrest warrant stemming from a months-long investigation into narcotics trafficking. The investigation, identified as "Operation Trinity Café," began after Brookfield Police responded to a non-fatal overdose and became aware that an individual, later identified as Kenny Miliano of Danbury, Connecticut, had been distributing narcotics in and around Brookfield. A Brookfield Detective learned that investigators with the Danbury Police Department Special Investigations Division (SID) were familiar with Miliano. After a collaborative investigation with the Danbury Police Department Special Investigations Division and the DEA, additional suspects were identified and determined to be working with Miliano as part of a localized organization.

With the assistance of the DEA, New Milford Police Department, Ridgefield Police Department, Lewisboro NY Police Department, and Newtown Police Department, members of the Brookfield and Danbury Police Department executed search and seizure locations at the residences of Kenny Miliano (2203 Abbey Ln., Danbury), Herman Davis (31 High Ridge Rd., Danbury), Ariel Cuevas (17 Mill Ridge Rd., Danbury), and Lindsay Salerno (168 Willow Springs, New Milford).

As a result of the execution of the 18 search and seizure warrants and arrests, a total of approximately two pounds of crack cocaine, five ounces of powder cocaine, four pounds of fentanyl, 1.6 pounds of opioid pills, and drug paraphernalia were located and seized. Investigators also seized approximately \$20,000 in cash, suspected high-value jewelry, and high-end sneakers, which are believed to be profits directly related to the sale of narcotics by the arrested persons.

As always, we greatly appreciate the assistance and collaboration with all the agencies involved and greatly value the partnerships that we continue to build.



BROOKFIELD
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

"OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE FINEST PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN AN ETHICAL, PROFESSIONAL AND SENSITIVE MANNER. WE DO THIS BY PRESERVING THE PEACE, PROMOTING SAFETY, PROTECTING PROPERTY AND RESPECTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING AN OPEN DIALOGUE AND POSITIVE INTERACTION WITH OUR FELLOW CITIZENS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP THAT WILL SOLVE PROBLEMS AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS AND VISITORS."

LIKE and FOLLOW us:



Supervisor Gonçalves also read a letter (see attached) from the Newtown, CT Police Chief thanking Chief Alfano for letting them borrow K9 Zane to do a sniff search at their Middle School.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Gonçalves read the following emails regarding the Building Department and Lewisboro Commons:

Kevin and Kara, Thank you so much for all of your efforts and guidance in getting us to this finish line. We know how hectic things are and very much appreciate your professionalism and understanding. Our incoming tenants will be pleased as well.

Wishing you a wonderful Memorial Day weekend! John R. Bainlardi

Kevin and Kara,

*I would like to say **THANK YOU** today you've just made 10 more residence very happy having a new place to live.*

Have a great evening.

Sal Malfa, Project Manager, Griffon Construction LLC

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the minutes of the June 12, 2023, Town Board meeting were approved and filed.

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

BICYCLE TOUR – Authorize Use of Town Roads

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 does authorize the 2023 Cycle of Support Charity Bike Ride to use the Town Roads on September 10, 2023, for a fundraiser, as reviewed by counsel.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - Request for Purchase of Pickup Truck

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 approve the police chief's request to purchase a 2024 Chevrolet pickup truck off the state bid list (bid#13178) for a cost of \$53,900 by utilizing funds from the \$40,000 "Special Deposit Account" and \$13,900 from the "General Fund".

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Approval to Auction 3 Vehicles

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 approve the police chief's request to auction off the following three vehicles with Auctions International:

1. 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe
2. 2016 Ford Explorer
3. 2014 Ford Explorer

NUTRITION PROGRAM – Authorize Supervisor to Sign Contract

Supervisor Gonçalves explained that a resolution is needed to have the Supervisor sign the memorandum of agreement for the senior citizen nutrition program and pay the program fee. He explained that the Town gets an estimated contract and then once the actual usage is known a final bill is sent.

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

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be and hereby is authorized to sign the 2022 agreement for the Senior Citizen Nutrition Program along with the Towns of North Salem, Somers and Lewisboro for \$26,548.95 and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be and hereby is authorized to execute the 2023 good faith agreement.

GOLDENS BRIDGE HAMLET ORGANIZATION – Waive Building Fees

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 approve the request from the Goldens Bridge Hamlet Organization to waive the fees associated with obtaining a building permit and any inherent additional fees required by the Town for the GBHO Fairmount Road pocket park project.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND – Discussion (7:54 – 8:32 p.m.)

The Lewisboro Pedestrian and Bike Advisory Committee asked the Town Board to support a \$2.1 million bond referendum at the April 24th meeting. Town Attorney Gregory Folchetti stated that the vote of the Town Board to approve the borrowing and the approval of the bond referendum need to take place within 30 days of each other in order to get the document in its final form to the Westchester County Board of Elections by their deadline of August 7, which would enable the referendum to be on this fall's general election ballot. He explained that the borrowing resolution has to come first, which would be at the July 10th meeting and the second meeting should occur during the week of July 24th. This referendum will be very specific to this project only which will be Pedestrian and Bicycle safety Infrastructure Improvements throughout the town.

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that even if they do decide to borrow this money, it will not preclude them from still pursuing grants. Councilwoman Rendo questioned what the benefit is to borrowing the money this year as opposed to borrowing it next year once the Master Plan has been completed. She stated that they know residents want sidewalks/bike paths however she feels that this borrowing should be decided after the Master Plan has been fully completed. Councilman Welsh feels that they should keep the momentum going and borrow the money this year.

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that where these sidewalks are going, there has already been a lot of feedback and DOT feedback and visits. Councilwoman Shah stated that there has been incredible input about creating sidewalks/bike paths during the process of the Comprehensive Master Plan meetings.

Councilwoman Rendo also stated that many residents are questioning why the town has to pay for sidewalks/bike paths on state roads. Councilman Welsh stated that they have requested money from the state for the past 14 years without success. He stated that by borrowing 2.1 million it would cost each household \$66/year for 10 years with an interest rate of 5% if the money was borrowed this year.

Councilwoman Rendo also stated that residents have questioned why the Town Board is seeking a bond for funding bike paths and sidewalks when our town roads are in such disrepair. She suggested that they possibly also look at a bond for paving roads in town and build on that year after year.

Councilman Sklarin stated that we are following a process which is going to enable the Town Board to borrow money if the residents approve the referendum.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II (New Business Only)

A total of 3 residents spoke during public comment period II.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND

Two residents spoke again in favor of the pedestrian and bicycle paths and one person spoke out against them.

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 \$809,221.56.

POLLING OF THE BOARD

JUNE EVENTS

The Board thanked everyone that was involved with the wonderful events that took place during the month of June such as Juneteenth, the Onatru fireworks and Pride.

PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Bricks are still available for purchase and information can be found on their website at [Lewisboro Playground Improvement Project](#).

POLICE

Please remember to lock your car doors and take all valuables out of the cars. Also, if the State Troopers do arrive to investigate, please also reach out to our Police Chief Alfano as well.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND

Other towns do have sidewalks on state roads such as Katonah, Bedford, Pound Ridge. There is a vision for the future by the shopping center owners.

SALT DOME LEASE

It was announced that the Town Board is shelving the Salt Dome Lease and are going to take a fresh look at it in the future.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

There will be a meeting on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. 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 Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 10:24 p.m.

TOWN OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES – Recreation Leader, Michael Portnoy

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, 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 amend the motion to appoint Michael Portnoy to the position of Recreation Leader on a provisional basis, effective May 22, 2023, subject to the provisions of NY Civil Service Law, Rules, and Regulations at an annual salary of \$63,251.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – Appointment of Member, Thomas Fischetti

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 appoint Thomas Fischetti to the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately to fill the unexpired term of Thomas Casper, 12/31/2026.

HIGHWAY – Appointment of Auto Mechanic

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, 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 appoint Brian Donaton to the position of Auto Mechanic in the Highway Department effective July 10, 2023 at the hourly wage of \$44.02.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 10:39 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue
Town Clerk