

A Town Board work session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on July 10, 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 |
| Town Clerk      | Janet L. Donohue                                       |
| Absent          | None   |

Also attending was the Attorney for the Town Jennifer Herodes and Maintenance Employees Shawn Johannessen and Joel Smith.

Approximately 7 residents/observers attended the live meeting and approximately 11 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 8 residents spoke during public comment period.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

Three residents asked what is going on with the Ethics Code and why it is not on the agenda yet again. One resident also asked if the two residents that are on the ethics committee are still interested in being on the committee.

**BRIDGE NY GRANT**

A resident congratulated the Town Board on receiving a 1.42 million grant for the Oscaleta Culvert.

**WESTCHESTER POWER**

A resident read the following:

*"Listening to the board struggle with Sustainable Westchester's power program which is having difficulty providing competitive pricing this year even with a non-green energy component, I wondered why not just let residents keep the choice they have under the state's current system which provides NYSEG as the default supplier and numerous ESCOs as alternate mixed and green suppliers, You do the research and educate residents on the choices they have. I have been*

*doing this since 1999 picking what I thought was the best and saved money over both NYSEG and Sustainable Westchester.*

*So much for the promise Dan made years ago that his program would help seniors and others who did not have the time to do their own research. This year I did some more research of my own and looked at sustainable Westchester's most recently filed IRS form 990 for the year 2021. I think this board should do its own research and educate our residents on some of the things I found:*

*1. While it is true that the organization's Board of Directors is made up of current or former politicians from our local towns and municipalities who are unpaid, Dan received compensation as "program director" of "Westchester Power" of \$126,000. Dan stated at your last meeting if you make the program opt in and not enough people join there would be no program. Your decision is weighing the best interests of the community against the best interests of your colleague and running mate.*

*2. For several years Sustainable Westchester had an interim Executive Director making around \$125,000. In March 2021 Nina Orville who had been a vendor to the organization under the name Abundant Efficiencies LLC became executive Director and was paid \$438,652 for just 10 months of service. This for organization with only \$2.2 million in revenue. Didn't the head of the Red Cross get in trouble for salary of that size?*

*3. The 990 also shows total salaries of \$1,479,612 and over \$128,549 for "advertising" and \$248,801 for "outreach" none of which is itemized. A fraction of these costs could have paid for research and outreach to the community with recommendations on which ESCO to choose under the existing system set up by our state government. But it seems there are too many mouths to feed."*

### TRAFFIC STUDY

A resident who lives on Mark Mead Road by Bacio said that there has been issues with this intersection for years and she feels that a complete and thorough traffic study should be completed before any additional work is done.

### PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND

A resident asked the Board not to pit the bike/sidewalks against safe roads. There is a plan for highways which is the Cornell Study and that should be adhered to. He stated that the Highway Superintendent during recent budget talks stated they should be paving 9 miles of road a year but has only had the money for 2 miles of paving. He has heard a wish list but no concrete plan. He suggested the board look at a \$4 million dollar bond and use half for roads and half for the sidewalk/bike paths.

Another resident said they feel that the resolution is very vague and should have exact wording. They feel that since the safety issues are directed at state roads, this should be paid for by the state. And everyone will be paying for this, however, not everyone will be benefitting from this.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the town has been awarded a \$1.426 million BRIDGE NY Grant to replace the Oscala Road culvert. He thanked Janet Andersen, Joseph Cermele and Mary Hafter for their efforts in obtaining this grant. This grant will pay for the project in its entirety.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES & REPORTS - Approved

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the minutes of the June 26, 2023, Town Board meeting and the monthly June Building & Police Reports were approved and filed.

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

KATONAH-LEWISBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT – Authorize Supervisor to Sign Facilities Use Agreement

On motion by Councilman Sklarin, 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 Town Board does approve of and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Katonah-Lewisboro shared facilities use agreement with a term ending August 31, 2024, as reviewed by counsel.

KATONAH-LEWISBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT – Authorize Supervisor to Sign Salt/Fuel Agreement

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

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Town Board does approve of and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Katonah-Lewisboro salt and fuel agreement with a term ending June 30, 2024, as reviewed by counsel.

KATONAH-LEWISBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT – Authorize Supervisor to Sign Bus Rental Agreement

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 Town Board does approve of and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Katonah-Lewisboro bus rental agreement with a term ending August 31, 2024, as reviewed by counsel.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND – Discussion (7:59 – 8:45 p.m.)

Councilman Welsh made a presentation (see attached) regarding the pedestrian & bicycle safety bond.

Councilwoman Rendo does feel that all of the hamlets have great visions, however she feels that putting the bond on the ballot for this November is premature as we are years away from physically starting the construction. Councilwoman Rendo feels that the Comprehensive Master Plan should be finalized first before borrowing for this; she stated we are putting the cart before the horse. And at this point if the town is going to bond for anything, it should also include paving for roads as well. She would also like to hear from bond counsel as to why this money should be borrowed this year versus waiting until next year. She is not against these projects or visions at all but doesn't feel that \$2.1 million is a sufficient amount.

Councilman Welsh disagreed as he feels that studies, surveying, and initial costs need to be done prior to the Comprehensive Plan being finalized.

Supervisor Gonçalves did explain that the board is still deciding whether the bond will appear on the November 7 ballot and that the town does not incur the debt unless the voters approve of the referendum.

Councilman Sklarin feels that this is a positive for business owners and would attract new businesses. Councilwoman Shah stated that she wants our residents to be safe. She also feels that if we delay this for another 2-3 years, the project will be stalled, and nothing will get done. She also feels that this will help with grant applications in the future.

The Board will continue this discussion at the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II

TRAFFIC STUDY

A resident reiterated their opinion that the town needs to conduct a traffic study in the Cross River area at the corner of Route 35 and where Bacio is located. They also feel that school safety needs to be a priority.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND

Four residents spoke against borrowing this money at this time. They are not against the concept or the dream but feel that the state should be paying for this in its entirety, especially when two state representatives live in town. They also feel that more emphasis should be placed on town roads being paved. A few residents also feel that this is being done this year because it is an election year.

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 \$583,654.62.

POLLING OF THE BOARD

HIGHWAY

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the state advised him that no bids were received for the nighttime paving of a portion of Route 35. It was decided that, in order to avoid massive traffic issues that would result in paving this heavily trafficked area during peak daytime travel hours, the project would be moved to next year with the intent to have the work done at night thereby avoiding long delays.

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that the following roads were being paved in 2023: Sabbathday Hill, Pine Hill Drive, Boutonville Road, Hunts Lane, Howland Drive, Adams Hill Road, Debbie Lane, Old Shop Road and Southwind Drive.

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that highway mechanic Mark Sena has retired after 37 years of working at the town. The Board thanked Mr. Sena for his years of service.

Supervisor Gonçalves stated that highway employee Duane Faryniarz has retired after 29 years of service. The Board thanked Mr. Faryniarz for his years of service.

LIBRARY FAIR

The library fair will take place on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Onatru Farm. Donation days will take place on Saturday, August 12, 19 & 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit their website for more information at [www.lewisborolibrary.org](http://www.lewisborolibrary.org).

COMMITTEES & COUNCILS

There are a few openings on committees and councils. If interested, send a resume and cover letter to the Supervisor. The openings are located on the website: [Committees and Council Openings | Town of Lewisboro New York \(lewisborogov.com\)](https://www.lewisborogov.com/committees-and-council-openings)

ETHICS CODE

Councilwoman Rendo again stated she would like feedback on the Ethics Code and would like to discuss at the next meeting. Supervisor Gonçalves stated there are currently 2 members, and he would like to invite them to attend the next meeting for their input.

PLANNING BOARD

Residents should make their voices heard regarding Bacio by writing to the Planning Board.

Also, the Board congratulated Jerome Kerner for his many years of service on the Planning Board and other committees. Jerome is stepping down and is moving out of the area.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY BOND

Councilman Welsh stated that we were not able to do the bond last year and does not get that this is political but feels that it is a good idea to put the vote to the people.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

There will be a meeting on Monday, July 24, 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 Councilman Welsh, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 9:15 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 9:44 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Janet L. Donohue  
Town Clerk