

A Town Board work session meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, was held on October 23, 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 Gregory Folchetti, Maintenance Employees Shawn Johannessen and Joel Smith, and Chief of Staff Kerri Wolfe.

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

Supervisor Gonçalves called the meeting to order at 7:33 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 (7:35 – 7:50 p.m.)

A total of 5 residents spoke.

LIBRARY EVENTS

A resident shared the upcoming events at the Lewisboro Library such as the Ghost Walk, Author Panel, Henry Wallace History, a fundraising wine tasting with the band Susan Said performing. More information can be found on their website at lewisborolibrary.org.

ELECTION SEASON

A resident asked if the candidate forums for the upcoming election could be placed on the town's You Tube Channel.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE REFERENDUM

A resident commended the Board for putting the pedestrian & bicycle referendum on the ballot for November.

DRINKING WATER

A resident discussed the town drinking water and PFAS which has been found in local wells such as Oakridge and the schools. She sent a FOIL to the school and found that PFAS in the school water is 45 times higher than what the state considers to be ok. She is asking the Town Board to inform people that this is an issue and that residents should be testing their own well water.

During polling of the board, it was acknowledged that the town should play a bigger role in educating the public regarding testing of private wells and water. The Board will continue their discussions on specifics and put together information for the website and brochures on how to get water tested, etc.

HOUSING IN GOLDENS BRIDGE

A resident stated that during a recent GBHO debate, a good portion of the questions were about the shopping center and surrounding areas. There was a question about the commuter parking lot which is owned by the DOT & MTA. Affordable housing was mentioned for this area, and she has a problem with this as our infrastructure is questionable in it's ability to handle high density development in such a small area. Who would develop this area; the state, county, private groups? Many people moved here for the bucolic area.

During polling of the board, Supervisor Gonçalves stated that these discussions are in the very early stages. They were brainstorming about something that can be done with this parking lot, which is the East lot and is not being used since Covid. They have received complaints that it is an eyesore. DOT owns this property and was interested enough to come out to discuss some options however only brainstorming has been done at this time. Supervisor Gonçalves will keep everyone informed.

LIONS CLUB OKTOBERFEST

A resident thanked the Town Board, all of the sponsors, the Veterans, Scouts, Library, Town Historian Maureen Koehl, Nicole Caviola, and many others who played a part in this years Oktoberfest.

COMMUNICATIONS

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME

The Board acknowledged that town resident John Lemke, who is also the Chair of the Veterans Advisory Committee has been recognized by the Westchester County Executive George Latimer as one of 63 senior citizens who will be celebrated on December 1, 2023. Mr. Lemke is also a member of the Lewisboro Lions Club.

VETERANS DAY

John Lemke, Chair of the Veterans Advisory Committee stated that there will be a Ceremony on Veterans Day at the Town House on November 11 at 11 a.m. The theme is "Past, Present & Future." All are invited to attend.

POLICE

Governor Hochul's office sent a letter to Police Chief Alfano stating that his department has received state certification for compliance as required by the Professional Policing Act of 2021. The Board thanked Chief Alfano and his department.

CONSENT AGENDAMINUTES - Approved

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilman Sklarin, the minutes of the October 10, 2023, Town Board meeting were approved.

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

ALTICE – Update (7:57 – 8:09 p.m.)

Frank Alleva, Senior Director of Government Affairs at Altice USA, updated the Town Board and residents on the Fiber to the Home (FTTH) expansion that is currently taking place in Lewisboro. They have finished constructing their hubs and the next phase will be cabling. The cabling will take about 6 months to complete and should be completed by the end of approximately June 2024, but there are a lot of variables. Mr. Alleva stated that there were some Department of Transportation (DOT) issues which delayed the project. They will be maintaining both the old and new for the foreseeable future. Residents will be able to sign up for the new or keep the old. He also stated that if anything changes, he will update the Town Board.

Mr. Alleva stated fiber optics gives more lite, there is no leakage, and it is environmentally friendly. If there is a power outage the system should stay up. It is more efficient than what they currently have.

The Board thanked Mr. Alleva for his presentation.

PARKS & RECREATION – Authorize John Jay Youth Football Fundraiser

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 John Jay Youth Football fundraiser to be held at the Town Park on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

TAX CAP LEGISLATION – Date Set for Public Hearing

The Board suggested that they set a public hearing for a proposed override of the tax cap legislation. They stated that this does not mean that they will break the tax cap, but they wanted to set the public hearing.

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Rendo, 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 Monday, November 27, 2023 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 override of the state tax cap legislation.

At said hearing all interested persons are invited to attend and will be heard. 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.

TENTATIVE BUDGET 2024 – Delivered by Town Clerk

Supervisor Gonçalves acknowledged that the Town Clerk delivered the tentative 2024 budget to the Town Board and that it is also on the town's website. It was also decided that the public hearing on the Preliminary 2024 Budget would be held on Monday, November 27, 2023.

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)

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WIRELESS COMMUNICATION MASTER PLAN – Completion by Cityscape Consulting

Supervisor Gonçalves acknowledged that the Cityscape consulting Cooperative Wireless Communication Master Plan has been completed and can be found on the town's website under the Antenna Advisory Board page.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD II for New Business Only

A total of one resident spoke.

WEBSITE

A resident would like to have a synopsis of the Altice presentation on the website along with the 2024 tentative budget and preliminary budget.

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 \$392,95.49.

POLLING OF THE BOARD

OKTOBERFEST

The Oktoberfest was held this past Saturday, and the Board complimented a job well done by the Lions Club.

WESTCHESTER BLACK WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS, INC

The 47th Anniversary of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus took place last Friday and several residents attended the gala.

WILD OAKS WATER

In 2024 Wild Oaks Water will hopefully embark on a project to build new wells and a building for a new filtration system. These are private and paid for by Wild Oaks residents.

RECYCLING CENTER

The Recycling Center is still looking for a part-time individual to work Saturday mornings from 9 am – noon.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

The town has received a \$68,000 payment from FEMA for the town's expenses due to Covid. The Supervisor thanked Joel Smith and Mary Hafter for their work on submitting the request to an online portal.

HIGHWAY

The Highway Department now has received their "hot box" which was a capital expenditure last year. The hot box extends the amount of time that asphalt can be applied so this will be helpful filling potholes in the winter months.

ELECTIONS

Today is the last day to submit an absentee ballot. Also, early voting will start on October 28 at 24 different locations. The closest polls to Lewisboro are Somers, Pound Ridge and Mt. Kisco. Detailed information can be found on the Westchester County Board of Elections website.

GARDEN CLUB

The Lewisboro Garden Club is holding a fundraiser where they are selling holiday swags for \$35. Orders need to be placed by 11/15/23 and delivered the week of 12/3. More information can be found at lewisborogardenclub.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The Goldens Bridge fire department had a community day, The Vista fire department had a breakfast, and the South Salem fire department had an open house. October is Fire Safety Awareness Month.

MEETINGS – Dates Set

There will be a meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

There will be a meeting on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, December 12, 2023**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Legal Issues

On motion by Supervisor Gonçalves, seconded by Councilwoman Shah, the Board voted 5-0 to go into executive session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss legal issues.

On motion by Councilwoman Shah, seconded by Councilman Welsh, the Board voted 5-0 to come out of executive session at 9:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Janet L. Donohue

Town Clerk