Regular Town Board Meeting 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor S. Broderick; Councilmembers W. Burg, R. Morreale, J. Myers & S. Waechter; Dep. Sup. W. Conrad; Police Chief M. Salada; Bldg. Insp. T. Masters; Finance Director J. Agnello; Water Crew Ch. J. Dell; Hwy Sup. M. Weiss; Eng. B. Lannon; Atty. A. Bax; Rec. Director T. Smith; 1 Press; 20 Residents & Town Clerk T. Burns

ZOOM: WPCC Ch. Op. J. Ritter

EXCUSED: Sr. Coordinator M. Olick

Supervisor called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Broderick – Kiwanis Presentation; Gaines Electric Generator Project

Burg – Police Department Full Time Expansion Proposal

Agenda

Burg MOVED to approve the agenda, as amended. Seconded by Waechter and carried 5-0.

Finance:

The Finance Director asked for approval to process the following 2026 budget revisions:

1. A request to move $3,000 to Buildings Contractual – A00-1620-0400-0000 from Town Clerk Contractual – A00-1410-0400-0000, to cover contractual expenses.

2. A request to move $113 to Unemployment – A00-9050-0800-0000 from Taxes Municipal Property– A00-1950-0400-0000, to cover unemployment insurance expenses.

3. A request to move $10,100 to Engineering Firm-Other – B00-1440-0400-0000 from Fund Balance – B00-1000-0599-0000, to cover Comprehensive Plan expenses.

4. A request to mover $19,000 to Medical Insurance – SS1-9060-0800-0000 from Treatment & Disposal Equipment – SS1-8130-0200-0000, to cover employee medical insurance expenses.

Budget Revisions

Morreale MOVED for approval as presented. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.

Agnello presented the 2027 Preliminary Budget for approval.

2027 Preliminary Budget

Morreale MOVED to approve the 2027 Preliminary Budget, as presented. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.

Agnello requested to schedule a Public Hearing for the 2027 Preliminary Budget on November 5, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Waechter MOVED to schedule a Public Hearing for the 2027 Preliminary Budget on November 5, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.

VILLAGE OF LEWISTON PRESENTATION

Mayor Cota

The Village of Lewiston is requesting assistance, specifically with the Academy Park electrical. Cota said the original plan they envisioned is extending 3-phase electrical around the entire park with single phase electrical. The plan that was put in place was single phase electrical throughout the park which wasn't going to be adequate overall. Cota is asking for $100,000 to help with the cost. This is for 9 pedestals around the entire perimeter of the park which will support vendors, Peach Festival, a lot more activities throughout the park. Right now, the electrical is self-standard and above ground. There are poles that are deteriorating and they're trying to get away from safety restraints of power cords strung everywhere with generators. Broderick spoke with the Mayor about this project and Kiwanis about a year ago. They were going to do it in house and it didn't work out, they came back and see if the Town was still interested in helping out. Broderick said he was, and told them to bring it in front of the Board. This would be an H98 energy expense due to it being electrical. Waechter said this is the first time she has seen the proposal and asked about the placement of the pedestals. Cota said there will be free-standing pedestals much lower than the above-ground power lines. These will be underground. One will be a three-phase connection which will allow for larger blocks and bring out single phase sub-blocks. 9 pedestals will be single phase connection which will allow for correct connection. Waechter asked if the foot-print will change as far as how the farmers market is set up and will there still be extension cords ran? Cota said right now, there is one pedestal along 9th street and the cords are all spread out throughout the park. The plan is to have three pedestals with four separate blocks so vendors will be able to have direct lines to their booths instead of having to cross to one central location. Three will be added along Portage Road by the Pavilion also. Morreale asked if the Village has an electrical inspector who will be overseeing the project. Cota said the Village is in the process of changing their inspector. Broderick said the Town uses New York Atlantic Inland and the Village could use them for the project. Waechter asked if the project went out to bid yet. Cota said they received a preliminary bid from 2025 in the amount of $81,000. They adjusted for the rate changes and came up with the $100,000 budget.

Academy Park Electrical Upgrades

Burg MOVED to approve the Academy Park Electrical Infrastructure upgrade up to $100,000 from H98. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

Cota said currently, the lower restroom station along the riverfront is the last piece of the improvement project. The restrooms originally were installed half below grade and didn't have insulation. It was never designed to be a year-round bathroom and the Village is looking to convert that. The Village is already paying for electrical heat to be added this year and the long-term plan is to make it sustainable, add insulation and correct the water infiltration issues. The paint on the back wall has calcification where the water is coming in through the ground. If we don't get ahead of it, the entire facility will need to be replaced.

The Village is looking at changing over the internal fixtures which are currently the old-style porcelain and is not vandal-proof. The plan is to switch to stainless steel which will be easier to clean. The riverfront was averaging 25 boats a day throughout salmon season. There was a consistent comment regarding the lower restrooms. The Village had a continuous source of vandalism with the doors getting kicked in. There were electronic locks installed. The Village is continuously trying to improve.

Cota said they received a rough estimate which would include digging out the entire building, waterproofing, insulating, siding, roofing, solid core doors, and stainless-steel fixtures. With the Village doing to work, the cost would be about $474,000. It is a substantial amount of money. The Village bid it out and to hire someone, the quote was about 1.4 million to replace the restrooms. Broderick said he visited the bathrooms and fish cleaning station, if it was considered, it would be a combination of Greenway and H98 monies. Cota said they are going to get a scope of work. Before they spent more money and time on the project, they wanted to know if the Town would be open to consider helping. Broderick said he would be in favor of it. Waechter asked if the town would fund the entire project or if the Village would be matching funds. Cota said there is insurance monies they can utilize. A lot of fisherman, dog walkers and runners utilize the restrooms and he just wants to make sure they're safe and effective. Morreale said this would be a perfect use of the Greenway funds.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Steve Lyle – River Road

Lyle said he does not remember a lot of discussion regarding Flock Cameras. In light of the recent revelations, they're not necessarily welcome in a lot of places. Lyle asked at what point the Town would reconsider them in Lewiston. Broderick said there was just an arrest made based on Flock cameras and he has a law enforcement background and wants to support law enforcement. You see on the news that there has been a misuse of them and those people have been fired.

Salada said he understands the concerns that have come out. Flock cameras are a great law enforcement tool. Like any technology that law enforcement has taken on over the years, there is the unfortunate misuse that has happened. Salada said he can assure Lyle it has not happened within the Town of Lewiston Police Department. There are policies in place, there are audits that take place and Salada is notified immediately if plates are run more than a certain number of times through Flock. Flock just put a safety feature in that, if a plate is run too many times, it will lock a user out until Salada approves it and puts comments in stating it was a legitimate law enforcement purpose. "We have seen a lot of success in terms of solving cases. Some on a small level and we've also had some pretty major ones. It comes down to us as a department and me as the Chief to ensure that my people are using it the way it is intended and that is 100% my goal".

Flock has some additional features coming out by the end of the year that are going to increase the security on them. Theres been a lot of misinformation out there regarding who has access. There have been articles that data has been stolen. Flock does not have access to any data; the law enforcement agencies do. Lyle asked who has access to the data in the Town. Salada said the cameras are owned by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office so they are the main users and grant access to the local law enforcement agencies. Federal agencies in NYS are not authorized to utilize the cameras and they don't have access to search them. One of the other misnomers is, there is a ton of information out there of yours in flock. The system simply takes a photo of the plate. It will notify the department if certain things flag such as missing people, wanted people, things like that. However, those are entered by the agencies. Personal data such as names, addresses, birth dates all that stuff, if the officer needed to obtain that, they would need to search that through a separate DMV system that the department is authorized through which has its own separate audits done monthly to ensure proper usage. No personal information is inside the flock system. It just takes a picture of your plate. Lyle said he does not deny the value of it. He is just concerned about the down-side of it. Waechter asked if Niagara County Sheriff's Department has the same policy in place as the Town. Salada said yes, the policies are the exact same, they worked on it together.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes

Morreale MOVED to approve the minutes from the 10/15/2026 Work Session. Seconded by Myers and carried 4-0. Burg abstained.

ABSTRACT

Abstract

Myers MOVED to approve Regular Abstract of Claims Numbered 26-03025 thru 26-03167 and recommended payment in the amount of $484,931.66 with a Post Audit in the amount of $15,829.63. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD STATEMENTS

Clerk T. Burns

Burns read a letter from Riverwalk Association, Inc.

The Riverwalk Association, Inc. currently holds our monthly Board meetings at the Lewiston Library and have been advised that in 2027 there will be major repair work occurring there. This has led us to look for alternate meeting locations to accommodate our five-person Board of Directors, our Community Association Manager and any residents wishing to observe the meeting. Our normal monthly meetings may have anywhere from one to five residents in attendance.

This letter is a request to obtain bookings for the fourth Monday of each month from January 2027 to December 2027 for the Riverwalk Association, Inc. monthly board meetings.

We understand that any Town business will take precedent. Meeting times would be from 1:30-2:30 P.M.

Use of Court Room - Riverwalk Assoc.

Morreale MOVED to accept the use of the court room to Riverwalk Association, Inc. the fourth Monday of each month of 2027 from 1:30-2:30 P.M. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0.

Burns said the conduit enclosing the power wire coming from the building at Town Hall to the parking lot lights collapsed and the wire broke causing a majority of the lights, including the flagpole light in the main parking lot to not work. Burns received a quote from Gaines Electric in the amount of $3,895 to re-run the conduit and run new wiring. A small portion of the main drive in the parking lot will need to be dug up. The Highway Department will be taking care of the trenching and digging and we will need to have that portion of the parking lot blocked off. The work is scheduled to take place on Monday, November 2nd and we are anticipating it be completed by the end of the day.

Police Chief M. Salada

K-9 Shadow has had two significant vet visits showing his age. He still is a great working dog and after speaking with the vet, still has some time under his belt. He is 9 and time is getting close. Salada is starting the process to look at grants and other donations and funding for the next K-9 for when that time comes and K-9 Shadow's 10 years is over and he can live a happy retirement life.

Hwy Sup. M. Weiss

Weiss said they just finished up paving last week. Brush pick-up will end this week and the Highway Department will switch over to solely leaf pick-up until snowfall. Weiss said they are continuing working on projects regarding drainage. Weiss and Lannon had a meeting with the D.E.C. to try to obtain a permit for the east side of the parkway ditch.

The Town received wood grinding bids and Weiss requested to table the approval until they get more clarification on the quoted prices.

Eng. B. Lannon

Lannon said they have a good layout of the infrastructure in Morgan Farms area. There is a lot of 24" pipe going into 36" and 48" pipe by West Park taking the flow west. That will relieve the existing storm infrastructure.

Rec. Director T. Smith

There was a great turnout for trunk-or-treat. There are a lot of events coming up in November and winter months. Skating at Niagara University will start the day before Thanksgiving.

WPCC Ch. Op. J. Ritter

The Sewer Department is finishing up manhole lining and this week they will start reaching out to homeowners to do private property I & I work.

OLD/PENDING BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

SUPERVISOR BRODERICK

Back in 2012, the Town Board put together a scope of work for generators for the Police Station, Highway Garage and Town Hall. The only work that actually got done was the Police Station. The Town hired Gaines Electric to put together a scope of work.

Gaines Electric has developed and presented the following scopes of work to the town of Lewiston. With a final review by National Grid, the Town can submit the following scopes for bid.

Town of Lewiston Senior Center: Design and installation of a 125KW 230v, single phase natural gas generator with an Automatic Transfer Switch. This system is designed to provide power for all the Senior Center Equipment.

Town of Lewiston Town Hall: Design and installation of a 125KW 208v, three phase natural gas generator with an Automatic Transfer Switch. This system is designed to provide power for all Town Hall equipment.

Town of Lewiston Town Garage: Design and installation of a 75KW 208v, three phase natural gas generator with an Automatic Transfer Switch. This system is designed to provide power for all the Town Garage Equipment. This replaces the existing generator that only provides partial power to the

office area. The electrical distribution system and the oil storage room are not installed per the National Electric Code. The electrical scope of work for the Town Garage includes the required updates to these systems.

Generator Project

Waechter MOVED to approve the Town to go out to bid the Senior Center, Town Hall and Highway Garage generator project. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0.

Legal:

Last meeting, Ritter provided a presentation on what he suggested might be a step in the right direction for some of the issues with I & I. Bax presented a draft moratorium on downstream capacity analyses. Any development that exceeds 2500 gallons per day requires this analyses to be completed and signed off on. This moratorium does not restrict any developers from developing plans, it restricts the approval of a downstream analyses which would be the last phase of the approval process before a project could get started.

Schedule Public Hearing LL 6-2026

Broderick MOVED to schedule a Public Hearing on Local Law 6-2026 for Monday, November 9th at 6:00 P.M. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

COUNCILMAN BURG

Due to the lack of qualified candidates to fill the current part-time vacancies, Chief Salada and Agnello went through the budget looking to eliminate the overflow part-time positions and replace them with full- time positions. Salada said they are going to continue with the part -time officers they have today but he currently has 3, and by the end of the month 4 part time position vacancies. The model has changed in policing over the past 5-6 years. The part-time academy offered at Niagara University ended in 2020. The Police Department would get upward of 10 candidates per year coming out of that academy. That program is no longer there. Most of the candidates that go through the full-time academy at a pre-employment level are hired well before the academy even ends. It's caused the Police Department to struggle with filling positions and also, now scheduling in terms of filling shifts for our full-time officers. Salada is looking to utilize some of the part-time budget to hire full-time officers and fill those gaps they're struggling with.

Salada presented a proposal with cost-savings. The unrecognized cost savings the department would have are from part-time officers who were trained and utilized for a year or two and leave for other departments because Lewiston doesn't have full-time positions for them. There is an individual leaving at the end of the month that has been with the Lewiston Police Department for a year, straight out of the academy, LPD trained him and now he's leaving for a full-time position elsewhere at the federal level. He was not eligible for a full-time position with Lewiston as he was not on the Civil Service list at the time but he was not going to wait it out. Burg said this will not be an increase to the budget, it is actually projecting a cost saving. Waechter said the part-time budget was at $313,924 and the part-time employees proposed cost of the new positions converted to full-time would be $218,835.72 with a difference of $95,538.28. Further in the proposal, it explains that half of the total savings could be used to utilized to cover additional overtime or part-time staff when necessary. Salada said we still have our festivals and concerts and special events we would need to fill and utilize part-time officers. They would still be needed to fill in when there's an emergency on the road and also at the schools which the SRO fill-ins are reimbursed anyways. Broderick, Agnello and Salada sat down and went over everything extensively. This solidifies the Lewiston Police Department more. Lewiston will always

need part-time officers; this will help the chief with scheduling as well. Salada said the department has had a lot of success over the past several years in keeping full-time employees.

Police Dept Full-Time Expansion

Burg MOVED to approve the full-time expansion proposal presented. Seconded by Waechter and carried 5-0.

COUNCILMAN MORREALE – Nothing to report

COUNCILMAN MYERS – Nothing to report

COUNCILWOMAN WAECHTER

Waechter said the Senior Center renovation project is moving along. The countertops were delivered today and the backsplash will go in next week. the women's restroom is 1/3 of the way done.

Broderick said the Riverfront Park project is going "full-speed ahead" on the fishing pier. The kayak launch wont go into the water until spring. The work that's been done the past 3 days is amazing. Broderick is glad A-1 Landcare is the company that was hired to do the work. The bathrooms are also almost complete in the outfall building. Broderick encourages everyone to stop in and see all of the work they are doing.

RESIDENT STATEMENTS

Mayor Cota said, being that the Town and Village are a connected system, with the proposed moratorium, does that also effect the Village so he knows if he needs to bring it up at their Village meeting. Ritter said the moratorium would go system-wide.

Morreale MOVED to adjourn. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0. 6:47 P.M.

Transcribed and
Respectfully submitted by:

Tamara Burns
Town Clerk

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