

Regular Town Board Meeting

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor S. Broderick; Councilmembers W. Burg, R. Morreale, J. Myers, & S. Weachter; Dep. Sup. W. Conrad; Bldg. Inspector T. Masters; Police Chief M. Salada; Eng. C. Jarrell; Atty. A. Bax; Water Foreman D. Zahno; WPCC Ch. Op. J. Ritter; Hwy Sup. M. Weiss; Rec. Director T. Smith; Town Clerk T. Burns & Deputy Clerk B. Cogland; 23 Residents, and 3 Press.

ZOOM: Finance Director J. Agnello, 2 Residents and 1 Press

EXCUSED: Sr. Coordinator M. Olick

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

Cogland read the legal notice into the record

Please take notice that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town of Lewiston, Niagara County, New York, on the 24th of August, 2026 commencing at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1375 Ridge Road, Lewiston, New York, on the adoption of “Local Law #4 of 2026 – A LOCAL LAW IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE PLACEMENT, INSTALLATION, USE, STORAGE, AND OCCUPANCY OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS WITHIN THE TOWN OF LEWISTON, NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK.”

Said law is intended to provide time for the Town Board of the Town of Lewiston to research and adopt appropriate modifications to the Town of Lewiston comprehensive zoning regulations.

The complete text of said law is on file at the office of the Town Clerk and is available for review by any interested person during business hours. At such Public Hearing, all persons interested, who wish to be heard, will be heard.

Dated: July 27, 2026

Broderick asked if anyone wished to speak. No one present wished to speak.

Morreale MOVED to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0. 6:04p.m.

Broderick said before getting to the agenda items, Highway Superintendent M. Weiss has asked to say a few things.

Over the years, the Highways Department’s approach to drainage maintenance has largely been reactive rather than proactive. Due to limited staffing, efforts have primarily focused on cleaning areas only after complaints have been received. While this has addressed immediate concerns, it has not provided our residents with a long-term solution to the growing drainage and flooding challenges facing our community.

Our current method of operation is no longer sustainable. Aging infrastructure, changing weather patterns, and years of deferred maintenance have placed an overwhelming demand on our existing workforce. The dedication of my current employees has allowed us to accomplish a tremendous amount, but they cannot continue to meet these increasing demands without additional support.

Since taking on the role of Highway Superintendent, Broderick and I have spent countless hours meeting with residents, visiting drainage problem areas, inspecting ditches and culverts, and evaluating recurring flooding concerns throughout our community. Doing so has provided valuable insight into both immediate needs and long-term improvements required to better serve our residents. I completely sympathize with our community's concerns; taking action to resolve these issues is top priority.

I remain fully committed to finding a lasting solution to our flooding issues. My goal is not to simply respond to complaints but to develop a comprehensive drainage program that identifies problems before they become emergencies, prioritize critical projects, and create a preventative maintenance schedule that benefits every neighborhood. With that said it needs to be understood that this is not a realistic overnight solution to our problems but a long-term ongoing project that will take time to complete. While not every issue can be resolved immediately, every concern should receive careful evaluation, honest communication and a plan for moving forward. I plan to complete these projects while remaining fiscally responsible.

To effectively address our community's drainage needs, I recommend establishing a dedicated Drainage Division as a part of our current Highway Department responsible for routine inspection and maintenance of roadside and off-road ditches, culverts, and drainage channels, preventative cleaning programs rather than complaint-driven responses, flood mitigation planning and project development, mapping and documenting drainage infrastructure, coordinating drainage improvements with road projects, responding efficiently to emergency flooding events, and maintaining regular communication with residents regarding drainage concerns.

The Highway Department will need new equipment including a larger excavator, tub grinder, and off-road dump truck and a dedicated budget line for perforated drainpipe, drainage gravel or crushed stone, landscape fabric, solid drainpipe, pipe connectors, couplings, elbows, and end caps as needed, catch basin or drain inlets, and topsoil and sod or mulch to restore the area. This will also require a 3-man crew. The staffing structure would allow for both routine maintenance and response while planning future infrastructure improvements along with help of current staff.

Residents also play an important role in maintaining our drainage system. I respectfully ask everyone to help by avoiding the placement of brush, leaves, grass clippings, or other debris in roadways, roadside ditches, and drainage channels. These materials restrict water flow, clog culverts and catch basins, and contribute to localized flooding during heavy rainfall. By working together, we can improve drainage performance throughout the community. Approximately between 2012-2014 the Highway Superintendent, at that time, cut the drainage division. I firmly believe we need to reinstate this division. This proposal

represents more than the creation of a new drainage division; it represents a long-term commitment to the residents of our community. My objective is to build a drainage program to protect homes, roadways, and public infrastructure for years to come.

By investing in a drainage division with dedicated personnel, equipment and proactive maintenance, we can move away from a complaint-driven system and move toward one that prevents these events from happening before it occurs. While these improvements will take time, planning, and investment, I am committed to working alongside this community, employees, and current administration to develop lasting solutions that improve the quality of life for everyone.

I've only been in this position for a year, unfortunately some of the drainage issues were not properly addressed by my predecessors. Please bear with us as we work diligently to understand these issues, develop solutions, and make necessary improvements. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work toward getting these issues resolved.

Broderick and the Town Board have been completely supportive of finding solutions to these issues and are in full support of our Highway Department. I appreciate their continued support and their commitment to working together to address these issues.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Waechter MOVED to approve the agenda. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

RESIDENT STATEMENTS

Nancy Deering – Hillview Court

Deering came to speak on the severe flooding she has experienced. Deering said she has been addressing the Town Board since she bought her home in 1989, 37 years ago. Deering lives on the lowest lying property on Hillview Court and therefore has received the “brunt of the flooding”. She said her yard becomes a lake, and this has caused the floor of her shed to rot as well as the lower boards of the outside of the shed, washed away her raised garden, and leaves behind a mess of mud, debris, and stone in her yard and in the street. Every time there is a downpour, a deluge of water flows down the escarpment across a portion of Creek Road Extension and continues to pour down the side of Hillview Court in which Deering resides. Deering said the flood water pours down from the escarpment to an open dirt ditch plugged with brush, leaves, and grass clippings. Deering asked that someone find the source of the poor drainage from above the hill. Deering expressed her gratitude for Supervisor Broderick for stopping to talk with her several weeks ago, but said she “respectfully cannot accept excuses anymore”. She was told by Broderick that the Hojack Railroad has jurisdiction, yet since that talk, she has learned that the Hojack was sold years ago to Washuta. Masters said south of Creek Road Extension is owned by Niagara Mohawk, not Washuta. Deering said another excuse given by previous Town officials for inaction was that Creek Road Ext. is a State Highway and the Town cannot interfere. Deering said after 37 years of flooding she feels it's time the Town steps up and “builds new court” and though she's not an engineer she feels it makes sense to start with the open dirt

ditch, finding and correcting the source of drainage issues at the top of the hill. Deering said what was just said by Mr. Weiss was very uplifting to hear, especially when it came to the necessity of cleaning ditches, drains, and catch basins. She looks forward to seeing what will be done and all the ways Weiss plans to help change the situation.

Waechter asked Deering if she had any sewer backup. Deering said no sewage in the basement, just water. Waechter said she will be asking this question to everyone to take notes for where people experienced water pooling, and where sewage was backing up. She has some areas marked on a map already, but the extra input would be very helpful.

Linda Scalzo – Creek Road

Scalzo said she came to demand answers and express her anger over the flooding issues she has experienced at her home over the years, but since she doesn't believe she will get any answers she would like to address some other issues instead. Her first issue is the statement that was posted on Facebook by the Waste Water Treatment Plant on August 11th. Scalzo found the wording of certain parts of the letter to be "rude, dismissive, and insensitive to residents who had just cleaned raw sewage out of their basement, not once, but twice in a five-day period." Scalzo said the post suggested that some residents do not understand the difference between stormwater and sanitary sewer, but she is sure after all these years, the difference is known by all. The statement then went on to list things that residents can do to protect themselves, but Scalzo said these are all things that come with more cost to the homeowner and none of which come with a guarantee. Scalzo said nowhere on the letter does it say what the Town is doing. The statement "do this and you'll never have to call the Town again" is something that rubbed Scalzo the wrong way because as a taxpayer, she does not feel residents should be made to feel discouraged to call the Town.

Scalzo read a letter

"Since 2017, my residence has experienced four separate sewage backup events. These incidents have caused extensive property damage, significant cleanup costs, ongoing emotional distress, and adverse effects on my physical health and well-being. The repeated intrusion of raw sewage into my home has caused me substantial mental anguish, anxiety, stress, frustration, and loss of enjoyment of my property. What should be a place of comfort and security has instead become a source of constant fear and uncertainty. Despite numerous complaints and documentation provided to the Town over the years, and despite similar complaints from neighboring residents, no permanent solution has been implemented.

The financial burden associated with these repeated events has been overwhelming. The cumulative costs of repairs, remediation, cleanup, replacement of damaged property, and preventative measures now exceed the amount I originally paid for my home. I was forced to install a backwater valve at my own expense in an effort to protect my property, yet even this measure provides no assurance that future backups will not occur.

The emotional impact of these events continues long after the visible damage has been addressed. Following each sewage backup, I have experienced persistent headaches,

physical illness, stress, and anxiety for weeks. Even after cleanup efforts are completed, I continue to detect odors associated with sewage contamination, creating an ongoing sense of discomfort and concern regarding the safety and cleanliness of my home.

As an insulin-dependent diabetic, these incidents have had an especially severe impact on my sense of safety and well-being. The contamination caused by raw sewage has left me fearful of handling medical supplies and administering insulin injections within my own home because everything feels contaminated. This fear and anxiety have significantly affected my daily life and peace of mind.

Additionally, periods of heavy rainfall now trigger substantial emotional distress. Rather than feeling secure in my home, I constantly worry that another sewage backup will occur. I am often reluctant to leave my home during or after significant rain events because I fear returning to discover additional flooding, contamination, and damage. This ongoing fear has substantially diminished my quality of life and my ability to enjoy my home.

For nearly a decade, I have endured repeated sewage intrusions, property damage, financial loss, disruption of daily living, physical illness, and continuing emotional distress. The cumulative effect has been severe and ongoing, with no indication that a permanent solution is forthcoming.”

Second, Scalzo read the following statements she had prepared regarding the backflow preventer program: “First, the program should correctly identify the equipment being installed. A backwater valve is not a backflow preventer. These are two different devices that serve different purposes, and the grant documents should use the proper terminology so residents clearly understand what is being funded and installed in their homes. The eligibility requirements state that the program is available to owner-occupied single-family and two-family homes that are "chronically burdened with sewer backup issues relating to inflow and infiltration during significant rainfall events." This raises several important questions. How are these affected areas identified? Who determines which properties qualify? Is there a map or list of these areas that can be made publicly available? Residents deserve transparency regarding how eligibility is determined. In addition, if the Town's position is that sewer backups are caused by inflow and infiltration and that "water seeks its own level," what happens as more homeowners install the Town-recommended backwater valves? If sewage can no longer enter those homes, does the pressure and flow simply move elsewhere in the system, potentially affecting properties that have not historically experienced backups? If affected areas have already been identified, and these issues have existed for more than twenty years, residents also deserve to know what long-term infrastructure improvements have been made to address the root cause of the problem rather than simply shifting the burden of protection to individual homeowners. Second, the liability and insurance requirements raise serious concerns. The Town is not hiring the contractor, selecting the contractor, supervising the work, or paying the contractor directly. The homeowner is responsible for hiring and paying the contractor. Therefore, it is reasonable for the Town to disclaim responsibility for contractor workmanship, but it is difficult to understand why homeowners are also being asked to indemnify the Town and waive their rights through such broad language.

The agreement states: 'The homeowner hereby agrees to indemnify and hold the Town of Lewiston harmless against any and all claims and further covenants not to sue the Town of Lewiston for any and all claims.' What exactly does "any and all claims" mean? Does it apply only to contractor workmanship and the installation of the backwater valve, or does it extend to claims involving the Town's sewer infrastructure? If a homeowner installs a backwater valve through this program and later experiences another sewer backup, does the Town believe that homeowner has waived any right to pursue a claim related to the Town's sewer system? If not, the agreement should be revised to clearly state that the release applies only to contractor workmanship and the performance of the valve itself. No matter how the language is interpreted, the practical concern remains the same. If I experience another sewer backup caused by a known problem within the Town's sewer system, and the backwater valve fails to prevent damage, the focus will immediately shift to the valve. The question will become, "What failed?" Was it the Town's sewer system, or was it the valve? The Town can point to the valve and the signed waiver, while the homeowner is left bearing the loss. Residents are being asked to install equipment on their own property, hire and pay their own contractor, maintain the device for the life of the home, indemnify the Town, and agree not to sue. In return, they receive a \$2,500 reimbursement. That raises an important question: is this program intended to help homeowners protect their homes, or does it effectively transfer responsibility for a known municipal infrastructure problem onto individual property owners? Finally, the process itself is unnecessarily complicated. Homeowners dealing with recurring sewage backups are already under significant stress and are trying to protect their homes before the next storm event. Requiring pre-inspections, approvals, and additional administrative steps before work can begin only delays the solution. The process should be simple: 1. Homeowner submits an application. 2. Homeowner hires a qualified contractor. 3. The backwater valve is installed. 4. The Town performs a final inspection. 5. The Town issues the reimbursement. This is a reimbursement program, not a Town construction project. The focus should be on helping residents quickly reduce the risk of future sewer backups, particularly when those backups are tied to known limitations within the Town's sewer system. I respectfully ask the Board to revise this program by correcting the terminology, clarifying the eligibility criteria, making affected-area information publicly available, narrowing the liability language to contractor-related issues only, removing unnecessary administrative burdens, and creating a straightforward process that truly serves the residents it was intended to help."

Scalzo said after the first sewer backup, she was told the problem was her lateral. "Following that advice and approximately \$18,000 to excavate and replace the line, the backups happened again. Suddenly the problem wasn't the lateral, the problem was the Town's sewer infrastructure. Fast forward to today, and I have experienced three additional sewer events." She said on August 2nd after calling the Town in frustration, two Town employees came to her home, one pointed to the floor drain actively discharging raw sewage, and said needed to hire a plumber and cap that drain. She asked if she needed to cap the toilet too where it was flowing out of or the shower? Scalzo asked if she should have to cap everything in her house because the Town sewer system is failing? Scalzo's husband has been a plumber for over 40 years, and they understand plumbing, and drainage, and the difference between a homeowner problem and a municipal infrastructure failure. Scalzo witnessed that day was not problem solving it was blame shifting. She was told floor drains are not allowed in new construction and would not pass an inspection. She asked if our sewer system is already struggling under existing demand, is the Town properly evaluating

the impact of continued development on an aging sewer system? “That answer seems obvious, but here we are issuing permits, not only for homes, but condos and developments.” Scalzo installed a check valve and hopes this will help protect her home in the future. She is no longer standing here for herself, but for her fellow residents who cannot afford thousands of dollars in plumbing modifications, the elderly residents on fixed incomes, and young families who cannot absorb \$10-30,000 expenses to fix the system. Scalzo said the current administration is making an embarrassment of the Town of Lewiston. There was a time when she would tell people she lives in Lewiston and the response would be “what a beautiful town” and now that has shifted to “is that the Town with the flooding problems? How are your sewers?” She said this is becoming what Lewiston is known for and we can compare it to Niagara Falls and Love Canal.

“Lewiston deserves better, our residents deserve better, and at some point, we have to stop and ask ourselves whether the current approach is working, because after decades of issues, the residents are still standing here asking the same questions and are being told the same stories. When does it end? When do we stop accepting temporary fixes and start demanding lasting solutions? Because the reputation of this town, the trust of its residents, and the quality of the families who live here depend on it. The ability to flush a toilet, take a shower, and trust that sewage will safely be removed from your home is not a luxury – it is one of the most basic services local government infrastructures is intended to provide. New York State law recognizes the necessity of sewage systems for the protection of public health and federal law recognizes the importance of wastewater systems in preventing pollution and protecting the community.”

Clayton Miller – Creek Road

Miller thanked the Board for not setting a time limit on statements today and letting everyone have the chance to speak their peace. Miller has thoroughly read the minutes accounting for every word that has been spoken in every board meeting since 2016. This being said, Miller has absolutely no doubt that each board member and department head present today cares deeply about this topic. Miller said he one hundred percent believes if there was some “magic wand” that could be waved to fix these issues, any one of the Town representatives would have waved it. Miller said he also believes it “guts” everyone here the same way it does him to drive down areas like Creek Road on garbage day and see piles of our neighbors’ belongings being thrown out due to damage. At the same point, he said, he believes the Town is past the point of anyone in the room fixing the issue. Miller said, as a historical anecdote, when the Apollo 13 mission went wrong. For two straight days, all the people at NASA and all the people on the shuttle worked to fix the issue to get Apollo 13 back. They tried everything, were committed to it, but eventually after the second day, they said “we need help.” So, the team called the best jet propulsion specialist in the country. They called the best engineers, and tracked down the company that made thrusters. Their making the call and saying “we need help” is the reason Tom Hanks lives at the end of the Apollo 13 movie. Miller said he firmly believes that despite all of the Town Council’s best efforts, the Town needs help from either a firm or person who at this moment is in another municipality making corrections to the same issues the Town of Lewiston is having right now. Miller said even if the Town does not hire or contact anyone, he still thinks the Board should put together an RFP for information from an outside company that can potentially

contract with Lewiston and fix these issues. Miller said part of asking for help is letting go of ego and hubris, and when it's time for elections, most of the elected officials all say they'll fix Lewiston's infrastructure, yet nothing is getting fixed.

Miller told the Board most of these issues go way past their administration terms, back to 2018. Miller said he has recorded every time any word associated with flooding, or drainage or sewers has come up in the Town of Lewiston Board Meetings since 2008 and put it on a spreadsheet he has online. 2,147 times since 2008 terms around flooding have come up. Miller said despite everyone's best efforts the Town is nowhere near being where it needs to be. "It's ok to say we need help." If a company comes in and has a viable long-term solution, then that company should have wide open authority to enact the changes that need to happen. As a community, everyone needs to "buckle up and get their checkbooks out" and though that's no personal fault of the Town Board, Miller says there are things that should have been being done incrementally for a long time. The second part of this conversation that is coming is what is it going to cost everyone? "As a community, we are going to have to suck it up and help these people out."

Tim Henderson – Oneida Street - Village of Lewiston

Henderson was a licensed Waste Water Treatment Plant operator for Lewiston for almost 30 years. About a year ago, Henderson attended a Board Meeting and said the crowd looks the same as now as it did then. At that time, he questioned the allocation of the \$15,000 towards the Engineering Department to do a study of the flooding. With so many basements still flooding, Henderson said, the only person benefitting from these studies are the engineers. During Henderson's time at the Treatment Plant, he and his partner did extensive walk around surveys of troubled areas, and they looked in every manhole in the Town and just about everyone was leaking. Henderson said they dye tested the parking lots at Niagara University and found that some of the roofs on the dormitories were discharging directly into the sewer system. The Board back then took that seriously and put \$250,000 towards cleanup campaigns and made things right. Henderson said they also found, off of Bronson Drive, a manhole that some kids had taken the cover off, and realized during the high flows, we were draining fish creek. Henderson and his fellow operator at the time made suggestions that were largely ignored, so he said he would offer them again now. The WPCC serves approximately 27,000 residents. It's estimated that each individual contributes around 100 gallons every day, putting the plant almost at capacity even on a sunny day. Henderson said he has been at the plant during high flow events where the inflow has reached over 12 million gallons. He suggested the installation of an automatic overflow line, something like an intercept, on the line that goes into the Treatment Plant. When the flow reached a certain level, this would automatically take over the flow into the outfall line before it even gets to the Treatment Plant. Also, there is an area behind the Treatment Plant that could accommodate a third overflow retention facility. Henderson said the Town could apply to the DEC for a waiver to bypass before it gets to a certain level. He also suggested an increase in scheduling for clearing lines including the Village lines off Center Street that are consistently flooded with grease from the restaurants, possibly sleeves in the older areas that would help with the I&I. If these failed, Henderson said, as a last resort, an adjustment could be made to effected homes in their taxes that would reflect their cleanup costs. Many homes in the area now pay more in cleanup costs than they do in taxes,

and the homeowners should not be living in fear of rain events. Several people he knows are actually living with some form of PTSD from these events. He thanked the Board and asked they take this matter seriously. Waechter asked Henderson if he experienced sewage backup at his home during the rain events. He was one of the lucky ones who did not.

Rick Flores – Stacey Drive

Flores said he appreciates everything Weiss said. He has felt like there has been a lack of transparency before. Flores understands that Weiss has only been in his position for a year and knows there isn't too much that can realistically be expected to change in a year's time. Flores's story started back in 2002 when he built his house. Flores had a lot of water problems from 2002-2008. He said he was "going through sump pumps like candy." Finally in 2008 the Town came to him when Bob Nablo used to work for the Water Department and he implied to Flores that he had built his home on top of an artesian well. There was no artesian well, but rather a Town main leak somewhere, but it was never found. Instead, the Town put two dams in front of his house to offset the stormwater going into his house. From 2008-2024 Flores said he was fortunate, nothing else happened. Now there are a lot of new builds in that area on Legacy Drive and Northridge Drive, so a lot of additional water in the area. During the most recent rain storm, there was water coming down from Mountain View Drive. Someone was pumping water right down the highway – sanitary water that is. Some people say it was sewer water, but the manholes say 'sanitary.' Flores is tired of having sanitary water come up through his toilet in his basement, especially considering he has a fairly new home. "This shouldn't happen." Sewer and sanitary water are two different things. "Why the Town is having so many issues with infiltration between the storm and sanitary waters. This is a big problem, and another main problem is half the Town is saying "this is the Sewer Department's problem" while the Sewer Department says the issue is the storm sewers, not the sanitary sewers."

Flores said he hears the excuse that the State will not allow the Town to clean the ditches because of muscles. This is something Flores is tired of hearing, and said that there should be more working together to find a solution. In his area, there are 7 new homes and every one of them had sanitary sewer backup in their basements. Flores asked how would anyone else like for their own grandchildren to be playing in their cellars after something like that happened? He has a grandson and does not want this to happen anymore and have to worry about that.

Broderick read a letter submitted by Eva Nicklas of Oneida Street in the Village of Lewiston:

"I am Eva Nicklas and I live at 903 Oneida St in the Village of Lewiston. I'll be out of town for this important meeting but I write this statement because I too, experienced raw sewage flooding into my basement during the last two storm events. My damages are substantial, several thousand dollars so far, and I live in fear of rainy says.

As long as I've lived here, I never experienced ANY water problems in my basement until after the clearing of acres of green space behind Tim Horton's. That land was replaced with new buildings, parking lots, driveways, brick, concrete and asphalt . . . and water has no place to go. I wonder if the impact on sewer systems were carefully evaluated before all that development was approved? Relentless expansion shouldn't come at the expense of

longtime residents and we shouldn't have to deal with the consequences, or the expense, of poor planning and over-developing . . . in historic Lewiston."

Sharon Bland – Lower River Road

Bland is a fourth generation Lewiston resident, residing on the corner of Lower River Road and Chicora Road. Bland has formed a citizen action group, and has so far over 300 homeowners who have experienced damages in our community. "But obviously, this is a Niagara County problem." She wanted to issue a brief rebuttal to a few statements made by Weiss and Ritter which were insensitive and suggested the residents do not know the difference between sewer water in their basement, and storm water – which they do Bland said. The residents are not junking up the ditches, mother nature puts debris in the ditches. State law requires the Town, and County, and State to maintain their right of ways. Bland said she has lived here long enough to say, as can many others, that the Town of Lewiston is not maintaining it's ditches. Bland said she has been contacting the Town of 40 years – her grandmother broke her leg in their ditch, her mother broke her arm in the ditch, and she is still the one trying to maintain the ditch. Bland reached out to Weiss in February requesting help when she experienced flooding then and got nothing. She then filed a notice of claim and now has \$7,000-15,000 worth of damage, a huge crack in her basement and sewer water and flies. Bland said the storm system was not working and she notified the Highway Department of this problem in February. Bland said to the statement about the Town needing to be proactive rather than reactive – she has been paying taxes for decades to clean the ditches. Before the Board decides to allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars to a new department and new employees, Bland wants to know where the infrastructure dollars go, and why are the ditches not being maintained, why is the state not enforcing it, and when are the County and the State going to step in and help residents? There are hundreds of people with hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages. After, Bland said, she received no response from the Highway Department, she filed three more notices of claims, and had submitted a FOIL request for all of the infrastructure records in order to audit the Town of Lewiston and find out where those dollars are being spent. Bland also issued a letter to all Niagara County mayors, supervisors, and townships to ask them to take part in programs that exist to help create the infrastructure. There is government money out there, and all the Town has to do is apply for it.

Bland said there has been a 350% increase in property assessments. Residents have paid money for infrastructure and property values are predicated on things like storm water, sewage, and not radioactive waste runoff that raises much concern. Bland said "before a single penny gets spent on additional departments, personnel, and equipment, we want Town meetings. We want accountability. We want to have these conversations because there are many, many people affected. We want no more band aids." There are two programs that already exist – the Clean Water Revolving State Fund which provides grant monies and low interest loans at 7%. Many neighboring municipalities are already availing the New York State Resilient Watershed Grant Program which is funded by the Environmental Bond Act. This is would require the Town to get a resilient New York flood study or have a DEC approved comparable study. Once that is done, the Town can apply for many kinds of improvement grants. There are plenty of programs and plenty of money and help available for what the Town of Lewiston needs. Volunteers are needed to help clean up areas if there is not enough personnel. These things must be fixed before spring or else

there will be more problems a lot worse than the ones the Town is already experiencing now. She is asking the Town Board and department heads to look into these programs that can help the Town as well as all the various mayors and supervisors in Niagara County to register their damages on the website the State has put forth. Bland has a petition on change.org and is trying to get Governor Hochul to answer her, but she's getting a bit of blowback because "they don't want to take responsibility for their part in our problems." Bland told the Board she knows this isn't their fault, she has lived here a very long time and these problems have always existed. It doesn't matter what came before anymore, it only matters what is done tomorrow. If these problems aren't fixed the property values will depreciate. Lewiston is the equivalent of a basin and becoming an effective flood zone. Bland said when residents call for flood insurance, it's double the cost of homeowners insurance and only covers \$250,000 – which won't cover most of Lewiston residents' home values. Bland said she feels like Lewiston residents are being victimized by local providers that are fixing cracks in basements. Bland has visited multiple other homes whose basement walls are caving in. "It is disgusting, it is a health issue, it's just appalling. I've never seen anything like it." Everyone has to start focusing on the problems and paying attention to the fixes that people are putting in, because Bland also put a fix in that failed. Bland knows others who have had things fixed and those fixes failed and now basements are caving in and residents cannot live in their own homes anymore. She said this is happening because the repairs are only internal band aids and the problem is outside. Bland said her "theme for the day is no more band aids. Please help find permanent solutions. We deserve that"

Waechter asked Bland if she had the website she mentioned, and if it was through FEMA. Bland said she has a paper with all the information laid out she would be happy to give copies. Waechter said that would be very helpful and that can be posted onto the Town of Lewiston website so it can be catalogued so if the Town can apply for any federal money, or FEMA money, all the information can be aggregated together. Bland said she is trying to get people to put a sign out in their front yards that says they were a flood victim because people are misunderstanding when she was trying to gather names together because there are thresholds and she is not completely sure if it is a property threshold or a monetary threshold or both. She said some people are just saying its because their sump pumps didn't work. She said what matters is if anyone had any kind of water damage, we can't meet the threshold unless we know it. Waechter said she believes is it a monetary threshold somewhere around \$38 million. Bland said Governor Hochul referred her to Homeland Security's emergency response team. The county has to have \$1.3 million in damages, and the state has to have \$38 million. Bland said they also told her that FEMA doesn't cover private people/property. Bland said she's not completely sure how all of that works but she does know there is plenty of money out there the Town can apply for.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Morreale MOVED to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS

Abstract of
Claims

Burg MOVED to approve the Regular Abstract of Claims Numbered 26-02317 thru 26-02462 recommended total payment in the amount of \$525,035.58 plus a Post Audit in the amount of \$16,590.29. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD STATEMENTS

Clerk's Office – B. Cogland

The postage machine lease is up, so the Clerks office is asking for approval to extend the lease and have the Town Clerk sign the lease renewal with Pitney Bowes for another 60 months at \$173.05/month.

Pitney Bowes
Lease renewal

Waechter MOVED to approve a 60-month lease renewal with Pitney Bowes. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0.

Waechter MOVED to approve the Town Clerk to sign the lease renewal with Pitney Bowes. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0.

The Town Clerk received three bids for key fobs for 25 inside doors and 2 outside doors at Town Hall. Maximum Security bid \$57,500, Security 101 bid \$51,750, and Technical Solutions bid \$23,856. The Town Clerk requested approval to accept the low bid from Technical Solutions.

Key Fob bid
awarded to
Technical
Solutions

Waechter MOVED to approve the bid from Technical Solutions in the amount of \$23,856 for key fobs for the doors at Town Hall to be paid from H97. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0.

Waechter MOVED to approve the Town Clerk to sign the contract with Technical Solutions. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

The uniform and mat contract through Vestis is up in December of this year. To get a head start for a smooth transition, the Clerk's office would like to start obtaining bids for this now. This would cover the mats and uniforms for the Water Department, Sewer Department, Highway Department and Clerks Office.

uniforms and
mats to bid

Morreale MOVED to approve going out to bid for uniforms and mats. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.

Highway Supt. – M. Weiss

The Highway Department has been out cleaning ditches. They have started in the areas around Langdon Road and will continue to clean ditches along with other projects. Cleaning ditches takes a lot of time and that is the reason Weiss had asked for approval to hire extra help. The Highway Department has been working alongside the WPCC with the camera and sewer jet in storm drains to see if they can pinpoint any problems. Waechter asked Weiss if the two additional employees he is asking to hire to clean ditches would be just a summer job or if there is work they could also do in the winter or if this would be

strictly ditch cleaning. Weiss said as long as there's not six feet of snow on the ground they can continue cleaning ditches and cutting down trees year-round. Weiss said he is looking to add two MEOs to the department for the purpose of cleaning ditches and clearing drainage blockages. These workers would be utilized for other highway projects if absolutely needed, but their main purpose would strictly be cleaning and maintaining the ditches. He said it will time to get to where we need to be, but this would be a start. These workers would be hired as part of a ditching crew with a primary focus on cleaning ditches with a preventative maintenance program to get the Town back into a position where it's not struggling to spend months cleaning out a ditch. A budget line will need to be created to cover equipment and supply purchases for the ditch division.

Waechter MOVED to approve the Highway Department to hire two additional MEOs for the purpose of cleaning and maintaining ditches in the Town. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

Burg asked if the Highway Department has enough equipment for this new division to be productive now once they are hired. Weiss said they do, but there is equipment they don't have that would be ideal for this kind of work that would make the process much faster and more efficient. A tub grinder would allow the department to take care of the trees and such right on site and it would go back to the earth as opposed to having to make multiple trips hauling trees away. It would save a lot of time to be able to grind them on the property. Waechter asked if this was budgeted for this year or if Weiss would be amending his proposed budget line for next year's budget. Weiss said that is something he will need to discuss with the Finance Officer. Weiss said it will take some time to find the right people for the positions so this isn't something that is going to happen right away.

WPCC Chief Operator – J. Ritter

Ritter said Lewiston got almost ten inches of rain in five days, if it were snow that would be the equivalent of 8 feet. That is a lot for any area. Ritter said his heart goes out to everyone affected by this. Ritter has spoke with every resident who spoke today, and hundreds of others. When the Town experiences flooding issues and the ditches are flooded, there is no way to keep the water out of the sanitary sewer. It will back into low lying properties. Ritter said he never meant to offend anyone with the letter that was posted on Facebook. The purpose was to help give ways residents can protect themselves as well.

Engineer – C. Jarrell

GHD felt it was important to have someone attend the meeting to hear what residents have to say about the recent events. GHD will continue working with the Town and have been meeting with the Supervisor, Town Board, and Highway Department. Options are being discussed on methods of improvement. Waechter asked if there was a hard copy of the drainage study of Morgan Farms available. She has it online but would rather have a hard copy she can go through and capture notes from. Broderick said there are areas with historic problems some going back 60-70 years. Broderick said the "big question mark" is Lewis Town Park. That neighborhood has been going in since the 1980s which may sound like a long time ago but it is relatively new in terms of drainage. The Highway and Sewer

Highway
Dept to hire
2 MEOs

Departments have been in that neighborhood lately with jets and cameras trying to find what the problem is there. The Town performed a topographical study in the Morgan Farms area with current as-built drawings.

Request an RFP from GHD to investigate Drainage issues **Broderick MOVED to request an RFP from GHD to investigate the drainage issues in Lewis Town Park phase 8 and 9 (Perry Court, Stacy Drive, Raymond Drive, Sara Court, Lauren Court). Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.**

This effort will include necessary topographic and boundary survey, storm water modeling concept, and final design of the storm water infrastructure improvements. Burg said he knows the Town recognizes the infiltration issues and have been dealing with them for years. He said he is curious to know what is the corporate structure of GHD. "Are they prepared to give the necessary resources we need and do they have the people on staff that can get us answers in a relatively short period of time?" Jarrell said absolutely. GHD has multiple offices that share resources and work together as a larger team consisting of thousands of employees. She said even some of the early work they've done has not been just from the local staff. It has been shared across the offices to find the best technical staff to work on what is needed. GHD has many systems in place to ensure they constantly have the right staff and available staff to work on each project. GHD will commit to seeing that this project like every other is done properly and in a reasonable amount of time. "This can not linger as we have heard tonight." Burg asked if there is a rough time estimate? Jarrell said not at this time, but it will be put together as quick as possible following tonight's meeting. Burg asked for monthly reports and updates to be made available. Moving forward Lannon will be present at the meetings to give updates. Broderick said what is being asked is a proposal on what will be done, how much it will cost and such. Waechter said she knows this is only a request for a proposal, and GHD has been involved in other engineering projects and is currently working on a project in Tonawanda for installing sewer liners. Waechter said what she wants to know is after all these studies are done and all the information is gathered, is GHD capable of developing an action plan for the Town that can be used in applications for assistance. Jarrell asked if she's looking for something like a master plan or what to do when something occurs guidelines? Waechter said she just feels like the Town keeps having all these studies done one after the other and that's great but what's being done with all this information? Some kind of action route needs to be made for all the issues that are being identified. Something the Town can write grant applications off of. Waechter said there seems to be a disconnect with the information being gathered and the applicability of that information. Jarrell said the best format would be to start putting a more overall picture together of the Town and focus areas. Studies can identify areas of interest, but then that needs an action plan to say what will actually be done to improve the infrastructure and/or repair or modify whatever needs to be. This first proposal starts this process in the one area, but there needs to be a comprehensive list put together of all the areas of interest and start prioritizing and planning ahead. Waechter asked if there are any other historical studies that GHD has already done in Lewiston, Town or Village. Jarrell said there are other drainage studies GHD has done for local municipalities throughout Niagara County, nothing comes to mind involving Lewiston specifically, but she will double check with Lannon.

Broderick invited legislatures Irene Myers and Mike Casale who attended the meeting. Broderick thanked them both for attending. Broderick said some of these issues may need the County or even the State's involvement. Casale said it was their pleasure to be here to listen and that the County will be getting together. He and Myers have had conversations with chairman of Niagara County's Infrastructure Facilities Committee. He said rest assured there will be more communication and a plan made on how to lend some support to the effort. Legislature Casale was also a victim of major flooding. Casale said he fully understands and sympathizes with everyone affected as he himself had sewage backed up in his basement during both recent rain events July 26-27th and August 2nd. Broderick also acknowledged the Mayor of Lewiston Dan Cota and thanked him for attending as well. Casale said he would like to thank the Mayor of Lewiston as well – for getting guys out clearing ditches near his home and also between the parkway and the trail. Casale said he knows Cota is looking to work with the DEC to get permits that the Village needs to get more cleared out. Cota said they should have those permits in the next 14 days. Casale said on a county level, they need all the towns to work together. He said they don't want something the Town of Lewiston does to negatively effect the Town of Niagara or vice versa. Broderick said nothing the Town of Lewiston would do to get rid of water would affect the Town of Niagara at all, if anyone was affected it would be the Town of Porter as the water goes North, or West into the river. Casale said he knows the DEC applications can be burdensome and the County is willing to help with the process if there is need for assistance. Broderick said the ditches on the east and west side of the parkway is a big source of where all the water goes, the permit was signed, it is owned by New York Parks. Town of Lewiston had a lease with New York Parks for the trail/bike path to operate that area but the ditches belong to NYS Parks. They signed a permit application that Cota started on Friday. Waechter has also contacted the Governor's office directly along with Mayor Cota to seek their assistance on other areas that have issues such as Four Mile Creek, Fish Creek, and Gil Creek. Waechter is hopeful that communication can be established there and Lewiston can receive the State's assistance with the DEC for those creeks. Legislature Myers said they will be putting much effort into trying to look at the big picture of everything. Our weather pattern is changing, and to date have received 42 inches of rain which is well above average in this area. Broderick said every town is dealing with flooding, and DEC and drainage issues.

Recreation Director – T. Smith

Camp season is finished. Preparing for the next season, Smith said he doesn't want to talk about it too much yet and let everyone enjoy the last two weeks of summer before thinking about it. There are a lot of upcoming events for both adults and children.

FINANCE

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

1. A request to move \$105 to Justice Equipment A00-1110-0200-0000 from Justice Contractual - A00-1110-0400-0000, to cover equipment expenses.

2. A request to move \$2,000 to Building Equipment A00-1620-0200-0000 from Building Contractual - A00-1620-0400-0000, to cover equipment expenses.
3. A request to move \$100 to Recreation Concessions Personnel A00-7310-0100-4402 from Recreation Seasonal Personnel - A00-7310-0100-0000, to cover Concessions payroll expenses.
4. A request to move \$100 to Recreation Concessions Contractual - A00-7310-0402-0000 from Recreation Contractual - A00-7310-0400-0000, to cover Concessions contractual expenses.
5. A request to move \$1,682 to Property Insurance DB0-1910-0400-0000 from General Repairs Contractual - DB0-5110-0400-0000, budget to cover insurance expenses.
6. A request to move \$135,000 to Machinery Equipment - DB0-5130-0200-0000 from Fund Balance - DB0-1000-0599-0000, to cover the purchase of new fittings for the New Payloader.
7. A request to move \$6,000 to Treatment & Disposal Gasoline - SS1-8130-0400-3510 from Transfer from Other Funds - SS1-1000-5031-1189, to cover gasoline expenses.
8. A request to move \$25,000 to Sanitary Gas & Electric - SS2-8120-0400-3500 from Transfer from Other Funds - SS2-1000-5031-1189, to cover electricity expenses.

Budget
Revisions

Morreale MOVED to approve the budget revisions as presented. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0.

OLD/PENDING BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

SUPERVISOR BRODERICK

Gina Iamarino came to ask the board for forgiveness on the water/sewer bill at her sister's property. Their average water bill is \$62.71, and the May 2026 bill was \$5,729.37 because while her sister who owns that house was in the hospital with health issues there was a major pipe bust in the bathroom upstairs that flooded the whole downstairs and no one was there for a couple days and came home to a disaster and had to call the Town to have the water shut off in an emergency. Iamarino was able to set up a payment plan but is unable to make a dent on this bill and is asking the board to consider giving a partial credit for the break. Broderick asked for proof that the work was done and repairs were made. Iamarino will send them to Broderick and discuss this further with him.

Broderick said the Town just settled the police contract which he believes is now completely finalized. In the past, the pay for Court Officers has matched the part time Police Officers per the Town/Police contract. This is a product of minimum wage going up and therefore everyone's salaries going up.

Court Officer
Pay raise

Broderick MOVED to increase the pay of Court Officers to match that of the part-time Police Officers per contract effective August 24, 2026. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.

Legal

The Town works within the rights of way of the State of New York. Bax has given each board member a resolution authorizing the execution of a new undertaking with the New York State Dept of Transportation. This resolution explains what the Town will be doing indemnifying the State for that work. Bax said this is just a reaffirmation of what the Town did in 2005, this just sets a longer term relationship.

Bax presented resolution 7-2026 “A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a New Undertaking with the New York State Department of Transportation”

WHEREAS, the Town of Lewiston (the “Town”) from time to time receives permits from the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”) and conducts activities and operations upon highways and/or within rights-of-way controlled by the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Town previously executed an undertaking in favor of NYSDOT in connection with its activities and operations affecting State highways, dated August 29, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been presented with a new NYSDOT form of undertaking entitled “UNDERTAKING for the benefit of The New York State Department of Transportation In connection with work affecting state highways,” which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the new undertaking establishes the terms and conditions applicable to the Town’s permitted activities and operations within State highway rights-of-way, including permit applications, compliance with applicable rules and regulations, site restoration, payment and release of liens, indemnification, and the Town’s obligations relating to claims, damages, losses and expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the proposed undertaking and determines that execution of the undertaking is necessary and appropriate to facilitate the Town’s continued ability to obtain and maintain permits from NYSDOT for activities affecting State highways and State highway rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the form of undertaking presented by NYSDOT is to be executed without alteration or modification, and the Town Board intends that the undertaking attached hereto as Exhibit A constitute the exact form approved by this Resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Town Board of the Town of Lewiston hereby approves and authorizes the Town of Lewiston to enter into the NYSDOT undertaking presented to the Town Board and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. The Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Town of Lewiston, to execute the undertaking attached as Exhibit A and to deliver the executed undertaking to NYSDOT, together with a copy of the instant Resolution and any other documents reasonably required by NYSDOT to process and accept the undertaking.

3. The undertaking attached as Exhibit A is incorporated into and made a part of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Resolution
7-2026

Burg MOVED to approve the Resolution no. 7-2026 “A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a New Undertaking with the New York State Department of Transportation.” Seconded by Waechter and carried 5-0.

Myers MOVED to approve the Town Clerk to sign the Resolution. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0

Some months ago, the Town Board authorized Bax to negotiate with the owner of the parcel/property at 1611 Saunders Settlement Road which is the intersection of Garlow Road and Saunders Settlement Road. There are issues with respect to traffic patterns at that intersection, also complaints from the neighboring properties with respects to the property being kept to code. The Town has reached an agreement with the individual owning the parcel to purchase the property for \$60,000. Several deeds and documents are being held in escrow pending the Board’s vote today. The old red/white building has been going to court for 20 years, it is condemned. The intersection is awkward and the Town intends to line the north side of Garlow Road with the south side of Garlow Road to traffic will cross straight across. Also the Town intends to tear down the condemned building. The Town has received a \$50,000 grant from Assemblyman Morinello that can be used to obtain this property as one of the parameters of the grant is to obtain property. Closing costs would be under \$2,000. This difference from the grant and purchase price would be made using the Town’s H97 fund account.

Town purchase
1611 S. S. Rd **Burg MOVED to approve the purchase of the property at 1611 Saunders Settlement Road in the amount of \$60,000 plus closing costs from H97. Seconded by Morreale and carried 5-0.**

Morreale MOVED to approve the Supervisor to sign the purchase contract. Seconded by Waechter and carried 5-0.

COUNCILMAN BURG

Burg read a letter of resignation from Officer Buzzeo.

Officer Buzzeo
resignation **Burg MOVED to accept Officer Buzzeo’s resignation with regret effective August 31, 2026. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.**

The Police Department requested to hire two full time Police Officers to fill upcoming vacancies: Paul Nebel with a start date of September 7, 2026 to fill the vacancy created by Michael Buzzeo who is leaving on August 31, 2026 and Dylan Ljiljanich with a start date of September 8, 2026 to fill the vacancy created by Anthony Nicoletti when he retires on September 25, 2026. Both are being hired from the Civil Service list and need to attend the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy which starts on September 8, 2026.

F/T Police hires **Burg MOVED to approve the hire of Paul Nebel and Dylan Ljiljanich as full time Police Officers. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.**

The Historical Association of Lewiston is holding their annual Lewiston Jeopardy at Bella Rose Winery Wednesday September 16th

COUNCILMAN MORREALE

The Town of Lewiston had an agreement to transfer the streetlights from Buffalo Street in Sanborn back on September 23, 2024. The Supervisor at the time said there were a lot of issues with the wiring on those lights and parts needed were no longer available. There are timers that have to be set for daylight savings time, and the Supervisor said if the Town could work it out with National Grid for them to maintain those lights, and replace what needed to be replaced. National Grid reached out to Morreale saying the contract approved in September 2024 still needed to be signed.

National Grid agreement **Morreale MOVED to approve the Supervisor to sign the Agreement for Transfer of Certain Street lighting Facilities between National Grid and the Town of Lewiston. Seconded by Waechter and carried 5-0.**

Multiple requests for sewer forgiveness were submitted – all for pool repairs.

Morreale MOVED to approve a sewer credit in the amount of \$82.31 for J. Jeras at 510 Riverdale Avenue. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.

Pool credit
Sewer
forgivenesses **Morreale MOVED to approve a sewer credit in the amount of \$188.54 for J. Fortuna at 5268 Lewiston Road. Seconded by Myers and carried 5-0.**

Morreale MOVED to approve a sewer credit in the amount of \$43.56 for K. Baldassarre at 603 Park Lane. Seconded by Waechter and carried 5-0.

COUNCILMAN MYERS – nothing to report

COUNCILWOMAN WAECHTER

The Library received the engineering study for their building repairs. The Senior Center will be closed for construction remodeling the week of Columbus / Indigenous Peoples' Day. Waechter thanked everyone who spoke today, she has also had sewer backup before and knows it is not something to take lightly but wants to say Ritter is doing a good job with what he's been given. The Town is two days away from connecting the big sewer line project at the end of Vrooman Drive. She said she believes this would have helped the situation, but wants everyone to know the Town is working very hard to fix these issues.

Broderick said the Town is only a phone call away, Town employees can not physically do the work for anyone in their homes, but will come to any residence and take a look and help discover issues and help find answers. The backflow preventer program is also available and

the documents are not intended to release all responsibility from the Town, it's not a payoff, the backflow preventers require maintenance and that is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain it once it's installed, the forms simply say if it is not properly maintained and fails later due to that that it is not the Town's responsibility.

The Lower River Road Park project was supposed to be completed last December, well into February, it still was not being worked on, the weather was decent and the company hired for it was still not showing up so the Town called in the performance bond. That did not cost the Town any money. The company who wrote the performance bond put the job out to bid. A-1 Landcare was the winner of that bid, which are the ones who originally built the first pavilion down there. They are going to be finishing the pavilion that is down there now which includes a 120-foot fishing pier that runs parallel to the ground with a kayak launch, it will be ADA compliant with a ramp. The total cost of the project is \$950,000. There were complaints that there was no bathroom there, so bathrooms are being put in the outfall building. This is all being paid by Niagara River Greenway funds which is money that can only be used for those types of projects. Those funds can not be used to fix flooding, as much as everyone wishes it could be. The Greenway funds can only be used for parks, recreation, trails, invasive species things, waterfront. Broderick has spoke with fishing captains who have said they would like to see improvements to the waterfront even in the Village.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Newman missed the public hearing on the storage containers, and said he just hopes the Town can come to a resolution that does not outright ban them from the town. Broderick said the intention isn't to ban them, certain areas maybe, but the goal is just to not make a "free for all" of it.

Morreale MOVED to adjourn the Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Burg and carried 5-0. 7:44p.m.

Transcribed and
Respectfully submitted by:

Briggett R. Cogland
Deputy Town Clerk