

Town of Lewis  
Public Hearings &  
Regular Town Board Meeting

March 12, 2024

Lewis Town Hall

**Present:** Counselors Terry Pulsifer, John Blades, Steven Denton, Supervisor James Monty and Assistant County Attorney Bill Tansey. Counselor Lanita Canavan was excused.

**Public Present:** Cathleen Reusser, Elizabethtown Town Supervisor, Alana Penny with Sun Community News, Glen & Donna Crowningshield, Frank & Janice Rock, Phil Arsenault, Mike & Charmaine Flynn, Jim Rule, Peter Evans, Jeff Scott, Amy Connor, Amy Gumlaw, Ethan Farmer, Caroline Schier and Luke McNally.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Called to Order:**

**The Public Hearing regarding the renewal of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement between the Town of Lewis and Spectrum Northeast LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, was called to order at 6:15 PM by Supervisor Monty.** Supervisor Monty went over the agreement with the public. The agreement will be for 10 years now instead of 15 years as was in the prior agreement. The insurance will increase from \$1,000,000.00 to \$3,000,000.00. Mr. Monty tried to have Charter agree to a senior citizen discount, they didn't agree to the discount. The Town gains roughly \$8,000.00 a year revenue with Charter. No one spoke against the Charter Agreement. At 6:20 PM Supervisor Monty closed the Public Hearing on the franchise agreement.

**The Public Hearing regarding the discussion on the feasibility of forming an Emergency Medical Services taxing District for the Town of Lewis residents, was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Monty.** The Board didn't feel they wanted to be the sole responsibility of imposing additional tax on the Town without the public input. Bill Tansey, assistant County Attorney, went over some rules and regulations of forming a district. **Mr. Tansey handed out a Map, Plan and Report for the Establishment of the Lewis Ambulance District for the Town of Lewis (see attached).** It describes the ambulance district, describes the zone to be the Town of Lewis, describes the fees will be covered by taxes to each taxable property in the Town of Lewis. A discussion was had to form an ambulance district with the public. A lot of questions were asked and answered by Mr. Tansey and Supervisor Monty. Tonight was a preliminary discussion to have with the public and to give them all the facts.

At 7:35 PM Supervisor Monty closed the Public Hearing on the discussion of the EMS forming a taxing district.

**\*\*\*The Regular Town Board Meeting was opened at 7:35 PM by Supervisor Monty\*\*\***

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to accept the February Regular Town Board meeting minutes by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

**Supervisor's Financial Report:** A motion was made to accept the Supervisor's Financial report by John Blades and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.

1. Updated Budget - In packet
2. AFR update - The 12/31/2023 Annual Financial Report file has been certified.

**Public Commentary:** Jeff Scott produced resolution 2011-3-1 (Capital Reserve Fund to Finance Construction, Reconstruction of Town Hall Facility) This resolution was established in March of 2011 to pay for the reconstruction of the Town Hall.

He stated the rest room needs work and the capital reserve fund could pay for that. He also asked what the progress of the foundation is as it is in critical need of work. Mr. Scott read a note he wrote - he stated a bunch of years of maintenance should be done and the reserve fund could also pay for these repairs also. He would like a public referendum to be called in order to make use of the capital reserve funds or to establish a specific reserve to use. He is asking for something to be done as he is concerned about the foundation, the fascia is sagging because the building is sagging, the building needs insulation, bathroom needs work, he's concerned about the heat use and stated having a heat pump installed would be a big help. He stated the money is there but need to spend wisely.

Supervisor Monty stated they will be replacing the furnace this year and he is not disagreeing with the bathroom needing work or handicap compliant, as he knows it needs work.

**DPW/Water Report:** A motion was made to accept the DPW/Water Report by Steve Denton and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.

1. Water Rent Collection Report - In Packet. A motion was made to accept the Water Rent Report by John Blades and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

1. County Expense Report - In Packet
2. County Calendar - In Packet
3. Landfill Report - None
4. Charter Changes - In Packet
5. APA Notices - In packet
6. Community Food Shelf Report - In Packet
7. Household Hazardous Waste Days - In Packet
8. 2024 Rabies Clinic - In Packet

9. Chamber of Commerce News – In Packet
10. Essex County Land Bank – In Packet
11. Cornell Cooperative Extension – In Packet
12. Essex County Office of the Aging – In Packet
13. Essex County Mental Health – In Packet
14. Honor Flight Thank You – In Packet

### **Old Business:**

1. Charter/Spectrum Franchise Agreement – A motion was made that we accept the Agreement and have Supervisor Monty sign the Agreement by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

### **New Business:**

1. Codes Report – Supervisor Monty has been issuing permits as he can as the Supervisor. Les Howard is filling in for the inspections until we can hire someone.
2. Animal Control
  - a. Inspection Report - Passed
3. Youth Commission Report – They are preparing for the Summer Program. A motion was made to accept by John Blades and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.
4. Honor Flight Thank You
5. Discussion on Raising Water Rent Fees – The Town has the lowest water rent rates in New York State. Suggest an increase in rates for 2025.

### **Resolutions:**

1. **24-3-1 Resolution Approving the Franchise Agreement with Charter/Spectrum**  
A motion was made that we accept the Agreement and have Supervisor Monty sign the Agreement by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.
2. **24-3-2 A resolution was passed to accept the Emergency Medical Services mapping and to set the next Public Hearing for April 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM.** A motion was made to accept by Supervisor Monty and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.  
The purpose of this Public Hearing will be to determine if this will be of public interest, if it'll be beneficial for tax constituents and if it serves the constituents of the ambulance district.

**Audit and Pay Bills:** A motion was made to Audit and Pay Bills by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

General Fund	\$1,036.58
General Fund - A	\$75,652.12
Highway Fund	\$12,538.62
Highway Fund - DA	\$16,203.55
Trust & Agency - TA	\$570,642.49
Water Fund SW	\$1,460.67
Water Fund	\$518.40

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn at 8:10 PM by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Pam Williams  
Town Clerk