

**Town of Lewis**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 13, 2021**  
**Lewis Town Hall**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Counselors Dave Blades, Lanita Canavan, Steve Denton and Jeff Scott, Supervisor James Monty, Highway Superintendent Kevin Denton

**Public Present:** John Blades, Herb Clark, Glen Crowningshield and Jerry Spooner

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor James Monty

**Pledge:**

**Guests:** Donna Bramer, Town Assessor, Donna stated that senior citizens who earn \$25,000.00 or less get an exemption on their taxes, but with Social Security going up 13 Lewis residents will be bumped out of the exemption. Donna asked the board to consider passing a resolution to use a sliding scale exemption so the seniors are not bumped out of the exemption. The other tax payers would have to pick up the amount and the sliding scale would not go in effect until 2023.

Supervisor Monty said the Town would have to have a public hearing and the board will consider the request.

Donna also requested doing a reevaluation of Lewis properties because Town's without a lot of sales get put into a market area. She said she would need 4 months to complete and the revalue would need to be done by May 1, 2022.

The Board will take the request into consideration.

**Approval of Board Minutes for September 14, 2021:** A motion was made to approve the September 14, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes by Steve Denton and seconded by Dave Blades, Lanita Canavan abstained as she was not present September 14, 2021, 0 opposed, motion carried.

**Supervisor's Financial Report:** A motion was made to approve the Supervisor's Financial Report by Dave Blades and seconded by Jeff Scott, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Supervisor Monty requested the following Budget Transfers:

\$750.00 from Line Item DA5110.4 to DA5142.4 to cover the increased cost of winter salt mandate

\$270.36 from Line item DA5140.4 to DA5142.4 to cover the increased cost of winter salt mandate

\$2390.00 from Line item A1910.4 to A6989.4 to cover the down payment on Town Signs

\$240.00 from Line item A1920.4 to A6989.4 to cover the down payment on Town Signs

\$200.00 from Line item A1220.4 to A6989.4 to cover the down payment on Town Signs

\$3390.43 from Line A1990.4 to A6989.4 to cover the down payment on Town Signs

A motion was made to accept the low bid from Artison Sign and Design for Signs and installation by Dave Blades and seconded by Steve Denton, Supervisor Monty abstained, 0 opposed, motion carried.

**Public Commentary:** None

**DPW/Water Report/Water rent collection:**

Kevin Denton stated the truck that was ordered from Adirondack Auto came in wrong, the sander will not fit in the back of the truck. One solution is to get another sander. Adirondack Auto is looking for another truck that our sander will fit.

Plow frames and tires are being put on Town trucks in preparation for winter.

Kevin has requested several times that the County put the yellow lines on the roads that were black topped this year. He will call again.

Kevin stated the yearly Board of Health inspection went well. Only findings were pine needles on the top of the tank and that they would like the old reservoir removed, but he said that would leave a big hole that might be dangerous.

A motion was made to accept the water report by Steve Denton and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the water rent collection report by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Dave Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

- a. County Expense Report in packet
- b. County Calendar in packet
- c. Landfill Report – A motion was made to accept the Landfill Report by Steve Denton and seconded by Jeff Scott, 0 opposed, motion carried.
- d. Essex County IDA info in packet
- e. ADK Harvest newsletter in packet
- f. NYSEG newsletter in packet
- g. Essex County Health Department – monthly report in packet
- h. APA permit Applications – in packet
- i. Cornell Cooperative Extension newsletter in packet
- j. Office of the Aging newsletter in packet
- k. Real Property Sales information in packet
- l. Ag and Markets Shelter report in packet
- m. Westport Fair request – Requesting \$1000.00 from each town. Board is not in favor

### **Old Business:**

1. Rehabilitation of Town Hall – Jeff Scott presented a Rehabilitation Plan for the Lewis Town Hall

A motion was made to have ACAP come and do heat loss testing by Jeff Scott and seconded by Dave Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

A motion was made to get RFP's to have the Restroom made handicap accessible by Jeff Scott and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Other maintenance issues were discussed.

2. Tentative Sign Designs – Samples were shown

### **New Business:**

1. Codes Report – No Report
2. Animal Control Report – No Report
3. Youth Commission Meeting Minutes – Elizabethtown, Lewis and Westport will combine to form the Boquet Valley Youth Commission.

The Youth Commission Board will have 7 members with 8 counselors and 1 recreation director. The Elizabethtown/Lewis Youth Commission has an accrued fund balance of \$36,000.00 that Westport will have to match.

4. Dissolving of the Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission- A resolution will need to be done
5. Forming of the Boquet Valley Youth Commission – will have 7 members
6. North Country Life Flight Contract – Same as last year
7. Dangerous Dog Contract – pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law the Town of Lewis has an obligation to seize dangerous dogs and assure they are properly sheltered. Last year the contract was for \$500 this year the contract is \$250.
8. Tentative 2022 Budget – Supervisor Monty went over the main points of the tentative budget. The budget workshop will be held October 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The tentative budget is \$717.00 under the tax cap.

### **Resolutions:**

21-10-1 Dissolution of the Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission – A motion was made to dissolve the current youth commission, to merge and establish a new youth commission with the Towns of Elizabethtown and Westport by Dave Blades and seconded by Jeff Scott, 0 opposed, motion carried.

21-10-2 Formation of the Boquet Valley Youth Commission – A motion was made to merge with the Town of Elizabethtown and the Town of Westport to form a joint youth commission board by Steve Denton and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.

21-10-3 Resolution to exceed the tax cap – A motion was made to request to exceed the tax cap with the New York State Comptroller's office for the 2022 budget year by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.

21-10-4 Resolution to sign a contract with Life Flight – A motion was made to sign a contract with life flight for the 2022 calendar year, in the amount of \$750.00 to provide emergency services to the Town of Lewis by Dave Blades and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.

21-10-5 Dangerous Dog Contract – A motion was made to sign a contract with NCSPCA for the confinement of dangerous dogs for the Town of Lewis by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.

**Audit and Pay Bills:** A motion was made to audit and pay the bills by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Water Fund SW	\$3,221.30
Water Fund	\$350.69
Highway Fund	\$29,251.66
Highway DA	\$14,163.09
Trust and Agency TA	\$261,878.60
General Fund A	\$46,309.32
General Fund	\$5,441,14

**Other:**

Dave Blades stated that Town's are allowed to opt out of permitting Marijuana Dispensaries and he would like a resolution for Lewis to opt out.

A motion was made to opt out of permitting Marijuana Dispensaries in the Town of Lewis by Dave Blades with a unanimous second, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Supervisor Monty stated the Joe Call sign will be coming soon and that Jean Dickerson has a map from 1878 showing that Callville was on the Moss Road, with the Boards approval he would like the sign installed at the end of the Moss Road. Board agreed.

Supervisor Monty stated the Thrall Dam Bridge will be put in place on Friday.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. by Jeff Scott and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.