

Town of Lewis

Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2023

Lewis Town Hall

October 24, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2023

Present: Counselors Lanita Canavan, Terry Pulsifer, John Blades, Steve Denton, Supervisor James Monty and Town Secretary Susie Ewald.

Public Present: Darren Dickerson, Phil Arsenault, Frank and Janice Rock, Mike and Charmaine Flynn

Pledge:

Called to Order: The Public Hearing was called to order by Supervisor Monty at 6:30 PM.

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce Local Law #1 of 2023 to override the tax limit. It was offered at the last meeting by Councilwoman Canavan, seconded by Councilman Denton authorizing the Town of Lewis to form this local law in order to override the tax cap of 2%.

The tentative budget looks like an increase of 17% over last year. Budget only increased by \$4185.00 as the Town chose to use less fund balance.

Supervisor Monty is looking to pass a Local Law to raise the budget to override the tax cap and in doing so will preserve the fund balance.

Supervisor Monty asked the Board for their thoughts or questions. There was no discussion by the Board.

Supervisor Monty asked for public comment. Janice Rock asked about the Census compared to other towns. Supervisor Monty stated the Town of Lewis has the lowest tax levy in Essex County, roughly levying around \$500,000.00 to operate. The Town has survived on grants but some are going by the wayside.

Darren Dickerson wanted to clarify to make sure that the overriding of the Tax Cap will cause no current reductions, that individuals might receive, as pertaining to the Star Program, etc. Supervisor Monty stated that the first year there will be no change.

Charmaine Flynn asked if there's any clarification about Meadowmount and how many months an educational facility is considered an educational facility. Supervisor Monty stated he thinks that once they apply for a 501-3C as a tax exempt Institution there's nothing that can be done.

A motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM was made by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Williams
Town Clerk