

Town of Lewis
Regular Town Board Meeting
September 12, 2023
Lewis Town Hall

Present: Counselors Lanita Canavan, Terry Pulsifer, John Blades, Steven Denton and Supervisor James Monty.

Public Present: Gerald Spooner, Glen and Donna Crowningshield, Luke McNally, April Guilder, Ethan Farmer

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Monty.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guests: Carolyn Schier, Board President with Elizabethtown-Lewis EMS, asked the Board to consider passing a resolution to form an Ambulance District. She stated they are struggling to find coverage and to make ends meet. Many Ambulance squads are moving towards an Ambulance District which would mean it'd be a separate line item on the tax bill. It could be formed more like a water district than a fire district. This would cover the Lewis-Elizabethtown district still. She also stated the second ambulance is old and starting to cost money to fix. Ethan Farmer stated the repairs this year alone cost roughly \$8,000.00 to repair. They are considering selling it to pay bills but prefer not to as there have been multiple calls recently.

Supervisor Monty knows the need is there but doesn't think it'll fit in the budget within the 90-day time frame needed. Carolyn stated the Board would need to pass a resolution first to go to the next step and has to be a 3 out of 5 approval.

Counselor Canavan spoke and has financial concerns and recommends the Elizabethtown-Lewis EMS to have a CPA audit. They stated they have an accountant doing their books but is not CPA certified.

Carolyn stated they are looking for roughly \$400,000 for the upcoming years proposed budget. She stated the numbers they are mentioning are based solely on the proposed budget for 2024 minus estimated revenues.

Counselor Denton thinks there are tons of questions that need to be answered and he feels the Board should pass a resolution as it allows for further conversation.

Supervisor Monty wants to pass the Resolution of approving of a map plan report regarding the consideration of establishment of an Ambulance District for the Town of Lewis.

A motion was made to accept the resolution by Steve Denton and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

John Blades	Yes
Lanita Canavan	Yes
Steve Denton	Yes
Terry Pulsifer	Yes
James Monty	Yes

April Guilder spoke thanking the Board for considering the Resolution by saying how important the Ambulance squad is to this community. She stated that the Town has a great EMS and thanked them too.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to accept the Regular Town Board meeting minutes by Steve Denton and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried. Terry Pulsifer - Abstained

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

- a. **Budget Transfer** – Supervisor Monty requested a motion for the following Budget Transfers:
\$500.00 to cover the cost for mileage for Assessor (REVAL year)
\$1,000.00 to cover the cost of repairs for water leak on Cty Rt 10.

A motion was made to accept the Budget Transfer by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Public Commentary: None

DPW/Water Report: Paving has been done the last 2 days, would've finished the Trout Pond Road but the paving mill in Plattsburgh broke down with 3 loads short of finishing. Hoping to get it done before the rain in the next couple days.

A motion was made to accept the DPW/Water Report by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.

- a. Water Rent Report – A motion was made to accept the Water Rent Report by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.
- b. Asset Management Program (Water District) – Essex County received a grant from New York State for water and wastewater management.

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 John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.
- d. Charter Changes – In Packet
- e. APA Meeting – In Packet
- f. DEC Report – In Packet
- g. NYSEG Newsletter – In Packet
- h. NYSEG Customer Service – In Packet
- i. Occupancy Tax Guidelines – In Packet
- j. Senior Citizen Tax Credit Reminder – A motion was made to accept by Steve Denton and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.
- k. Tire Collection Day – In Packet
- l. Essex County Fish and Game Club – In Packet
- m. Harvest Festival – In Packet
- n. Invasive Species Grant -
- o. Office of the Aging – In Packet
- p. HEAP – In Packet

Old Business:

1. Ag Society Donation (Fair Tickets) – Rec'd letter stating we should add \$1,000.00 to our budget to purchase Essex County Fair day tickets.

New Business:

1. Codes Report – A motion was made to accept the Codes Report by John Blades and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.
2. Animal Control Report – There was one call this month. A motion was made to accept the Animal Control Report by Terry Pulsifer and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.
3. Youth Commission – A motion was made to accept the Youth Commission Minutes by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Steve Denton, 0 opposed, motion carried.
4. Pomeroy Foundation – RE. Cyrus Comstock was founder of the first Congregation Church in this area including our own church here in Lewis. Supervisor Monty submitted the application to have the Legend and Lord Marker to be put up by the stone wall going up to the Church. A motion was made to accept by Steve Denton and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

John Blades	Yes
Lanita Canavan	Yes
Steve Denton	Yes
Terry Pulsifer	Yes
James Monty	Yes

- 5. BRASS Request – In Packet
- 6. Budget Timeline – In Packet

Resolutions:

- 1. **23-9-1** The Town Board of the Town of Lewis supports the passage of the Direct Pay Reimbursement of Ambulance Services Bill # S1446A/A250. A motion was made to accept the Resolution by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

John Blades	Yes
Lanita Canavan	Yes
Steve Denton	Yes
Terry Pulsifer	Yes
James Monty	Yes

- 2. **23-9-2** The Town Board of the Town of Lewis supports the submission of an application for a Historical Marker honoring Cyrus Comstock, which will be placed at the entrance to the Congregational Church. A motion was made to accept the Resolution by Steve Denton and seconded by Lanita Canavan, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

John Blades	Yes
Lanita Canavan	Yes
Steve Denton	Yes
Terry Pulsifer	Yes
James Monty	Yes

- 3. **23-9-3** The Town Board of the Town of Lewis authorizes and supports the Lewis Town Court to apply for a JCAP, Justice Court Assistance Grant in the 2023-2024 grant cycle up to \$3,000. The funds will be used for the purchasing a large capacity shredder and a new router for the Court Offices. A motion was made to accept the Resolution by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Audit and Pay Bills: A motion was made to Audit and Pay Bills by Lanita Canavan and seconded by Terry Pulsifer, 0 opposed, motion carried.

General Fund - A	\$52,508.40
General Fund	\$8,241.78
Highway Fund	\$44,256.46
Highway Fund – DA	\$11,745.46
Trust & Agency – TA	\$50,238.98
Youth Commission	\$24,890.30
Water Fund SW	\$994.18
Water Fund	\$2,399.49

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 8:30 PM by Steve Denton and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Williams
Town Clerk

