

TOWN OF LEICESTER
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, March 26th, 2024, 7 :00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Leicester Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Leicester Town Hall.

PRESENT: Town Supervisor, Richard White; Councilmembers, Jason Yasso, Gerald Hull, Karen Roffe, and Mathew Durbin; Highway Superintendent, Russell Page; Town Attorney, James Campbell; Town Clerk, Amy Neumann

OTHERS: Rich Neumann, Karen White, John Yasso, Frank Radesi, Jennifer Johnson, Lisa Semmel, Dan Cristiano, James Kane, Tim Archibald.

OPEN MEETING: Councilmember Karen Roffe led the pledge to the flag.

Minutes: A Motion was made to adopt the February 13, 2024, Work Meeting Minutes, and February 27, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, by Councilmember Karen Roffe and Seconded by Councilmember Jason Yasso.

Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

HIGHWAY SUPT. REPORT: Russ Page

HIGHWAY SUPT. REPORT

MARCH 2024

- Five days out of the past twenty-eight, we have had some form of snow and or ice removal.
- Hauled in 100 tons of salt to replenish the stockpile.
- Finished the list of signs that needed replacing or installing along the roadsides.
- Service and repair to some of the equipment.
- Starting to compile the projects and estimates for this summer's road work.
- A couple different wind events, we had a tree to remove off Caledonia Rd., Brian Rd., and a big pine tree in the cemetery.
- Primarily, working at making a pass around town with the brush cutter on the excavator, cutting back the backside of the ditches, guard rails and tree limbs that we can't get with the roadside mower. Everything West of Rte.36 is done.
- Helped the T/O York repair a water main break on Rte. 63 in Piffard.
- Meeting with vendors compiling specs and quotes on a new ten-wheel truck and sander.
- Spectrum hooking up the new phones.
- Attended the State Advocacy Day event held in Albany March 5th and 6th.
- Back to ten-hour workdays.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: Sean Sullivan Sending report after lunch on March 26, 2024. James Campbell Highbanks solar and code enforcement stuff. Perry Rd not a lot of issues but discussing.

Code Enforcement Report as of 3/25/2024.

Inspections:

- Eric Butler, Bush Road
Insulation - Passed

HVAC - Failed

Rough Electric (by 3rd party) – completed.
- D.B. Webb, Inc. 2085 Leicester Road
Final Inspection 1 – C of O issued for the following:
 - Refurbishing building from fire damage – passed.
 - ADA compliant bathroom with adjoining breakroom- passed.
- Andy Cutting Final Inspection of new home on Peoria Road- passed.
- Ron Beardsley Culyerville Road final inspection of pole barn addition – passed (C of C issued).
- Muscarella 4837 Covington Rd, Final inspection on pole barn – passed pending electrical inspection.
- Cell tower final inspection complete – C of C issued.

Other work

911 addresses: Applied for Wayne Scofield property York Road,

Working through a request for a shared drive for Peter Sica, 5364 Upper Mt Morris Road (adjacent to Barrister Lane). He will eventually be looking to build a new home.

(Town attorney is working with Sean on this).

If you have any questions on any of these items, please feel free to contact me at 585-414-0089.

Sean M. Sullivan

Code Enforcement Officer

Town of Leicester, New York

(585) 382-3231

LEICESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: John Yasso

Village board meeting 3/18/2024 Leicester Fire Dept. Report Town Board Meeting 3/26/2024

Submitted March 18, 2024

1. Activities

Number of calls in the past month (Feb 26 – March 18) 3 calls.

- 1) 2/27/24 Fill in at Perry Center Fire Hall
 - 2) 3/14/24 Electrical Issue – transformer arching near Old Leicester School
 - 3) 3/15/24 Structure Fire – mutual aid to Perry at 2823 Rt 39
- March monthly training – Power tools
-

2. TRUCKS:

- 2017 Pumper Truck 135 – OK
 - 2006 Pumper Truck 134 - OK
 - 2006 Mini Pumper 133 – OK
-

3. Fire Hall:

1. Kiwanis to use Fire Hall for Chicken BBQ – April 6,2024
 2. Backup Generator??
 3. Notice for Bids are out for exterior painting.
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4. Equipment

- A) Need to order 2 more sets of gear for the next budget year 2023-24. 7-9 months delivery time – Est. \$6000.00
 - B) Submitted Application for 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – 16 air packs and extra bottles – at a cost of \$194,000.00
 - C) Working on application for NYS V-FIRE grant – due April 30th
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5. Other items

- A) Local Government Efficiency Grant – Fire and EMS Services Study
 - ** 2/29/24 final presentation of study given by CGR to everyone.
 - ** 3/6/24 Steering committee meeting – discussed options to move forward – town and village boards to officially recognize the committee for suggestions
 - **3/20/24 Next Steering committee meeting – Brad Pinsky / Pinsky law to meet with the committee to clarify some of the options and suggest the next steps for Joint Fire District
- B) FD Contract with the Town for Fire Protection is approved. Contract for FD services Jan. 01, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024
- C) County requested all firehalls to be manned on April 8 from Noon till 6 PM for Solar Eclipse
- D) Fund Raiser / Boot drive – April 8, 2024, on Main Street. 10am to 6 pm

CUYLERVILLE FIRE DEPT. REPORTS: Frank Radesi Community CPR 9 this time with Jennifer Johnson. Continuing this class and adding First Aid.

02-15 grass fire 6 responders

2 controlled burns

13 Ems calls

39 total calls for Jan and Feb 2023

LEICESTER TOWN HISTORIAN

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Summary:

This year the Village of Leicester has decided to abolish the Village Historian position. There continues to be an active public interest in the history of Leicester, and it has been another busy year with opportunities to enhance Leicester history. I receive requests for information by email, correspondence, telephone, and "on the streets". I continue to meet with researchers and genealogists. The granddaughter of former Historian Velma Mahoney has donated five Banker boxes of historic information and photographs. The items concerning Leicester History were incorporated into the Town files. The items concerning the Towns of York and Perry are given to the respective Historians.

I continue to restructure the Town history files in order to make them more concise and save as much space as possible. The limited file storage space continues to be a challenge. The marriage records of St. Thomas Church are on a short-term loan to the County Historian. The Historian Office will digitize the records. The Town of Leicester will receive a digitized file and the original records will be returned.

Educational – Conferences:

- DPSNY Webinar Photographs in the Archives - digitizing your photographic collections.

Events – Programs:

As the Leicester Town Historian I continue to be involved in history-related activities to ensure that our history is recognized as an important contribution to Livingston County heritage. I have attended the following events.

- I serve as a Docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum.
- Historian Meeting at Lorenz Park.
- Research at the County Historian's Office.
- Attended Liv. Co. Historical Society Programs on Shakers and Craig Colony
- Attended the Livingston County Agricultural Tour
- Attended Memorial Day Ceremonies.
- Created a Leicester History Trivia Quiz for the York Leicester Towner's bus tour.
- Wrote a history article "Out of the Darkness" for the Village Newsletter.

Research – Projects:

On a weekly basis, advertisements, events, obituaries, real estate notices, and articles concerning Leicester are collected from on-line newspapers, and other sources and are added to the history files.

- Research online.
- History of early residents and Native American History
- Continue to consolidate and improve historical records.
- Photograph current changes in Leicester such as buildings, businesses and signs.
- Consolidate the obituary records and create a user-friendly database.
- Organization and consolidation of the Leicester and Cuylerville Departments records.

Correspondence:

Requests for information on Leicester History by telephone, mail, internet, and “on the streets” are constant. I have met with genealogists and researchers. The requests have included:

- Civil War Veteran Monument
- Gibsonville history including maps.
- Andrews Family
- Richards Family
- Slocum Family
- Austen/Heen farm
- Al Lorenz photograph to be used at Al Lorenz Park display - from the County Historian
- Craig Colony photographs - from the County Historian
- Duffy Family
- Benton Family
- Strong Family
- Leach Family
- Kingston Family
- Hopkins Family
- Leicester School

Donations and Acquisitions:

- Photograph of Andrews Family of Gibsonville
- Photograph of 1929 Duffy Family reunion
- Sterling Mine newspaper articles - Dot Sliker
- Photographs from the County Historian
- Five Banker boxes of history - Velma Mahoney estate
- Book "Two Parks Small in Size Big in History"
- Book "Boyd and Parker Heroes of the American Revolution" by Lockwood Doty
- Church cookbook "Aunt Fannies Cookbook"

Future Goals:

Records management is a high priority. Continue to complete the Photographic Inventory. Pursue Grant Programs. Continue the organization of the Town records. Write articles concerning Leicester History and hopefully give public presentations. I have discovered to my surprise that people are unaware of Leicester history such as the existence of the Sterling Salt Mine, Horatio Jones, Mary Jemison's life in Leicester.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Roffe

Leicester Town & Village Historian

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Account Deficit: Jim Campbell will be attending the March 26th meeting to discuss Water.

Account deficit: \$130,000.00 Deficit want an audit, on the water records, Supervisor to get quotes, and follow up for the people.

Laneways update: James Campbell, Town Attorney Define ownership of Short Lane, and two other lanes. Does not show private ownership. No maintenance has been done recently. However, Russ Page when he started 25 years ago if potholes developed, we maintained and about 15 years ago stopped that maintenance. James Campbell asked what direction the Town Board would like to go with this, we can not to anything and or abandonment of the property and the lane with be split in two and go with each property owner. There are some restrictions and James Campbell will want to research a bit more to do properly.

Supervisor White asked about the tree that is on the property line. James Campbell from a legal standpoint if the tree is in the lane way, we don't have to do anything if on private property we cannot remove to improve on private property.

Russ Page, Art Allen is the property owner that brought it up to have tree removed. This individual has not mentioned this subject in the last year.

Will follow up.

Solar Project: Jim Campbell Escrow \$10,000.00 Monitored by the Town of Leicester, \$50,000.00 Documentation and White Creek \$3,800. Left and Highbanks\$1,200 left.

Fire Committee update: Jason Yasso Last Wednesday met. John Yasso is Chairman State Leader, Bradley Pinsky One hour in length. Spoke about timeline, costs, and joint, end up with one fire chief, and steps to accomplish this if this is the route that is chosen. 90-day window. Budget for this by January 1, 2025. \$15,000 in cost if we went with that company. Policies and Training to get up and run. Most of the Committee is here.

Leicester Joint Fire Services Committee
Meeting March 20, 2024

Supervisor Rich White, Councilman Jason Yasso, Mayor Barry Briffa, Trustee Dan Christiano, CFD rep

Frank Radesi, CFD rep Jennifer Radesi, LFD rep Don Kane, LFD Adam Bodratti, Chairman John Yasso

The meeting minutes:

1. Brad Pinsky to introduce himself and his law firm. - The Pinsky Law Group is proud to represent approximately

500 fire districts, fire departments and emergency medical service agencies and providers, including towns,

villages and various not for profit corporations throughout the state

Mr. Pinsky served 3.5 years as the Chief of the Manlius Fire Department, a combination fire department.

running over 2600 calls per year. He served as one of the only Municipal Training Officers of a paid.

department in the state of New York who is a volunteer. Mr. Pinsky was certified as an Emergency Medical

Technician from 1988 until 2010 and in that time served as a volunteer and career EMT in Boston and New

Orleans. In 2015 he was named the IAFC's "Training Officer of the Year.

2. Give some examples of past fire dept. scenarios. Mr. Pinsky gave some notes not taken of each.

3. What are the legal steps to move forward (for a Joint Fire District). Mr. Pinsky asked the committee.

how they wanted to form the district. Option 1, Joint fire district with one new fire company, option 2, a fire

district with 2 fire companies. Both are good options. Discussed both options, there are pros and cons. The

Town Board and the Village Board of Trustees may establish a Joint Fire District when it appears to be in

the public's best interest, provided that all of the territory in the Joint Fire District is contiguous.

Benefits of creating the Fire District:

a. Run by 3-7 commissioners (5 is best)

b. All purchases and budgets have public hearings.

c. Members are approved by the fire company and then by the commissioners.

d. Only 1 chief for the district – other line officers can come from the 2 fire companies.

e. Town and Village boards do not have to budget for fire service – Lower taxes.

f. For the taxpayers, all pay the same rate.

g. Eliminates the instability of funding from year to year due to annual contracts.

h. Can concentrate on the sole mission of fire protection.

i. The state has greater oversight over fire districts, that includes annual audits and regulations.

j. Fire protection managed by local publicly elected officials who complete special training courses.

1. Timeline:

a. Village board and Town Board need to have 3 meetings after a joint meeting date is set.

1. First joint meeting. Pass a resolution to propose establishment of Joint Fire District

2. Within 5 business days after proposed joint consolidation agreement it must be displayed

3. Second meeting –within 30 days a public hearing on the Joint Fire District agreement. Maybe one

meeting together or at each town and village board meeting.

4. Third meeting within 180 days from close of public hearing, Approval of the governing bodies to

adopt formal forming of the Joint Fire District and Town to dissolve current fire protection district.

5. Village to decide on transfer of equipment and firehouse

6. By end of July 2024, Commissioners five (5) and one (1) treasure need to be appointed by town and

village boards. Fire chief and assistant chiefs are not allowed to be commissioners. Suggest 3 to be.

fire company members and 2 to be the public taxpayers. Recommend that treasure be appointed.

each year.

7. September 30,2024 preliminary budget must be completed by the commissioners

8. Public hearing on Fire District budget third week in October

9. Adopt the budget by the Fire Commissioners

10. Final budget due to the Town clerk by Nov 7,2024

11. First election of Fire District officers shall be held on the second Tuesday in December

succeeding

the establishment of the Fire District. Thus, the appointed commissioners serve one year prior to

running for election

12. On December 31,2024 all fire protection contracts end and Joint Fire District budget and commissioners are valid.

2. Costs:

a. Flat fee of \$15000.00 to provide resolutions, hearings notifications, lawfully create Joint Fire District to be paid.

by Town and Village

b. A NYS local government grant may be obtained for some of this cost.

c. After Joint district is formalized a flat fee of \$15000.00 for the Fire district to pay for administrative policies,

OSHA policies, training, by laws etc.

Respectfully submitted,

John Yasso

Brads email is bpinsky@pinskylaw.com

Bradley M. Pinsky, JD/MHA

Pinsky Law Group, PLLC

4311 East Genesee Street

Syracuse, New York 13214

General (315) 428-8345 x 101

Rich Neumann asked how long before a decision is made?

Councilmember Jason Yasso answered the question. Village has a shorter time frame than Town to move on the decision.

Surveys and Public Input, Important decision and if it takes a little longer to do it right. Too early to give time frame.

Commission needs to be formed and the budget needs to be developed. 2 meetings with the committee. James Campbell encouraged the Town Board to discuss with the neighboring towns. Spoke about face book posts regarding the chlorine.

Tim Archibald. Time frame is not as important as doing correctly for the Fire District.

Supervisor White wants to do it right not fast.

Gutters: Need to be refastened,
And Maintenance out front. Russ Page sent a video for a seam leakage in the highway building as well.
Shades: For rest of the building passed around. No action tonight

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Reports: Supervisors Monthly Report, Town Clerk Report, Record of Receipts: A Motion to approve was made by Councilmember, Matthew Durbin, and Seconded by Councilmember Gerald Hull.

Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

AUDIT ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS: __\$ _54,601.89. A Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Jason Yasso and Seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe.

Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. by Councilmember Jason Yasso and Seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe.

Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Amy L. Neumann, Town Clerk