

Town of Lewis
2026 Regular Town Board Meeting
February 10, 2026
Lewis Town Hall – 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Timothy Pierce, Supervisor
John Blades, Councilperson
Lanita Canavan, Councilperson
Stephen Denton, Jr., Councilperson
Brianne Drummond, Town Clerk

ABSENT: Terry Pulsifer, Councilperson
Kevin Denton, Highway Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Glen Crowningshield, Emma Jean O’Kusky, Carl O’Kusky, Barbara Denton, April Guilder, Kathy Scott, Jeff Scott, Colin Powers, Dan Canavan, Gerald Spooner, Lise Huckins, Keith Huckins, Luke McNally

GUESTS PRESENT: None

Called to Order: Supervisor Pierce called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

On a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Canavan, the January 13, 2026 Organizational and Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes were ACCEPTED as **amended** as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Note: The January 13, 2026 Organization and Regular Town Board Meeting minutes were accepted as amended to include the following corrections:

- On page 18 the word sight was corrected to site.
- Strikeout “paid monthly” on Resolution 26-1-14 ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT
Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated that when the resolution was passed last month it

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said to be paid monthly. We aren't able to do that. Supervisor Pierce spoke to Dog Control Officer Mike and they talked about Quarterly. Would like to strike "paid monthly" from the Resolution. Councilperson Canavan asked if it should say paid quarterly. Supervisor Pierce thinks it should stay vague, but it is up to the Board.

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the AMENDMENT to Resolution 26-1-14 to strikeout "paid monthly" was ADOPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

HOUSEKEEPING: Prior Meeting Motions

a. December Water Report

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Canavan, the Water Report for the month of December 2025 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Discussion: None

b. December Youth Commission

On a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Youth Commission Report for the month of December 2025 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce

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Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Discussion: None

c. Audit Bills

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton; motion was approved as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

The bills contained on the abstract for December 2025 have been reviewed by the Town Board and authorized for payment.

Note: Audit and Pay Bills were signed and approved during the January 13, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting. Motion for the record was needed.

Discussion: None

SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Supervisor's Financial Report for the month of January 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades

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Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Discussion: None

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Jeff Scott stated he is curious about on the Town website home page there is an open letter to the public that's been there for a few months. He asked if that is something that he could have published on the town website and is that open to everybody? Supervisor Pierce asked if he is asking if the letter is open to everybody? Question clarification – Is the privilege of having a letter posted to the Town website open to everybody? Supervisor Pierce stated this is a good question and not something he has a good answer for right now. This is something that needs to be reviewed and website policy needs to be looked into. The Board is not aware of a current website policy. The letter in question was posted in November regarding the howitzer testing. Supervisor Pierce pointed out there is a difference between the Town website and the Facebook page. For the Facebook page if someone has information they want on there, we put it on. Supervisor Pierce said he can check around to see what other towns do. Request made to take letter down from the Town website.

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the motion to remove the Hopmeier howitzer testing letter from the Town website was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

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Jeff Scott stated concerns about meeting minutes not being up to date on the website and said the last minutes on the website are from August of 2025. Councilperson Canavan said you're right and they aren't current. Scott thinks they should be on the website within a few weeks after they are approved and before the next meeting. Supervisor Pierce agreed and looked for Board direction. Discussion regarding the current maintenance of the website, website policy and Susie's upcoming retirement. Supervisor Pierce will look into this.

Gerald Spooner asked what the Town Board's position is on the howitzer testing. Supervisor Pierce stated he remains neutral as he has three different groups to answer to. Supervisor Pierce goes into discussion on personal views but makes it clear he is not speaking for the Board. Supervisor Pierce toured the site on December 30th after concerns were raised about the water supply and noise. Supervisor Pierce goes into discussion about his visit – both water and noise concerns were addressed. Supervisor Pierce stated his concerns about risk if the Town took a stand. An attorney would need to be consulted. Supervisor Pierce stated the Town does not have zoning, and this is between the APA and a business owner. Councilperson Canavan stated she is opposed for many reasons. Councilperson Canavan said she attended the Jay meeting where they passed a resolution to oppose it. Councilperson Canavan does not know that they consulted an attorney to do so. She stated at some point we (the Town of Lewis) may have to get one. Another point Councilperson Canavan pointed out is she attended both the meeting in Lewis and the meeting in Jay and the numbers that were conveyed by Mr. Hopmeier were different. He said it cost \$400,000 to clean up the Silo when he was here in Lewis and he said it cost \$200,000 when he was in Jay. Councilperson Canavan states the numbers were not consistent. Councilperson Canavan also raised concerns about noise that can be heard while at the Deerhead cemetery on Saturdays. Lise Huckins feels there are deeper issues here and there is a lack of honesty and transparency that's been going on with this process. Another community member feels Mr. Hopmeier is not acting in good faith. Concerns were brought up by a community member about August 1st when video and audio was taken of blasting and firings and when asked about it Mr. Hopmeier did not have any idea – he was not overseeing what was happening. Dan Canavan asked if 500 people signed a petition saying we are not happy with this activity in the Town what would you do about it? Supervisor Pierce said he would take that and we would have to hire an attorney. Supervisor Pierce would not want a resolution written in opposition without it being cleared by an attorney. Supervisor Pierce proposed that we could have a public hearing where we could hear all sides if that is something the Town Board would like to do. April Guilder stated her opinion, which is that the Board has a

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job in which they were voted in to do which is to represent the Town and to find out what the town's people want. April Guilder stated this has been going on since 2022 and shared a story from that time regarding concerns she had that she brought to a board member that was never brought to the Town Board. April is concerned about relationship and trust between town people and board. Supervisor Pierce explained how a public hearing allows all parties to present their information and asks if a public hearing has been done. Several community members in the audience confirmed that yes he did talk about the project at the meeting. Councilperson Canavan confirmed yes, he did. Lise Huckins said he talked extensively in great detail about the howitzer project. Supervisor Pierce asked if there were minutes. Councilperson Canavan confirms no, as it was not a town meeting. More concerns are expressed and community member(s) would like Mr. Hopmeier's projects to be held accountable and for support in protecting property, animals, and senior citizens. Councilperson Denton stated that he was invited up there a few years ago as a council member, has only met Mr. Hopmeier twice, there and then before the meeting - stated the operation was very impressive. Councilperson Denton expressed that he supports the military 100% and is not opposed to what he does, but does not live where councilperson Canavan and others that may hear it live. Councilperson Denton stated he likes what some of the community here have said and would like to see what the numbers are. Councilperson Denton said if the majority was against it then he would vote against it - all people of Lewis would need to make that decision. Supervisor Pierce will inquire to the County Attorney and get answers on how to approach referendum.

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the motion for Supervisor Pierce to inquire to the Essex County Attorney on how to approach a Referendum was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Discussion: Councilperson Canavan feels a special board meeting would be the best way to

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do this. Councilperson Denton feels it needs to be done as soon as possible.

Community member asked question if Jay resolution is public record and if we could cut and paste off that and if we came up with zoning law to at least say no biological warfare. There was also brief discussion regarding what APA will weigh in on.

DPW/WATER REPORT

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the DPW/Water Reports for the month of January 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Highway Superintendent Denton was out plowing. Supervisor Pierce provided updates on a couple of reports. The Hale Hill project they are replacing a culvert at the bottom of the road – there is a meeting scheduled at 10:00 A.M. this week up there. The project is a go. We are looking at the 2nd week of June. This is about a 3-week project. Supervisor Pierce reached out to the Town of North Elba to borrow two one-way facing streetlights for the bottom of the hill. Project was moved up from July to June due to a tournament. Highway Superintendent Denton will be attending this meeting. They will have more information to provide next month regarding this project. There was one water incident in town. Supervisor Pierce stated the town’s pipe at Mr. Lee’s apartment froze up and the town is responsible for the pipe. Supervisor Pierce explained that it was about a 4-foot pipe and it was chuck full and the town was unable to shut the water off. The town does not have any equipment that can break through ice and pavement, so Supervisor Pierce stated a private group, Sheehan’s, was brought in. He stated Sheehan’s was down 4-5ft and it was still frozen and to watch out for your water lines. He expressed that the town has done their part. Supervisor Pierce said that the Office of the Aging has been contacted as there is one elderly client there.

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sales Tax Error – See notice in Packet
 - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated a sales tax error occurred over the previous three years that was identified. He stated they are going to get that money out to the towns in different payments.
2. Landfill Report – In Packet
On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Landfill Report for the month of January 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,
AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0 ; Absent 1.

3. Animal Shelter – Elizabethtown – In Packet
 - a. Discussion: Supervision Pierce sent out a letter in support of the animal shelter. The Essex County’s Animal Cruelty Task Force is developing a plan and intends to build in Elizabethtown. Exact location of the future shelter is unknown at this point.
4. Brass Thrall Dam Project Grant
 - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated the Town of Lewis had \$25,000 from Roost funds for 3 years for their program at Thrall Dam. Colin Powers states they leveraged that \$25,000 to get another \$250,000 from the State Water Quality Improvement Program. He stated they still have to chase down a bit more match, but they have a couple years to do that. Colin stated there is a lot of cooperation from Soil and Water and the County, Fish and Wildlife and DEC. He went on to explain the 4 key elements – starting with assessments – figuring out what are the species out there, habitat situations (both creek and terrestrial), what treatments may need to be added to boost productivity, addressing recreational trails, invasive species, and make sure the creek is delivering for fish. There was discussion on getting together to formalize a contract and writing up a set of deliverables. Discussion regarding BRASS email

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that the Board has a copy of regarding the request for \$900 from the Town – Colin stated he believed this was put in the budget in the fall. Supervisor Pierce apologized and stated that letter was not included in packet; he stated this was approved and will make note and bring this to the next meeting. Colin explained that this is projects money from all 5 town’s support and is critical to keeping operations going. Colin and Supervisor Pierce discussed the letter and it is confirmed that the letter/email with invoice is attached within packet.

5. Poll Worker Job Listing – In Packet.
6. NYSEG Bill Assistance Programs – In Packet.
7. NYSEG Scammer Warning – In Packet.
8. Tree Pruning Workshop – In Packet.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Jay Mountain FEMA project
 - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated this expires on 2/28/26 and Mr. Monty had submitted a request in December to extend it, but they came back and said they wanted more details. Supervisor Pierce prepared letter and sent it, they said it was great, but he has not heard back. Supervisor Pierce said he will follow up with them. He stated they can extend it up to 2 more years, if necessary, but he would really like to get moving on it this year.
2. Old School Rental Agreements (ACAP and County)
 - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated he received agreement back from ACAP. Increased to \$500/mo. – rental over at the school. Supervisor Pierce said the agreement with the County is still in the works and he will follow up.
3. Assessor Hours – Update
 - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said this took effect as of this month. Instead of Assessor Goff being here in the afternoons on Fridays he will be here a full day the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month from 7 A.M. -5(or)6 P.M.; and he will be in Elizabethtown for a full day on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. On those 3 or 4 months where there is an additional Friday, he will split the day between Lewis and Elizabethtown.
4. Roost Funds and Projects (Guidance Documents)
 - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated document attached tells amount for year 2025. That amount is \$85,906.14. He stated we don’t have our final payment yet, but it will be released on Thursday. Supervisor Pierce stated we have about

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\$133,000.00 in ROOST account right now.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Youth Commission Report – In Packet

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Youth Commission Report for the month of January 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0 ; Absent 1.

2. Animal Control – no report

3. Codes Report – In Packet

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Codes Report for the month of January 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0 ; Absent 1.

a. Discussion: Councilperson Canavan asked what the Code Officer’s hours are. Supervisor Pierce said he’s not sure of the hours, but it’s posted on the website.

4. Landfill Testing

a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said when the landfill was closed in 1998 we had to monitor it for 30 years. Geoff May sent a letter he will no longer be doing it –

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he retired. We need to find someone for the remaining 3 years. Supervisor Pierce stated he spoke to Chris Clark from North Hudson and they were granted the option to do every other year because there was no big change or fluctuation in their testing results. Supervisor Pierce stated we haven't seen any change. Supervisor Pierce will check with the County and check around on this.

RESOLUTION 26-1-23

COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

The Town Board of Lewis directs the Supervisor to continue to comply with terms of agreements between the Town and Essex County for Maintenance of County roads, Contract # DPW-30-0024, and for the control of snow and ice on county roads, contract # DPW-30-0006, signed January 2025 for calendar years 2025-2030.

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the following resolution was ADOPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0 ; Absent 1.

Note: This was tabled during the January 13, 2026 Organizational Meeting to get further clarification on length of contract. This is a 5-year agreement.

RESOLUTION 26-2-1

EARLY BILL PAYMENT

The Town Board of Lewis authorizes early payment of regularly occurring bills so as to avoid penalties for the year 2026.

On a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the following resolution was ADOPTED as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce

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Councilperson Blades
Councilperson Canavan
Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

Note on: **RESOLUTION 26-2-2**

APPOINT DOG CONTROL OFFICER

This was addressed earlier in the meeting under Approval of Organizational and Regular Board Minutes. Resolution was revised under 26-1-14. Resolution Number 26-2-2 was not needed; there was no motion or adoption of this Resolution.

AUDIT AND PAY BILLS

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Blades; motion was approved as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

The bills contained on Abstract #1 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund A	Claim No. 1 through 11	\$26,700.14
Trust & Agency – TA	Claim No. 1 through 11	\$132,363.20
H-CHIPS	Claim No. 1	\$79,943.18
Youth Commission-A	Claim No. 1	\$525.16
Water Fund SW	Claim No. 1 through 3	\$1,319.65
Highway-DA	Claim No. 1 through 3	\$24,610.39

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The bills contained on Abstract #2 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	Claim No. 15 through 34	\$219,768.71
Highway Fund	Claim No. 7 through 11	\$11,424.05
Water Fund	Claim No. 2 through 4	\$4,449.00

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Town Board went into Executive session to discuss employment matters at 7:58 P.M., motion carries as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Town Board returned to regular session at 8:04 P.M., motion carries as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

Supervisor Pierce stated what was discussed during executive session was to hire a replacement for Wendy. This has been a 2-month long process starting back in November/December. The time will be reduced and some duties will be shifted, which are yet to be decided fully, to the Clerk, that are normally Clerk duties.

Supervisor Pierce asked for a motion to extend an employment offer to Maureen Lindsay at 26 hours a week, with the potential schedule of 8:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday. Supervisor Pierce stated they are going to sit down and finalize dates. Ms. Lindsay is not asking for benefits (health benefits, time off). The pay rate would be \$25/hr., 26 hours a week, based on her education and skills.

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Blades, motion to extend employment offer to Maureen Lindsay was approved as follows,

AYES: 4 Supervisor Pierce
 Councilperson Blades
 Councilperson Canavan
 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 Councilperson Pulsifer

Motion Carried 4:0; Absent 1.

- a. *Discussion:* Supervisor Pierce stated he will call Maureen Wednesday morning and that he would like her to start as soon as possible. Councilperson Denton asked if she could possibly come to a Board Meeting. Supervisor Pierce will ask her.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianne Drummond
Town Clerk