

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

**PRESENT:** Timothy Pierce, Supervisor  
John Blades, Councilperson  
Lanita Canavan, Councilperson  
Stephen Denton, Jr., Councilperson  
Terry Pulsifer, Councilperson  
Brianna Drummond, Town Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kevin Denton, Highway Superintendent

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Glen Crowningshield, Wayne Rodger, Evelyn Hatch, Mary McGowan, Gerald Spooner, Kathy Scott, Jeff Scott, Harry Gough, Margaret Bartley, Kim Denton, April Guilder

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**GUESTS:** Supervisor Pierce stated there was one guest listed, Dan Christian. Mr. Christian was not present. Supervisor Pierce said Mr. Christian presented the other night at the Youth Commission meeting.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the February 10, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes were ACCEPTED as amended as follows,

AYES: 4      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried with Councilperson Pulsifer abstaining due to being absent for the February meeting.

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*Note:* The February 10, 2026 Regular Town Board Meeting minutes were accepted as amended to include the following corrections:

- Councilperson Canavan requested Susie’s name be changed to her legal name of Wendy, on page 14 in the body paragraph under Executive Session Action.

**SUPERVISOR’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Supervisor’s Financial Report for the month of February 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton  
                 Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated in regards to NYCLASS, everything from 2004 until now, with all the work that Kevin did, there was 4 of 5 projects that he did with FEMA that have finished last year, so those funds were deposited (\$224,918.68) to NYCLASS. Supervisor Pierce said he has closed three accounts: Social Events, Parks and Recreation and ARPA.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

April Guilder asked how can we be part of these board meetings virtually. Supervisor Pierce said that is a good question and he will look into procedure on that. April stated she thinks we really need to start thinking about that and stated that we have a lot of residents that aren’t here all year and want to be a part of some of these meetings. Councilperson Canavan agreed. Supervisor Pierce stated he knows Crown Point was looking into that as well and they were having a couple of issues as to where to set up the cameras and privacy concerns with the audience. He stated what he thinks they were looking to do was face the cameras onto the board as part of the open meeting. April Guilder asked a follow up question from last meeting in regards to a vote. April Guilder provided the board members with a copy of an article. She stated she thinks it’s important that everyone takes a look at

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the article to get an idea of why the community is really concerned about this Michael Hopmeier project.

**DPW/WATER REPORT**

a. WATER REPORT

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Water Report for the month of February 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton  
                 Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

*Discussion: None*

b. HIGHWAY/BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Highway Superintendent Denton stated that Atlantic Testing was up on Wells Hill doing some core drilling. He stated that's for a project for culvert replacements – two on Wells Hill itself, one on Seventy Lane and one on Johnson Road that they core drilled, which they completed. Superintendent Denton said that it was part of a program that Todd Hodgson has going on with the county, and he believes it started back during Irene. He stated that part of the program has been completed. Superintendent Denton is unsure of the next step as they have not had a meeting. He said they will be doing some culvert changes into bridges and there may be some detours when they do the one above Cornwright's Mill. It has been talked about using the Muzzy Road for the detour. He also mentions maybe a bypass road being put in by Seventy Lane. Superintendent Denton stated that the County secured the funding for the Wells Hill project and they are still researching for more grant money for the one on Seventy Lane and Johnson Road. Supervisor Pierce stated that the project on

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Johnson Road involves other entities due to the salmon spawning. Superintendent Denton stated Fish and Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, Bouquet River Association and a lot of different people are involved in these replacements for the fish. Supervisor Pierce stated these bridges to put in for example they are projecting 1.7 million, working with the county to try to find a way to get the cost down. Supervisor Pierce stated the project on Johnson Road is a real tight area and a bit of a cliff right there and a river coming through – no railing on it. Superintendent Denton stated there are a couple of summer camps on Johnson Road and there is one older couple on the end – he keeps a pretty close eye on them to make sure they can get out with no problems. Superintendent Denton said we have the tentative start date for the culvert change up by the missile site and right now that is June 26<sup>th</sup> if weather stays. Superintendent Denton stated the other project is over on the Moss Road. Last fall they drove the pylons. He does not have a start date on that one, but he said it will affect the school bus route, so the school will have to be notified. It was stated that this project is ready to go and will happen this year. Superintendent Denton said three years ago he was going to pave the rest of that road until he found out they were going to put a bridge in, so he delayed it and went on to a different project. He said there is no sense of putting black top in there and have them break it all up and they may set the bridge different than it is now so the approaches would be wrong. He stated if he waits until they are done and they are going to black top on top of the bridge anyway he can hook on to what they leave him and then finish the rest of the road – no more dirt, a lot less maintenance. Supervisor Pierce stated that Kevin met with the project engineer up at the Hale Hill Road and arranged to borrow some traffic lights and have a one lane pass road through there. Superintendent Denton stated you can't cut anything over 4" after March 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated most of it's cut down now and laying there, we have it started. April Guilder asked how this will affect her rental on Seventy Lane. Superintendent Denton indicated what was engineered on the plans, which would be to put a bypass road and temporary bridge in. He also said he has no current timeline for this project – testing and permitting is done. He said there will be plenty of notice. Councilperson Canavan asked Superintendent Denton about the bill from Sheehan's. Superintendent Denton said he has not yet received a bill and he confirmed it was only for one day. Councilperson Pulsifer inquired about the Moss Road project and notification to the school for the bus routes. He stated we wants to make sure public safety knows too. Superintendent Denton said everyone will know and there is a list of people he goes through to make sure everyone knows.

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Councilperson Denton asked Superintendent Denton if he has received any complaints on any smells around down by Denton’s store. Superintendent Denton said yes and stated that it is the lily pads in Mill Pond.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Elizabethtown Library Association Thank You Letter
  - a. Discussion: None
2. Household Hazardous Waste Collection 2026
  - a. Discussion: Superintendent Pierce stated this has been added to the website. The one held in Elizabethtown will be on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the DPW.
3. North County Honor Flight Thank You Letter
  - a. Discussion: Superintendent Pierce said the amount is not stated. Councilperson Canavan said she thinks the amount is \$500. It is noted to be an incredible event.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Jay Mountain FEMA project
  - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated we get \$240,000 for that (noted to be \$236,000 with interest). It is stated to be multiple culverts for this project. Superintendent Denton said he thinks there are 7 that have to go in as of last year. Supervisor Pierce said that was due to run out on 2/28/26, but he has the extension that he sent in and they accepted what he sent them and they are just running through their steps. He sent an email last week to follow up and they said the extension has been processed by the team and waiting for it to go through the process steps. Extension was asked through October 15<sup>th</sup> – just waiting to hear back.
2. Roost Funds Update
  - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said the actual amount is \$140,480.77. He stated we had \$160,000.00 but then he remembered that last year’s budget we had a one-time allotment for the EMS Squad of \$20,000.00, which we hadn’t collected yet and transferred into Water Funds, so that was the Town’s money not Roost Funds. Superintendent Pierce discussed amount in NYCLASS – about \$110,000 gaining interest in there. Supervisor Pierce stated that we have received our 2025 allotment. Supervisor Pierce discussed Twin Valleys project and the

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interest in that. Superintendent Denton and Supervisor Pierce are going to go out and look at the road and see what is going on with that. Supervisor Pierce said he has another meeting with some of the people from Community Resources. He is hoping to take them out and meet with Arin hopefully first week in April to tour the grounds as well. Supervisor Pierce said he volunteered to be a part of their board.

3. Town Website Update

- a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated there is a double view on the website – computer view and cellphone view. Minutes were uploaded in cellphone view, which is a different format. They have since been submitted in computer view and are now posted in both formats. There is discussion on Elizabethtown’s new website. Councilperson Canavan stated that she is hoping with some of the ROOST funds we can refurbish our website. Supervisor Pierce said he has spoken briefly about this with Paige in Elizabethtown and is looking into what we can do with this.

4. February Referendum motion discussion

- a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said he sent the statutes to the board, and it does not allow for a permissive or mandatory referendum under that. He said if you were going to do that you would be looking at a local law, zoning law or noise ordinance. Supervisor Pierce stated there may have been a meeting in the past about zoning and he believes it got shut down rather loudly. Supervisor Pierce stated there are a couple of options. He stated there was not a true public hearing before – there was an informational meeting, but it was not a board run meeting with the clerk there, so there is that option to allow all the parties to present their case and then the board can decide how they want to go forward from there. Supervisor Pierce said the third option is to write a letter. He asked do we look at a land use codes, zoning ordinance or town noise ordinance and what would that mean, do we look at having a public hearing run with guidelines or do we send a formal letter advising of concerns from local residents. There is discussion regarding the article and Supervisor Pierce stated there is no contract for that range at this point as it was pulled back in 2023, which was in the article, and there were shrapnel concerns in the article as well. According to the article it is unknown who Mr. Hopmeier is doing work for and if there are any projects going forward at this time. Councilperson Canavan stated in regards to the noise and other things mentioned she thinks those

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items need to be visited when we revisit the comprehensive plan. Councilperson Canavan stated her personal opinion would be to have a public hearing. She stated she knows Mr. Hopmeier has stated he wants a resolution in support from this board and he indicated that he could come here and be present, so her recommendation would be to run it the way the Town of Jay ran theirs. Councilperson Canavan said Mr. Hopmeier got up and spoke for so many minutes then the residents that wanted to speak could sign up and then they got three minutes each to speak. She also stated that if some residents are not able to attend in person or virtually that they send questions to the board, so that they can be presented and those questions could be answered. Councilperson Denton and Councilperson Pulsifer both agreed with that. Kathy Scott stated if Mr. Hopmeier asked to come to the board and got approval from the board but we the people we should have more input into what you are hearing from us. Supervisor Pierce said that's why we are talking about a public hearing. It would allow more parties to express their concerns to the board. Kathy Scott said last month they asked the board for their opinions and got the back three but didn't get John or Terry – can they give us an idea of what they are thinking about. Councilperson Blades said he is all for what the public has to say – that's why we are here, we serve the people, but all the people. He said he is a little hesitant to get into noise concern and zoning – where does that end. If we talk to one person for noise who then is next. He stated we need to look into the future with any decisions we make. Councilperson Blades said the more information we can get we can then give a more educated answer and opinion. Councilperson Pulisfer said from the information he has received his gut feeling has been 75/25 (75 against). He stated as far as the zoning goes, working for a town that has zoning, there are lots of regulations on what you can do and we are not staffed to handle something of that magnitude. He said they have a full time code officer, a full time zoning officer, a planning board, a zoning board made up of 6 or 7 people each and all of those decisions are based on information from the public and what those zoning and planning boards decide. Councilperson Pulisfer stated the public always makes his decision and if he has personal feelings on how he thinks it goes he cuts that out of the equation and takes what he hears from the public. There is discussion on how the public hearing should be run. April Guilder expressed she feels it's important there are regulations and that the meeting is structured

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in a way to protect people. Supervisor Pierce stated there are guidelines for the public hearing that he has proposed to the board that are within the packet. Supervisor Pierce said they will sit down and figure out how they want to set the public hearing up.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Youth Commission Report – In Packet

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

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton  
                 Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

a. Discussion: Councilperson Pulsifer stated he has not been able to attend the meetings due to basketball season, which just finished two weeks ago. Now he will be able to start attending again. He said he has been paying attention to the emails coming through. He noted there was a few concerns during basketball season with behavioral issues. He said March 1<sup>st</sup> was their sign up for baseball and softball and they look like they are going fully staffed for coaches.

2. Water Rent Report – In Packet

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Water Rent Report for the month of February 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton

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Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

- a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated they have been coming in quite regularly. He said he believes they are due on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Some people come into the office and they have also had a lot of mail ins.

3. Landfill Report – In Packet

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Blades, the Landfill Report for the month of February 2026 was ACCEPTED as follows,

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton  
                 Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

- a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said sales are doing quite well. Landfill tickets are sold at Denton's, at the town office and at the landfill on Saturday. Councilperson Denton asked if that is the final figure for 2025. Councilperson Canavan said yes - \$7,872.58. Supervisor Pierce stated we started out slow because the price went up and everyone came rushing in at the end of 2024 to buy at the old price.

4. Animal Control – no report

- a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said a verbal report was given. He has been in contact with Dog Control Officer McCarroll regarding some on-going concerns with a dog that was hit on Fox Run Road. The owner was given a ten-day time frame to get that under control and they have been under control, but the

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neighbor is expressing concerns about the type of control. There is a county tethering law. Supervisor Pierce stated that electronic fencing is permitted and that Dog Control Officer McCarroll has spoken to his boss at the state level. Supervisor Pierce said he needs to look at the town law to see if it specifies – may need to look at revisions on that.

5. Codes Report – no report
6. Painting
  - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce directed everyone’s attention to the wall and explained that the painting is of Mt. Inez with Rattlesnake to the left. He said it was done on the Sayre Road. Superintendent Denton said Sayre Road is the road above Twin Valleys. Supervisor Pierce said it was done by Ted Cornell. The painting was donated to James Morse. James donated the painting to the Town of Essex. It was decided that it would be a better fit for Lewis. Supervisor Pierce stated he thinks the painting is the perfect compliment to the Inez print on the other wall. Thanks are extended to Jim Morse.
7. NYSAC Conference
  - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said NYSAC has offered all seven new supervisors, to attend the with all expenses paid – with the county covering the other expenses. He will be attending next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (3/16/26 – 3/18/26) down in Albany at The Desmond. He said Monday they are picking them up and taking them to a meeting at the Governor’s mansion.
8. Public Comment Period and Public Hearings Guidelines
  - a. Discussion: Supervisor Pierce stated the guidelines are attached. If the board wants to take their time, go through it, make any amendments and we will sit down and go over that next meeting. Supervisor Pierce said he would like to get some understanding and order as to how we are going to run the meetings. Councilperson Pulsifer said something we might want to think about is a different facility to host the public hearing as not everyone would fit in here. Councilperson Denton offered to help with the public hearing, if help is needed.

**RESOLUTION 26-3-1**

**ADOPTING THE ESSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

The Town Board of Lewis recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the Town of Lewis; and whereas adoption by the Town of Lewis demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in

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the Essex County Mitigation Plan dated October 10, 2025. The Town of Lewis formally adopts the Essex County Hazard Mitigation Plan dated October 10, 2025.

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

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton  
                 Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

Discussion: Supervisor Pierce said this was sent up from the county. He said every five years the county is required to have their emergency plan updated and this makes us eligible to apply for FEMA funding in the event of an emergency.

**AUDIT AND PAY BILLS**

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

AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce  
                 Councilperson Blades  
                 Councilperson Canavan  
                 Councilperson Denton  
                 Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

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

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General Fund A	Claim No. 12 through 22	\$25,331.34
Trust & Agency - TA	Claim No. 12 through 23	\$684,737.67
Water Fund SW	Claim No. 4 through 5	\$1,152.49
Highway-DA	Claim No. 4 through 6	\$244,681.27

The bills contained on Abstract #3 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	Claim No. 35 through 51	\$12,896.21
Highway Fund	Claim No. 12 through 18	\$7,315.24
Water Fund	Claim No. 5 through 8	\$2,606.88

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion of Councilperson Canavan, seconded by Councilperson Denton, the Town Board went into Executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:52 P.M., motion carries as follows,

- AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce
- Councilperson Blades
- Councilperson Canavan
- Councilperson Denton
- Councilperson Pulsifer

NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

On a motion of Councilperson Denton, seconded by Councilperson Canavan, the Town Board returned to regular session at 7:57 P.M., motion carries as follows,

- AYES: 5      Supervisor Pierce
- Councilperson Blades
- Councilperson Canavan
- Councilperson Denton
- Councilperson Pulsifer

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NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 0

Motion Carried 5:0

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION**

Nothing was voted on during executed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Blades, seconded by Councilperson Canavan, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianne Drummond  
Town Clerk