

Town of Leicester Regular Meeting, June 23, 2026

Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2026, 7:00 PM
132 Main Street, Leicester, NY 14481, US

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

1. Pledge To the Flag

The meeting was called to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Board Members Present / Excused

Present: Supervisor White, Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso, Councilmember Karen Roffe, Councilmember Matthew Durbin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Amy L. Neumann

Absent: Councilman Hull

3. Others Present

Highway Superintendent Russell Page, Town Attorney James Campbell, and Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority Executive Director, Jason Molino were in attendance.

4. Public Present

Members of the public present were Ken Mock Jr., Rob Semmel, Lisa Semmel, Dennis Prevost, John Yasso, James Kane.

II. Privilege of The Floor

1. David Koch?

Supervisor White noted that David Koch had requested Privilege of the Floor at the prior meeting but did not attend. As he did not appear this evening either, the item was passed over with no discussion.

III. Approval of Minutes

1. Motion To Accept Minutes of May 12th Work Meeting as Written

No concerns or changes were raised.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 12th Work Meeting as written was made by Councilmember Karen Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion To Accept Minutes of May 6th Public Hearing as Written

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 6th Public Hearing as written was made by Councilmember Matthew Durbin and seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion To Accept Minutes of May 26th Regular Meeting as Written

Supervisor White flagged a minor correction: the time listed on the minutes read "9 AM" and needed to be corrected to reflect the proper meeting time of 7 PM. No other issues were raised.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 26th Regular Meeting as written, with the correction to the start time, was made by Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion To Accept Minutes of June 9th Work Meeting as Written

Supervisor White noted that Town Clerk/Tax Collector Amy L. Neumann had submitted the draft but that there had not been sufficient time for review. The item was carried forward, and no vote was taken at this time.

IV. Reports / Communications to The Board

1. Town Clerk Financial Reports: Animal, Marriage and Monthly Receipts

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Amy L. Neumann confirmed that all animal, marriage, and monthly financial reports had been distributed to Board Members earlier in the month. The Board acknowledged receipt.

2. Highway Superintendent Report

Supervisor White confirmed that Highway Superintendent Russell Page had submitted his Highway Superintendent's report for the Board's review.

3. Code Office Report

No Code Office report was received for the current period.

4. Supervisor's Report and Budget Report for May

Supervisor White noted that his Supervisor Report had just been distributed electronically that afternoon and that some Members had not yet had a chance to review it. He flagged that the only line item of immediate concern was related to equipment, which would be addressed later under the abstract. He also reiterated that the Annual Financial Report (AFR) for 2025 has still not been received, despite being told it was "almost done" approximately a month and a half ago.

5. Cemetery / John Yasso: Tree Damage and Stone Damaged in Windstorm

John Yasso reported that a recent windstorm caused tree damage at the Cemetery and that one gravestone in the Old Wilson Section near the top of the hill was tipped over and broken in half. Supervisor White indicated the Board would assess repair options once cleanup is complete, and that every effort would be made to restore the stone without causing further damage.

6. Letter From York Leicester Field Day Association

The Board acknowledged receipt of a Thank-You letter from the York Leicester Field Day Association expressing gratitude for the Town's donation. Supervisor White expressed hope that the community would turn out for the fireworks.

7. Notice Of Grant for Flood Mitigation

Supervisor White noted that a notice of a flood mitigation grant had been received, with Andrea Bailey's office being helpful in ensuring it came to his attention. He indicated it is premature to act on it at this time but expressed optimism that following an upcoming meeting on the flooding situation, the Town may be in a position to pursue funding for remediation efforts.

V. White Creek Solar

1. First Amendment to Host Community Benefit Agreement – York Asked For Leicester To Disperse Funds

Supervisor White provided background on this item. At the prior meeting, the Board had passed Resolution 0602-2026 authorizing him to sign the First Amendment to the Host Community Benefit Agreement, with the original understanding that the Town of York would handle disbursement of funds. However, at their concurrent meeting, York determined it would be preferable for Leicester to handle disbursement, since the relevant staff member—Sean—is already on Leicester's payroll. Supervisor White relayed that he had spoken briefly with Dwight Kanyuk after the meeting and had no objection and sought the Board's concurrence to amend the resolution accordingly.

2. Amend Resolution 0602-2026

Motion to amend Resolution 0602-2026 to authorize the Town of Leicester to disburse funds under the First Amendment to the White Creek Solar Host Community Benefit Agreement was made by Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. DOG Control

Supervisor White reviewed the Town's intent to formally designate the Livingston County Sheriff's Department Dog Control as the recipient of any public donations related to dog and animal control, in compliance with a recent State Law Requirement. He noted that the Board had been provided with draft license language for reference. No significant concerns were raised, and the matter was referred to the resolutions section for formal action.

VII. Highway Equipment

1. Surplus Old Grader: 1980 John Deere Grader W/Wing to Be Sold at Auction Per State Guidelines

Supervisor White recommended the Surplus of 1980 John Deere Grader with wing and placing it up for auction while the market remains seasonally favorable, noting that equipment of this type fetches higher prices outside of the winter months. Brief discussion followed regarding auction vendors, with Highway Superintendent Russell Page mentioning both Auctions International and local auctioneer Tietsworth. The Board expressed a preference for supporting a local and loyal vendor.

Motion to declare the 1980 John Deere Grader with wing as surplus and authorize its sale at auction per state guidelines was made by Councilmember Karen Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The surplus and auction sale of the 1980 John Deere Grader is expected to generate one-time revenue for the Town's equipment fund. While no specific sale estimate was cited, Supervisor White noted the timing was deliberate selling during the active season is expected to yield a better return than waiting until winter. Proceeds, alongside the anticipated revenue from the surplus 2008 truck, are intended to help offset a roughly \$6,000 shortfall in the equipment line associated with the recently purchased pickup truck. The benefit to residents is sound fiscal stewardship of aging highway assets, converting idle equipment into funds that support ongoing highway operations.

VIII. PT/WTWD Update

Supervisor White noted there was no update on the Pine Tavern/Watertown Water District at this time.

IX. Planning Board

1. Appoint Ken Mock to Planning Board. Discussion And Motion

Supervisor White noted that the Planning Board is currently short at least one member, with a second vacancy anticipated. He indicated that Ken Mock Jr. has expressed interest in serving and has attended several Planning Board meetings to familiarize himself with the process. The Board expressed support, and moved to appoint him.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Amy L. Neumann confirmed the term is a five-year staggered appointment.

Motion to appoint Ken Mock Jr. to the Planning Board for a five-year staggered term was made by Councilmember Matthew Durbin and seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Sewer Districts

1. LCWSA Wants to Try Again for Grants To Replace Pumps at The Leicester and Mt. Morris Pump Stations

Jason Molino of the Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority (LCWSA) addressed the board regarding a reapplication for a \$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to replace the pumps at the Leicester and Mt. Morris pump stations. He explained that after the prior year's application was unsuccessful, LCWSA staff met with the CDBG program administrators and received constructive feedback. Working with grant writer Tammy Kunzman of Hunt Engineering, they plan to revise the narrative to better address the scoring criteria while making minor technical adjustments to strengthen the overall submission.

Jason Molino noted that because LCWSA is not itself an eligible CDBG applicant, the Town of Leicester would serve as the applicant of record—consistent with last year's approach. He also noted that a parallel application for a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIA) grant would be filed covering the Leicester and Mt. Morris pump stations. The process closely mirrors last year's, with the main additional steps being a Public Hearing and potentially one supplemental resolution at the July 14th meeting related to EEO regulatory requirements.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The Town is pursuing a one-time \$1,000,000 CDBG grant through the reapplication process, with grant writing and administration supported by Hunt Engineering. The funding source is federal CDBG program dollars, with the Town serving as the sponsoring applicant on behalf of LCWSA. The rationale for reapplying now is the direct feedback received from program administrators following last year's unsuccessful attempt, giving the revised application a stronger competitive footing. If awarded, the grant would fund the replacement of aging sewer pump station equipment serving the Leicester and Mt. Morris districts—critical infrastructure that, if it failed, would directly impact residents' sewer service. A parallel WIA grant application further broadens the funding strategy, reducing risk. No local match amount was specified in the discussion.

2. Set Public Hearing on Request to File Grant Application on Town Of Leicester's Behalf

The Board agreed to set a Public Hearing on July 14th, 2026, to consider authorizing the filing of the CDBG grant application on the Town's behalf. Formal action was taken under the Resolutions section.

XI. OLCWD

1. Review Financials and Determine If Early Termination of Water Surcharge Is Possible

Supervisor White presented a proposal to remove the \$30.00 monthly surcharge currently imposed on Old Leicester Cuylerville Water District (OLCWD) customers, which was originally established to repay a debt to the Village of Leicester. He indicated that he believes the Town is in a financial position to retire the surcharge as of August 1st, 2026, and that his financial figures had been submitted electronically to the Board and to the Town's financial advisor for review and verification.

Town Attorney James Campbell advised that even though the action involves eliminating a fee rather than imposing one, a Public Hearing is still legally required before the surcharge can be removed. A member of the

Public expressed enthusiastic support for the proposal, drawing a lighthearted reminder from Town Attorney James Campbell that the Public Hearing would be the appropriate venue for public comment.

A Public Hearing was set for July 14th, 2026, with formal action taken under the Resolutions section.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The elimination of the \$30.00 per-month water surcharge represents a recurring cost reduction for all OLCWD ratepayers. The surcharge was established to repay a specific debt to the Village of Leicester; Supervisor White believes sufficient funds are now available to retire that obligation. The financial advisor has been asked to verify the numbers prior to the July 14th Public Hearing. If confirmed and approved, the removal would take effect August 1st, 2026, providing direct, immediate relief to District Residents on their monthly water bills. No new funding source is required; the action simply closes out an existing debt repayment mechanism.

XII. Resolutions

1. Amends 0602-2026 – Allowing Supervisor to Sign 1st Amendment to White Creek Solar Host Agreement W/ Town Of Leicester Distributing Funds

This action was taken earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item V. See above for discussion and vote.

2. Resolution 0604-2026 Designating Livingston County Sheriff's Department Dog Control as Recipients of Donations for Local Shelter

Motion to adopt Resolution 0604-2026, designating the Livingston County Sheriff's Dog Control as recipients of donations for the local animal shelter, was made by Councilmember Karen Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. Upon roll call vote: Councilmember Durbin – Yes; Councilmember Roffe – Yes; Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso – Abstain; Supervisor White – Yes. Motion Passed, 3-0 with one abstention.

3. Resolution 0605-2026 Setting Public Hearing on July 14th, 2026, To Consider The Removal of the \$30.00 Sur Charge Imposed To Repay Debt To The Village of Leicester as Of August 1st, 2026

Motion to adopt Resolution 0605-2026, setting a Public Hearing on July 14th, 2026, to consider removal of the \$30.00 OLCWD surcharge effective August 1st, 2026, was made by Councilmember Matthew Durbin and seconded by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso. Upon roll call vote: Councilmember Durbin – Yes; Councilmember Roffe – Yes; Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso – Yes; Supervisor White – Yes. Motion Passed, 4-0.

4. Resolution 0606-2026 Setting Public Hearing on The Town Of Leicester (LCWSA) Applying for A One-Million-Dollar CDBG Grant To Replace Pumps in the Sewer District Pump Houses

Motion to adopt Resolution 0606-2026, setting a Public Hearing for July 14th, 2026, on the Town of Leicester's application for a \$1,000,000 CDBG grant to replace pumps in the sewer district pump houses, was made by Councilmember Karen Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. Upon roll call vote: Councilmember Durbin – Yes; Councilmember Roffe – Yes; Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso – Yes; Supervisor White – Yes. Motion Passed, 4-0.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Amy L. Neumann confirmed that hearing notices for the Public Hearings set by Resolutions 0605-2026 and 0606-2026 would be submitted for newspaper publication.

XIII. Audit of Claims

1. Motion To Approve Payment of Abstract #6 In the Amount Of \$91,794.31

Supervisor White noted that Abstract #6 includes \$63,000 for the purchase of a highway pickup truck acquired the prior year, the invoice for which had only recently been received.

Motion to approve payment of Abstract #6 in the amount of \$91,794.31 was made by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. The motion carried unanimously. Motion Passed.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

Abstract #6 totals \$91,794.31, of which \$63,000 represents the final payment for a highway pickup truck that was purchased the prior year. Supervisor White acknowledged a roughly \$6,000 shortfall in the equipment budget line, which is expected to be addressed through a line-item transfer, with anticipated offsets from the sale of the surplus 2008 highway truck and the 1980 John Deere Grader. The payment is a one-time disbursement covering accumulated claims and capital equipment, directly supporting the highway department's operational capacity for the benefit of town residents.

XIV. Executive Session: If Needed

No board member requested an executive session. The item was passed over.

XV. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Councilmember Karen Roffe provided an update on the Cemetery Tree inspection, noting that arborist Josh Galli had completed his site visit but had not yet delivered his report to the Board. She indicated she would follow up with him to ensure the report is available for the next meeting.

John Yasso provided a brief update on the Leicester Fire District, reporting that the District recently received 27 brand-new air packs and 22 sets of turnout gear, all funded through grants that the Leicester Fire Company had secured prior to the District's formation. The combined equipment value was noted at approximately \$375,000. He also reported that work is ongoing to surplus old apparatus, that the engine and mini are already designated for sale, and that a Committee has been formed to plan the replacement of the District's oldest tanker. Additionally, he noted that a utility pickup truck—funded through solar project proceeds—is being specified for competitive bid per attorney guidance.

Town Attorney James Campbell provided an informational overview on emerging energy and infrastructure trends at the board's request, touching on battery energy storage systems (BESS), large-scale solar regulation under the state's ORES office, and the potential—though not imminent—interest in data centers. He noted that the Town of York is considering a moratorium on data centers and described the Tesla MegaPack 2 battery storage technology currently being considered in the Town of Avon as an example of the smaller-footprint, revenue-generating energy projects that may come before local boards in the near future.

Highway Superintendent Russell Page and Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso briefly discussed the recently completed bedliner installation on the new highway pickup truck, which came in at \$1,200 through Treadwells—a savings compared to earlier quotes of approximately \$1,600.

Motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.

Following adjournment, Supervisor White directed Town Clerk/Tax Collector Amy L. Neumann to swear in the newly appointed Planning Board member.