

Town of Leicester Regular Meeting, August 25, 2026

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2026, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
132 Main Street, Leicester, NY 14481, US

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting called to order. Councilmember Gerald Hull led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was established.

Present: Supervisor Richard White, Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso, Councilmember Karen Roffe, Councilmember Matthew Durbin, Councilmember Gerald Hull. Also present: Attorney James Campbell, Deputy Town Clerk/Court Clerk Kim Reitz, Highway Superintendent Russell Page.

Guest Speaker: Sandy Schneible with Letchworth Genesee Valley Partnership

Public Present: Ken Mock, Dennis Prevost

II. Privilege of the Floor

Sandy Schneible – Letchworth Genesee Valley Partnership

Sandy Schneible presented on behalf of the Letchworth Genesee Valley Partnership (formerly Gateway Villages), a regional collaboration of municipalities focused on sustainable economic development and revitalization. The partnership, active since 2017, now includes ten communities ranging from Wheatland to Cuba and has generated over \$800,000 in grant funding since inception.

Ms. Schneible invited the Town of Leicester to join the partnership. Membership fees are tiered at \$2,000, \$3,500, or \$5,000 annually based on municipality size, and may be split among multiple entities. She noted that a historic barn survey — funded through solar project mitigation dollars — is being proposed for the Towns of Leicester and York, which prompted her outreach to the supervisors.

The Board discussed potential membership tier placement and questioned the return on investment. Ms. Schneible noted benefits including regional grant access, a digital tourism platform at explorejgvalley.com, and alignment with trail and greenway development opportunities. Town Supervisor Richard White indicated the Board would consider membership during the upcoming budget process.

III. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 11th Work Meeting minutes deferred to the next meeting pending corrections, including the removal of AI-generated content.

IV. Reports / Communications to the Board

1. Town Clerk Financial Reports

Monthly financial reports (animal, marriage, and monthly receipts) were distributed digitally in advance of the meeting. No discussion.

2. Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Russell Page confirmed his report submitted. No additional discussion.

3. Code Office Report

No Code Office report received.

4. Supervisor's Report and Budget Report for July 2026

Town Supervisor Richard White noted his reports would be provided at the upcoming work meeting.

5. Meeting with Toshiba on Digitalization of Records

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that he and the Town Clerk met with Toshiba regarding a records digitalization program. Options include full-service packages and cloud storage. It was noted that a county-administered storage system covered under an existing grant may be available to the Town at no additional monthly cost. Additional pricing comparisons are forthcoming.

6. Meeting with Racetrack and Department of Health

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that a meeting with the racetrack and the Department of Health went well. Both parties have a clear understanding of each other's positions and are working toward a mutually acceptable resolution.

7. NYS DOL Inspection of Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Russell Page reported that the New York State Department of Labor conducted an unannounced inspection. The items cited were hazard communication program (updated), silica exposure plan (new template received), lockout/tagout procedures (new template received), training deficiencies in hazard communication and hazardous material emergency response awareness, required right-to-know and PESH posters (already posted), head/face protection for chainsaw use (purchased), and a welding jacket (purchased). A formal notice of violation with due dates has not yet been received; the Town has 75 days to respond to training citations. Town Supervisor Richard White characterized the overall outcome as strong.

Following the DOL inspection, NYMIR (the Town's insurance carrier) also conducted an inspection and issued five recommendations. Notably, the Board discussed enrollment in the LENS program for CDL license monitoring — confirmed to be available to municipalities at no fee — and the implementation of daily vehicle inspection sheets. After discussion with Town Attorney James Campbell, the Board agreed that daily inspection sheets, if adopted, must be completed consistently, and directed staff to evaluate electronic options for compliance and record retention.

8. NYMIR Inspection

Covered above under Item IV.7. Town Supervisor Richard White also noted the NYMIR renewal application is currently in progress.

9. Flooding Update: NYS Parks

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that NYS Parks declined to clean the drainage ditch on River Road, instead proposing a property transfer to the county to attach it to the road right-of-way. Environmental concerns regarding wildlife corridor usage have introduced additional options. A follow-up meeting planned for late September or early October.

V. White Creek Solar

1. Updates

Town Supervisor Richard White reported no current updates. A public meeting scheduled for October 29th at the fire hall during the day.

VI. PT/WTWD Update

1. Updates

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that language on two of the three inter-municipal agreements (with the county and the water authority) has been finalized. A minor language change was requested regarding the tri-party agreement, after which it will be ready for execution. The USDA grant and low-interest financing application is currently being prepared. A public informational meeting on the roundabout is scheduled for September 15th at the fire hall.

VII. 2027 Budget Discussion

Town Supervisor Richard White distributed a salary comparison sheet and outlined the proposed budget calendar: tentative budget presentation to the Board by September 22nd, public hearing notice and posting of elected official salaries by October 13th, public hearing on October 27th, and adoption of the final budget by November 10th. The Board asked to review the timeline and flag any concerns.

VIII. Town Attorney

1. Local Law Prohibiting Data Centers

Town Supervisor Richard White expressed interest in enacting a local law moratorium on data centers, citing concern over the state's executive action and its modifiable nature. Town Attorney James Campbell advised that a moratorium suspends landowner rights and therefore requires a clear stated purpose — specifically, that the Town intends to research and adopt zoning provisions within the moratorium period (suggested at 12 months). He cautioned that failing to act during the moratorium period would create legal vulnerability and preclude extension. The Board directed Town Attorney Campbell to draft a moratorium local law.

2. Sharing Planning and Zoning Board Members

Town Supervisor Richard White raised the possibility of having overlapping membership between the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, noting a similar arrangement in Scottsville. Town Attorney James Campbell advised that while not legally prohibited, it is also not expressly permitted under state town law and should be enacted by local law using municipal home rule powers. He cautioned that overlapping membership can create conflict of interest concerns when an application comes before both boards (e.g., a variance denial at the ZBA followed by planning board review) and recommended that any overlap be structured to ensure a non-overlapping quorum. The Board noted that a potential new member would bring the Planning Board to five members, with the ZBA still short.

3. Mandated Training for Volunteers on Zoning & Planning Boards

Town Supervisor Richard White confirmed that NYMIR's mandatory workplace violence and sexual harassment training applies to all board members, including volunteers. No further action taken.

Town Supervisor Richard White also raised a question regarding the water tower's continued listing on the NYMIR insurance application, given that the county has assumed operational responsibilities. Town Attorney James Campbell confirmed that no property transferred under the operations and maintenance lease and agreed to review the lease to clarify the Town's ongoing insurance obligations.

IX. Village

Town Supervisor Richard White reminded the Board that September is Mayor Barry Briffa's last meeting with the Village will be on September 21st, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM.

The Board also addressed the expiration of the highway department MOU with the Village at year end. Town Supervisor Richard White indicated he would work with incoming Mayor Danny Cristiano on a renewal, with updated rates.

X. Audit of Claims

Motion to approve payment of Abstract #8 in the amount of \$36,605.04 made by Councilmember Gerald Hull and seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. The motion carried.

XI. Executive Session

No Executive Session held.

XII. Resolution

- 0801-2026 Additionally, the Board approved the surplus of the 2008 dump truck and its transfer to Roy's auction. Motion to surplus the 2008 dump truck and send it to Roy's auction was made by Town Supervisor Richard White and seconded by Deputy Town Supervisor Jason Yasso. The motion carried. Motion to adjourn made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Gerald Hull and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reitz.