Town of Leicester

Work Meeting

April 14th, 2026

Meeting minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Richard White called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. All Board Members were present. Town Clerk Amy L Neumann and Town Attorney James Campbell, Highway Superintendent Russell Page, Livingston County Water and Sewer Director, Jason Molino were also in attendance.

Pledge to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present/ Excused: All Present

All Board Members were present for the meeting.

Others Present: Town Clerk, Town Attorney James Campbell

Town Clerk Amy L Neumann and Town Attorney James Campbell Highway Superintendent, Russell Page and Livingston County Water and Sewer Director Jason Molino were present.

Public Present:

Multiple residents were present for the meeting.

Donald Plank, Ronni Plank, Dan Morin, Ken Mock Jr. John Yasso, Missy Levey, Beverly Deming-Dennison, Ryan Hermenet (News 8 UROC), Kim Diamond, Rob Semmel, Lisa Semmel, Denise Randall, Haley Diamond, Dennis Prevost.

Open Public Hearing on Local Law 01-2026 - Correcting Highway Superintendent's Salary

Supervisor White opened the public hearing on Local Law 01-2026. Town Attorney James Campbell read the Public Hearing notice, which detailed the Proposed Local Law to increase the salary of the elected town Highway Superintendent due to a calculation error in the 2026 Preliminary Budget. The law is authorized under New York State town law section 27 subsection 1.

Re introduce law

The law was reintroduced as described in the Public Notice.

Present Publication of Notice

Town Attorney James Campbell confirmed that the notice had been properly published.

No public comments were received on the Local Law at this time. Councilmember Dennis Prevost made a brief comment suggesting they should "Pay the man."

Privilege of the floor

Several residents requested to speak during the privilege of the floor regarding water drainage issues.

Plank

Don Plank, a River Road resident of over 20 years, described repeated flooding on his property. He explained that in 2017, rain caused the creek to overflow, flooding his property three feet deep and causing him to lose a vehicle, motorcycle, and lawnmower. The flooding returned in 2023 and again on April 2, 2026, with the most recent flood being even deeper. Plank has lost additional equipment including a lawnmower and snowblower and has five inches of mud throughout his yard and driveway. He expressed frustration that no one wanted to take responsibility for shoring up the creek bed after the 2017 incident and demanded to know what would be done to prevent future flooding.

Levey

Melissa Levey, also a River Road resident, echoed Plank's concerns about repeated flooding. She described losing possessions including cars and vehicles and noted that the insulation in her mobile home was completely saturated from the flooding. Levey expressed frustration with the lack of action and stated she would likely move rather than endure another flood.

Diamond

Haley Diamond, another River Road resident, described experiencing three floods and losing three vehicles in 2017 and a motorcycle in the recent flood. She raised concerns about the lack of warning systems, noting that Town Vehicles drove through with lights but no sirens or active warnings. Diamond suggested that residents would have evacuated earlier if proper warnings had been given. She also mentioned a natural ditch system between the greenway and River Road properties that could help with drainage if the Town cleared trees that block the system.

Kim Diamond described getting the worst flooding due to her property's lower elevation. She criticized the Greenway Management's refusal to clear trees and debris, saying they preferred to "let nature be nature." Kim Diamond expressed anger at being told she lives in a flood zone and should expect floods, noting her disability and the difficulty of evacuation. She demanded the Town take responsibility for replacing flood-damaged items.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of March 28th, 2026

> Councilmember Karen Roffe made a motion to accept the March 28th minutes. Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

Reports / Communications to the Board

Notice that the White Creek Solar has authorized a Check for the Leicester Fire District

Supervisor White reported that White Creek Solar had authorized a check for the Leicester Fire District. The check was received and will be deposited by the Town, with a corresponding check written to the Fire Department to maintain proper accounting procedures.

County Planning - Broad Band info May 12th meeting. Will be in area soon

Supervisor White announced that County Planning contacted him about Broadband becoming more active in the Town. They requested to attend the May 12th, 2026, Town Board Meeting to discuss Broadband plans and progress with interested residents.

Treatment Court - Members need 25hrs Community Service

Supervisor White reported that Treatment Court has more members needing Community Service than available opportunities, and asked Board Members to suggest potential Community Service Projects.

LC Teen recognition: Brody Gullo and Joselyn Hulme for Leicester

Supervisor White announced that Brody Gullo and Joselyn Hulme from Leicester were selected for Livingston County Teen Recognition.

LC Seniorama Larry Wilkins for Leicester

Supervisor White reported that Larry Wilkins was chosen as Leicester's representative for LC Seniorama.

Boy Scouts of America - Elijah Hawks

Supervisor White announced that Elijah Hawks from Leicester is receiving his Eagle Scout award with a ceremony at Celebrate Church. The Board discussed potentially doing something to recognize this achievement.

Water Drainage Issues

Supervisor White addressed multiple water drainage issues throughout the Town, emphasizing the complexity of the problems and the various jurisdictions involved.

Water Issue - Barb Barrett - Peoria Road

Supervisor White and Highway Superintendent Russell Page investigated a flooding issue affecting Barb Barrett's property on Peoria Road. Despite being on top of a hill, Barrett experienced basement flooding due to water pooling at the cemetery and flowing onto her property through a low spot. Page is researching property boundaries and deed descriptions to determine potential solutions, including either filling the low area or redirecting water to the front road.

Water Issue - Robert Skinner - New Road

Supervisor White described a recurring issue where a stream crossing New Road is eroding the bank near Robert Skinner's property. The Town's pipe ends at the right-of-way boundary, and the erosion occurs on private property beyond the Town's jurisdiction. Supervisor White noted that the pipe predates the house construction and represents a natural waterway that the road was built over.

Water Drainage Issues on Jones Bridge Road

Supervisor White and Dan Morin discussed drainage problems on Jones Bridge Road, particularly in the corner area where large culverts handle significant water flow. Morin has videos documenting and expressed that he could share the extent of the flooding and erosion in the area.

Water Drainage Issues: River Road

Supervisor White provided extensive discussion of the complex River Road drainage situation. He explained that the Highway Department can only work within their right-of-way and cannot enter private property. The Creek is controlled by DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers. Supervisor White noted that River Road is a County Road, making the County responsible for ditching within their right-of-way.

Supervisor White explained that various improvements upstream could worsen flooding downstream if the entire system isn't addressed comprehensively. He described how water backing up from the sinkhole and dam affects drainage throughout the area. Supervisor White noted that the County lost an excavator when they attempted unauthorized work in the Creek area last year.

Town Attorney James Campbell emphasized the need for Technical Consulting help and a Comprehensive Plan rather than piecemeal solutions. He explained that moving water from one area could create problems elsewhere, requiring careful Engineering Analysis. Attorney Campbell suggested the need for Grant Funding and proper permissions for any work on private property, noting that a Comprehensive Drainage Plan would be necessary to qualify for Grant Funds.

Supervisor White proposed inviting DEC, Army Corps of Engineers, and County Officials and State Government Representatives to a meeting to develop a coordinated approach. He acknowledged the frustration of residents but emphasized the legal and jurisdictional constraints the Town faces.

Several residents expressed skepticism about the Town's commitment, referencing similar promises made in 2017 that didn't result in action. Supervisor White acknowledged their concerns but emphasized this was the only viable path forward given the regulatory constraints.

PT/WTWD

Discussion on PT/WTWD Petitions

Town Attorney Campbell reported on the results of petition verification for the Pine Tavern West Town Water District formation. The petitions met all requirements with 53.15% of total assessed value and 63% of residential signature value. All petition signatures were properly authenticated and verified.

Motion to accept Petitions to form West Town Water District and Set Public Hearing for May 6th at 7:00PM, Resolution # 0302-2026

> Councilmember Matthew Durbin made a motion to accept the petitions as presented. Deputy Supervisor Yasso seconded the motion. Motion Passed on roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Town Attorney Campbell explained the next steps, including publishing a 26-page Public Hearing notice in the official newspaper. The notice must include the complete legal description of district boundaries and all properties within the proposed district. The publication will cost approximately $2,000, significantly less than the $5,000 it would cost in the legal notice section.

> Deputy Supervisor Yasso made a motion to set the public hearing for May 6th at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Durbin seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit: The water district formation involves $2,000 in publication costs from the Town's general fund as a one-time expense. This investment enables the formation of a water district that will provide municipal water service to residents in the Pine Tavern West Town Water District area who currently rely on private wells. The District Formation is necessary now to access available Grant Funding for infrastructure improvements and will provide residents with reliable water service while maintaining Town ownership of the infrastructure assets.

Discussion on AKZO/Town of Leicester Funding agreement

Town Attorney Campbell explained the Akzo Funding Agreement that provides grant funds to the Town for Water Infrastructure Improvements.

Discussion on T of Leicester/LCWSA first Amendment to The Present lease Agreement. Agreement PT/WTWD Regional project

Town Attorney Campbell described amendments to the lease agreement with Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority that will incorporate New Water Infrastructure into the existing management structure while maintaining Town ownership.

Discussion on First Amendment to LCWSA Lease Agreement

The lease amendment will confirm Town ownership of new infrastructure assets while allowing the Livingston County Water Sewer Authority to manage operations.

Resolution 0301-2026 authorizing the supervisor to sign the above three agreements

> Deputy Supervisor Yasso moved to authorize Supervisor White to sign all three agreements. Councilmember Roffe seconded the motion. Motion Passed on roll call vote with all members voting yes.

Cleaning contract is due: Review

Councilmember Durbin reported that his contact for cleaning services lacked proper insurance and wasn't interested in the Contract.

Discussion of options

Deputy Supervisor Yasso and Supervisor White discussed converting a vacant position line item to pay for in-house cleaning services, which would provide more control and potentially cost savings. Supervisor White calculated approximately 2 hours every other week would be needed, at an estimated $40 per hour including benefits.

Motion to proceed as?

Deputy Supervisor Yasso suggested advertising the position publicly to ensure fair consideration of all applicants, including relatives who had expressed interest. Town Clerk Neumann agreed to prepare an advertisement for the position.

Highway Department

Grader

Highway Superintendent Page provided extensive research on replacing the Town's 1980 grader. He explained unsuccessful attempts to establish shared services with neighboring Towns, whose equipment was either too old or already committed. Superintendent Page described finding a 2014 John Deere 672G with only 1,800 hours from a small Township in Illinois. The machine has been maintained at a dealership, stored inside, and never exposed to salt.

Superintendent Page detailed the machine's specifications and condition, noting it includes features the current grader lacks. The price is $175,000 cash, with financing available through John Deere at $40,267 per year for five years. A comparable new machine would cost over $300,000.

Deputy Supervisor Yasso expressed support for the purchase, noting the machine's low hours and expected 40-year lifespan. Councilmember Matthew Durbin requested time to consider the purchase. Councilmember Gerald Hull asked for financial information from the Town's Accountant before making a decision.

Supervisor White noted concerns about increasing road damage from farm equipment and the need for more road maintenance in the future. He calculated that renting equivalent equipment would cost $900 per day or $7,500 per month, making ownership cost-effective.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit: The grader purchase involves $175,000 from the Town's equipment fund, either as cash payment or financed at $40,267 annually for five years. This is a one-time capital expense necessary now because the current 46-year-old grader is beyond economical repair and the construction season is approaching. The purchase provides residents with continued road maintenance capabilities including dirt road grading, shoulder pulling, ditch cutting, and snow removal operations that would otherwise cost $7,500 monthly to rent when available.

Other Business

Supervisor White presented Insurance Revaluation results showing the Town Hall is underinsured at $632,000 when it should be $1,000,000, and the Town Garage is underinsured at $962,000 when it should be $1,400,000. The Board agreed to wait until Policy Renewal rather than immediately adjust coverage.

Village Resident, Dan Morin presented detailed analysis of South Street drainage issues, including elevation surveys and proposed solutions to divert water to Jones Bridge Road ditches rather than behind houses. Highway Superintendent Page explained that Livingston County Soil and Water has indicated funding is available for upstream water retention solutions, but the Village of Leicester not the Town must serve as Lead Agent as discussed in years prior. Superintendent Page encouraged Residents to attend the Village Board Meeting to advocate for action.

Close Public Hearing on Local Law 01-2026

Deputy Supervisor Yasso made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:53 pm. Councilmember Matthew Durbin seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Local Law 01-2026

Deputy Supervisor Yasso made a motion to vote on the Local Law 01-2026. Councilmember Roffe seconded the motion. Motion Passed on roll call vote with all members voting yes, approving Local Law 01-2026 to correct the Highway Superintendent's salary. This is subject to permissive Referendum.

Adjournment

Deputy Supervisor Yasso made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m., Councilmember Matthew Durbin seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.