

Town of Leicester July 8, 2025, Work/Public Hearing Meeting

Meeting minutes

Pledge to the Flag led by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso

Request for a moment of silence for Texas Flood victims and prayer for Laura Page

Supervisor Richard White called for a moment of silence for the Texas flood victims and requested an extra prayer for Laura Page.

Board Members Present/ Excused: All Present

Supervisor White noted that all Board Members were present for the meeting.

Others Present:

Supervisor White acknowledged the presence of Town Clerk Amy Neumann and Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority (LCWSA) Director Jason Molino.

Public Present:

Rich Neumann, Rob Semmel, Lisa Semmel, Dennis Prevost

Open Public Hearing on grant application to replace pumps in Sewer District 1 at 7:01 P.M.

Read Public Notice into record.

Town Clerk Amy Neumann read the public notice that was published in the Livingston County Newspaper. Friday June 20, 2025, Edition. The notice detailed the Public Hearing for July 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, regarding the Town's community development needs and the possible submission of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2025 program year. The notice mentioned that the Town was applying for up to \$1,000,000 in CDBG funds for a public infrastructure project to upgrade Pump Stations.

Open floor to discussion on grant application

Supervisor White opened the floor for questions concerning the grant application. There were no immediate questions from the Public or Board Members.

Letter requested by LCWSA

Supervisor White mentioned a letter sent by LCWSA regarding the pro-housing initiative. He expressed concerns about the implications of the letter, particularly the statement about the planning department working with New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

LCWSA Director Jason Molino explained that the state has been pushing for pro-housing initiatives and tying grant funding to these initiatives. He clarified that it involves advocating for housing that meets community needs, avoiding housing discrimination, and ensuring information availability. Molino assured that it wouldn't compromise the character of the community and that the comprehensive plan promotes a good housing approach without mandating specific housing numbers.

Supervisor White requested more details before signing the letter, to ensure the requirements would be appropriate for their rural, farming community.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of June 24th, 2025

Motion to approve June 24, 2025, minutes was made by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso, seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. All in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution: 0701 of 2025

Adopt the attached resolution requesting state assistance for a reassessment project for the Town of Leicester

Supervisor White read the Resolution requesting State Assistance for a Reassessment Project for the Town of Leicester. The Resolution stated that the Town had undergone a reevaluation of real properties and felt it necessary to conduct a reassessment project to maintain a uniform standard of assessment. The Resolution requested assistance from the New York State Office of Rural Property Services for the reassessment project.

Motion to request assistance for the reassessment program was made by Councilmember Gerald Hull, seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. A roll call vote was conducted:

- Supervisor White: Aye
- Council Member Yasso: Aye
- Gerald Hull: Aye
- Karen Roffe: Aye
- Matt Durbin: Aye
- Motion carried.

Resolution: 0702 for 2025

Adopt the Town of Leicester Employee Handbook prepared by Public Sector HR Consultants LLC

Supervisor White mentioned that the final copy of the employee handbook was available, and they had previously accepted the second draft of it. He stated that if anyone wanted a copy, they could request one, and digital copies were also available. Once approved, the handbook would be distributed to all employees.

Motion to approve the employee handbook as drafted was made by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso, seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. A roll call vote was conducted:

- Supervisor White: Aye
- Council Member Yasso: Aye
- Council member Hull: Aye
- Council member Roffe: Aye
- Councilmember Durbin: Aye
- Motion carried.

Other items

Researching the Mock Complaint

Supervisor White mentioned that he and Town Attorney Jim Campbell were still researching the matter brought up by Mr. Ken Mock two meetings ago. He informed the Town Board that Mr. Ken Mock had asked to come to the next meeting again, and they should have a good foundation on what needs to be done by then.

Other items: Any added discussion from the Board or from the floor

No additional items were discussed under this section.

Open floor to discussion on grant application

Supervisor White opened the floor again for any questions or concerns about the Sewer District number 1 repairs or upgrades. No further questions or comments were raised.

Close Public Hearing on Sewer District one Grant

Motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. was made by Councilmember Karen Roffe, seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin and Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso. All in favor. Motion carried.

During the meeting, several additional topics were discussed that were not explicitly listed in the agenda:

1. Water Project Update: LCWSA Director Jason Molino provided an update on the water project. He mentioned that the Village of Geneseo had opted out of participation after 18 months of dialogue. However, this opened new possibilities, including bringing Hemlock water to the west, which is cheaper and of better quality. Molino explained that they had assembled about \$22 million worth of different grant money for the project.

The new plan involves bringing water from Groveland Hill extension down Abel Road, up Route 63, and across Jones Bridge. This route is more direct, brings more flow, and is beneficial for future interests. Molino emphasized that this approach complements the Pine Taverns piece and the use of AXZO funds.

2. Boyd and Parker Park Concrete and Fencing: Resident Lisa Semmel inquired about removing the fencing and materials from the concrete at Boyd and Parker Park. Supervisor White explained that they were waiting to add topsoil to the edges before officially opening it up. He mentioned he would speak with Deputy Highway Superintendent Todd Lubanski about dropping off topsoil, and he offered to work it and seed it himself to expedite the process.
3. Fire Hydrant Repair: There was a discussion about a damaged fire hydrant. LCWSA Director Molino explained that a car had likely hit the hydrant, damaging the threads. He assured that hydrants to the north and south of the damaged one were functional. Molino mentioned that they were working on repairing it but couldn't provide a specific timeline due to the number of hydrants they manage across their system.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. was made by Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember Jason Yasso, seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. All in favor. Motion carried.