

Town of Leicester Regular Meeting, August 26, 2025

Meeting minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call

Pledge to the Flag

Councilmember Matthew Durbin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present/ Excused: All Present

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

Others Present:

Town Clerk, Amy Neumann and Town Attorney, James Campbell.

Public Present

Rob Semmel, Lisa Semmel, Rich Neumann, Dennis Prevost, John Yasso.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept Minutes of August 12th Work Meeting

Supervisor White noted that changes had been made to the August 12th meeting minutes to avoid reprinting. Specifically, in the Eric Weis section, the second to last sentence was changed from "already provided" to "already proposed by the AKZO Settlement Committee" since the \$4 million technically has not been provided yet. Additionally, the spelling of AKZO was corrected from "AX" to "AK."

After confirming, Board Members agreed to these changes.

Motion: Councilmember Karen Roffe moved to approve the August 12th meeting minutes with the noted corrections. Councilmember Matthew Durbin seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports to the Board

Supervisors Financial Reports: Supervisors Report and Budget Report

Supervisor White presented his financial reports, including the budget report and monthly report. He noted that he had reviewed the reports from the last meeting and wanted to ensure expenditure was 50% or less at the six-month mark. Supervisor White stated, "it looked pretty good. Just a couple lines, but I think those are ones that still have to be backfilled from ARPA money, and they're not actually over."

Highway Superintendent Report

No Highway report was available.

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

Digital reports were provided by Town Clerk Amy Neumann covering Animal Licenses, Marriage Licenses, and Monthly Receipts. All Board Members confirmed they had received these reports.

AFR Report: Update

Supervisor White provided an update on the Annual Financial Report, explaining he had met Jena Utz of Kaufman and Utz Accounting, LLC. the previous week to address discrepancies. "There's just some numbers that aren't fitting together still around the water fund and a couple other ones. I got her some more information," Supervisor White reported. He noted that Jena was working to get the numbers to balance and hoped to get the report to her partner for technical approval before submission. "I'm hoping soon," he concluded.

Mt Morris Library Letter

The Town Board discussed a letter from the Mount Morris Library requesting reconsideration of the Town's donation. Supervisor White explained that auditors had previously stated there was no connection between Leicester and the library, making the donation potentially improper. However, the Library Director's letter indicated approximately 260 visits per year from Leicester residents.

Town Attorney James Campbell advised that the donation could be acceptable if properly documented. "You don't have a library of your own. You value the resources that Library makes available to your citizens, and it is an appropriate donation to make because they provide those resources and opportunities for your citizens," Campbell stated. He recommended strengthening the justification in the minutes to show the Town Board had considered the comptroller's concerns but determined there was a legitimate public purpose.

The Town Board discussed maintaining the budgeted amount of \$350, which had been provided for several years. Supervisor White stated, "I wouldn't suggest we went above it this year, but I wouldn't have any trouble going with the \$350." All Board Members agreed, and Supervisor White indicated he would place it on the next meeting's agenda as a resolution.

Budget Timeline

Supervisor White presented a proposed budget timeline to ensure all steps could be completed during regular meetings without requiring special meetings. He noted that due to the calendar this year, some items would need to be addressed early. No questions were raised about the timeline.

County wide Town pay rates.

Supervisor White provided information received from the County showing Countywide pay rates for different Towns in the area. He presented this for the Board's consideration when reviewing salaries during budget discussions.

Code Office Report

No code office report was available.

Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso will Conduct the Sept 9th meeting.

Supervisor White reminded the Board that he would be absent for the September 9th Meeting and that Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso would conduct the meeting in his absence. Supervisor White noted he would be available by phone if needed.

Pine Tavern Water District: Update if available

Supervisor White reported there was no update available on the Pine Tavern Water District at this time. He expressed hope that progress would be made rapidly after his first meeting in September and that he would have information to share at the end of the month upon his return.

Town Attorney

What would be needed to change water contracts over to LCWSA.

Supervisor White raised two issues with Town Attorney Campbell. First, he expressed concern about the Town's Investment Returns, noting that while one account was earning 4.3-4.5%, the Highway Fund was only earning

0.8%. After discussing with Five Star Bank, who offered only 2% as a "special deal," Supervisor White proposed investigating New York CLASS.

Attorney James Campbell provided extensive background on New York CLASS, explaining it started 25 years ago in the north country as a co-op and has gained significant traction regionally. "A lot of my communities use them now and I'm hearing numbers like 40, 50, 70 thousand dollars a year in interest," James Campbell stated. He noted it is a permissible investment under General Municipal Law with minimal risk and excellent functionality. James Campbell recommended activating it before year-end to maximize returns on Tax Collections.

The Board agreed to have Kathy Seville, the regional representative, present at their late September or early October meeting.

Regarding Water Contracts, Supervisor White explained that when the County took over the Water Authority, the Water Purchase Contracts were not properly transferred. Currently, the Town pays water bills for the Water Authority and gets reimbursed. Supervisor White proposed drawing up an agreement to transfer this responsibility, noting the York agreement is for 40 years. He also requested exploring whether customers Cuzzo and Swearingen could be transferred to County Billing.

Attorney James Campbell confirmed the Water Authority can Relevy charges in certain circumstances and agreed to work on this, noting he would send a conflict waiver letter for transparency since he represents both entities. The Board expressed no concerns with James Campbell handling this matter.

Audit of Claims

Approval of Abstract of Claims # in the amount of \$457,857.43

Supervisor White explained that the high amount included payment for the New Dump Truck and ongoing street work, primarily Highway expenses, as well as the Ban payment.

Motion: Councilmember Matthew Durbin motioned to approve the abstract of claims in the amount of \$457,857.43. Councilmember Gerald Hull seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session: If needed

No executive session was required.

Adjournment

During the closing discussion, Resident Dennis Prevost raised concerns about the Pine Tavern Water District, noting community frustration due to previous failed attempts to establish a district. Dennis Prevost stated, "I have a lot of people that are asking me up the road there, you know, status, and I don't want to get anybody up there emotional, because we're kicking the can down the road."

Supervisor White assured us that creating the district remains a priority, explaining that while the WIIA grant would not be available this year, it only affects final funding, not district formation. "I'm confident with the Board we have that this is going to get this done. We just need the money," Supervisor White stated.

Town Attorney Campbell provided additional reassurance, detailing the Regional Water Project's progress, including Lima's \$11.5 million USDA grant (the largest ever given in New York State for such a project) and New York Parks' approval of their agreement. Campbell emphasized, "The Town's in the best spot they ever have to get it completed, I think."

Dennis Prevost shared that water conditions have worsened, with one resident having to choose between showering and washing clothes due to low water levels.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Jason Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.