

# Town of Leicester Work Meeting; October 14th, 2025

## Meeting minutes

### Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge to the Flag recited.

Town Supervisor Richard White noted that all Board Members were present except for Councilmember Jerry Hull, who was unable to attend.

### Others Present:

Dennis Prevost, John Yasso, Michele Peete, Bill Roberts, Roxann Roberts, Jerry Scaccia, Rob Semmel, Lisa Semmel, Adam Bodratti, and one resident signature unable to read.

### Approval of Minutes

Town Supervisor White stated that minutes would be presented at the next meeting.

### Privilege of the floor

#### Roxann Roberts: Water New Road and Covington Road

Roxann Roberts introduced herself and her son Bill, explaining they had brought neighbors concerned about water issues in their area. She asked for an update on plans for Water Service to their neighborhood near the Racetrack.

Town Supervisor White explained they were in the early stages of developing the Pine Tavern Water District, which would include populated sections of New Road, Covington, Coverdale, and Peoria Road. He noted that extending service all the way to the Racetrack area would depend on available funding, as water lines cost approximately \$110-120 per foot.

Supervisor White explained they plan to seek Grants to maximize coverage but may need to create multiple Water Districts in phases. He indicated the current project is still about two years away from completion. The cost for the first project was estimated at \$15 million, with careful attention paid to keeping annual costs per household under the State Comptroller's limit of \$1,100.

Supervisor White elaborated that grant qualifications depend on population density and affordability for residents. Dennis Prevost mentioned he has been following developments for 14 months and posts updates on a Facebook page called "Pine Tavern Water District."

Roxann Roberts expressed that current well water in the area is undrinkable with high iron content, and residents must carefully budget water usage.

Supervisor White assured Roxann Roberts that the Board is actively pursuing all avenues, including potentially connecting to York's Water System, and will keep residents updated through Meeting Minutes posted online.

### Pine Tavern Water District: Update if available

This update was covered during the Privilege of the Floor discussion with Roxann Roberts.

## Other items

Town Supervisor White noted that the Fire Department was reinstating the Halloween event and seeking donations. Adam Bodratti explained that they had formed a committee to organize Community Events, starting with Halloween, and were seeking donations from around \$200-300.

Motion to donate \$200 to the Fire Department for the Halloween event made by Councilmember Karen Roffe, seconded by Councilmember Jason Yasso. Motion carried unanimously.

## Empire Racetrack asked for help with camper parking. Update

Town Supervisor White reported that he had met with Empire Racetrack Owners and the Health Department regarding concerns about campers at the track. The Owners were facing potential fines related to Health Department regulations about Campgrounds.

Supervisor White explained that the Health Department was enforcing a State Law that was "as clear as mud" with no Case Law to guide interpretation. He suggested Racetrack pursue two approaches: wait for the Health Department's decision (which he hoped might maintain the status quo) and pursue a legislative exemption through their State Senator and Industry Associations.

Jerry Scaccia from the Empire Racetrack explained they had already received extensions and were now facing fines. He noted the vague nature of the regulations, which could potentially classify any camper that doesn't move every 60 hours as a "campground."

Councilmember Jason Yasso expressed concern about enforcement actions against businesses that don't have health or safety problems. The Board indicated willingness to provide support if needed.

## New Code Officer Candidate: Executive session

Town Supervisor White indicated this item would be discussed in executive session.

## Cemetery plot exchange - Joseph Sage

John Yasso Cemetery Caretaker explained that Joseph Sage was requesting to trade his Cemetery plot for another. John Yasso clarified that there was one empty grave in the Sage plot (section 149), but Sage was hoping for two plots together for himself and his girlfriend.

The Board agreed Sage should work with Yasso to select an appropriate location, and they would address the exchange once a selection was made.

## Complaint on River Road power poles. Update

Town Supervisor White reported that 26 out of 27 utility poles on River Road would be removed or set back. He noted that Highway Superintendent Russ had observed stakes marking the proper locations before installation, but when they investigated after complaints, they found the stakes had been pulled up and thrown at the bottom of the poles.

## Court Grant from NYS OCA: Update

Town Supervisor White explained they had missed the timeline for a Court Grant that would have addressed the front of the building. He decided to hold off on a "Plan B" that would have involved installing a new front door, as it made more sense to address the entire front of the building, including a rotting sill plate, in one comprehensive project.

## Bob Stryker = LC Soil and water meeting

Town Supervisor White reported on his meeting with Bob Stryker from Livingston County Soil and Water regarding water issues near the Cemetery that affect Oak Manor. Instead of retention ponds suggested in an engineering report costing over \$400,000, Stryker proposed underground retention ponds that wouldn't cause landowners to lose farming ground, though costs were not yet determined.

Supervisor White also discussed the Jones Bridge Road water issue with Stryker, noting that addressing it would require a joint effort between the Town and Village.

## Budget Preparation

### Public Hearing set for the 28th meeting

Town Supervisor White reminded the Board that the Public Hearing for the budget was scheduled for the 28th of October.

### Budget review

The Board conducted a line-by-line review of the proposed budget:

- Revenues and Appropriations in all funds were examined with no major concerns raised
- Councilmember Roffe inquired about employee raises, which Supervisor White confirmed were set at 5% across the board, with highway employees at 4.5%
- Councilmember Roffe/ Historian raised a question about how to handle Historian Grants in the budget, suggesting a separate line be maintained for better tracking
- Supervisor White noted they were using approximately \$200,000 from fund balance to keep the tax increase around 2.2%, under the 2.7% tax cap
- The Board discussed equipment purchases for the Highway Department, including a utility/service truck and potentially a grader
- Supervisor White mentioned medical insurance costs were increasing 17-18%, and retirement costs 6-7%
- The Board has agreed to move the budget figures to preliminary status for the upcoming Public Hearing
- Fire District costs were not yet finalized, as their budget hearing was scheduled for the following week

### Executive Session: If needed

The board moved to executive session to discuss a potential new hire at 7:53 p.m.

### Out of Executive Session:

The Board moved out of executive session at 8:01 p.m.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned after the executive session at 8:02 p.m.