

Town of Leicester Regular Meeting, May 26, 2026

Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2026, 7:00 PM

Town Hall, 132 Main St. Leicester, NY 14481, US

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Leicester was called to order on Tuesday, the 26th day of May 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at 132 Main Street, Leicester, NY 14481.

1. Pledge to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Board Members Present / Excused: Councilperson Roffe excused.

Present: Richard White, Town Supervisor; Jason Yasso, Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember; Matthew Durbin, Councilmember

Absent/Excused: Councilperson Roffe; Councilperson Hull

3. Others Present: Deputy Town Clerk- Kim Reitz

Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reitz was present.

4. Public Present

Rob Semmel, Lisa Semmel, Ken Mock Jr., James Kane

II. Privilege of the Floor

1. Planning Board Chairperson: Paula Smith

Planning Board Chairperson Paula Smith came before the Board to speak on the matter of increasing the frequency of Planning Board meetings, even in the absence of a pending application. She reported that the Board presently consists of three members, with two vacant seats yet to be filled, and that quarterly work sessions are being considered as a path forward.

Chairperson Smith laid out several work items the Planning Board is eager to address chiefly, that the existing application materials are outdated by several generations, and that the State Environmental Quality Review form currently in use is two versions behind the current standard. She also expressed a desire to develop a formal application checklist for the Code Enforcement Officer, so that incoming applications may be properly vetted for completeness before moving forward. County Planning Staff — two individuals — have been contacted and are willing to come and assist the Planning Board in updating these materials.

Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso asked whether these quarterly meetings would absorb the existing scheduled application meetings, or whether those would remain separate. Chairperson Smith indicated that most application hearings move quickly and that the remaining time in any given meeting could be turned toward these administrative work items.

Town Supervisor Richard White offered his support, noting the cost is modest — on the order of \$25.00 per person per meeting — and well under \$1,000 annually. He noted that Planning Board compensation and seat structure would need to be revisited ahead of the next budget cycle. The Board expressed general agreement, and no formal resolution was required to authorize the additional meetings.

III. Approval of Minutes

1. Motion to Accept Minutes of May 12th, Work Meeting

2. Motion to Accept Minutes of May 6th Public Hearing

Town Supervisor Richard White noted that neither the minutes of the May 12th Work Meeting nor those of the May 6th Public Hearing had been received in time for review. Both items were passed over, to be brought before the Board at a future meeting.

IV. Reports / Communications to the Board

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

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Town Clerk's financial reports covering animal, marriage, and monthly receipts. No discussion was recorded.

2. Highway Superintendent Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Highway Superintendent's report. No discussion was recorded.

3. Code Office Report

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that the Code Officer's report was transmitted electronically the day of the meeting and that hard copies were available. He commended the Code Officer's performance.

The Supervisor also relayed that the Code Officer had submitted a request for a Town-provided mobile phone, citing the need to take photographs and conduct official business. Supervisor White noted the concern that using a personal device for municipal business renders that device potentially subject to legal discovery proceedings. He indicated his intention to explore adding a line to the Town's existing shared wireless plan. The Board expressed no objection.

4. Supervisors Financial Reports: Supervisors Report and Budget Report

Town Supervisor Richard White acknowledged that the financial reports for the current period had only arrived that evening and had not yet been printed. In their stead, he provided the Board with annotated copies of the prior month's report, upon which he had hand-written first-quarter expenditure percentages for reference. He noted that most lines are tracking close to expected levels, and that lines appearing over budget — such as the snow removal line — are seasonal in nature and not a cause for concern.

5. Request for Code Change: David Koch

Supervisor Richard White reported that a resident, David Koch, had contacted the Town requesting that the Board consider amending the noise curfew for the local racetrack, proposing a reduction from the current hour of 11:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The Supervisor indicated he intends to invite Mr. Koch to address the Board directly, and that he would also endeavor to reach the New Owner of the Racetrack to ascertain the Owner's plans before any formal action is considered.

6. DOT Meeting on RT36 & Perry Road

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that he and Highway Superintendent Russ Page attended a preliminary meeting with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Route 36 and Perry Road. Supervisor White described the DOT's presentation as thorough and impressive.

The DOT plans to hold a public informational meeting in September to present the full design and solicit public comment. The Supervisor noted that the Town Hall may not have sufficient space and suggested the local fire department as an alternative venue. The final design is expected to be submitted in the summer of 2027, with construction anticipated during the 2028 season. The project is funded through state safety funds and does not presently appear to be at risk, absent any significant fiscal disruption at the state level.

A substantial portion of discussion concerned the traffic management plan during the estimated four-month construction period. Northbound traffic is to be routed onto Perry Road up to Pine Tavern Road and back. Supervisor White expressed concern that GPS routing would lead commercial trucks onto local roads ill-suited to heavy vehicle traffic — in particular, River Road and Upper Mount Morris Road. He called for hard restrictions to be made as difficult as possible for trucks, and suggested the Town consider posting its own "local traffic only" signage, as well as coordinating with law enforcement for increased enforcement during the construction window.

The matter of streetlight ownership was also raised. The DOT intends to install four lights at the new intersection and then transfer ownership of the poles to the Town. Supervisor White expressed reservations about assuming ongoing maintenance obligations and potential liability, noting he prefers, if possible, for NYSEG to retain ownership of any new poles. He indicated his intention to consult with legal counsel and to look into how other municipalities have handled similar transfers.

An attendee also noted for the record that the reason Livingston County Highway did not mill and pave the stretch of Perry Road leading down to Route 36 during their recent project was precisely because the road alignment will shift as part of the roundabout construction, making it prudent to defer that work.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The Route 36 and Perry Road roundabout project is fully funded through New York State safety funds at no direct cost to the Town of Leicester. The one-time capital investment is a state expenditure, though the Town may incur ongoing operational and maintenance costs in the event it accepts ownership of the proposed intersection lighting — a matter Supervisor White identified as unresolved and requested further consultation. The concrete benefit to residents is a safer and more navigable intersection at a well-traveled junction, with the longer-term improvement in traffic flow. The principal near-term risk is disruption to local roads during the four-month construction season in 2028, which the Board intends to mitigate through signage and enforcement.

7. Meeting with LC Records Supervisor

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that he and Town Clerk Amy Neumann met with the Livingston County Records Supervisor. The County Records Supervisor is preparing a guidance package to assist the Town in developing a structured records management program. The Supervisor expressed his desire to digitize all records that are required to be retained, noting that digital records are far more searchable and accessible than physical ones. He further reported that the County will provide the Town with access credentials to the shared county records system — believed to include the Laserfiche platform — as part of an existing shared services arrangement.

A records management grant opportunity was identified; applications are submitted in the fall with awards anticipated the following year. The County Records Supervisor, who sits on the relevant State Committee, indicated the Town stands a reasonable chance of receiving funding given the scope of work contemplated.

V. Highway Department

1. Grader Update

The Highway Superintendent, Russ Page reported that the new motor grader is scheduled to ship the following Monday and is expected to arrive within two to three days thereafter. He also reported that a stinger blade — a carbide-tipped, multi-section cutting attachment valued at approximately \$6,000 — was inadvertently left on the 14-foot moldboard by the vendor's shop, rather than being swapped out for a standard flat cutting edge as originally specified. The Board received this as a favorable development, as it represents additional value delivered with the unit at no added cost. The grader was described as appearing to be in near-new condition based on a walk-around video provided by the seller. The Superintendent noted that insurance coverage is in place and the purchase is fully paid.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The grader purchase accounts for the overwhelming majority of Abstract of Claims No. 5, totaling \$225,891.94 (discussed under Agenda Item VII). The incidental inclusion of the stinger blade represents an unplanned benefit valued at approximately \$6,000, effectively sweetening the transaction at no additional expense to the Town. The grader is a capital investment enabling the Highway Department to maintain gravel roads more

effectively, with the stinger blade providing a more aggressive cutting action suited to pothole repair and road conditioning.

2. Last Years Service Truck

The Highway Superintendent reported that the previously ordered service truck has been delivered and upfitted, requiring only a radio swap and installation of an amber light before it is placed into service. The Superintendent noted that a Rhino-liner bed coating, valued at approximately \$1,300 had been included in the original procurement, was inadvertently omitted from the vendor specifications. He reported that local vendors can likely to perform the work at a considerably lower cost, and a board member suggested a vendor operating in the Batavia area. The name of the local vendor was not recalled during the meeting, but a Board member agreed to provide the contact information separately.

3. Dumpster Contract: Update

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that Highway Superintendent Russ Page obtained three competitive quotes for dumpster service following the expiration of the current contract with Waste Management. The lowest quote — approximately \$125.00 per month — was submitted by a local Leicester-based company, KISS (identified by its black truck with red logo), representing savings of \$125.00 to \$375.00 per month compared to the current arrangement. Supervisor White expressed his intent to cancel the contract with Waste Management and transition to the local vendor, contingent on-Board agreement. The Board expressed no objection.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

The transition from Waste Management to the local KISS dumpster service is a recurring operational expenditure expected to yield annual savings of roughly \$1,500 to \$4,500, based on the differential between the current monthly cost of \$250–\$500 and the new quoted rate of \$125 per month. The award of this contract to a Leicester-based business also provides a direct economic benefit to the local community.

VI. Cleaning Contract is Due: Review

Town Supervisor Richard White reported that the cleaning contract has expired and that three applications were received in response to the Town's solicitation. He stated his position that, absent other considerations, preference should be given first to a Town resident, then to a county or adjoining-town resident, and finally to an out-of-county applicant. He noted that two of the three applicants have cleaning experience, and that all three have some personal connection to Town officials — a circumstance he acknowledged openly, attributing it to the nature of small-town community life rather than to any impropriety.

The Supervisor proposed conducting interviews and invited Councilmember Matthew Durbin to sit with him during that process, with interviews tentatively scheduled for the following Thursday during daytime hours. The current expired contract will be formally cancelled following the interview process and a selection by the Board. Councilmember Matt agreed to participate.

VII. Audit of Claims

1. Motion to Pay Abstract of Claims #5 as Audited, in the Amount of \$225,891.94 (Grader Purchase)

Motion to pay Abstract of Claims No. 5, as audited, in the amount of \$225,891.94 — inclusive of the motor grader purchase — was made by Councilmember Matt and seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion Passed.

Financial Impact & Community Benefit

This abstract represents a one-time capital outlay of \$225,891.94, the dominant portion of which is the purchase price of the new motor grader. The grader is a critical piece of infrastructure equipment for the Highway Department, enabling the Town to maintain its road network — particularly gravel roads — to a standard that

directly benefits all residents who rely on those roads. The funding source was not specified in the meeting record.

VIII. Other Items

The Highway Superintendent reported on the results of a recent surplus property auction conducted by the Town. A notable item — described informally as belonging to "Karen" — sold for \$500.00. Total proceeds from all items sold were approximately \$1,900.00. Several items did not sell, and the Superintendent recommended scrapping most of the unsold inventory. Supervisor White asked if a list of remaining items be provided so the Board could deliberate on the best course of action for each.

The Superintendent also raised the subject to surplus the old motor grader now that the new unit is incoming and noted that comparable units have recently sold at auction for between \$2,000 and \$9,000, depending on condition. Supervisor White recommended moving to auction during the active season rather than waiting until winter, when interest would likely be lower.

Discussion also touched on the matter of storing the new grader, as the current shop is occupied by the 10-wheeler cab chassis and the new service truck. The Superintendent indicated that an addition to the south end of the existing structure is being considered, to provide covered storage for the grader, the wheel excavator, and other equipment. It was noted that a similar pole structure — a roof-only addition over wastewater clarifiers — was recently quoted at approximately \$47,000, suggesting Jim to See Lumber as a resource for materials estimates. The Superintendent indicated that the Highway Crew may be able to build the addition using their own labor and resources, with a materials estimate to be developed for inclusion in the fall budget.

IX. Executive Session

Town Supervisor Richard White indicated that a matter requiring executive session was on his agenda; however, he elected to defer it to a future meeting when the full Board is present.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Matthew Durbin and seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.