

Town of Leicester

Regular Board Meeting,

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2026, 7:00 PM
132 Main Street, Leicester, NY 14481, US

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Leicester was called to order on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM in Leicester, NY.

a. Pledge to the Flag

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Board Members Present/Excused: All Present

Present: All Board Members

c. Others Present: Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Code Enforcement Officer, Cemetery Caretaker

Town Clerk Amy L. Neumann, Highway Superintendent Russell Page, Code Enforcement Officer David Walters, Cemetery Caretaker John Yasso were present.

d. Public Present:

Ken Mock, John Yasso, Lisa Semmel, James Kane

2. Approval of Minutes: Work Meeting Minutes from April 14th, 2026

The minutes from the April 14th Work Meeting were not approved at this meeting. The Supervisor noted they were not received until around 2:00 that afternoon, and Councilmember Roffe indicated she had already reviewed them and submitted corrections. The Board agreed without objection to hold approval until the next meeting.

3. Reports / Communications to the Board / Continued Discussions

a. Code Office Report

The Code Office Report was distributed at the meeting. Code Enforcement Officer David Walters briefly noted that a small four-yard dumpster had appeared at the Dauber property, which had been there about two weeks, suggesting some activity was underway at the site.

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

Town Clerk Neumann's monthly financial reports, including animal, marriage, and general receipts, were noted as received by the Board.

c. Highway Superintendent Report

The Highway Superintendent's report was included in the Board packet. There were no questions from Board members.

d. Supervisors Financial Reports: Supervisors Report and Budget Report

The Supervisor's financial reports were not available at the time of the meeting. The Supervisor had been in contact with the financial consultant, Jenna, who had committed to delivering the reports by end of day but had not yet done so. The Supervisor indicated he would distribute them upon receipt.

e. Reminders: Planning Department on the 12th - Fiber update

The Board was reminded that the Planning Department will be attending the May 12th regular Board meeting to provide an update on the fiber optics project running through the town. Town Clerk Neumann confirmed the event had been posted to the Town website.

f. Cemetery Tree Survey

Councilmember Roffe brought forward a proposal to hire an Arborist — the same individual who previously evaluated the "Torture Tree" — to conduct a visual survey of approximately 25 hardwood trees in the Town Cemetery. She explained that many of the older trees have never been professionally assessed, and that fallen limbs have already caused damage to grave markers in the past. The Arborist would number each tree, perform soundings to assess internal health, and provide written recommendations for each. The proposed cost was \$400, \$16 per tree — the same service he provides for the Mount Morris Cemetery.

Councilmember Roffe also emphasized the importance of establishing a proactive maintenance schedule rather than waiting for emergencies, noting that removing multiple trees at once can become quite expensive. She added that when trees are removed, she would like to see them replaced with smaller ornamental flowering trees that beautify the cemetery without the hazard of large limbs. The Board expressed broad support, with Councilmember Hull calling it a reasonable price and a sensible step.

Motion to hire the Arborist to evaluate approximately 25 trees in the town cemetery at a cost of \$400 was made by Councilmember Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Hull. The motion carried unanimously.

g. Court Grant from NYS OCA

The Supervisor reported a recent conversation with Judge Scofield regarding the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) grant. After previous years' attempts were derailed by complications with the state engineer's involvement in a proposed front-building renovation, the decision was made to set aside the façade project for the near future. Instead, Judge Scofield intends to apply the grant toward a new exterior door, updated security cameras, and a protective window at the public counter — the latter aimed at improving staff safety in an area currently visible and accessible from the public entrance. If funded, the grant would provide 100% coverage of the costs.

h. Speed reduction on New Road - Keith Kopnick - NYS DOT Traffic Counters

The Supervisor addressed a request from resident Keith Kopnick regarding speeding concerns on New Road, particularly with the nearby Racing Track opening. The Supervisor explained to Mr. Kopnick that small Towns do not control their own speed limits — that authority rests with the State — and that the timeline for any official speed reduction would not align with the Track's opening. Mr. Kopnick had separately contacted the Sheriff's Office to explore the possibility of enforcement presence or a radar trailer in the area. The Board also noted that a State DOT traffic counter has already been placed on New Road.

i. 2024 AFR - 2025 AFR

The Supervisor reported that the 2024 Annual Financial Report (AFR) was submitted and accepted earlier in the month. The financial consultant has been given access to begin work on the 2025 AFR, which was due at the end of April, with an anticipated completion date by the end of May. The Supervisor noted that once the reports are finalized, the Board will need to collaborate with the Consultant to reconcile several accounts where funds are currently recorded in the wrong lines.

j. ARPA Close out

The ARPA closeout was noted as imminent, with the deadline pressing. The Supervisor acknowledged that many of the relevant expenditures occurred prior to his tenure, and he indicated he would proceed with the closeout as best he could based on available records, including a motion from earlier in the Board's history that authorized use of ARPA funds for the Water Meter Project. He anticipated the process would proceed without major complications.

k. Cleaner Search - Town Hall

Town Clerk Neumann confirmed that a job posting for a Town Hall Cleaner was published on the website that day. At least two cleaning companies had also provided quotes. The Supervisor reiterated his preference for hiring a direct employee over a contractor, though the Board agreed to review all applications and quotes before deciding.

4. Water Drainage Issues

a. Update: In discussions with Assemblywoman Bailey for meeting

The Supervisor reported a productive conversation with Assemblywoman Bailey regarding the ongoing water drainage concerns in the Town. Assemblywoman Bailey agreed to facilitate a preliminary meeting — not a public meeting — to bring together the key responsible parties in a setting where they can identify who is responsible for what without the pressure of a public forum. The Supervisor noted that if actionable solutions can be identified, the Assemblywoman is willing to assist with financing or directing the appropriate parties to act.

b. Russ and Supervisor walked Creek from 20A to River Road

The Supervisor and Highway Superintendent Russell Page walked the creek corridor from Route 20A to River Road to assess conditions firsthand — with a truck parked at each end, as the Supervisor quipped. The walk revealed a number of issues, including misaligned sandbars redirecting water flow away from its natural path. The Supervisor noted that some targeted sandbar removal could provide modest improvements at low cost. However, a section of the creek was found to have existing steel piling — a solution the Supervisor acknowledged would be ideal but described as far too expensive to replicate on a broader scale.

5. PT/WTWD

a. Public Hearing set for May 6th at 7PM meeting

Town Clerk Neumann confirmed that the Public Hearing for the Pine Tavern/West Town Water District (PT/WTWD) matter has been advertised for May 6th at 7:00 PM. The Supervisor indicated he would notify the relevant contact, Eric Wies, of the confirmed time.

b. Agreements: Update

The Supervisor reported that the agreement with the County Water and Sewer Authority has been fully executed by both parties. The AXZO funding agreement has been signed and submitted to the county, and the countersigned copy is expected to be returned shortly.

6. Highway Department

a. Dumpster contract: Update

The Supervisor noted that a notice of bid for dumpster services has been prepared and included in the Board packet. He expressed frustration with the inconsistency of current Waste Management invoices and indicated he

was reviewing a new contract proposal from them. However, the Supervisor expressed confidence that better pricing could be found elsewhere and noted that a Local Business Owner — who recently took over the scrap yard and has a large inventory of dumpsters — may be entering the dumpster service business, presenting a potential local option once bids are received.

b. Grader: Further Discussion

The Supervisor presented a comparative financial worksheet to support the Board's ongoing deliberations about acquiring a road grader. The analysis weighed the cost of purchasing a used grader against renting or leasing one over a 20-year horizon.

Key figures from the analysis: renting at \$7,000 per year with a 3% annual escalator over 20 years would total approximately \$188,000. A five-year lease at \$40,000 per year with a \$1 buyout would cost \$200,000. By comparison, the purchase price of the used grader under consideration was \$175,000 — delivered, fully serviced, with a 14-foot blade with a new edge included.

The Supervisor noted that the utility service truck (\$63,680) and the grader purchase together come to approximately \$238,689 — only about \$6,000 over the \$232,000 budgeted for equipment. He also outlined a plan to repay approximately \$97,000 to the Water Department from the equipment reserve, noting that even after that repayment, \$90,000 would remain in the reserve line.

Highway Superintendent Page reported that he and a colleague had traveled to Howard in Steuben County to physically operate a comparable unit owned by that town. The prior Highway Superintendent spoke highly of the machine and noted they would still be running it today. Page confirmed the \$175,000 price includes delivery and a contractor shipping the unit to Leicester. He also contacted CAT about rental availability and was quoted \$10,000 per month — with no guarantee of availability — further reinforcing the case for ownership.

Councilmember Hull, while supportive of the purchase, asked pointed questions about the opportunity cost of spending \$175,000 outright, noting that at 3% interest the town could theoretically earn around \$5,000 per year on that capital. He was satisfied by the Supervisor's response that the purchase falls within budgeted funds and does not draw on reserves, and that the Town would retain residual value in the equipment.

The Board also discussed the procurement process. Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso noted that Highway Superintendent Page had done sufficient due diligence in demonstrating that comparable used equipment is not readily available, which would support overriding the standard purchasing policy. The Board agreed to have Town Attorney Campbell verify the appropriate path forward.

Motion to purchase the used road grader at a price of \$175,000 (delivered) was made by Councilmember Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Hull. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Repayment of Loan from Water Department

The Supervisor confirmed that funds are available to repay the loan to the Water Department. He also noted that he intends to bring a proposal to the board around the first of July to remove the surcharge currently on water bills, as the Water Department's finances should be back in balance at that point. He explained that the apparent \$80,000 deficit in the water account stemmed from water meter replacement costs that were supposed to be covered by ARPA funds but were never reimbursed — a discrepancy now being resolved through the ARPA closeout process. He noted this resolution comes roughly a year and a half ahead of the original projection, and that a formal resolution drafted by the Town Attorney would accompany the surcharge removal to create a clear record for future reference.

7. Audit of Claims

a. Motion to pay Abstract of Claims #4 as audited, in the amount of \$79,545.03.

The Supervisor noted that while the total figure appeared high, it includes a \$49,900 payment passing through the Town's accounts to the Leicester Fire Department — funds that have already been received and will be disbursed by check upon signing.

Motion to pay Abstract of Claims #4 as audited in the amount of \$79,545.03 was made by Deputy Supervisor Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Other items

Councilmember Roffe raised two items for Highway Superintendent Page. First, she noted that Darren Everdike — who restores historic markers at no charge — is ready to restore the depot marker and the National Hotel marker and asked that Page coordinate with him on retrieving the signs. Second, she requested that the highway crew address the handicap parking post out front, which currently relies on sandbags for support, asking that it be properly set and repainted.

Additionally, a member of the public — identified as John Yasso — thanked Superintendent Page and the highway crew for their work at the cemetery, including debris removal, stump grinding, and grading, as well as filling potholes in the area.

The board also briefly discussed the surplus equipment list submitted by Superintendent Page, which included a cold pack box, stone boxes, filters, a York wheel grader, a three-point scraper blade, a shop vac, three I-beams, sander components, an asphalt ripping bucket, and two B-plows.

Councilmember Roffe expressed a desire to find a historically appropriate home for the antique York wheel grader rather than sending it to scrap or auction, suggesting that an institution such as the county highway facility — which already displays vintage equipment — might be interested. The board agreed to surplus the remaining items and list them through Teitsworth Municipal Auction, an online platform focused on municipal equipment, while Councilmember Roffe would informally explore preservation options for the old grader in the interim.

Motion to surplus the listed highway equipment and offer it through Teitsworth Municipal Auction was made by Deputy Supervisor Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Roffe. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso and seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin. The motion carried unanimously.