

Town of Lewiston gets down to business for 2024

Broderick names liaison appointments

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Lewiston got down to business for 2024 on Monday, with a number of approvals, authorizations and appointments for the upcoming year. Also making news was a new face on the board following the retirement of member Bill Geiben last month.

“Welcome aboard,” said Supervisor Steve Broderick as he introduced Council member Sarah Roat Waechter to visitors. “Sarah’s not new to the town; she was on our Planning Board ... so we welcome her to our Town Board.”

Soon after, a number of reorganizational actions went on to be approved:

√ Member audit schedules and work sessions and meetings for the Town Board. Also approved were meeting schedules for the town’s Planning and Zoning boards and its various commissions and committees.

√ The town’s 2024 holiday schedule.

√ The 2024 IRS mileage reimbursement rate at 67 cents and fee rates for assessor/map copies. In addition, the board approved town’s fee rate schedules and a new out of district water rate.

Also approved was the cell phone stipend for select town officials, authorizing 2024 credit card use/payments for town departments, and setting the dishonored check fee at \$20.

√ Bank on Buffalo, KeyBank and M&T were approved as the official town depositories. Also approved were the authorized signors for payment of checks, town’s procurement policies and guidelines on investments.

√ The board approved its meeting procedures under Roberts Rules of Order, followed by a number of appointments and confirmations. Included were:

√ Linda Johnson as town assessor and Alphonso Marra Bax as town attorney.

√ Seaman Norris was named attorney for the town under contract.

√ Building Inspector Tim Masters was named as compliance officer, and Christopher McAuliffe was reappointed as storm water management officer.

√ Engineering services for the town will again be provided by GHD Consulting.

√ Fire inspectors for 2024 are Pat Martin (part-time) and Chris Finnitz; Les Myers was named as fire prevention chair for an interim period.

√ Jeff Cosgrove was named as deputy highway superintendent and Louise Maggard was reappointed as town historian.

√ George Adamson was named as town prosecutor.

√ Highway Superintendent Mitch Zahno was reappointed as parks superintendent.

√ Frank Previte was reappointed as Lewiston Police Department chief.

√ Tim Smith was reappointed recreation director.

√ Town Clerk Donna Garfinkel was designated as records/access officer and RMO; Tamara Burns was named deputy reg-

istrar, with sub registrars Linda Kreps and Carole Schroeder (pending her retirement).

√ Melinda Olick was reappointed as senior citizens coordinator.

√ Supervisor’s confirmations include William Conrad as deputy supervisor; Amy Smith as confidential secretary; and Jacqueline Agnello as finance director.

The town’s junior accountant position and grants consultant remain open.

√ Drescher-Malecki was approved as town auditor.

√ Zahno was named water foreman, and Jeff Ritter as chief operator of the water treatment plant.

√ The town’s pay schedules for were approved as presented.

√ Board liaison appointments include: Bax – board of ethics, ex-officio; Councilman Rob Morreale – building inspector’s liaison; Councilman Jason Myers – Cable Commission; Bax – CWM Siting Advisory Committee; Broderick – engineer; Morreale – Environmental Commission; Councilman John Jacoby – Fire Bureau (with Broderick named as the alternate); Morreale – highway drainage; Jacoby – Historical Preservation; Broderick – Justice Court; Waechter – Lewiston Council on the Arts, Town Recreation and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; Jacoby – Lewiston Public Library; Myers – Lighting Advisory Board; Broderick – Upward Niagara Chamber; Morreale – Modern CAC (currently on hold); Broderick – personnel; Jacoby – Lewiston Police; Broderick and Jacoby – town and village police liaisons; Morreale – Planning Board (Waechter to serve as alternate); Broderick – risk manager; Myers and Broderick – Sanborn Professional Association; Waechter – senior citizens; Myers – Signage Committee; Jacoby – tower/wind energy research committee; Broderick – Water Department; Morreale – WPCC; and Jacoby – Zoning Board of Appeals (Morreale as the alternate).

√ In remaining appointments, the town’s Cable Commission and Board of Ethics members were approved; and Matthew Feldman was reappointed to the Environmental Commission with other appointments pending.

√ Broderick announced Victoria Polka resigned her membership on the Environmental Commission; Karen Lyle was reappointed to the Historic Preservation Commission; and Lighting and Advisory board appointments were reapproved; Broderick said the Modern CAC will continue in a non-functioning capacity.

√ Tom Deal was reappointed to the Lewiston Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; Garfinkel, Amy Smith and Bax were reappointed to the Lewiston Personnel Committee; William Burg was appointed as chair of the Planning Board; and Broderick said Zach Collister would replace Waechter on the Planning Board.

√ Previte, Zahno, Gary Wasco and Chris Winstel were reappointed to the Signage Committee, with Myers as liaison; and Dr. Mark Gallo was appointed to the ZBA to replace Maggard.

For more information on the town’s reorganization session, visit www.townoflewiston.us.

Porter approves calendar, sets salaries, appointments

Staff Reports

As is the case with local governments throughout the area, the Town of Porter opened 2024 with its reorganizational meeting. A number of resolutions and routine procedural items were approved, setting the stage for town operations in the coming year.

Included were appointments, the town’s holiday and standard workday schedules, and the naming of town officials to various positions/duties.

Attorney Michael Dowd was reappointed for 2024 at a salary of \$32,400, with his duties to include serving as town attorney and prosecutor, plus duties on the Planning and Zoning boards.

The town’s holiday schedule includes Monday, Jan. 15, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Monday, Feb. 19, President’s Day; Friday, March 29, Good Friday; Monday, May 27, Memorial Day (observed); Thursday, July 4, Independence Day; Monday, Sept. 2, Labor Day; Monday, Oct. 14, Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day (observed); Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, Thanksgiving Day weekend; and Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day.

Town Board meetings will take place at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (excluding October) at Town Hall. The schedule includes Feb. 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 15 (Tuesday), Nov. 12 and Dec. 9.

Supervisor John “Duffy” Johnston was reappointed as the town’s budget officer.

Others reupped included Glenn M. Calvery, storm management control officer; and G@G Consulting and Grant Writing as the town’s grant writer on a \$650 monthly retainer.

The board approved the town’s procurement policy for 2024 and authorized various officials to make purchases. It also approved a number of salaries of elected/appointed officials.

Leading off on a motion from Councilman Jeff Baker, seconded by Councilman Tim Adamson, the board approved a \$6,000 salary increase for Johnston. His new salary is \$45,082, plus \$1,831 as budget officer.

Other salaries include Clerk Kara Hibbard, \$47,558 (salary), \$7,690 (town registrar), \$6,541 (water collections), \$3,637 (sewer collections) and \$3,586 (tax collector). Hibbard and Deputy Clerk Elaine Porto were also approved for an additional stipend of \$1,500 to reflect more duties.

Highway Superintendent Dave

Burmester, \$42,541 (salary), \$562 (buildings), \$2,060 (parks), and \$37,022 (Water/Sewer departments); and town justices Wayne Pollow and David Truesdale, \$20,697.16 each. Also, Baker, \$562.74, deputy supervisor and \$7,985, councilman; and Jip Ortiz, Adamson and Larry White, councilmen, \$7,985.

The Town Board approved a new water rate. Effective Jan. 1, water usage rates are: 0-7,000 gallons, \$22.60 minimum; 7,000-20,000 gallons, \$3.28 per thousand; 20,000-100,000 gallons, \$3.02 per thousand; and over 100,000 gallons, \$2.52 per thousand (irrigation rate).

The board said sewer rates would remain as follows: Village of Youngstown, 65 cents per thousand; Fort Niagara State Park, \$5.25 per thousand; Town of Porter, 0-7,000 gallons, \$40.25 and over 7,000 gallons, \$5.75 per thousand. The town’s current treatment rate paid to the Town of Lewiston Water Pollution Control Center is \$3.60 per thousand gallons.

All water bills will have an additional 10% surcharge, intended to build up the town’s water reserve account to handle anticipated water structure improvements.

The Town Board approved a number of liaison appointments: CWM (Citizens Advisory Committee) – Johnston, Baker and Anthony Collard (Planning Board); Village of Youngstown – Johnston; Recreation Department – Larry White; Niagara Falls Area Chamber of Commerce – Baker; libraries – White; fire companies – Dave Truesdale (Youngstown) and Baker (Ransomville); human relations

– Johnston, Kimberli Boyer (budget officer) and Dowd; highways – Burmester, Adamson and White; buildings – Truesdale, Johnston and Peter Jeffery (town building/code enforcement officer); Planning Board – Ortiz; Zoning Board of Appeals – Baker and White; historical societies – Ortiz; Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce – Johnston and Baker; and the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (Restoration Advisory Board) – Johnston and all Town Board members.

Wrapping up, the Town Board approved a number of contacts as budgeted: Care-n-Share, \$2,000; industrial development (NICAP), \$4,000; American Legion O. Leo Curtiss Post, Ransomville (maintenance), \$2,500; VFW Post 313, Youngstown, \$2,500; Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce annual contract, \$7,500; Youngstown Free Library, \$70,000; William J. McLaughlin Free Library (Ransomville), \$70,000; Ransomville Historical Project, \$2,000; Town of Porter Historical Society (program maintenance), \$2,000; Ransomville Country Faire (Ransomville Historical Project), \$1,000; Ransomville Business and Professional Association (community beautification), \$1,500; Youngstown Business and Professional Association (community beautification), \$1,500; Ransomville Garden Club (flowers), \$700; Niagara Pioneer Soccer League, \$500; Wilson Youth Baseball Program, \$500; Ransomville Rural Retirees (Services of the Aging), \$700; Old Fort Niagara, \$5,000; Ransomville Lighting of the Wreaths, \$2,000; and Ransomville Rural retirees (activity programs), \$3,000.

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