

Lewiston Town Board updated on 2023 activities

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

At its monthly regular meeting, Lewiston Town Board members heard more on a few programs of interest as 2023 moves along.

First off, Melinda Olick, director of the Lewiston Senior Center, reported on a new community offering that's expected to begin service soon.

"Starting in April on Wednesday, FeedMore Western New York is going to bring a mobile produce truck to the parking lot for people to buy produce," she said.

The organization was created from the merger of FeedMore WNY and Meals on Wheels for Western New York. FeedMore Farm Market's three food trucks travel to locations throughout the service area, including Niagara County, "to provide health, low-cost fruits and vegetables to individuals whom otherwise may not have access to such foods," its website stated. "Any member of the community is welcome to visit our Farm Market! The Farm Market

accepts cash, credit/debit cards and SNAP as payment. Fresh produce is available until sold out."

Olick said the FeedMore mobile truck Farm Market would visit the Senior Center parking lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays beginning April 5, and continue weekly visits to the center for the balance of 2023. Lewiston seniors and residents are welcome to stop by and shop.

For more information on this offering, call the Senior Center at 716-754-2071, or visit the FeedMore website at www.feedmore-wny.org/programs-services/farm-market/.

Also moving ahead for 2023 are a number of Recreation Department programs as the town continues its search for a new recreation director. Supervisor Steve Broderick said Clerk Nicole Short has been busy getting Lewiston's summer rec programs organized.

"Nicole is our recreation clerk who is filling in admirably for our recreation director," Broderick said.

He noted the Rec Department is active with a number of programs underway, including the recent "LEGO Night" at the Senior Center, the upcoming "More Game Night" Friday evening at the Senior Center, and the town's first Easter egg hunt, which is Sunday, April 2, at Pletcher Road Park.

In other recreation news, the board approved four seasonal hires who will begin their employment with the town this upcoming week. Councilmen also approved a temporary stipend for Short as she continues her service as interim rec director.

Broderick said the town has 304 children signed up for its baseball, softball and T-ball programs for 2023, with 25 teams in planning.

"All coaches are good except for the majors – she needs one more," he said.

The town announced 2023 schedules are now out, and the first day of practice is set for April 17, "God willing," Broderick said. For more information, visit www.lewportsports.com or

www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=lewisstonandporterya.

In other Town Board news:

• Councilman Bill Geiben, who attended the session via Zoom, said the town was in the process of filling vacancies on the Lewiston Environmental Commission following the recent passing of Chairman Jerry Wolfgang. The board then approved the appointments of Zach Collister as chairperson of the Environmental Commission; and Dr. Mark Gallo, a Niagara University biology professor, as a member.

• The Town Board approved a PILOT agreement (payment and lieu of taxes) and a community benefits agreement with DG Niagara LLC.

DG Niagara LLC, a subsidiary of Florida-based NextEra Resources, was approved earlier by the town to operate a new solar farm to be located on a 100-acre parcel at 2661 Ridge Road, south of Ransomville.

According to a report from Yahoo! Finance, DG Niagara LLC would operate two solar arrays at the site, with one producing 5

megawatts of AC power, and the other producing 7.5 watts of DC power.

The report stated, "Under the terms of the PILOT agreement, the town would receive a payment of \$2,000 per kilowatt hour per year, with that amount increasing by 2% per year for a period of 15 years."

"The community benefit agreement would have the developers pay the Town of Lewiston \$50,000 to use in any way to benefit the town to offset any impact the solar farm may have."

• The board approved a \$50,000 funds transfer to its environmental protection budget to cover the town's portion of CWM legal fees paid by Niagara County.

• The board approved a property access request by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to trap for invasive pest in the town, including the Box Tree Moth and European Cherry Fruit Fly.

• The board approved Savannah Scoons as the newest member of the Upper Mountain Fire Co.

Porter residents hear more on waterline replacements

Staff reports

Town of Porter residents learned the details this week on the expected impacts from the Town of Porter's nearly \$6.8 million water line replacement project that is now in planning.

As reported in the March 17 Tribune-Sentinel, the project entails the replacement of close to 15,000 linear feet of waterlines impacting five neighborhood areas. One information session took place Tuesday at Town Hall for Lower River Road-Youngstown Estates residents, with another held Wednesday for residents in the Parker Road, St. Christopher Lane and Meadow/Manner drive neighborhoods.

Supervisor John "Duffy" Johnston was joined by town officials; Rob Klavoon, senior civil engineer and principal for Wendel; and a number of Wendel design team associates. Residents learned more about the replacements, the process and the impacts. A Q&A with information tables followed at both sessions.

"This is a huge project, it should have done 10 years ago," Johnston said Tuesday. "It's an old water line. Lewiston did theirs and (it's now resulting in) more pressure for us. We're going to have breaks" that we would have to deal with.

Klavoon discussed major elements of the project that would impact roughly 95 parcels in the Lower River Road-Youngstown Estates neighborhood, and another 85 parcels in areas on the town's eastern end. For properties on the east side of Lower River Road, it involves replacing the existing 12-inch CIP trunk lines, which flow north from the Town of Niagara and Lewiston, with new 12-inch PCV piping.

In Youngstown Estates, this would involve replacement of 6-inch cast-iron piping dating from the 1950s and '60s with 8-inch PVC lines on a four-block quadrant.

"The 6-inch (and 12-inch) water lines don't meet current standards," Johnston said. "The volume you get through here and the fire pressures – we want to be able to improve that."

He said the town is dealing with an estimated 25% water loss from the old pipes. The new PVC lines have a 100-year life expectancy

and would provide for better water quality to users not only to the affected neighborhoods, but throughout the town.

Focusing on Lower River-Youngstown Estates, Klavoon said initial work would see 6-inch soil boring done every 500 feet at the edge of the pavement in front of residences. Actual placement water lines would see the digging of 3-foot wide trenches in front of the residences. The water line replacements would involve an area running parallel off the roadway. They are not expected to impact other utility service lines fronting the property.

"Our challenge as part of the design team is to contend with the existing utility and the existing boundary that we're allowed to work within, and put the new waterline service, all while keeping your water (service) going," Klavoon said. This entails installing new lines while keeping individual water services active. "So we can't take the old water line out of service until the new water line and all the services are transferred over."

Other factors involve working around the limitations of highway boundaries on Lower River, the presences of existing sanitary sewers that service homes, as well as electrical utility lines overhead.

Klavoon said there would be inconveniences to property owners ranging from access to individual driveways, to impacts on a number of mature trees fronting properties on Lower River. Also, possible easements on properties that impact highway boundaries.

"We want to do our best to mitigate any impact on trees. ... We have this very tight corridor where we try to do our very best to work within without impacting private property," he said. "As far as tree avoidance and removal, we got a bunch of different options."

On involves their location the need for removal. "We want to get your feedback on whether you want those trees to remain, or whether you us to take them down in order to facilitate the water main installation," he said.

Klavoon said the impact on trees is due to actual waterline installations, which impact an area 12 inches in diameter for placement of the water line and an expanded

trench work area totaling 3 feet around the line.

"On either side (of the water line), we put 1 foot of stone ... to cradle the water line there's no issues (with installing it) and to protect it," he said.

Discussing mitigation options, Klavoon said one involves the removal of trees, where the property owner would receive two young trees for every mature one taken out. The contractor plant would plant new trees on the property, which would carry a two-year warranty. Another option would have the resident get the new trees delivered, and they could choose their own location for planting; however, no warranty would be provided.

Yet another option would involve tree boring, where the contractor would need to dig a 20-foot-wide-

by-40-foot pit to under the existing tree accommodate it, followed by placement of the waterline underneath.

"Not a cheap option," Klavoon said.

He stressed Wendel consultants are at currently 60% percent in the design phase, and their final determinations on a number of areas have not been made for the project.

The information session on Tuesday was intended to seek resident input to a number of issues presented, and to guide Wendel on the actual construction.

Other topics included the aforementioned easements (one being a 16-month temporary easement for installation, the other a permanent situation for water service); the

use of blacktop versus concrete on driveway aprons; and installation of fire hydrants that would also be part of the project.

Klavoon said he anticipated a construction timeline of up to one year for this phase of the project, with work to be done weekdays. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2024 and conclude in 2025.

All residents who signed in are included on a list for periodic construction updates by Wendel.

Residents are invited to provide additional input as the design process continues.

For more information, Klavoon can be contacted at rklavoon@wendelcompanies.com or 716-668-0766.

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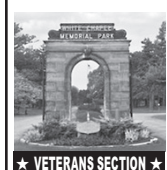
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