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# Village of Lewiston approves budget, tax increase



**BY JOSHUA MALONI**  
 GM/Managing Editor

Trustees in the Village of Lewiston on Monday voted to approve the fiscal year 2023-24 budget – a

financial plan that includes a tax increase.

As previously reported, the tax rate rose 20 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation – to \$7.964858. That means a homeowner with property appraised at \$100,000 will be charged approximately \$20 more in the fiscal year that begins June 1.

Mayor Anne Welch explained, “We have had budget meetings; and we’ve gone over everything in our budget, trying to make everything work.”

She added, “Everybody is aware that everything is up – a lot higher than what we’re used to. As you have to meet those demands, so do we. So, there is a slight increase in the tax rate. ...

“We are also using part of our fund balance to offset that cost, also.

“Like I said, we’re doing the best we can to still be able to provide all the services to our residents, and to meet the demands of all the materials that we have to get.”

The total estimated budget is \$4,767,574, with revenues projected at \$4,100,072. As such, approximately \$648,710 in appropriated fund balance – plus \$18,792 from the sewer fund – will be required to balance the budget.

Trustees approved the budget

## LPD to ramp up watches in Village of Lewiston



At Monday’s Village of Lewiston Board meeting, Mayor Anne Welch said activities at the inclusive playground in Marilyn Toohey Park are picking up with the warmer weather.

Unfortunately, she noted, potential safety hazards also are on the rise.

“We have a lot of traffic on Center Street speeding, and stop signs just being ignored,” she said.

Lewiston Police Department Capt. Mike Salada said, “We have some traffic blitzes coming up, and you’ll see some increasing presence.”

on a 4-0 vote. Board member Dan Gibson was excused.

A public hearing prior to the vote yielded no comments.

Additional budget highlights include:

•The total estimated budget of \$4,767,574 is an increase of \$277,689 from the 2022-23 budget

✓The general fund is \$3,882,460, an increase of \$265,505

✓The water fund is \$414,678, an increase of \$3,748

✓The sewer fund is \$470,436, an increase of \$7,436

✓Revenue is \$4,100,072, an increase of \$233,868

•Water and sewer rates

✓The water rate remains the same, at \$4.03 per 100 cubic feet of usage

✓The sewer rate also remains the same, at \$4.79 per 100 cubic feet of usage

✓An appropriated fund balance of \$18,792 from sewer fund will go toward balancing the budget

•Top 5 expense items – all are essential services

✓Sewer treatment – \$312,610

✓Fire protection – \$440,973

(\$360,473 comes from the Town of Lewiston)

✓Water supply – \$348,940

✓Police protection – \$284,004 (budgeted for \$304,004)

✓Employee benefits – \$647,588 – this includes health insurance, retirement, self-insurance compensation (through Niagara County), Medicare and FICA tax

•Total general revenue: \$3,233,750, an increase of \$241,476

\$414,678 in water fees (\$3,748 increase) and \$451,644 in sewer fees (\$11,356 decrease)

•Total revenue plus water and sewer fees: \$4,100,072

Notable revenues/increases:

✓Property taxes: \$1,273,499, an increase of \$40,578

✓Real property rentals: \$115,000, an increase of \$15,000

✓Sales tax: \$90,000, an increase of \$10,000

✓Mortgage tax: \$70,000, an increase of \$10,000

✓Cell tower royalties: \$30,000, an increase of \$10,000

✓Sewer treatment total: \$374,910, a savings of \$4,496

Find more budget details online at www.wnypapers.com.

**Other News**

•Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt reported the DPW was busy Monday repairing an 8-inch watermain line break at North Eighth Street and Oxbow Lane – the eighth reported infrastructure disruption in the past two weeks.

The DPW has begun the process of replacing piping on North Ninth Street.

SEE TRUSTEES, continued on Page 7

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