

Lewiston Town Board discusses preliminary 2023 budget, NIMAC, ice rink

Board to review LMK local law request at Oct 13 session

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Lewiston Town Board members had an active session Monday. Included in their discussions was the 2023 proposed town budget; a public hearing on a revised site plan for the LMK Realty Associates' Northridge Drive proposed subdivision; a presentation by the Niagara Military Affairs Council; and this season's plans for the Lewiston Family Ice Rink in Academy Park.

•Town Finance Director Jacqueline A. Agnello submitted a 2023 preliminary budget totaling \$19,005,947 to the board. It reflects an increase of \$796,512 over last year's adopted budget of \$18.209 million. Broken down, the plan calls for \$12,719,780 in appropriations, reflecting town department requests. Included are: A fund, Lewiston general – \$2,870,869; B fund, Lewiston general/outside village – \$3,616,534; DB, highway/drainage-town outside village – \$3,784,271; and SS1, Water Pollution Control Center – \$2,448,106. The budget calls for \$926,785 to be raised by taxes.

Under special districts, the proposed \$6,286,167 plan includes: S10, French Landing drainage – \$5,350; SF, fire protection – \$1,531,633; SL, Lewiston Heights gas – \$13,000; SR, refuse-Lewiston O/S village – \$397,500; SS2

Lewiston MSIA – \$1,553,451; SS3, Lewiston south sewer IA – \$152,138 and SW1, Lewiston water improvement – \$2,633,095. The budget forecasts \$3,223,575 to be raised by taxes.

It also includes following salaries for the town's elected officials: highway superintendent – \$76,310; town clerk – \$66,500.

Supervisor Steve Broderick's salary (\$45,567) reflects a waiver equal to \$10,567 for an annual total of \$35,000. Broderick, who is retired from the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, offered some clarity with respect to the differential that came as the result of state salary adjustments covering retirements during the pandemic.

"Right now, the governor has waived a limit on retirement, so, I am currently collecting the entire salary," he said. "But next year we don't know if we are going to be continuing that or not. So, I'll be absolutely clear on that. So, right now I am getting the full salary."

Others included in the town's 2023 schedule of salaries are the two town justices – \$29,791 each; and four town members – \$15,006 apiece.

"I want to give Jacque a lot of credit – it's a solid budget," Broderick said. "Jacque spent a lot of weekends here. ... I appreciate everything you've done. Hopefully, it will go smooth."

Review Sessions

•The town announced it would hold budget reviews with department heads from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at Town Hall. The all-day sessions include fire inspector – 9-9:30 a.m.; seniors – 9:40-10:10 a.m.; water – 10:20-10:50 a.m.; sewer – 11-11:30 a.m.; and highway/parks – 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

Following lunch, the reviews continue with police – 12:50-1:20 p.m.; safety/storm – 1:30-2 p.m.; recreation – 2:10-2:40 p.m.; clerk – 2:45-3:15 p.m.; assessors – 3:20-3:50 p.m.; and justices – 4-4:30 p.m.

All sessions are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Residential Lots

•Monday's meeting opened with a public hearing consider enactment of a local law to change the zoning designation of residential lots on Northridge Drive from R-1 (one-family use districts) to PUD (planned unit development) to enable construction of a new subdivision by LMK Realty Associates.

As reported in the Aug. 26 Tribune-Sentinel, LMK is seeking to build 10 additional units on Northridge Drive that would be adjacent to its existing apartment complexes. The area is located just north of Ridge Road, is cur-

rently vacant and wooded, and adjoins existing private residences.

Neighbors Opposed

Similar to a public hearing held last month, the session saw opposition by neighboring residents. John Merniak accused the Town Board of being selective in favor of developers when it came to zoning changes.

"The Town Board needs to be consistent," the resident said, telling board members that other requests for zoning changes have not been granted.

Mike Rosman of Scovell Drive questioned the long-term benefit for the immediate area from the proposed project. "What point is it enough?" he asked.

Rosman said he feels development has already disrupted the neighborhood. He questioned long-term maintenance plans for the area.

Resident Sam Ricotta agreed. He commented, "Too much development is going on."

The resident also raised issue with ongoing concerns over traffic impacts.

No action was taken on the matter that night. Broderick later announced the town would make a final decision on the LMK request at its session on Thursday, Oct. 13.

NIMAC Visit, Ice Rink

In other news:

•The Town Board heard a presentation by the Niagara Military Affairs Council, which visited to provide an annual update on its work to safeguard the continuing operations of the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve Station. Board members learned more on the value of the NFARS, the economic impact of its 3,000 employees, and NIMAC's ongoing efforts to secure its future in the face of government Base Realignment and Closure discussions.

•Councilman Bill Geiben provided an update on what may be going on with the Lewiston Family Ice Rink.

"I talked with the mayor (Anne Welch) about the ice rink and, at this point, they do not have a solid plan as to what is going to happen in the village," he said.

Geiben explained questions remain as to the rink's location in the park, the village's long-term plans for the site, and how the town's involvement would be factored in.

"We have to make a decision ourselves whether or not we want to move forward; whether we're using the site from last year; and what's our direction," he said.

Broderick said, "I think we have to make an absolute decision on that by the next board meeting. I would like to make a decision by then. We need to sit down and have a meeting with them."

IN THE NEWS

Gun rights discussion in Youngstown

The Town of Porter and Village of Youngstown announced an informational meeting pertaining to Second Amendment rights and new pistol permit laws in the New York state will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co. firehall, 625 Third St.

The session is open to residents from the Youngstown, Porter, Ransomville, Lewiston and Sanborn areas, plus the Town of Wilson. The forum is expected to feature discussion on how the recently passed and enacted state legislation will effect pistol permit holders in New York state.

Guest speakers expected for the forum include Niagara Coun-

ty Sheriff Michael Filicetti, Niagara County Clerk Joseph Jastrzemski, New York State Sen. Rob Ortt, Assembly members Angelo Morinello and Michael Norris, Ed Pettit Jr. of Second Amendment for Ever Inc., and Jim Ulery, acting police chief of the Youngstown Police Department.

Pet blessing in Youngstown

Pets, and their owners, are invited to Falkner Park in Youngstown for a special blessing at noon on Sunday, Oct. 2. The Rev. Barbara Price of St. John's Episcopal Church will mark the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, with this special event.

Pictured is a pet blessing from last year. (Submitted photo)



Niagara County: 4 civil service exams

Niagara County Personnel Officer Malcolm Needler announced the application deadlines for four upcoming civil service exams – caseworker, clerical II, correction officer and social worker – are fast approaching, and encouraged those who are interested to sign

up now for the exams. The application deadline for all four exams is Oct. 28. The respective tests will be given Dec. 10.

"These are very important positions within county government, and a great opportunity for those looking for a career path," said Needler, who added the county is looking for a wide-ranging, diverse pool of candidates to take the exam. "We have been reviewing job descriptions and qualifications to see how we can cast a wider net for job candidates. I encourage people to review the job requirements and, if they believe they qualify, get their application in to sign up for the test."

More information on all positions and how to apply can be found at <https://niagara-portal.mycivilservice.com/exams>.

Fashion Outlets, Town of Niagara donate to Wild Kritters



Bill Blake, left, of Wild Kritters/Feathers of Love receives a \$500 "Give Fashionably" grant check from Chad Masters, head of security at the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA. The grant was made possible by both the Fashion Outlets and the Town of Niagara.

Each year, the Town of Niagara and the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA identify community organizations to receive these grants. This year, they recognized the positive impact Wild Kritters has on the community by protecting wildlife that have been orphaned, injured and are in distress. Donors noted, "Their efforts to enhance the lives and the environment of the town's residents is truly appreciated."

For more information on the services Wild Kritters provides, visit www.wildkritters.com. (Submitted photo)

WE'RE HIRING

The Town of Wheatfield Youth Center is looking to fill shifts

Tuesday-Friday 5-8pm

Saturday 9-12pm

For more information contact Tracy 716-731-3942 (Day)

Email Debbier@wheatfield.ny.us

Debbie 716-504-1273 (Evenings)

Great experience for individuals looking to work with kids

Real Help For Your Health

Presented by
Dr. Glenda R. Rose
Chiropractor



Attention or learning difficulties?

Most people agree that in order to better yourself and get ahead in life, you have to be able to study. Today, many drugs that have harmful side-effects are being utilized to handle learning problems in children and adults. For more information: www.cchr.org

To avoid the use of these harmful drugs, a chiropractor should be consulted to handle any structural alterations of the spine and cranium that could be causing nervous system disorders.

One of my patients is a chiropractor today because of a specialized chiropractic technique, which resolved the underlying structural cause of his difficulty with processing the written word. To help him catch up, I had him study, a study technology developed by the American writer and educator, L. Ron Hubbard. In his research, Mr. Hubbard discovered that studying does create certain physiological and emotional reactions. His study technology has methods of resolving all study phenomena and gets any student able to learn and apply any subject. While taking a business course, I was introduced to "Study Tech". It has certainly helped me. For more information: www.appliedscholastics.org

Nutritional deficiencies, sugar, environmental toxins, sensitivities to foods or food additives can cause imbalances in the functioning of various organs that can lead to mental fog, slowness or confusion. Finding the cause is paramount to the correct natural handling.

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call (716)754-9039. New patients are welcome.