

Village of Lewiston adopts 2020-21 budget

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

The Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees unanimously approved the fiscal year 2020-21 budget on Monday. Residents will see an 8-cent increase in their property taxes, with a fee of \$7.65 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. That equates to \$12 more for a homeowner with a \$150,000 property.

Mayor Anne Welch said, “We worked hard on this budget. We met with the department heads and went through every line of the budget. We were able to make some cuts, but we also had to make some increases.”

“With our uncertain future due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of businesses, our projected and much-needed revenues and state funding may be significantly lower and will cause a great impact to our budget.”

“This year’s budget includes a slight 1% tax increase. That doesn’t even cover the increases in health insurance, retirement, utilities and state mandates. This is not even a cost of living increase, and we are well under the 2% tax cap require-

ment. We will also be using \$400,000 of the village’s fund balance to balance the budget.”

The total budget is projected to be \$3,918,756, with \$1,158,059 collected in property taxes. The board is anticipating having to use \$448,138 in appropriated fund balance to zero out the budget. Currently, the municipality has more than \$1.5 million in its bank account.

Visit www.wnypapers.com for more information.

Both the water (\$3.70 per 100 cubic feet) and sewer (\$4.74 per 100 cubic feet) rates will remain the same.

Welch presided over the meeting, which was open to the public via Zoom conferencing. She was joined in her office by Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt. Trustees Nick Conde, Dan Gibson and Claudia Marasco participated via their phones and computers. Also on the group chat: Clerk Shannon Fundis, Treasurer Stephanie Myers, Attorney Joseph Leone, Engineer Michael Marino, Building and Zoning Officer Ken Candella, Department of Public Works Superintendent Larry Wills, Fire Inspector Barry Beebe and Recreation Director



A look at the Village of Lewiston waterfront.

Brendan McDermott.

No members of the public spoke at the meeting.

DPW Update

Wills said leaf pickup has concluded in the village. Residents with remaining leaves or grass clippings can pack them up and set the bags to be collected with their trash.

Boat Launch Opening

With New York now allowing marinas and boat launch sites

to open, Welch said she anticipates residents with waterfront boat slips will be in the water as of May 1.

At this time, only personal, recreational watercraft are allowed to operate under the current terms of Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s “New York State on PAUSE” mandate. Learn more at www.wnypapers.com.

Marino said he expects the last remnants of concrete work

along the boardwalk to be completed this week.

“Now that the announcement about marinas is out there, we really want to get that buttoned up,” he said.

Say You Saw It In The  Sentinel

Niagara County has face coverings available for essential businesses

As essential businesses across Niagara County seek to comply with executive orders requiring face coverings for employees, legislators David Godfrey and Jesse Gooch on Thursday announced the Niagara County Department of Emergency Services has obtained a supply of cloth face coverings that are being made available to essential businesses at no cost.

“We need essential businesses to be functioning and to do that we need to be sure their employees have protection from COVID-19,” said Godfrey, chairman of the Community Safety and Security Committee. “Our Emergency Services team, led by Director Jon Schultz, just received the face coverings and are ready to distribute them at no cost.”

The masks were acquired through the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Godfrey said any business deemed essential should qualify, including, but not limited to:

- √ Grocery stores, including food and beverage stores

- √ Convenience stores/pharmacy
- √ Gas stations
- √ Post offices
- √ Child care programs and services

- √ Government-owned buildings
- √ Laundry and fabric cleaning services

- √ Food banks
- √ Auto repair
- √ Financial institutions

“As a small business owner, I appreciate what many are going through trying to keep their operations running and, more importantly, keeping their employees safe,” said Gooch, chairman of the Community Services Committee. “And so many of these employees, like child care workers, are on the frontlines in providing invaluable services to the community during this pandemic. We need to support them however we can.”

Gooch said interested essential business owners should email Niagara County Emergency Services at karen.thompson@niagaracounty.com.

Supplies are limited.

Niagara County Legislature passes second extension of county tax deadline

The Niagara County Legislature on Tuesday night passed a resolution extending the deadline for payment of county taxes without interest and penalties until May 31. The resolution passed unanimously.

This is the second extension the legislature has passed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We fully understand that many residents are under financial pressure; some are still waiting for unemployment checks, and that money from the federal

stimulus legislation is just starting to flow,” said Legislator Rich Andres, author of the resolution. “So, what we are trying to do is create breathing room so people can figure out there finances over the next month without worrying about incurring additional costs on their unpaid county tax bill.”

Andres said the resolution essentially freezes the amount people owed on March 31 and extends the deadline for paying that amount until May 31. For the

SEE TAX, continued on Page 4



Looking for something to do?

Want to support your friends, neighbors and small businesses?

Help us continue printing newspapers, so we can provide your community with essential news, safety updates and small business profiles.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Advertising Display Ads: Call your sales rep for substantial discounts and offers. Call 773-7676!
- Temporarily closed? Buy a web ad to promote your online store (or to thank customers), and get two free months of web advertising when your business reopens.
- Buy a service directory ad – If you’re a handy person, or looking for additional spring-cleaning or fixing business, attract new customers.
- Sponsor a community-oriented contest.
- Sponsor a local restaurant – Take out an ad for your favorite local eatery, and we’ll place their menu on our website for free.
- Donate to this newspaper, either through PayPal or via our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/wnypapers), and help us continue printing the Tribune, Dispatch and Sentinel.

Your gift will not only help us with printing costs, but you’ll be taking a step to support your local community. Be a local hero and keep people informed, as we all work together to flatten the curve and reopen society.

Lewiston-Porter Sentinel 2020 Easter Coloring Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who entered!

Ages 4-6	Ages 7-9	Ages 10-12
1st place - Adam Grabowski	1st place - Alyssa Cardamore	1st place - Renee LaRock
2nd place - Aubrey Bailey	2nd place - Carmen Strangio	2nd place - Zoe Droegmyer
3rd place - Whitney Seguin	3rd place - Abigail Robertson	3rd place - Terrell Frerichs

Co-sponsored by these local community-minded businesses



Giving you the time your health deserves


- FREE DELIVERY
- PRESCRIPTIONS
- GENERAL MEDICATIONS
- NATURAL BEAUTY & COSMETICS
- SPECIALTIES & GIFTS

Call 405-7821 today to easily transfer your prescriptions to our care

220 Portage Road, Lewiston • 405-7821

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-3pm • Sun Closed

DegiuliosPharmacy.com



Lewiston Village Pediatrics
733 Center Street
Lewiston, NY 14092
716-754-7337



ALL STAR NIAGARA COUNTY SHERIFF
ACTING SHERIFF MICHAEL J. FILICETTI
www.NIAGARASHERIFF.com

Happy Easter from your friends at Seneca Hickory Stick



SENECA HICKORY STICK GOLF
4560 Creek Road
Lewiston, NY 14092
754-2424