

Lewiston Town Board addresses financial issues

Board receives preliminary budget, sets public hearing

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Monday's Lewiston Town Board session was relatively brief, but it did include a number of financial matters of note.

•Town Finance/Budget Officer Jacqueline Agnello submitted Lewiston's 2022 preliminary budget to Supervisor Steve Broderick and board members. She also announced plans to hold a public hearing to review the matter further.

By the numbers, the revised \$18,144,315 total plan (appropriations and special districts) reflected a modest increase of \$3,819 in overall spending. But it also shows a decline in the expected tax hit to town property owners of \$70,379. In her documentation, Agnello included two pages in her report outlining budget revisions that showed more than 30 adjustments. Included were such items as personnel costs, retirements, compensation and Medicare, health care, contractual changes and town equipment areas.

Town Board members offered little comment as they approved a public hearing for 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, at Town Hall to review the budget for adoption. The budget needs to be finalized and submitted to the New York state comptroller's office by Nov. 23.

•Other financial items included the board approval of 13 recreational part-time hires for the Lewiston Family Ice Rink, which is scheduled to open in coming

weeks.

Councilman Bill Geiben also reviewed the town's COVID-19 policy that will be in place for the ice rink operations over the holiday season.

"The ice rink obviously is outdoors and masks will not be necessary," he said. "In the tent, that will be tightly sealed. It would be prudent on our part to follow the county regulations, by having masks required indoors."

With that, the board approved a resolution requiring the wearing of masks inside the warming tent. The mask mandate would apply to all town employees, rink users and visitors.

"If they sit down and eat a snack, they can remove their masks – just like they do at any other facility," Geiben said. "But if they're just walking around (inside), they need to have their mask."

The board said that, if any mask changes come from the Niagara County Health Department, it would adjust the mask requirements accordingly.

In other news, the Town Board:

•Adopted the Small Cell Telecommunications Solar Law. Addressing the new 5G rollout, the measure covers placement of wireless facilities in a municipality, including town code updates covering cell towers, small cells and distributed antenna systems, and assigns a fee structure.

"So, we are going to approve the law with fees and assign fees at a later time?" Geiben asked.

Councilman Jason Meyers said, "Yes, it will require a fee schedule." He indicated a fee schedule will be set a later time. The measure passed on a 5-0 vote.

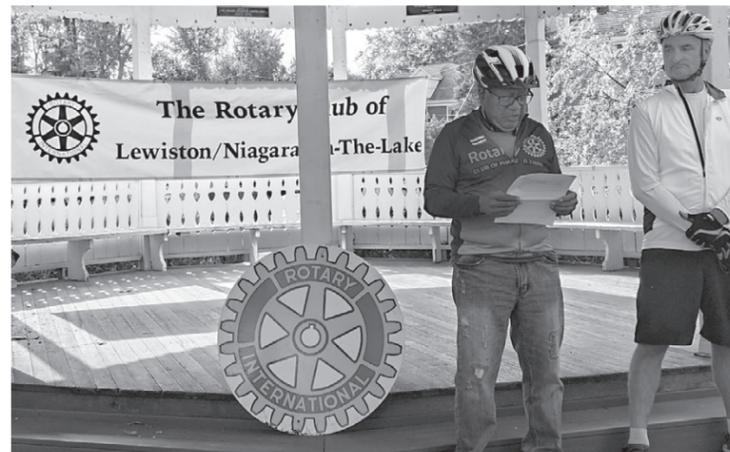
•The board approved the town's water/sewer relevy, which requires the town's unpaid water/sewer accounts from property owners to be placed on the 2021-22 town and county taxes. The unpaid breakdown includes: water, \$100,101.66; sewer, \$53,195.58; sewer solid, \$7,326.76; and town charges, \$33,100 – for a total of \$193,223.

A complete listing of unpaid bills is on file in the town's Water/Sewer Department.

•Wrapping up, the board approved a change order request by the Recreation Department to add a larger swing-set design to a playground renovation underway at the Lewiston Pletcher Road Park. The change order totals \$15,551.37 and will provide for a switch from a two bay swing-set to a three bay, and from four to six swings in the playground setting. Recreation Department Director Mike Dashineau said the plan calls for the swings to remain at same height and fill the playground area better.

"Mike's goal was to use the old swing set," Broderick said. "But it was not sufficient, wasn't adequate, so he's not asking for any more money ... so there would be no change in the cost."

Rotary pedals for polio



Show Past Rotary District Gov. Bob Artis and Gregory Stevens from the Niagara River Greenway.



The bikers start the ride on Fourth Street.

On Oct. 2, the proudly Bi-National Lewiston/NOTL (Niagara-on-the-Lake) Rotary Club hosted the U.S. leg of the second annual Dr. Ron Mergl Memorial Pedal for Polio.

Aided by the Niagara River Greenway and New York State Parks, the club welcomed Rotary friends from all over the U.S. side of the district to participate in a ride from Hennepin Park in Lewiston to Fort Niagara in Youngstown, and then return – a distance of approximately 15 miles.

By the end of the event, more than \$30,000 had been raised to aid in the eradication of polio. More contributions were expected to continue following the event.

More than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries have been vac-

inated due to the efforts of local and worldwide Rotary Club members. At the present time, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion toward eradicating polio.

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16th annual 'Rock Out Hunger' will help provide food, spread hope to hungry community members

Contactless food & fund drive will run from Nov. 2-9

To help neighbors in need have enough to eat this holiday season, "97 Rock," Kaleida Health, WKBW 7 Eyewitness News and FeedMore WNY will host the 16th annual "Operation: Rock Out Hunger" food and fund drive.

From 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, through 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, "97 Rock's" DJ Jickster will live in a FeedMore WNY trailer in the Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital parking lot at 1540 Maple Road, Williamsville. From there, he will collect donations of nonperishable food, frozen turkeys and monetary donations to benefit FeedMore WNY.

"Seeing firsthand the overwhelming show of support for FeedMore WNY from our listeners with their generous donations never gets old! Unfortunately, each year, the need for food keeps rising and FeedMore WNY rises to the challenge," said Jickster, also director of marketing and promotions for "97 Rock." "Their staff and the volunteers are amazing. It's the greatest experience in the world for me to get to do this for 16 years backed by my employer, coworkers and sponsors. It's a sweet 16!"

As a kick-off to the event, Kaleida Health and its affiliates across FeedMore WNY's four-county service area collected food donations from Oct. 4-29.

"We are honored to be part of 'Rock Out Hunger' again," said Bob Nesselbush, CEO of Kaleida

Health. "For the past month, 25 locations across Kaleida Health and our affiliates throughout Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties have been collecting nonperishable food items to ramp up for 'Rock Out Hunger,' and dozens more of our employees will be volunteering at 'Rock Out Hunger' next week. Especially as we continue to face unprecedented challenges, we recognize that far too many individuals and families are struggling for the most basic items. So, the Kaleida Health family is stepping up again to achieve what we hope to be another record-breaking event that will truly impact so many in our community."

A press release noted, "While hunger has long been prevalent in Western New York, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate the need for food assistance in the community. In 2020, FeedMore WNY assisted a total of nearly 181,000 individuals throughout its four-county service area – a 36% increase compared to 2019. The nonprofit also distributed enough food through all of its feeding programs to provide nearly 16 million meals to neighbors in need, which was 4 million meals more than in 2019."

In addition to the collection at "Operation: Rock Out Hunger," donations of food and funds can be dropped off at the FeedMore WNY's distribution warehouse at 91 Holt St., Buffalo, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, and from 8

a.m. to noon most Saturdays. Call FeedMore WNY at 716-822-2002 to schedule a Saturday donation drop-off. Donations also can be made online at www.feedmorewny.org/rock-out-hunger/.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 6th • 9am-2pm
10th & Michigan Ave, Niagara Falls
Theme Baskets • Christmas Items
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