



The Lewiston Community Lions Club recently donated new benches to the Village of Lewiston. These resting areas are located at Center and South Fifth streets. (Photos courtesy of Lion Rob Nichols)

Next phase could include new waterfront staircases, pavilion

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Program (LWRP) application to the state. If received, funds could go toward new staircases on Water Street (including one from North First Street down to the parking lot), a waterfront pavilion, and bank stabilization.

The agenda noted, "the Village of Lewiston is seeking a grant for the Lewiston Landing Phase VI Project and intends to submit via the New York Consolidated Funding Application to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program; and

"Whereas, the Village project cost estimate for the Lewiston Landing Phase 6 Project is \$800,000 and;

"Whereas, the LWRP, through the NYS Department of State, is authorized to fund up to \$600,000 of the project cost;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Village authorizes and appropriates a minimum of 25% local match as required by the Local Waterfront Revitalization Grants Program. Under the LWRP, this

local match must be at least 25% of the total project of \$200,000. The maximum local share appropriated subject to any changes agreed to by the Mayor shall not exceed \$200,000 pending receipt of an LWRP grant and available funding. The total estimated maximum grant is \$600,000. The Mayor may increase this local match through the use of in-kind services without further approval from the Village."

Engineer Mike Marino said, under a best-case scenario, funding would be announced at the end of this year, with bidding to follow next spring, then design, and possibly construction in spring 2026.

Moment of silence

Prior to the meeting, the board held a moment of silence for those injured at the recent Donald Trump rally wherein the former president was shot and wounded.

"There should never be violence of any sort, for any reason," at political events, Welch said. "This country needs to come together. Hopefully, this will be the start of it."

Town and Village of Lewiston to form committee to redo police contract

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

At a meeting Tuesday, elected leaders from the Town and Village of Lewiston pledged to work together toward the creation of a new contract that would stipulate how services rendered by the Lewiston Police Department are utilized by the two municipalities.

Right now, the two sides are working off a 1995 contract that has been modified several times, but not formally updated in its entirety.

"There has been various resolutions over the years from joint meetings, but the agreement itself has never really been rescinded, nor has it ever actually, contractually, been amended," Village law counsel Joseph Leone said. "It needs to be."

A proposed agreement was submitted in 2002, but never signed.

Supervisor Steve Broderick suggested forming a committee to iron out the details. He recommended two members from the Village Board, plus law counsel, and then two members from the Town Council, and its attorney.

The Village Board voted to enter into this partnership, and will be represented by trustees Nick Conde and Tina Coppins, plus Leone. The Town Board will vote on a similar measure at a meeting Monday, likely appointing Broderick, Councilman John Jacoby, and attorney Alfonso Marra Bax. LPD Chief Frank Previte would also be invited to join the working group.

Among the items compelling the two sides to formulate a new deal is that the 1995 edition calls for a police commission, which no longer exists; and then there are questions regarding insurance and expenses.

Moreover, "Ninety percent of this contract is not followed," Broderick said.

Leone explained the divergent parts are the result of resolutions passed at joint meetings.

Broderick said, "We need a new agreement, and an understanding, because you can't follow one part of it and not the rest."



Leone said, "It's too significant an issue to not have a proper contract."

Moving forward, the Village of Lewiston is seeking a greater LPD presence, by means of a police car that would more regularly travel residential streets. It also wants indemnification and hold harmless protection, regarding any police activity, via the town's insurance policy.

The Town of Lewiston, meanwhile, is desirous of an expense structure similar to the original agreement's 66%-34% split. Broderick said the village is now paying less than 12%.

"That's something that we need to negotiate," Broderick said.

Mayor Anne Welch said, "My feeling on it is that the town has basically taken over the police department - all the hiring, the firing, the union, equipment - everything, which I'm fine with. It's been done that way and it's run smooth. I don't have a problem with that."

Leone crafted what he called a "bare-bones" proposed agreement in 2023 as a starting point - and "to make it as simple and

straightforward as possible."

"It's not written in stone; it's a proposal - one of several that I've made over the years, to try to come to grips with this issue," Leone said.

Bax said that, if and when the two sides come to a working agreement, a contract can be drawn up in a short period of time.

If no consensus is reached, Broderick said the town would consider hiring a third-party mediator.

"From my perspective, looking at it from village's point of view, I don't think that this issue should be kicked down the road very far," Leone said.



Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch is shown with Lion Rob Nichols and Trustee Jim Fittante.

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