

NOTICE

TO: Members of the Lewis County Finance & Rules Committee

FROM: Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board

DATE: May 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Finance & Rules Committee Meeting

The Lewis County Finance & Rules Committee will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. in the Legislative Board Chambers, 2nd Floor, Lewis County Courthouse, Lowville, New York.

Attached is a list of agenda items for the meeting which will be live-streamed on the Lewis County YouTube channel at: [Lewis County - YouTube](#).

cc:	County Clerk/DMV	Planning & Community Development
	Economic Development	Purchasing
	Human Resources	Real Property Tax
	Information Technology	Treasurer
	Insurance/Workers' Compensation	

FINANCE & RULES COMMITTEE

AGENDA – May 26, 2026

Call to Order:

- Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair.

Roll Call:

- Clerk of the Board records attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve minutes from April 28, 2026.

Presentations / Discussion Items:

- Lewis County Connect App – Kaylee Rhodes, Lewis County Community Engagement Specialist (15 minutes)
- Information Technology Department update – Timothy Hunt, County Manager (5 minutes)

Draft Resolutions:

1. Requesting amendments to New York State’s Host Community Benefit Program for large-scale renewable energy projects, including increased annual fees, retroactive application, expanded community benefits, and incorporation of NYSERDA-supported funding into local renewable energy regulations.
2. Authorizing the appropriation of \$48,500.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the Vacant and Blighted Property Inventory Project (Grant No. 636CP518-25). The funding will support consulting services and grant administration activities, with corresponding revenue lines established for grant reimbursement.
3. Authorizing a three-year renewal agreement between the County of Lewis and 9280-0366 Quebec Inc. (dba Transit) for the Transit Royale app used by the Lewis County Public Transportation System. The agreement runs from July 19, 2026 through July 18, 2029, at a total cost not to exceed \$27,500.00, funded through federal CARES/5311 transportation funding, and provides users with real-time bus schedules, trip planning, and bus tracking services.
4. Authorizing the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department to submit an application to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Resiliency Grant Program for up to \$10,000,000 to support flood mitigation efforts in the Village of Lowville and surrounding areas. The proposed project would involve the construction of multiple stormwater retention structures to reduce future flooding

impacts, with the required 10% local match to be shared among participating public and private partners.

5. Authorizing the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department to apply for up to \$6 million in NYS Department of State Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction funding to support watershed resiliency projects, including retention structures in the Village and Town of Lowville. The resolution also authorizes the County to participate in the required 10% local match in collaboration with project partners and to execute all necessary grant documents if awarded.
6. Authorizing the Lewis County Treasurer to close the capital project accounts associated with the completed Crofoot Hill Road Bridge NY project and make the necessary budgetary adjustments to reconcile remaining revenues and expenses. No additional cash appropriation is required.
7. Authorizing a renewal consulting agreement between Lewis County and Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. for strategic health benefit planning, design, funding, and administration services. The agreement will run from June 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, at a prorated cost not to exceed \$129,167.00, with future annual renewals not to exceed \$155,000.00.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Executive Session:

Adjournment:

Additional Information

- If any committee member has inquiries regarding agenda items, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2026

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE HOST COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM TO INCREASE ANNUAL FEES, ESTABLISH RETROACTIVE APPLICATION, AND DIRECT INCORPORATION OF NYSERDA PARTICIPATION INTO COUNTY RENEWABLE ENERGY LAWS

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, Legislators Thomas Kalamas and Herb Frost brought forth as co-sponsors of this Resolution to the Finance and Rules Committee for support and referral by the Committee to the full Board of Legislators; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), in response to the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (April 2020), adopted a Host Community Benefit Program by Order dated February 11, 2021, requiring owners of solar electric generating facilities of 25 megawatts or greater to pay an annual fee of \$500 per megawatt for the first ten years of operation, with revenues distributed to residential customers of the host municipalities in the form of annual electric utility bill credits; and

WHEREAS, the current fee structure provides limited relief to host communities and does not adequately offset the cumulative increases in utility rates or the economic burden placed upon residential and business ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, residential and commercial customers have experienced electricity rate increases reaching as high as sixty-one percent (61%), materially impacting household budgets, business operations, and local economic sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), through the use of public funds, participates in the development of large-scale renewable energy facilities—including solar, wind, battery energy storage systems (BESS), geothermal systems, compressed air and compressed gas storage technologies, and similar projects—by providing financial support through Renewable Energy Standard (RES) solicitations, representing direct public investment in such facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is equitable and in the public interest that taxpayer-supported contributions through NYSEERDA be reflected in stronger and more comprehensive community benefits within the Host Community Benefit framework;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby supports and requests that the New York State Legislature and the Public Service Commission amend the Host Community Benefit Program Order adopted in 2021 for renewable energy facilities and projects to:

- Increase the annual facility fee from \$500 per megawatt to \$3,500 per megawatt; and
- Apply this revised fee retroactively to all qualifying renewable energy projects of 25 megawatts or greater that commenced operation within the five years preceding the effective date of the amendment; and
- Extend the fee requirement from the current 10-year term to the full operational life of each applicable project.

Section 2. The Lewis County Board of Legislators further urges that a portion of the increased fee revenue be allocated to NYSERDA, reflecting the public's financial participation in these projects, and that NYSERDA direct such revenues to and for expanded community bill-credit programs within host municipalities.

Section 3. The Lewis County Board of Legislators supports adopting the following policy for inclusion in municipal renewable energy zoning and local siting regulations:

- Any renewable energy project of 25 megawatts or greater sited within a municipality and receiving NYSERDA financial support shall be required to contribute to a permanent Community Benefit Fund administered by the local utility, to be used to supplement electric bill credits and investment in local infrastructure, energy affordability programs for low-income residents, and community resilience initiatives; and to be revisited every 5 years to adjust for any increases.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Section 5. The Clerk of the Board is directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the Chair and Secretary of the NYS Public Service Commission, Majority and Minority leaders of the NYS State Senate and Assembly, the President and CEO of NYSERDA, NYSAC Executive Director, and Lewis County local municipalities, and any others deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2026

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF CDBG PROJECT FUNDS
(GRANT NO. 636CP518-25)**

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the County of Lewis applied for Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds to finance a Vacant and Blighted Property Inventory and was awarded \$50,000.00 for same under Grant No. 636CP518-25; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Legislators previously appointed the Director of Planning and Community Development as the Certifying Officer for this CDBG Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby directs the Treasurer to appropriate the funds in the amount of \$48,500.00, and establish the following budget lines for the CDBG Vacant and Blighted Property Inventory Project (Project No. 636CP518-25):

Expense:

A0802000 495027 NYS CDBG Vacant & Blighted Prp	\$48,500.00
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Revenue:

A0802000 339027 NYS CDBG Vacant & Blighted Prp	\$48,500.00
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Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THREE-YEAR RENEWAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LEWIS AND 9280-0366 QUEBEC INC. (DBA TRANSIT) FOR THE TRANSIT ROYALE BUS TRACKING APP FOR THE LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the Planning & Community Development Department has been renewing annual agreements for the Transit Royale app which provides real time bus schedules, trip planning, and bus tracking for users of the Lewis County Public Transportation System with 5% annual renewal increases which is funded under the federal CARES/5311 transit funding ; and

WHEREAS, Royale's parent company, 9280-0366 Quebec Inc. (dba Transit), has proposed a renewal to provide such services for a three-year period, from July 19, 2026 through July 18, 2029, at a total cost of \$27,500.00 (\$9,166.67 annually); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators seeks to authorize this agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby approves a three-year renewal agreement between the County of Lewis and 9280-0366 Quebec Inc. (dba Transit) for provision of its Transit Royale app for users of the Lewis County Public Transportation System, from July 19, 2026 through July 18, 2029, at a cost not to exceed \$27,500.00, to be paid under the Planning & Community Development Department's federal CARES/5311 transportation funding account.

Section 2. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators, together with the Director, is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal and deliver such Agreement, upon such form as may be approved by the County Attorney.

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. __ -2026

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A NYS EFC GREEN RESILIENCY
GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department has been assisting various municipalities, non-profits, and public partners with mitigation efforts related to the 2024 flooding event; and

WHEREAS, the New York State EFC Green Resiliency Grant Program is offering a grant for eligible projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of extreme weather, with a minimum request of \$1,000,000 and a maximum request of \$10,000,000, and a 10% match; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department wishes to develop, with the input and collaboration of various public and private partners, a NYS EFC Green Resiliency Grant Program Application in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 to mitigate future flooding events through the construction of multiple retention structures in the Village of Lowville; and

WHEREAS, Lewis County, in collaboration with several public and private partners, would work with the partners to split the 10% match requirement on the projects applicable to each host location;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the submission of an application to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYS EFC) Green Resiliency Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 to support the construction of multiple stormwater retention structures in the Village of Lowville and adjacent portions of the Town of Lowville, intended to mitigate future flooding, and further authorizes the County to contribute a portion of the required 10% local match associated with the grant.

Section 2. The Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Legislators, be and the same, is hereby authorized to sign and submit the application and, if awarded, to accept and appropriate the funding, sign contract documents along with any non-financial amendments thereto upon such terms acceptable to the County Attorney.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June 2026.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. __ -2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A NYS DOS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND FLOOD RISK REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department has been assisting various municipalities, non-profits, and public partners with mitigation efforts related to the 2024 flooding event; and

WHEREAS, the New York State DOS Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program is offering a grant to improve waterfront and watershed resiliency with a minimum project request submission of \$150,000 and a required match of 10%; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department wishes to develop, with the input and collaboration of various public and private partners, a NYS DOS Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program Application in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 to improve watershed resiliency through the construction of multiple retention structures in the Village of Lowville and adjacent portions of the Town of Lowville; and

WHEREAS, Lewis County, in collaboration with several public and private partners, would work with those partners to split the 10% match requirement for projects applicable to each host location;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the submission of an application to the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 to improve watershed resiliency through the construction of multiple retention structures in the Village of Lowville and adjacent portions of the Town of Lowville, and further authorizes the County to contribute a portion of the required 10% local match associated with the grant.

Section 2. The Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Legislators, be and the same, is hereby authorized to sign and submit the application and, if awarded, to accept and appropriate the funding, sign contract documents along with any non-financial amendments thereto upon such terms acceptable to the County Attorney.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June, 2026.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2026

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE HAW CAPITAL PROJECT ACCOUNTS

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the Bridge Project known as Crofoot Hill Rd Bridge NY has been completed and no further financial activity is anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Treasurer has recommended the closure of the associated capital project accounts and the reconciliation and reallocation of any remaining balances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the Lewis County Treasurer to close the following capital project accounts and make the necessary budgetary adjustments:

HAW – Crofoot Hill Rd Bridge NY

<u>Increase Revenue:</u>	
H0513000 328910 TOWN	\$1,061,718.76
<u>Decrease Revenue:</u>	
H0512000 335910 NYS	\$1,000,000.00
<u>Increase Expense:</u>	
H0512000 499900 CONTRACT	\$61,718.76

No cash to appropriate

Section 2. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. __ - 2026

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONSULTING AGREEMENT RENEWAL
BETWEEN LEWIS COUNTY AND GILROY, KERNAN & GILROY, INC. ("GKG") FOR
HEALTH BENEFIT PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County ("County") wishes to continue the services of Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. ("GKG"), to provide strategic health benefit planning, design, funding, administration and meetings with county government teams and employees; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these services are \$155,000.00 annually, with a pro-rated cost of \$129,167.00 for the initial period of June 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators wishes to authorize the renewal agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators authorizes a renewal agreement with Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy, Inc., effective June 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, at a cost not to exceed \$129,167.00, with annual renewals at a cost not exceed \$155,000.00.

Section 2. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal, and deliver such Agreement, pending approval by the County Attorney.

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator __, seconded by Legislator __, and adopted on the 2nd day of June, 2026.