

FINANCE & RULES COMMITTEE
August 19, 2025

Present: Tom Osborne, Chair; Jeff Nellenback, Vice-Chair; Herb Frost; Vincent Nortz and Barry Lyndaker.

Legislator Osborne called the meeting to order at 2:46 p.m.

Legislator Osborne moved to approve the July 14, 2025 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Nortz, and carried.

Micro-Transit Plan – Stantec and Tiffanie Sadowski, Community Development Program Specialist

Tiffany Sadowski introduced the micro transit plan, which is being developed with a \$100,000 NYSERDA grant, and Ashley Thompson from Stantec provided an overview of the project. The plan aims to create a flexible transit option to address service gaps identified through community engagement.

Two cost options for the NYSERDA Clean Mobility Program were outlined, with a hybrid model costing approximately \$4.1 million and a turnkey model exceeding \$4.8 million. The program is eligible for up to \$3 million in funding, and it was confirmed that 5311 and STOA funds could be utilized to cover the remaining expenses. The pricing may be negotiable for initial contracts, potentially lowering costs in the early years.

Lewis County – JCC Education Center and Jack J. Boak Jr. Education Center

The proposal from BOCES to purchase the JCCC building was outlined, suggesting an exchange with the Boak Educational Center. Concerns were expressed about the future use of the building, while it was confirmed that JCC would maintain a presence in the partnership. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring the building continues to serve educational purposes. Legislator Osborne stated that he was impressed with the condition of the Boak Educational Center. There was discussion about utilizing the Boak parking lot for Courthouse employees to avoid crossing Main Street. Legislator Frost voiced his opinion that the expansion of BOCES in Lewis County is exciting and provides a vision of taking care of the youth and workforce. Legislator Dolhof pointed out that if BOCES doesn't expand here they may do it in Jefferson County. Legislator Lyndaker commented that the Fair Board gets the first right of refusal, and they could use the property to expand parking because that is becoming more of an issue.

Lyons Falls School Developer

County Manager Tim Hunt briefly announced that there is a developer from Watertown that is very interested in the Lyons Falls School property. He has

experience working under someone and is now going out on his own. His vision is to create medium to high end affordable apartment units.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Introductory Local Law No. 7-2025 “A Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-c (A/K/A “2% Tax Cap”) for the Lewis County 2026 Budget” and setting the public hearing for October 7th at 5:00 p.m. *Legislator Lyndaker was opposed.*
AYE 4 NAY 1
2. Committing to appropriate \$50,000.00 in matching funds toward the 2026 “I LOVE NY” promotional and marketing tourism campaign and designating Naturally Lewis, Inc. as the County’s agent to supervise and conduct the promotional and marketing programs by the Chamber of Commerce for Lewis County tourism under the 2026 campaign.
AYE 5 NAY 0
3. Authorizing payment of the \$7,500.00 appraisal service fee of DGM Coon & Company for the commercial appraisals performed and completed on the LC-JCC Ed Center and Jack J. Boak Jr Ed Center.
AYE 5 NAY 0
4. Authorizing the continuation of the 1% additional tax on sales and uses of tangible personal property and of certain services, on occupancy of hotel rooms and on amusement charges pursuant to article 29 of the tax law of the state of New York for another two years, beginning December 1, 2025 and ending November 30, 2027.
AYE 5 NAY 0
5. Authorizing the Lewis County Planning & Community Development Department to submit the application for Round 2 NYSERDA Clean Mobility Program funding in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 to implement projects identified on the recently completed Micro-Transit Plan.
AYE 5 NAY 0
6. Appropriating \$27,000.00 to recognize revenue for Real Property Department charges to municipalities following RPTL 1537 for assessing and data collection services.
AYE 5 NAY 0
7. Setting the 2026 Workers’ Compensation Apportionment for Lewis County Self-Insurance Plan as 50% experience based, 30% payroll based, and 20% proportionate full property valuation based.
AYE 5 NAY 0

8. Reappointing Candy Akin as the Lewis County Director of Real Property for another 6-year term, beginning on October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2032.
AYE 5 NAY 0

At 3:20 p.m. Legislator Osborne moved to enter an executive session for two contract negotiations and invited Buildings & Grounds Director Matt O'Connor to join, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

At 4:11 p.m. Legislator Frost moved to enter regular session, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

Legislator Frost moved to have a letter drafted on behalf of the Board of Legislators to show support for a Certificate of Need to Natural Bridge Ambulance service to assist the residents in the Town of Diana, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee Legislator Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m., seconded by Legislator Nortz, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board