
**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
FINANCE & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING
April 28, 2026**

Present:

Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair
Legislator Jeffrey Nellenback, Vice Chair
Legislator Herbert Frost III
Legislator Thomas Osborne
Legislator Barry Lyndaker

CALL TO ORDER

Legislator Moser called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Legislator Moser moved to approve the minutes of March 31, 2026, Finance & Rules Committee meeting as submitted.

Motion seconded by Legislator Frost and adopted.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None

Lewis County Public Transportation (LCPT) Microtransit Program

Presenter: *Chrstine Treuth, Via Partnership Principal and Tiffanie Sadowski, Lewis County Community Development Specialist*

Lewis County Community Development Specialist Tiffanie Sadowski provided an update on the county's microtransit initiative, a flexible, on-demand public transportation service designed to complement existing fixed bus routes and improve mobility across the county.

Microtransit utilizes smaller vehicles and app-based or call-in ride scheduling, similar to rideshare services, to address gaps in traditional transit. Lewis County will partner with Via Transportation to operate the service.

Christine Trueth from Via Transportation presented an overview of the company and the project. Via is a global public transit solutions provider with extensive experience operating microtransit systems and partnering with municipalities.

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The project is funded through the NYSERDA Clean Mobility Program. Lewis County previously received a \$100,000 planning grant and has now secured nearly \$3 million for a three-year pilot program.

Key project details include:

- Phased rollout: Initial service will begin in a central zone, with expansion to northern and southern zones in later phases
- Fleet: Initial deployment of three electric vehicles (Ford E-Transit)
- Service hours: Planned for weekdays and weekends
- Transfer hub: A central transfer station at the Human Services building will facilitate longer cross-county trips
- Accessibility: Riders can book trips via a mobile app or by calling a dispatcher

The service will provide real-time ride booking, trip tracking, and flexible pickup/drop-off locations. It is designed to be user-friendly and integrated with existing transit options.

Marketing and community outreach will play a key role in implementation, including public education, local events, and targeted engagement to ensure awareness and usage.

The project is currently in the final contracting and planning stages, with a target launch date of August. The pilot program will remain flexible, allowing adjustments based on rider feedback and usage data.

Property Improvement Incentive Program

Presenter: *Megan Krokowski, Lewis County Community Development Specialist*

Lewis County Community Development Specialist Megan Krokowski presented proposed real property tax exemption programs under New York State law Sections 421-f and 421-p.

Section 421-f is an incentive program designed to encourage investment in one- and two-family, owner-occupied homes by phasing in property tax increases resulting from qualifying improvements. The exemption begins at 100% of the increased assessed value in year one and decreases annually over an eight-year period. Eligible improvements include reconstruction, alterations, and upgrades, with parameters (e.g., project types, value caps, and exclusions) to be defined by the Board of Legislators. The program aims to promote reinvestment in aging housing stock while minimizing sudden tax increases for homeowners.

Section 421-p focuses on the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), allowing for a longer exemption period (up to 10 years) on the added assessed value of the unit. This program supports development of smaller-scale housing options without requiring major new

infrastructure and can address housing shortages, workforce needs, and multigenerational living.

Both programs require adoption through local law, including a public hearing and coordination with state agencies, municipalities, and school districts. Applications would be processed through local assessors with required documentation such as permits and proof of costs.

Key considerations discussed:

- Potential short-term reduction in taxable value during exemption periods
- Long-term increase in tax base once exemptions phase out
- Flexibility for the county to set caps, eligibility criteria, and documentation requirements
- Administrative processing handled through existing property systems

Benefits identified include increased housing investment, improved code compliance, neighborhood revitalization, expanded housing options, and economic stimulation through construction activity.

It was recommended that the county consider adopting both programs concurrently to streamline implementation, simplify communication, and maximize housing and economic development benefits.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Draft Resolution No. 1

Adopting Local Law No. 3–2026, continuing the additional mortgage tax, of \$0.25 per \$100 of principal debt, on real property in Lewis County since 2004. Following a duly noticed public hearing, the Board of Legislators formally enacts the local law, with an effective date of July 1, 2026, subject to filing with the Secretary of State.

Motion: Legislator Moser moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None.

Draft Resolution No. 2

Adopting updates to the County’s Workplace Violence Policy and Tuition Reimbursement Policy to ensure compliance with New York State requirements and align with current best

practices. Revisions include enhanced safety measures, training, and prevention strategies, as well as updated eligibility, benefits, and service commitments for tuition reimbursement to support workforce development. The Department of Human Resources is authorized to implement and administer the updated policies, effective immediately.

Motion: Legislator Moser moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 3

Appropriating \$10,285.12 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program income funds to the Planning and Community Development Department. The funds will be recorded as both revenue and expenditure and used to support various community development projects.

Motion: Legislator Moser moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 4

Authorizing agreements between Lewis County and two Village of Lyons Falls entities under the NY Forward Small Project Fund Program. Funding includes \$46,025 to D2W LLC for equipment and installation related to a building use change, and \$78,975 to the Lyons Falls Free Library for ADA and exterior improvements. The Planning and Community Development Department will administer and monitor the projects in accordance with the grant program.

Motion: Legislator Moser moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 5

Authorizing the Planning and Community Development Department to apply for Transit Ready NY grant funding to support public transportation and infrastructure improvements in

Lewis County. Proposed projects may include transit vehicles, pedestrian and roadway enhancements, and mobility hubs to improve access and connectivity. The program offers up to 100% State funding, and the resolution also authorizes acceptance of any awarded funds and execution of necessary agreements to implement the projects.

Motion: Legislator Moser moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 6

Authorizing the Lewis County Treasurer to close the capital project accounts for three completed bridge projects: CR 43 (East Road) over Moose Creek, Gardner Road Bridge, and O'Brien Road Bridge. With no further financial activity expected, the Treasurer will reconcile each account, make necessary budget adjustments (including revenue and expense corrections), and reallocate any remaining balances. Approximately \$90,840.58 from the CR 43 East Road project will be transferred to the General Fund, while the other two projects have no remaining funds to appropriate.

Motion: Legislator Moser moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Legislator Moser moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 PM.

Motion seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Clerk of the Board