
**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
FINANCE & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING
May 26, 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 2:40 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Legislator Moser moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2026, Finance & Rules Committee meeting as submitted.

Motion seconded by Legislator Frost and adopted.

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

Lewis County Connect App

Presenter: *Kaylee Rhodes, Lewis County Community Engagement Specialist*

Ms. Rhodes reviewed the newly developed Lewis County Connect mobile app, its functionality, internal implementation, early adoption metrics, and technical questions about cookies and GIS integration. She presented the app, invited downloads and account creation, and summarized vendor coordination and internal branding and support. She described highway-department uses, including road-closure mapping and an events/public-hearing calendar.

Functionality and architecture: the app delivers push notifications and emergency alerts for weather, road closures, and public-health notices and currently links to the county website via modular "applets" that can be rebuilt as native content. Accessibility support was confirmed so visually impaired users can have information read aloud. The county is using

GoGov as the vendor; implementation included coordination with Connor, adherence to the county branding guide, GoGov IT support, and a marketing toolkit.

Metrics and adoption: early adoption metrics reported were 451 Apple installs, 16 Android installs, and five unique citizen accounts. Use cases presented included highway department road-closure maps and an event calendar for public hearings and community events.

Planned capabilities and technical constraints discussed: building additional applets and department pages (including Board of Legislators profiles), encouraging user profiles for notification preference selection, exploring optional SMS/text messaging using a local number, and coordinating with towns and villages for broader adoption. A question about cookie usage was raised; tentative confirmation was given that cookies can be avoided but a GIS dependency may require cookies for map viewing.

Information Technology Department update

Presenter: *Timothy Hunt, Lewis County Manager*

Mr. Hunt summarized current IT staffing and next steps for filling a director vacancy. The IT department had five employees originally and one left, creating a vacancy that has been open about three to four months. The director, Connor Biolsi, has left and Wednesday was his last day, leaving the department with three remaining staff members. The group agreed the three remaining staff "do a great job" and will operate with just those three for about a month to a month and a half to evaluate capacity. Leadership plans to carefully reevaluate and rewrite the director of IT job specification because the role is difficult and comparable county positions are offering considerably higher wages than the current pay.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Draft Resolution No. 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.

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. 2

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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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

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 .

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Legislator Moser moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 PM.

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Motion seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Clerk of the Board