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

**Present:**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Legislator Moser called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Legislator Moser moved to approve the minutes of June 30, 2026, Finance & Rules Committee meeting as submitted.

Motion seconded by Legislator Nellenback and adopted.

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

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**Economic Development in Lewis County**

Presenter: *Naturally Lewis*

Representatives of Naturally Lewis provided an annual update on the organization's economic development, tourism, and business support initiatives. Megan Marolf, Financial Operations Manager, explained that while the organization has experienced significant leadership changes over the past year, its mission and commitment to supporting economic growth in Lewis County remain unchanged.

Micah Roes, Programs & Partnerships Director, reported that approximately \$130,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the Launch Lewis County program has been fully distributed to six low-to-moderate income businesses. He noted that Naturally Lewis will work with Lewis County to pursue the next round of funding.

Roxanne Turck, Director of Development, provided an update on the Site and Property Committee, reporting that three properties totaling approximately 400 acres are currently being evaluated for potential acquisition and environmental review. She highlighted expanded outreach to developers in manufacturing, housing, and mixed-use development, ongoing efforts to advance the Mandeville Building redevelopment through partnerships with Empire State Development and the Industrial Development Agency, and continued coordination with Kruger Hydro regarding its anticipated PILOT application. Ms. Turck also discussed participation in the Mohawk Valley Brownfield Summit, where new partnerships were established with developers and economic development professionals.

Kristen, Director of Tourism, reviewed tourism initiatives, noting continued growth in Naturally Lewis' digital marketing and social media engagement through the County's tourism matching funds and Empire State Development grant initiatives. She highlighted efforts to promote Lewis County's recreational assets, including expanding the County Fair shuttle into a visitor ambassador program and launching the new "Park and Paddle" transportation pilot in partnership with the Lewis County Health Planning Department and Public Transportation to improve public access to the Black River. She also referenced annual tourism economic impact data compiled through Oxford Economics in partnership with I Love New York.

Ms. Marolf reported that Naturally Lewis continues to expand its membership and is implementing a new customer relationship management system to improve service to businesses, entrepreneurs, and members. She also advised that staff are working with the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency Governance Committee to update the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy to strengthen host community agreement provisions, particularly for future energy projects, while enhancing collaboration with municipalities and taxing jurisdictions.

Mr. Roes concluded the presentation by summarizing the Community Economic Development Program, reporting a total estimated economic impact of approximately \$6.68 million during the past year. Funded through the Number Three Wind Project Host Community Agreement, the program awarded grants to 34 businesses through five distinct funding programs serving communities throughout Lewis County. He also highlighted Naturally Lewis' fifth annual Economic Development Conference, 31 business consultation sessions for entrepreneurs, continued partnership with the Small Business Development Center, the graduation of 20 participants from the Leadership Academy, and growth to 211 active Naturally Lewis members. During discussion, staff explained that entrepreneurs have access to business planning assistance through Naturally Lewis, the Small Business Development Center, and local business partners specializing in bookkeeping and financial services.

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## **DRAFT RESOLUTIONS**

### **Draft Resolution No. 1**

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Endorsing the New York Association of Towns Bill of Rights and reaffirming the County's support for municipal home rule, local land use authority, relief from unfunded mandates, modernization of public notice requirements, and meaningful local government participation in State policymaking.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5      NAY – 0      Recuse/Abstain – \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Draft Resolution No. 2**

Authorization to grant a perpetual utility easement to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (National Grid) and Frontier/Citizens on County-owned property at the Department of Social Services building, 5274 Outer Stowe Street, Lowville, to accommodate electric distribution upgrades necessary for the County's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project. The easement will allow installation and maintenance of utility infrastructure and will not interfere with County operations.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Lyndaker and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5      NAY – 0      Recuse/Abstain – \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Draft Resolution No. 3**

Appointing Adam Matteson of Lowville to the Lewis County Fair Housing Task Force, effective August 5, 2026. The Task Force supports the County's fair housing initiatives by promoting equal housing opportunity and assisting with compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

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 – \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Draft Resolution No. 4**

Appointing Michael Hanno of Glenfield to the Lewis County Fair Housing Task Force, effective August 5, 2026. The Task Force supports the County's fair housing initiatives by promoting

equal housing opportunity and assisting with compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

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 – \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Draft Resolution No. 5**

Authorization of an agreement with Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES for the construction of a modular building to serve as the Lewis County Public Transportation transfer point at the Human Services Building. The project, at a cost not to exceed \$49,999.00, includes a climate-controlled waiting area, ADA-accessible restroom, and utility room, and is contingent upon execution of a funding agreement through the NYSERDA Clean Mobility Program.

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 – \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Draft Resolution No. 6**

Authorization of an updated agreement with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to accept an additional \$150,000.00 in Round 5 reimbursement funds through the State Septic System Replacement Fund Program. The funding will be administered by the Planning and Community Development Department to provide eligible property owners reimbursement assistance for septic system and cesspool replacement projects that protect water quality.

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 – \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Draft Resolution No. 7**

Awarding bid and authorization of an agreement with LaBella Associates, D.P.C. to complete a countywide Vacant and Blighted Property Inventory through the CDBG Community Planning Grant Program. The project, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00, will identify and assess

vacant and blighted properties to support future planning, redevelopment, and community revitalization efforts.

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 – \_\_\_\_\_.

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 2:51 PM, Legislator Moser moved to enter Executive Session to discuss contingency plans for the provision of emergency medical services in the County in the case of a state of emergency, as such public disclosure would imperil public safety. She invited all Legislators, together with the County Attorney, County Manager, Deputy County Manager, Clerk of the Board, Director of Fire & Emergency Management, and Mr. John Morssey, to remain for the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Legislator Frost and carried.

At 4:29 PM, Legislator Frost moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene in Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Legislator Moser moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Motion seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

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

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Respectfully submitted,  
*Cassandra Moser*  
Clerk of the Board