
**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
August 25, 2026**

Present:

Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair
Legislator Thomas Osborne, Vice Chair
Legislator Jeffrey Nellenback
Legislator Michael Hanno

Legislator Vincent Nortz was excused

CALL TO ORDER

Legislator Leviker called the meeting to order at 1:46 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Legislator Leviker moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2026, General Services Committee meeting as submitted.

Motion seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Local Solid Waste Management Plan

Presenter: *Development Authority of the North Country Representatives Carrie Tuttle, Shawn Thorton, and John Phelps*

John Phelps, Recycling Coordinator for the Development Authority of the North Country, presented an overview of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWAMP), a required 10-year regional plan for Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties addressing waste reduction, reuse, recycling, organics, disposal, and diversion through 2034. The plan was approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on June 12, 2026, with final adoption required by each member county.

Mr. Phelps explained that Lewis County has a strong long-term disposal capacity outlook, with the regional landfill currently projected to have capacity through 2072 at current disposal rates. The plan continues the existing regional partnership and does not require new local laws or introduce new implementation costs. Key priorities include landfill cell development, landfill gas infrastructure, improved recycling and diversion data, contamination and enforcement efforts, and continued public education and outreach.

Discussion also addressed the State's food scraps law. Mr. Phelps noted that Lewis County is not currently subject to the mandated food-scrap recycling requirements due to the lack of a certified composting facility within the applicable distance. He explained that voluntary municipal food-waste programs could be pursued in the future, with the Development Authority able to assist with technical resources, cost assessments, education, and community outreach.

Mr. Phelps stated that adoption of the plan would continue the County's existing solid waste management framework without additional planning or implementation costs. Upon adoption by all member counties, certified resolutions will be submitted to DEC, with the first biennial update scheduled for 2027.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Draft Resolution No. 1

Authorizing a three-year renewal agreement with Trane U.S. Inc. for HVAC maintenance services at the Lewis County Courthouse for January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029. Annual costs are \$41,480.00 for 2027, \$43,968.00 for 2028, and \$46,606.00 for 2029.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 2

Authorizing an amendment to the 2026 Lewis County Compensation Plan to increase the District Attorney's salary from \$221,200.00 to \$225,600.00, as required by New York State law following the increase in County Court Judge compensation. The increase is effective and retroactive to April 1, 2026, with the County Treasurer directed to make the necessary payroll adjustments and issue any retroactive compensation due.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 3

Authorizing the SEQRA review and determination for the proposed 0.9-mile addition to the Lewis County Trail System, located in the Town of Osceola on specified parcels owned by Frank L. Miller and Juanita Yerdon-Miller. Based on the Soil and Water Conservation District's environmental assessment and review by the Board, the proposed trail addition was determined to have no significant environmental impact, completing the County's SEQRA lead agency responsibilities for the project.

Motion: Legislator Leviker 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 – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 4

Authorizing the addition of 0.9 miles of trail in the Town of Osceola to the Lewis County OHV Trail System, located on parcels owned by Frank L. Miller and Juanita Yerdon-Miller. Following completion of the required SEQRA review and a determination of no significant environmental impact, the trail will be incorporated into the County Trail System and the official trail maps will be updated accordingly.

Motion: Legislator Leviker 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 – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 5

Setting a public hearing for October 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. regarding Introductory Local Law No. 7-2026, which would amend the County's law regulating and permitting special events on County roads, trails, and other County property, as well as Town roads and property where a Town has opted in. Notice of the public hearing will be posted and published in accordance with applicable requirements.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Discussion: *The amendments that were made to this Local Law were based on conversations with Sno-Pals and pertained to the insurance requirements which have been removed. Legislator Nellenback would like to see a permit fee increase from the current \$20.00 amount.*

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 6

Authorizing increases to certain Lewis County Solid Waste transfer station fees, effective January 1, 2027. Municipal Solid Waste and Construction Debris fees will increase from \$110.00 to \$120.00 per ton, and Bulk Tires (20 inches or less) will increase from \$260.00 to \$300.00 per ton.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 7

Adopting the Development Authority of the North Country's 2026–2035 Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) on behalf of Lewis County. The plan, prepared in accordance with NYSDEC requirements, provides a coordinated regional framework for solid waste management and will be implemented in cooperation with the Authority and other member counties, subject to final NYSDEC approval.

Motion: Legislator Leviker 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 – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Railroad Easements: continues to be researched.

NEW BUSINESS

Lewis County is currently leasing the Lewis-JCC Education Center to BOCES, which will eliminate the County's Building & Grounds expenses associated with that facility. At the same time, the County has acquired the former BOAK building on Shady Avenue in the Village of Lowville and will incur Building & Grounds expenses at that location for the remainder of 2026.

The remaining balance in the Building & Grounds account lines associated with the JCC totals approximately \$59,224.03. It is recommended that these funds be transferred to the appropriate Building & Grounds account lines for the Shady Avenue facility to cover anticipated expenses through the end of the year. Beginning with the 2027 budget, ongoing expenses associated with the Shady Avenue building will be incorporated into the annual budget process.

Based on this information, a draft resolution has been prepared and distributed to the General Services Committee for consideration.

Draft Resolution No. 8

Authorizing the transfer of approximately \$59,224.03 in remaining 2026 Building & Grounds funds from the Lewis-JCC Education Center accounts to the Shady Avenue facility accounts to support operation, maintenance, and other expenses through the end of the year. The Shady Avenue facility will be incorporated into the normal County budget process beginning in 2027.

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

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None.

County Manager Tim Hunt discussed a proposal from Genesee Valley Transportation Co., Inc. (GVT) to purchase approximately 39-foot sections of rail previously removed from the railroad line in West Carthage, located between the former railroad bridge over the Black River and Main Street. The rail had been removed prior to the County's acquisition of the property and is currently stored on site. GVT offered to purchase the rail at \$354 per 1,365-pound section, representing approximately \$65,000 for the available sections.

Staff reported that other rail recovery companies had been contacted to evaluate the proposed pricing and the condition and specifications of the rail. The rail is 105-pound rail and, due to its specifications, is primarily suitable for short-line or relay applications. Comparable pricing discussed ranged from approximately \$300 per ton for rail requiring removal to the mid-to-high \$400s per ton for rail that had already been removed. The GVT proposal equates to approximately \$518 per ton.

The Board also discussed the possibility of including previously removed rail in the Lyons Falls area under the same terms, pending confirmation of the quantity available. GVT's proposal would involve removal and purchase of the rail only and would not include railroad ties or other materials, such as anchor pins, relay components, and spikes. Staff emphasized that the proposal concerns rail that has already been removed and does not represent a plan to remove rail from active sections of the trail prior to completion of the County's overall rail trail planning process.

Motion No. 1

Declare the itemized sections of rail as surplus, accept GVT's offer of \$359.00 per 39-foot length of 105# Dudley rail, and authorize the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board to execute all necessary documents, subject to approval by the County Attorney.

Moved by Legislator Leviker, seconded by Legislator Hanno and adopted.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

With the adoption of this motion, Legislator Leviker requested that the terms of the motion be incorporated into a respective Resolution for the September 1st Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Legislator Leviker moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 PM

Motion seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Vote: AYE – 4 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Clerk of the Board