REGULAR MEETING
October 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman of the Board, Lawrence Dolhof.

ROLL CALL:

Legislator Frost, Legislator Kalamas, Legislator Moser, Legislator Lyndaker, Legislator Nortz, Legislator Hanno, Legislator Leviker, Legislator Osborne, Legislator Nellenback, and Legislator Dolhof were present. There were 15 other people present.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE:

Chairman Dolhof asked Legislator Kalamas for the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Chairman Dolhof declared the September 1, 2026, meeting minutes approved by general consent.

RECOGNITION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S):

Clerk of the Board read a proclamation for Lead Poisoning Prevention week, and the proclamation was presented to Marcia Ashline, Supervising Public Health Nurse by Chairman Dolhof.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Chairman Dolhof announced that the public hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 7-2026 was canceled. At 5:03 PM he opened the public hearings on the addition of approximately 0.9 miles, located in the Town of Osceola, to the Lewis County OHV Trail System; and Introductory Local Law No 6-2027 "Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law §3-c (aka 2% Tax Cap) for the Lewis County 2027 Budget." There were no comments made.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE:

The Finance and Rules Committee have met and recommend waiving the rules to allow action on late resolutions.

Signed by: Jessica Moser
Jeffrey Nellenback
Herb Frost
Thomas Osborne
Barry Lyndaker

Dated: October 6, 2026

Legislator Frost moved to accept the recommendation of the Finance & Rules Committee, seconded by Legislator Hanno, and carried.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

John Kibblek addressed the Board regarding the Chapter 77 real property tax exemption for qualifying disabled veterans. He requested clarification regarding whether the exemption is mandatory or requires municipalities to opt in, stating that information he had received from various sources appeared inconsistent. He also questioned the estimated number of veterans who would qualify for the exemption, stating that the previously presented figure of approximately 120 veterans represented a broader population of 100% disabled veterans and did not account for additional eligibility requirements or home ownership.

Mr. Kibblek expressed concern that eligible veterans may be unable to access the exemption and stated that the benefit would have a significant impact on his family. He questioned why the matter had been referred back to the County if the legislation was mandatory and expressed concern about the length of time being taken to resolve the issue.

Chairman Dolhof stated that the Board appreciates and supports veterans, particularly disabled veterans, but is seeking additional clarity regarding the legislation and its fiscal impact. He explained that, once the information is clarified, the County intends to meet with the towns and villages because implementation of the exemption would affect those municipalities as well.

County Manager Timothy Hunt explained that changes were made to the legislation during the final New York State budget process, including changes to the definition of total disability. He stated that the revised provisions allow individuals receiving a 100% disability rating upon military discharge to qualify, which accounts for the larger estimate previously presented. Hunt further explained that the legislation was amended to require municipalities, including counties, towns, villages, and school districts, to affirmatively opt in to the exemption. He offered to provide Mr. Kibblek with the applicable legislative amendment for review.

Mr. Kibblek reiterated his concern that the potential fiscal impact had been overstated and emphasized that the number of veterans who would ultimately qualify is likely significantly lower than the initial estimate. He urged the County to continue reviewing the exemption and establish a clear path toward implementation for eligible veterans.

Village of Lowville Mayor Dan Salmon thanked everyone involved in the Village's summer recreation program, stating that the program was very well run.

He reported that the Village is currently working with County Attorney Ian Gilbert, County Manager Timothy Hunt, DPW Superintendent Paul Denise, and community members regarding the future of parking in the Village and expressed optimism that the remaining issues could be resolved.

Mayor Salmon also recognized Deputy County Manager/Planning and Community Development Director Casandra Buell for her assistance to the Village, particularly with the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), and thanked her for her service to the community.

Regarding the proposed veterans' real property tax exemption, Mayor Salmon stated that he had spoken with John Kibblek and agreed that additional clarity regarding the legislation is needed. He indicated that his review of the available information led him to understand that municipalities have the option to opt in or opt out of the exemption. He acknowledged the potential concern that differing decisions among municipalities could affect the local tax base, while also expressing support for working toward a resolution that appropriately addresses the needs of qualifying veterans.

CLERK OF THE BOARD REPORT: None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee reported that during last week's Committee meeting, County Manager Timothy Hunt provided an update on the proposed relocation of the Lewis County Public Health Department from the hospital basement to the County-owned BOAK Building. The move would eliminate approximately $110,000 in annual rent and provide improved space for the Health Department. The County is proposing to transfer $1.5 million from unexpended fund balance to a capital account to fund the renovation, with the investment anticipated to be replenished through rent savings and the anticipated $1.3 million lump-sum payment from BOCES for the purchase of the JCC property. The project is subject to State approval and needs to move forward on an aggressive timeline due to the Health Department's current lease expiring in May.

Ryan Brandt of Rochester's Cornerstone Group, provided an update on the proposed redevelopment of the former Glenfield School into a 63-unit residential housing development. The project includes substantial rehabilitation of the existing school, construction of an adjacent building, accessible and ADA-compliant units, common areas, parking, and geothermal heating. Due to rising construction costs and the need for additional State funding approval, the project schedule has been adjusted, with construction targeted to begin by the end of October 2026 and anticipated to take approximately 16 months.

Legislator Kalamas, Chair of the Human Services Committee reported that during last week's Committee meeting, Community Services Director Anna Platz

provided an overview of the County's responsibilities and financial obligations related to CPL Article 730 competency evaluations and restoration services for defendants determined unable to understand criminal proceedings or assist in their defense. She explained that forensic placement costs can be significant and unpredictable, with limited State facility capacity sometimes resulting in lengthy jail stays while awaiting placement. The County's 2027 budget includes approximately $591,800 for three individuals currently subject to restoration orders, a substantial increase from prior years, with additional costs possible as new cases arise. Ms. Platz also highlighted challenges with communication, placement availability, budgeting, and coordination with State facilities, noting that counties statewide are advocating for legislative and systemic changes to address these issues.

Legislator Kalamas moved to authorize Jennifer Edick, Public Health Specialist, to travel to Cincinnati Ohio for the Public Health Education Conference from March 16th to 19th of 2027. All expenses will be covered by the Public Health Infrastructure Grant, seconded by Legislator Osborne, and carried.

Legislator Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee reported that during last week's Committee meeting, Director of Purchasing Brian Hanno presented the tentative 2027 Capital Improvement Plan. The plan includes approximately $1.25 million for capital equipment and projects, primarily replacement equipment and necessary facility improvements. Major projects include Highway paving and culvert work, Public Safety Building accessibility improvements, an EOC addition, and various departmental equipment replacements.

Director of Human Resources Caitlyn Smith presented the 2027 personnel requests and reported that departments were asked to limit staffing increases and provide justification for any new positions. The proposed changes include one new full-time Recreation, Forestry & Parks position and three position reclassifications, offset by the elimination of five positions, resulting in an overall reduction of approximately 2.5 FTEs. Ms. Smith also noted that several collective bargaining agreements and compensation matters remain unresolved, so the final impact of labor costs on the 2027 budget is not yet known.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Legislator Nortz reported that the Hospital Board of Managers met on September 30 and received notice of awards for three projects through the Rural Health Transformation Program. The projects will support recruitment, telemedicine, and community services through the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization.

Legislator Nortz also announced the addition of Pediatrician Sandra Timerman, who is scheduled to begin on October 5. He further reported that

orthopedic provider Carolyn Hettrich will be joining the hospital, specializing in sports medicine and shoulder care. She will be accompanied by Physician Assistants Karen Fish and Sarah Finnigan. Nortz stated that the new providers will expand the hospital's orthopedic services and enhance the care available to the community.

Legislator Nortz reported that the Fort Drum Alpine Express On-Post Public Transportation Partnership between Fort Drum and Lewis County Public Transportation has been selected as a recipient of an Army Community Partnership Award. He noted that the award recognizes the partnership's positive impact on quality of life within the Fort Drum community and the exceptional collaboration between Fort Drum and Lewis County.

The award will be presented on December 10th at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes. Legislator Nortz commended the County's Planning Department and all staff involved in the Alpine Express initiative for their work and dedication, with particular recognition given to Tiffanie Sadowski.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

County Manager Timothy Hunt reported that discussions regarding establishing a DMV office on Fort Drum are progressing well. He noted that Jake Moser and Legislator Nortz have been working on the initiative and that the next step will be to meet with Jefferson County to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for Lewis County to operate a DMV office on the federal installation. Mr. Hunt emphasized that the proposed DMV would be funded by Fort Drum and would not result in a cost to Lewis County taxpayers, while providing convenient services to military personnel stationed on the base.

Mr. Hunt also reported on the recent New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) conference, noting that state mandates and their impact on county governments were major topics of discussion. In particular, counties are evaluating the financial implications of mandates related to SNAP and Section 730-B, with many counties facing costs that exceed the limits of the property tax cap.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Deputy County Treasurer Taszden Newton provided an update to her written report, noting that the County has received a payment of just over $65,000 from Mohawk, Adirondack and Northern Railroad. She stated that, as a result, the Rail Reserve balance is slightly higher than reflected in the previously submitted report.

At 5:27 PM Chairman Dolhof closed the public hearings.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE:

RESOLUTION NO. 217 – 2026

AUDITING AND ALLOWING CLAIMS

Introduced by Legislator Jeffrey Nellenback, Vice-Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

RESOLVED that the claims presented for payment in the total amount of $2,724,111.30 be and each is hereby audited and allowed for the amounts claimed, and that the Clerk is authorized and directed to draw checks for the County Treasurer for the amounts claimed, in favor of each of the claimants or their assigns.

Moved by Legislator Frost, seconded by Legislator Kalamas.

Legislator Moser recused herself from the vote, as several payments included therein are either made payable to her for services rendered as an assigned council or reflect vouchers she approved in that capacity.

The Resolution was then adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

AYES: Kalamas, Nortz, Lyndaker, Osborne, Leviker, Hanno, Nellenback, Frost, and Dolhof.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 218 - 2026

AUTHORIZING RENEWAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEWIS COUNTY AND TRANE U.S. INC. FOR HVAC MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT THE NUMBER THREE ROAD BUILDING

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, Trane U.S. Inc. has offered to provide maintenance services for Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning ("HVAC") systems for the County-owned building at 7714 Number Three Rd. Lowville, NY 13367 (the "Number Three Road Building"); and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Legislators wishes to accept such services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby approves the terms of the Connected Building Service Agreement proposal with Trane U.S. Inc. to provide HVAC maintenance services for the Number Three Road Building during the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029 at the following annual costs:

Year 1	1/1/2027 – 12/31/2027	$8,452.00
Year 2	1/1/2028 – 12/31/2028	$8,959.00
Year 3	1/1/2029 – 12/31/2029	$9,497.00

Section 2. That the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal and deliver such Agreement, pending approval by the County Attorney.

Section 3. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 219 - 2026

APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
SHADY AVENUE BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County Public Health is currently leasing office space within the Lewis County Health System; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the need to relocate Public Health in order to provide the hospital with additional space for future expansion; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to appropriate $1,500,000.00 from the General Fund to complete the renovations required by the New York State Department of Health for the relocation of Public Health to the Shady Avenue property; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer's Office shall establish a new Capital account line to track all project expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby approves the appropriation of $1,500,000.00 from General Fund balance to cover the cost of the Shady Avenue Property Capital project as follows:

Decrease:	
A0 005990 Fund balance	$1,500,000.00
Increase Expenditure:	
H0162900 499900 HPH Cty Shr Expenditures	$1,500,000.00

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Hanno, seconded by Legislator Moser.

Legislator Lyndaker questioned the proposed $1.5 million investment in the BOCES building, noting that he had understood the building and its HVAC system to be in good condition and questioned whether the County currently owns the property. County Manager Timothy Hunt explained that the lease is in perpetuity, the County is held harmless for capital improvements, and the building is otherwise in good condition. He stated that the proposed work is necessary to meet Department of Health code requirements associated with the County's intended use of the building; such improvements would not be necessary for other types of tenants.

Legislator Frost noted that the investment was expected to pay for itself over approximately seven years. Chairman Dolhof stated that the County currently pays approximately $110,000 annually in rent for its existing space and would realize those savings by utilizing the BOCES building. He also noted that the County would receive approximately $1.3 million from the building exchange to help offset the cost of the improvements. Legislator Lyndaker reiterated his concern that the County should have further evaluated the proposed use and associated costs before proceeding.

The resolution was then adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026. Legislator Lyndaker was opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 220 - 2026

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEWIS COUNTY AND C&S ENGINEERS LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE SHAVY AVENUE BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT FOR THE BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DEPARTMENT

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County is the purchaser/renter of the BOAK Building property at 5439 Shady Avenue, Lowville pursuant to a lease-to-own agreement between the County and Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.

WHEREAS, the County seeks to undertake renovations to the BOAK Building to support operations of the Public Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the County requires professional engineering services, including design and preparation of bid documents, to advance this capital project; and

WHEREAS, C&S Engineers, Inc., a New York Business Corporation located at 499 Col Eileen Collins Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13212, is listed on the New York State Department of General Services Approved Engineering Consultants list and is qualified to provide such professional services; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that C&S Engineers Inc. shall be retained as a professional services vendor without a formal competitive bidding process, consistent with the professional services exemption; and

WHEREAS, the County proposes to fund this engagement through Capital Project Account HPH, with payment to be rendered upon completion of work, in an amount not to exceed $125,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators seeks to authorize this professional services agreement to support the Shavy Avenue Building renovation project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Legislators hereby authorizes an agreement between Lewis County and C&S Engineers Inc., a New York limited liability company located at 499 Col Eileen Collins Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13212, for professional engineering services including design and preparation of bid documents for the Shavy Avenue Building renovation project. The agreement shall be for an amount not to exceed $125,000.00, with payment rendered as work is completed.

Section 2. Funding for this engagement shall be provided from Capital Project Account HPH. No additional budget action is required.

Section 3. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal and deliver such agreement, together with the Department Head of Buildings & Grounds, upon such form as may be approved by the County Attorney.

Section 4. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 221 - 2026

APPROPRIATING FUNDS

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the Contingency budget line for fiscal year 2026 has been fully expended as a result of several unanticipated costs that arose during the year; and

WHEREAS, additional unforeseen expenses have since been identified, creating a need for further financial resources to address these obligations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators recognizes the necessity to replenish the Contingency account to ensure continued fiscal responsibility and the ability to respond to emergent needs as they arise.

Section 2. The following budget appropriation is hereby approved to replenish the Contingency account line for the remainder of 2026 by appropriating General Fund balance as follows:

Decrease:	
A0 005990 General Fund balance	$250,000.00
Increase Expenditure:	
A0199000 499900 Contingency	$250,000.00

Section 2. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 222 - 2026

AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET TO INCREASE THE OMH RESTORATION 730 EXPENSE LINE FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Kalamas, Chair of the Human Services Committee.

WHEREAS, the Community Services Department has requested an increase to the OMH Restoration 730 expense line in the 2026 Lewis County Budget; and

WHEREAS, the requested increase in the amount of $87,830.00 is to cover additional expenditures related to Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) Article 730 competency restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer's Office has been informed of this budget increase request; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators seeks to authorize this budget amendment to support the current Community Services Department's OMH Restoration 730 expense needs in the 2026 fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Legislators hereby authorizes an amendment to the 2026 Lewis County Budget, increasing the OMH Restoration 730 Expense line by $87,830.00, effective immediately.

Section 2. The 2026 Lewis County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Decrease Expenditure:	
A0199000 499900 Contingency	$87,830.00
Increase Expenditure:	
A0433900 499900 OMH Restoration 730 Exp	$87,830.00

Section 3. The Lewis County Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to make the necessary budgetary entries and transfers to effectuate the provisions of this resolution.

Section 4. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 223 - 2026

APPROPRIATING FUNDS
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Kalamas, Chair of the Human Services Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The following appropriation is hereby approved within the Community Services accounts to reflect the receipt of additional State Aid for a targeted inflationary increase and supportive housing stipend.

Section 2. The Treasurer is hereby authorized to make all necessary budgetary adjustments within the Community Services accounts to account for the increased funding.

Increase Revenues:	
A0431900 334903 THRIVE (OMH funds)	$50,401.00
A0431900 334921 THRIVE (OASAS funds)	$1,420.00
A0432200 334922 ARC	$718.00
A0432400 334922 NRCIL	$20,162.00
A0432500 334921 PIVOT	$5,714.00
A0432700 334930 MHA Jeff	$2,221.00
A0433500 334912 LCCS	$916.00
Increase Expenditures:	
A0431900 422800 THRIVE	$51,821.00
A0432200 422800 ARC	$718.00
A0432400 422800 NRCIL	$20,162.00
A0432500 422800 PIVOT	$5,714.00
A0432700 422800 MHA Jeff	$2,221.00
A0433500 488105 LCCS	$916.00

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 224 - 2026

ADOPTING AND OTHERWISE TREATING
LOCAL LAW NO. 6 – 2026, COUNTY OF LEWIS

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, a resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Legislators on September 1, 2026, directing that a public hearing be held by said Board on October 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Board Room of the Lewis County Courthouse, 7660 North State Street, Lowville, New York 13367, to hear all interested parties on a proposed Local Law entitled "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 2027 BUDGET" and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the *Watertown Daily Times*, the official newspaper designated by the County, on September 15, 2026, and posted on the bulletin board of the Lewis County Courthouse, 7660 North State Street, Lowville, New York, at least five (5) days prior to such public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was duly held at such location and time, and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed Local Law, or any part thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators wishes to make certain determinations based upon the information heretofore submitted to the Board as well as received during the public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. This Local Law (Introductory No. 6 – 2026), County of Lewis, being "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 2027 BUDGET", be and the same hereby is designated as Local Law No. 6–2026, County of Lewis.

Section 2. Local Law No. 6–2026, County of Lewis, with designation stated above, be and the same is hereby enacted, waiving any and all defects and informalities in the adoption thereof and shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Leviker, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

AYES: Frost, Moser, Nortz, Leviker, Osborne, Kalamas, Lyndaker, Hanno, Nellenback, and Dolhof.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 225 - 2026

CALLING FOR A TWO-YEAR DELAY OF THE FEDERAL SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE AND BENEFIT COST SHIFTS ENACTED UNDER H.R. 1 AND CALLING ON NEW YORK STATE TO HOLD COUNTIES HARMLESS IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ACT

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Kalamas, Chair of the Human Services Committee.

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a vital source of food security for New Yorkers, serving approximately 2.7 million individuals in 1.5 million households, or roughly one in seven residents statewide, and delivering an estimated $7.8 billion in federally funded benefits into local communities and economies; and

WHEREAS, New York is one of only ten states in which counties are required by state law to administer SNAP and to share its administrative costs, meaning that changes to the federal cost structure fall directly on County property taxpayers;

WHEREAS, H.R.1 of the 119th Congress, the "One Big Beautiful Bill," reduces the Federal Share of SNAP administrative costs from 50 percent to 25 percent effective October 1, 2026, and under current New York State Law the resulting increase in nonfederal share is borne entirely by counties and the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, the administrative cost shift is estimated at $168 million annually statewide, including approximately $57 million for the 57 counties outside New York City, and is projected to grow as H.R.1 imposes new verification tracking, and reporting requirements and expanded work requirements that increase county workloads and staffing needs; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual administrative cost shift to Lewis County alone is $307,450.00; and

WHEREAS, H.R.1 further establishes, for the first time since the inception of Food Stamps, now known as SNAP, a state cost-sharing requirement for SNAP benefits themselves tied to statewide payment error rates, effective October 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, prior to H.R.1's SNAP changes, eligibility and verification were already bureaucratically dense and thorough, and new requirements add multiple layers of new data analysis and conformity, verifications, additional staff

reviews, training and computer system upgrades to capture the new federal mandates with inadequate time to implement such expansive changes; and

WHEREAS, New York's payment error rate currently exceeds ten percent, and would be subject to the highest penalty tier, creating an estimated $1.1 billion in additional exposure that the State may seek to shift in whole or in part to counties; and

WHEREAS, New York is not unique in having elevated error rates, with 40 states also having error rates high enough that they would be subject to federal fiscal penalties; and

WHEREAS, elevated SNAP payment error rates do not equate to fraud, waste or abuse and usually stem from minor paperwork errors or changes related to earned income, payment levels, or delayed filing of certain data; and

WHEREAS, taken together, the administrative and benefit cost shifts are projected to exceed $1.3 billion in new annual SNAP costs for New York State and the 62 counties, representing one of the largest unfunded intergovernmental cost transfers in recent memory; and

WHEREAS, counties are among the units of government least equipped to absorb these costs, operating under New York State's property tax cap with limited revenue-raising authority, fixed mandated obligations, and no ability to run deficits, such that a cost shift of this magnitude can be met only with raising property taxes, reducing services, or both; and

WHEREAS, if these cost shifts take effect without delay or relief, Lewis County residents face the prospect of higher property taxes, reductions to essential to essential county services, and increased strain on the Department of Social Services at the very moment demand for food assistance is rising which risks delays and disruptions of the benefits upon which food-insecure households rely; and

WHEREAS, a delay in implementation would give Congress and New York State the time necessary to develop a responsible funding solution and would protect county taxpayers and SNAP recipients from an abrupt unbudgeted fiscal shock.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby calls upon the United States Congress to enact a two-year delay of the SNAP administrative cost shift, postponing its effective date from Federal Fiscal Year 2027 to Federal Fiscal Year 2029.

Section 2. Lewis County further calls upon Congress to enact a corresponding two-year delay of the SNAP benefit cost shift tied to payment error rates, so that neither State nor its counties are subjected to these new costs before a sustainable funding solution is in place.

Section 3. That in the event the federal government fails to delay these cost shifts, Lewis County calls upon the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to hold counties harmless by appropriating state funds to cover the administrative and benefit cost shifts, recognizing that counties are the units of government least equipped to absorb them and that the obligation to share these costs exists only as a matter of state law; and

Section 4. The Clerk of the Lewis County Board of Legislators is hereby directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the members of the New York State Congressional Delegation representing Lewis County, to the United States Senators for New York, to the members of the New York State Senate and Assembly representing Lewis County, to the Governor of the State of New York, and to the New York State Association of Counties.

Moved by Legislator Kalamas, seconded by Legislator Osborne, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 226 - 2026

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH TOPVIEW APARTMENTS LEWIS, LLC FOR FAÇADE AND STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County entered into an Agreement with TopView Apartments Lewis, LLC ("Recipient") to provide Façade and Streetscape Improvement (FSI) Program grant money for the replacement of exterior windows at the property located at 6832 McAlpine Street, Lyons Falls, NY, to be completed no later than November 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to requirements of the FSI Program the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) must approve the window styles and materials prior to purchase and installation; and

WHEREAS, Recipient has indicated the project will not be able to be completed by November 30, 2026 due to SHPO's delays in approving the window specifications, and the parties seek to extend the term of the agreement through November 30, 2027;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes and approves an Extension Agreement with TopView Apartments Lewis, LLC, to extend the agreement through November 30, 2027.

Section 2. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal and deliver such Extension Agreement, and any related documents, upon review and approval of the County Attorney.

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Moser, seconded by Legislator Osborne.

Legislator Frost questioned whether the proposed extension would result in the applicant requesting additional extensions if the project is not approved by the State. Chairman Dolhof clarified that this was the first extension requested for the Lyons Falls project and explained that the project is being delayed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which must approve the proposed windows. He noted that the project remains on schedule, but the State's review is causing the delay. Legislator Lyndaker expressed concern regarding the use of public funds for

such projects and stated his preference for businesses to contribute more of their own resources, with County funding potentially being directed toward smaller businesses and efforts that create additional local employment.

The resolution was then adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 227 - 2026

AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEWIS COUNTY AND HEATHER AND JERRY HURD FOR FACADE AND STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WORK

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County, by and through the Planning & Community Development Department, entered into an agreement with Heather Hurd and Jerry Hurd of Port Leyden, New York, for facade and streetscape improvements to the Opera House Cantina property located at 7083 West Main Street, Port Leyden, NY under the Round 5 - 2025 Facade and Streetscape Improvement (FSI) Program, with an original contract term of February 11, 2026 through November 30, 2026, and a contract amount of $60,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that an extension of the contract term is necessary to allow the vendors adequate time to complete the facade and streetscape improvement work, including exterior surface preparation and painting, granite stonework substitution, rear elevation improvements, window trim and surrounds, and signage and branding installation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators seeks to authorize an amendment to the existing agreement with Heather Hurd and Jerry Hurd to extend the contract term by twelve (12) months, with all other terms and conditions of the original agreement remaining in full force and effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Legislators hereby authorizes an Extension Agreement with Heather Hurd and Jerry Hurd, to extend the FSIP contract term by twelve (12) months, extending the completion date from November 30, 2026 to November 30, 2027, with the contract amount remaining at $60,000.00, and all other terms and conditions of the original agreement to remain in full force and effect.

Section 2. That the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal and deliver such Extension Agreement upon such form as may be approved by the County Attorney.

Section 3. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 228 - 2026

AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF A PRIOR BUS STOP SHELTER EASEMENT AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW BUS STOP SHELTER EASEMENT IN THE VILLAGE OF LYONS FALLS

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the County of Lewis, on behalf of the Lewis County Planning and Community Development Department, maintains bus stop shelters at various locations along the Lewis County Public Transportation Routes for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, the County previously obtained a temporary easement from Terry Dorrity for the placement of a glazed hip style aluminum bus stop shelter, measuring 5' x 10', upon property located at 4102 Center Street in the Village of Lyons Falls, New York, known as Tax Map Parcel No. 322.19-03-18.000 (the "Prior Easement"); and

WHEREAS, the owner of the property located at 4102 Center Street has requested that the County remove the bus stop shelter from that property, and the County has determined that the Prior Easement is no longer necessary for public use; and

WHEREAS, the County has arranged to relocate the bus stop shelter to property located at 6832 McAlpine Street in the Village of Lyons Falls, New York, known as Tax Map Parcel No. 322.19-06-09.100, owned by TopView Apartments Lewis LLC; and

WHEREAS, TopView Apartments Lewis LLC has agreed to grant the County a temporary easement for the placement, maintenance, and removal of the bus stop shelter upon its property, and to be responsible for snow removal and trash cleanup and removal at and around the shelter, upon the terms set forth in a proposed Easement (the "New Easement"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators has the general care and control of the corporate real property of the County and is authorized to acquire and accept real property, including easements, for lawful county purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Legislators of the County of Lewis hereby approves and authorizes the discharge and termination of the Prior Easement affecting Tax

Map Parcel No. 322.19-03-18.000 at 4102 Center Street in the Village of Lyons Falls, New York.

Section 2. The Board of Legislators hereby approves and accepts the New Easement from TopView Apartments Lewis LLC affecting Tax Map Parcel No. 322.19-06-09.100 at 6832 McAlpine Street in the Village of Lyons Falls, New York, for the placement, maintenance, and removal of a bus stop shelter, upon the terms and conditions set forth therein.

Section 3. The Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized and directed to execute, on behalf of the County of Lewis, the discharge of the Prior Easement, the New Easement, and any and all other documents necessary or appropriate to effectuate the intent of this Resolution, subject to the approval of the County Attorney as to form.

Section 4. That the County Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to cause the discharge of the Prior Easement and the New Easement to be filed and recorded in the Office of the Lewis County Clerk.

Section 5. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 229 - 2026

TRANSFERING FUNDS
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Legislators adopted Resolution No. 186-2026 on August 4th authorizing for a budget transfer to cover additional invoices for the 18B Attorneys Assigned Counsel services; and

WHEREAS, additional funds are needed to cover the estimated invoices through December 2026;

BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes a 2026 budget transfer from Contingency to the Public Defender's accounts to cover estimated invoices for the 18B Attorneys Assigned Counsel services as follows:

Decrease Expenditure:	
A0199000 499900 Contingency	$104,187.00
Increase Expenditure:	
A0117000 493400 PD Prof Svc Assigned Cnsl	$104,187.00

Section 2. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 230 - 2026

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH ED & ED BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY FOR A POSTAGE METER

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Kalamas, Chair of the Human Services Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County entered into a Product Lease Agreement with Ed & Ed Business Technology for a postage meter at a cost of $70.94 per month ($851.28 annually); and

WHEREAS, the parties seek to extend the term of the agreement for 18 months effective October 15, 2026 through March 14, 2028 at an annual cost of $869.28 ($1,303.92 total), fully funded by Article 6 State Aid; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators seeks to authorize this lease extension to ensure the Department of Public Health has the necessary equipment to conduct its mail operations efficiently;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes and approves an 18-month Lease Extension Agreement with Ed & Ed Business Technology, effective October 15, 2026 through March 14, 2028, at a cost of $869.28 ($1,303.92 total).

Section 2. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to make, execute, seal and deliver such Lease Extension Agreement, and any related documents, upon review and approval of the County Attorney.

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 231 - 2026

ADDING 0.9 MILES OF NEW TRAIL TO THE LEWIS COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM (Millers Trail)

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Legislators has heretofore determined that the development of a county-wide trail system that can effectively and safely accommodate Off-Highway Vehicles ("OHV's"), (as defined in Local Law No. 4-2026) is in the public interest and will enhance the recreational use of the natural resources available in the County, as well as encourage tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators formally established the Lewis County Trail System (herein "Trail System") by adopting Local Law No. 2 – 2009, "A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING THE LEWIS COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM", as most recently amended per Local Law No. 4-2026, "A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 3-2019: THE RE-ESTABLISHED LEWIS COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM" (herein, the "Local Law"); and

WHEREAS, the Local Law and the Statement of Findings contemplate future amendments to the Trail System through the addition of trails and/or the opening of interconnecting roads and set forth procedures for making such amendments, including a SEQRA review of any proposed addition to the Trail System; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Recreation, Forestry and Parks has presented the Board of Legislators with a request to add a proposed addition of 0.9 miles of trail in the Town of Osceola, Tax Map Parcels: 384.00-01-25.00 and 384.00-01-8.1 owned by Frank L. Miller and Juanita Yerdon-Miller to the Lewis County OHV Trail System; and

WHEREAS, the Board has completed its review under SEQRA with respect to the properties and trails identified above, and based upon an investigation and analysis conducted by the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, found and determined that adding this property and trail to the Lewis County Trail System will not result in a significant environmental impact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the trail located on the following property in the Town of Osceola, identified as Parcel No. 384.00-01-25.00 and 384.00-01-8.1, owned by Frank L. Miller and Juanita Yerdon-Miller as more fully described in the Statement prepared by the Lewis County Soil

and Water Conservation District, is to be incorporated into and made a part of the Lewis County Trail System.

Section 2. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the addition of 0.9 miles of trail to the Lewis County OHV Trail System and authorizes amendment of the maps of the Lewis County Trail System as the same is published on the Lewis County website and elsewhere, to include the trail described herein, together with such other and further actions as may be necessary to administer and maintain such trail consistent with the Lewis County OHV Trail Plan, the GEIS and Statement of Findings, and Local Law No. 4-2026.

Section 3. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 232 - 2026

AUTHORIZING "I LOVE NY" CAMPAIGN MATCHING FUNDS AND DESIGNATE NATURALLY LEWIS, INC. AS THE COUNTY'S AGENT TO SUPERVISE PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF THE CAMPAIGN

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, in order to enhance and promote tourism within New York State, the NY Empire State Development Corporation offers to match local municipality contributions to the "I Love NY" promotional and marketing campaigns; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Legislators seeks to authorize and appropriate $55,000.00 in matching funds to demonstrate its commitment to the "I Love NY" promotional campaign for 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Board of Legislators seeks to designate Naturally Lewis, Inc. ("Naturally Lewis") as the agent to supervise the promotion and marketing of the "I LOVE NY" campaign, by the Chamber of Commerce and to market the benefits of Lewis County tourism with the utilization of the County's 2027 matching funds as well as the State's committed funds; and the Board seeks to enter into an Agreement with Naturally Lewis to provide such services by the Chamber of Commerce as the designated agent of the County under this State program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby commits to appropriate $55,000.00 in matching local funds toward the 2027 "I LOVE NY" promotional and marketing tourism campaign in Lewis County.

Section 2. The Board of Legislators hereby designates 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 2027 campaign, with the utilization of the aforesaid County matching funds as well as the State's committed funds to the campaign and endorses the application by Naturally Lewis for matching funds under the program.

Section 3. The Board of Legislators authorizes an Agreement with Naturally Lewis to act as the County's agent under the 2027 "I LOVE NY" campaign, and to perform the services of promoting and marketing the benefits of tourism in the County of Lewis with the funds so provided under the campaign, for the period from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

Section 4. That the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute, seal and deliver said Agreement and any and all other necessary papers and documents in connection with the application and program, pending approval by the County Attorney.

Section 5. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 233 - 2026

AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET TO AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators recognizes the need to amend the 2026 Lewis County Budget to provide additional appropriations and authorize transfers within the Solid Waste Department to address increased operational costs and revenue adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Department has identified the necessity to increase revenue accounts to reflect additional refuse and invoiced revenue, and to increase expenditure accounts for refuse operations, vehicle repair, and fuel expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators seeks to authorize the budget amendments and fund transfers as detailed herein to support the continued operations of the Solid Waste Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Legislators hereby amends the 2026 Lewis County Budget as follows:

Increase Revenue(s):	
ES816000-321300 Refuse Revenue	$125,000.00
ES816000-321302 Invoiced Revenue	$175,000.00
Increase Expenditure(s):	
ES816000-490290 Refuse Expense	$250,000.00
ES816000-470100 Vehicle Repair	$15,000.00
ES816000-430400 Fuel Expense	$35,000.00

Section 2. The funds for the expenditure increases authorized in Section 1 shall be derived from the revenue increases identified in Section 1, with the Treasurer to reconcile all account codes and confirm final allocations.

Section 3. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators is hereby authorized to execute such documentation as may be necessary to effectuate these budget amendments, upon such form as may be approved by the County Attorney, together with the Director of the Solid Waste Department.

Section 4. The within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 234 - 2026

AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the appropriation of funds in the total amount of $25,575.00, representing proceeds received from the online auction sale of miscellaneous County equipment and property as follows:

Increase Revenue(s):	
H0990100 350310 County Share Revenue HAD	$ 2,450.00
ES816000 326650 SW Oper Sale of Equipment	$23,125.00
Increase Expenditure(s):	
H0990100 499900 HAD Capital Expenditures	$ 2,450.00
ES816000 223300 SW Oper Vehicles/Equipment	$23,125.00

Section 3. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 235 - 2026

AUTHORIZING INCREASES TO HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THE PLAN YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2027

Introduced by Legislator Jessica Moser, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, Lewis County Government has a self-funded health insurance program known as the Lewis County Health Plan ("Plan"), with premiums that support coverage of claims for County (including LCHS) employees, spouses, dependents, and retirees eligible for health insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis County Treasurer, in their capacity as the Health Plan Administrator, holds periodic meetings with the health insurance committee which includes the County Manager, HR Director, Administrators from LCHS, along with GKG, the county consultants for plan design in an effort to make recommendations that are reasonable and assist to maintain the fund at a sustainable balance; and

WHEREAS, the health insurance committee has been monitoring the health insurance fund balance, with an indication that the current fund balance under the current premiums will not sustain the fund. Health claim costs continue to exceed current premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Milliman firm, the county's actuarial consultant on the Plan, is tasked with annual review and assessment of the financial health of the plan's fund balance, and an annual recommendation of a range for appropriate premium equivalent for Plan participants in order to sustain the benefits and payout of claims under the Plan; and

WHEREAS, upon continued review and analysis of the plan and fund balance, and upon the recent analysis and projections of Milliman, the Plan Administrator and County and Hospital management teams recommend that the Board of Legislators increase the health insurance premiums by 6.00 % for the three (3) plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby approves the Plan Administrator's and County and Hospital management teams' recommendation and thereby increases all health insurance premiums for all three (3) plans (excluding Medicare eligible retirees) effective January 1st, 2027 (reflected in December 2026 paychecks) by 6.00% in order to attempt to cover claims and expenses and to stabilize the health insurance fund balance.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Nortz, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

LOCAL LAW (INTRODUCTORY NO. 7- 2026)
COUNTY OF LEWIS

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING AND REPLACING LOCAL LAW NO. 6-2025: - THE AMENDED LOCAL LAW REGULATING AND PERMITTING SPECIAL EVENTS ON COUNTY ROADS, TRAILS OR OTHER COUNTY PROPERTY AND ON ANY TOWN ROADS AND PROPERTY WHERE THE TOWN HAS OPTED IN

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Legislators of the County of Lewis, as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Local Law shall be known as **"THE 2026 AMENDED LOCAL LAW REGULATING AND PERMITTING SPECIAL EVENTS ON COUNTY ROADS, TRAILS OR OTHER COUNTY PROPERTY AND ON ANY TOWN ROADS AND PROPERTY WHERE THE TOWN HAS OPTED IN".**

SECTION 2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This local law is enacted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law ("MHL") § 10(1)(i), which provides that a county may adopt local laws relating to its property, affairs or government provided it is not inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution or any general law.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The Board of Legislators makes the following findings in support of this Local Law:

A. Planned special events include but are not limited to sporting events, concerts, parades, walking and running events, bicycle races, and motorized vehicle rallies. These types of events can have direct and indirect impacts on county/town properties, roads, trails. There are several events organized and held in Lewis County where county/town roads, county/town public rights-of-way, trails, parks, and lands are used for the event, or are adversely affected by the event activities because of road closure, traffic congestion, parking concerns, damage to town and county roads, etc.

B. The occurrence of such events as described and defined herein may place an unwarranted burden on the County/Town resources related to the provision of emergency services, law enforcement, health and sanitary services, road and property repairs, and similar items, depending upon the special event, its size, and the conduct of participants.

C. The purpose of this law and the requirement for a permit and fee for same, is to enable the county and town to be able to anticipate the impacts posed by the event and to coordinate efforts of various departments and other municipalities which may be affected by the special event; to take appropriate steps and measures to provide for the safety of event participants and residents; and to provide for the least impact on the county and town roads, trails, and lands.

D. When a person(s), corporation(s), organization(s), landowner(s), lessee(s) and others seek to conduct a special event on county roads and/or county property, town roads and/or town property of any town who opts into this law, provision must be made for adequate financial assurance to protect persons and property (both public and private) within the County. The Board of Legislators of Lewis County therefore finds and declares that it is necessary for government protection, order, conduct, safety, health and well-being of persons and county/town property, that certain rules and regulations be established for special events involving county roads, trails, parks and other lands, as well as town roads and other town property of any town who opts into this law and, further, that it is necessary to adopt under the police power of the County, a local law to regulate and license by permit the holding of such special events on or effecting access and use of County or Town roads, trails, parks and other lands.

SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS LOCAL LAW:

A. The word "person" shall be deemed to include any person, persons, firm, company, corporation, partnership, association, club, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, joint venture, owner or lessee of real property, promoter, sponsor, or any other group or organization whether formalized or not.

B. The term "any Town who opts in" or "opted-in Town" shall mean a Lewis County town who executes an Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA) with the County in which the town agrees, *inter alia*, to adopt this Local Law for special events held on its town roads or other town property.

C. "Special motorized event" shall mean any outdoor gathering of TWO THOUSAND or more participants involving vehicles, motorcycles, ATV/OHVs, UTVs, snowmobiles, or other motorized equipment, or any combination thereof which involve:

1. Any gathering or organized event taking place on County roads, trails or other property which may interfere, impede or obstruct the flow of traffic or which does not comply with normal traffic regulations or controls; or
2. Any event intended to include and/or to take place on the Lewis County Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail System.

3. Any gathering or organized event taking place on an opted-in Town road, trail or other property which may interfere, impede or obstruct the flow of traffic or which does not comply with normal traffic regulations or controls. Any ATV/OHV event on Town roads SHALL require users/participants to obtain a Lewis County OHV permit.

4. Any snowmobile event(s) held on private property will require a permit where the event may interfere, impede or obstruct the flow of traffic or which does not comply with normal traffic regulations or controls on County roads or opted-in town roads; or where the snowmobile activity or event on private property may result in damage to County roads or lands or roads and lands of opted-in towns; or where the snowmobile activity or event requires placement of signage or pavement markings on County roads or town roads for towns who have opted into this law.

D. "Special non-motorized event" shall mean gatherings of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250) or more persons and their activities on county-owned or opted-in Town-owned roads, trails or other properties.

SECTION 5. PERMITS

A. No person may organize, operate, promote, or conduct a special event as defined above on a County or opted-in Town road, trail, park or other land in Lewis County, without first obtaining a permit to do so from the Lewis County Director of Recreation, Forestry and Parks (DRFP).

B. All ATV/OHV motorized events requiring a permit under this Local Law shall also require all riders in the event to have or to purchase an appropriate ATV/OHV permit in order to participate. The sponsor/organizer/promoter shall be required to inform all registrants of the requirement for a Lewis County ATV/OHV permit in order to participate.

C. The Director of Recreation, Forestry and Parks will consult with the County Superintendent of Highways, the Emergency Management Director, the Lewis County Sheriff, the Town Superintendent of Highways and Supervisor of the opted-in Town(s) that are the situses of the proposed event, and any other relevant County or Town Department(s), as the event may warrant in processing the permit application.

SECTION 6. PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS AND FEE

A. All applications shall be made to the Lewis County Director of Recreation, Forestry and Parks, by submission of three (3) copies to the DRFP, or by online application, by the person(s) sponsoring or running the event involving County and/or opted-in Town roads, trails, park or other lands, or by the duly authorized agent or attorney thereof. The appropriate application fee, if required, as set forth in the fee schedule in effect for said event permit, must be submitted with the application

along with all the other documentation required therein. No action will be taken upon any application until it is deemed complete by the Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks, in consultation with the appropriate County and opted-in Town Departments.

B. 1. The non-refundable application fee charged for a special event permit shall be in accordance with the fee schedule set forth under Section 10 of this Local Law. The fee schedule may be amended from time to time, by Resolution adopted by the Lewis County Board of Legislators.

2. A permit application fee shall not be required for any special event that is otherwise licensed, sponsored or organized in whole or in part by the County or opted-in Town, or any other municipal government located within the County; but said municipality shall submit an application for the event.

3. The County Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks will have the discretion to waive the requirement of a permit fee depending upon the nature of the event (parade, wedding, etc.), consistent with the purpose of this local law and permit process to have County and local towns know when there are events which can cause disruption, safety concerns, and potential damage to life and property, with the need for emergency services.

C. The application for a permit hereunder shall be made in writing or submitted online upon such form or forms as may be crafted by the Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks (DRFP), and shall be submitted to the DRFP at least sixty (60) or more days prior to the first day such special event is anticipated to be held. Such application shall include the following information:

1. The applicant's name, age, and residence address; if the applicant is a corporation, partnership or association, the name of the entity, address for its principal office, together with the names and addresses of its directors, partners or associates. If the applicant is not a resident or have a place of business within Lewis County, the name of a natural person, over the age of eighteen (18) years of age who resides within Lewis County and who is authorized by the applicant and who shall agree by acknowledged statement to accept service of notices and summons on behalf of the applicant with respect to this application, the conduct of the outdoor public assembly or any other matter relating to the enforcement of this Local Law;

2. The proposed dates and hours of operation for the proposed special event, and a description of the event;

3. The expected minimum and maximum number of persons and vehicles/other equipment, if any, per day of the event to use the roads and/or property(s), if any, per day and collectively;

4. A description of the purpose for the special event and the activities to take place thereat, including without limitation, concessions, entertainment, vehicles, equipment, etc.;

5. The admission/participation fee to be charged, if any.

D. 1. After careful review and consultation with other County and/or Town Departments as may be required, the DRFP shall determine whether the permit application will be approved or denied. The DRFP shall communicate her decision on the application in writing, by issuing a permit with any and all conditions to which the applicant may be required to meet prior to and during the event. If denied, the DRFP shall indicate the reason for such denial.

2. Simultaneously with notification of approval/denial of a permit to the applicant, the DRFP shall notify the County Manager, Board of Legislators, any appropriate County Departments, and any appropriate Town Supervisor and Highway Superintendent of the special event permit issued/denied, including any conditions and information on the type of event, date, location, estimated size, and any other relevant information.

E. 1. If the applicant has insurance for the event, the applicant shall provide all information pertaining to the type and amount of insurance coverage. The applicant may be required to have the County and any opted-in town be named as an additional insured.

2. For any motorized event expecting 2,000 or more attendees/participants, the applicant shall verify insurance as set forth in Section 7. In addition, such events shall be required to comply with any and all other applicable State and Local Laws, including but not limited to NYS Department of Health rules and regulations pertaining to mass gatherings (assembly of 5,000 people or more), Public Health Law §225, and Lewis County Local Law No. 2- 1970 (mass assembly of 10,000 people or more), with the application reviewed and approved by the Public Health Director, Emergency Management Director, Lewis County Sheriff, Superintendent of Highways, and any other relevant County and/or Town Department(s) requested by the DRFP.

3. In such cases, the DRFP will notify the applicant of the additional review before the application will be deemed fully submitted. The preliminary application may then be reviewed and commented upon by those appropriate Department to determine from the information supplied, the potential effect or impact the proposed special event and assembly will have upon the public health, safety, and welfare of the people and property of Lewis County.

F. The County, through the DRFP, shall have the right, in its sole discretion, at any time to terminate the permit, or any portion thereof, should it be necessary due to County and/or Town operations, conditions, or other circumstances which may arise. Any termination of the permit shall not constitute a breach of the permit, and no liability shall be incurred by or arise against the County and/or any opted-in Town, its agents and employees for loss of profits or any other damages.

SECTION 7. CONDITIONS OF USE AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. Neither the County nor any opted-in Town affirms that the County-owned or Town-owned road/trail/site/property affected by or used for the special event has

been designed, constructed, or maintained for the purpose of the activity/conduct of the event. The application shall state that the applicant and all its participants assume full risk and responsibility for the event, and shall hold the County/ opted-in Town harmless with respect to any claim by the event applicants and its participants. The applicant and its participants assume full risk and responsibility for planning and conducting a safe and orderly event that does not expose participants or the public to any unreasonable hazards, with minimal disruption to normal uses of the roads, trail system and municipal properties. The applicant bears responsibility for properly determining whether the County and/or Town site(s) is/are suitable for the purpose of safely conducting the event. The County makes no representations about the suitability of County roads or trails for the proposed use by the applicant/permittee and event participants.

B. The applicant shall exercise due care in its use of the municipal property and shall upon the expiration, termination or cancellation of the issued permit, surrender the municipal property/site in as good a condition as on the effective date of the permit. Depending upon the nature of the event and the anticipated number of participants, the issuance of a permit may be conditioned upon an undertaking, bond or guaranteed deposit, to guarantee restoration of the municipal property(s) to its previous condition.

C. The applicant/permittee agrees to notify the DRFP or any other municipal official designated to receive notification about any hazardous or unsafe conditions, and about any accidents that occur during the event immediately upon the discovery of such condition or accident.

D. At the time a permit is issued, the DRFP shall provide the applicant/permittee with a statement of responsibilities and obligations of the Applicant/Permittee. Said statement shall be signed by the applicant/permittee and returned to the DRFP forthwith. The statement of responsibilities and obligations shall include any insurance requirements specifically required under this local law, together with such other itemized non-insurance related responsibilities the DRFP may deem appropriate for the event. To the extent this local law requires insurance, the applicant/permittee shall provide the DRFP with proof of insurance prior to the commencement of the event, i.e., a certificate of insurance in full force and effect prior to and during the event which shall include but not be limited to the following coverage, if applicable:

1. Workers' Compensation and Disability Insurance as required by New York State for any and all employees.

2. Automobile and/or other motorized vehicle insurance. The applicant shall maintain automobile, other vehicle and equipment policy(s) insurance against liability for bodily injury, death, damage to property and other coverages relating to the use, operation, loading or unloading of any automobiles, motorized vehicles and other equipment on and around the event site, in an amount not less than $1,000,000.00. If the event involves participants' use of motorized vehicles (autos,

ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, motorbikes, snowmobiles, etc.) it is the applicant/permittees' responsibility to ensure that all participants' motorized vehicles are properly licensed, registered and insured, as may be required under state law. Motorized vehicles that are not required to be licensed or insured under state law shall nevertheless be insured, carrying minimum limits of $25,000 (per person)/$50,000 (per accident) for injuries, $50,000 (per person)/$50,000 (per accident) for death and $10,000 for property damage. Participants must carry proof of insurance with them at all times while riding. The DRFP may accept a written and signed acknowledgment from the applicant that all participants are insured as proof of automobile and/or motorized vehicle insurance.

E. The applicant/event permittee agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County of Lewis, and its agents and any opted-in Town effected by an event from and against any and all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, road damage, personal injury, property damage or wrongful death arising out of any claim associated in any way with the applicant's or participants' event and use of the permitted site/property, no matter how caused. The County and Town make no representations as to the condition of the property for the use intended by the event participants and organizers.

F. The DRFP, (in consultation with the County Manager, County Attorney, County may adjust the required insurance coverages and amounts, depending upon the nature of the event, including activities, size, and duration.

G. For any motorized event, regardless of its size or requirement for insurance under this Local Law, the applicant and sponsors of a motorized event shall be required to execute a waiver of liability/assumption of risk and have each of their participants execute a similar form for the benefit of the County and any Opted-in Town.

H. If the event involves motorized vehicles (autos, ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, motorbikes, snowmobiles, etc.) with an estimate of 2000 or more participants, it is the applicant/permittees' responsibility to ensure that all participants' motorized vehicles are properly licensed, registered and insured, as may be required under the law. Any ATV/OHV events require each ATV/OHV vehicle to have a current Lewis County ATV/OHV permit.

SECTION 8. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

A. If after a permit is issued (but prior to the actual event), the County determines, through its lawful agent(s) and designees, that any of the items required as conditions under the permit are not adhered to or accomplished within the required time limits, then the permit may be immediately terminated by action of the DRFP, after notification to the County Manager, Board of Legislators, and the appropriate Opted-in Town Supervisor. Notice of such termination shall be in writing and

delivered to the applicant at the mail address and e-mail address set forth in the application.

B. 1. Any person (as defined in this Local Law) who shall organize, promote, conduct or cause to be conducted a special event on County roads, trails, or other county property and/or on opted-in Town roads, trails, or other Town property as defined in this Local Law, without having a written permit in accordance with the provisions of this law, shall be deemed to have violated this Local Law.

2. Any person not applying for an event permit shall be subject to a civil penalty, enforceable and collectible by the County of Lewis in any court of competent jurisdiction within the County of Lewis as follows :

a. in the amount of $50.00 - $500.00 for holding a non-motorized event (250 or more participants), depending upon the nature, size, location and municipalities involved.

b. in the amount of $500.00 - $1,000.00, plus an additional $5.00 per participant for holding a motorized event (2000 or more), depending upon the nature, size, location and municipalities involved. The $5.00/per participant fine fee for failure to obtain the permit will be deposited into a special fund for distribution among participating municipalities affected by the event, pursuant to the terms of the IMA.

3. Any person and/or participant in a special motorized event who rides outside of the designated travel areas for the event on a County or Town road/trail/property (*for example*, riding on the road shoulder, drainage ditches, etc.) shall incur a fine of $1,000.00 plus incur the costs and expenses of repairing any damage to the property.

4. In addition to the above penalty(s), the County of Lewis or a Town who has opted into this local law, who is directly adversely affected by the special event, may maintain an action or proceeding in a Court of competent jurisdiction to compel compliance with or to restrain by injunction, the violation(s) of this local law, and to seek recovery of any and all damages incurred as a result of noncompliance with this local law.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SECTION 10. FEE SCHEDULE

A permit application fee of $ 20.00**, made payable to Lewis County, shall apply, unless waived by the Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks, in her sole

discretion. This permit fee amount will remain in effect until amended by the Lewis County Board of Legislators by an adopted Resolution.

** If the event involves 10,000 or more participants, applicant is subject to permit fees set forth under Local Law No. 2-1970.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall become effective immediately after filing with the office of the New York Secretary of State.

RESOLUTION NO. 236 - 2026

FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW (INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 7-2026), COUNTY OF LEWIS

Introduced by Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair of the General Services Committee.

WHEREAS, there will be presented and introduced at a meeting of this Board of Legislators, a proposed Local Law entitled "THE 2026 AMENDED LOCAL LAW REGULATING AND PERMITTING SPECIAL EVENTS ON COUNTY ROADS, TRAILS OR OTHER COUNTY PROPERTY AND ON ANY TOWN ROADS AND PROPERTY WHERE THE TOWN HAS OPTED IN."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. A public hearing for the above proposed Local Law will be held on November 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. before the Lewis County Board of Legislators on the Second Floor Board Room at the Lewis County Courthouse, New York, 7660 North State Street, Lowville, New York to hear all persons for or against such local law.

Section 2. At least five (5) days notice of such hearing shall be given by the Clerk of this Board by the due posting thereof upon the bulletin board of the Lewis County Court House, Lowville, New York, and by publishing such notice at least once in the official newspaper of the County.

Moved by Legislator Frost, seconded by Legislator Moser, and adopted on the 6th day of October, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Legislator Kalamas stated that he had recently driven by the Opera House in Port Leyden and commented on the total transformation of the establishment citing that the owners were working with different Trail clubs to make sure they had access.

EXECUTIVE/ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Legislator Frost made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 PM, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.