

**FIRST DAY
ANNUAL SESSION
November 6, 2018**

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

Roll Call: All Legislators were present.

Chairman Dolhof offered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 23 persons present.

Chairman Dolhof declared the October 2 and October 11, 2018 meeting minutes approved by general consent.

REPORT OF THE RULES AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:

The Rules and Legislation Committee had met and recommended to waive the rules to allow action on late resolutions.

Signed by: Ronald Burns, Chairman
Jerry King
Randall LaChausse

Dated: November 6, 2018

Legislator Moser made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Legislator Osborne, and carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Chairman Dolhof opened the hearing to allow Cole E. Boliver as property owner of 5495 River Street in Lowville, to Show Cause to the Board why it should not Order him to immediately demolish and remove the building.

At the same time he opened the public hearing for comments on Local Law Intro. No. 5-2018 "A LOCAL LAW TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF ELECTIVE COUNTY TREASURER AND TO CREATE AND ASSIGN ALL THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THAT OFFICE TO A NEW APPOINTIVE OFFICER, THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE".

County Atty. McNichol referenced Local Law No. 2-2007 provides for and outlines the process for removal of unsafe buildings or collapsed structures. Pursuant to same, on 8/29/18 the Codes Department provided a report to inform the Board the River Street structure was unsafe after a 6/23/18 fire, recommending it be demolished and removed. According to the 10/2/18 directive of the Board, on 10/5/18, and again on 10/29/18, Atty. McNichol caused a letter and notice to be personally served to property owner Mr. Cole E. Boliver with the date, time and place of tonight's

hearing, as well as affixing the notice to the River Street structure. To-date Mr. Boliver has not responded and has chosen not to appear at today's hearing.

Atty. McNichol further reported the records show that in 2017 Mr. Boliver received a \$66,000 loan from Community Bank, N.A., as well as \$14,000 through the homeowner assistance program administered by Snow Belt Housing, neither of which have been satisfied. The notice had also been served upon each lien holder; and filed with the Lewis County Clerk on 10/15/18.

Accordingly, Atty. McNichol recommends the Board proceed with a directive to demolish the 5495 River Street property and add the respective cost to the property tax bill. In that demolition expenses are estimated to exceed \$20,000, she further recommends the Board advertise the project for bids.

Legislator Chartrand requested clarification as to why the County was addressing the property instead of the Village of Lowville Board. Atty. McNichol referenced an Agreement with the Village, whereby the County administers the uniform building codes for the Village, despite the Village having its own Safe Structures Law, being Local Law 2-2011. A term of said agreement calls for the County to respond to unsafe structures at the request of the Village, which has occurred.

Chairman Dolhof assured that neither Mr. Boliver, nor someone on his behalf, were present.

Retired County Treasurer Vicki Roy expressed her objection to abolishing the elective Treasurer. Contrary to a newspaper article, implying that Treasurer candidates had always been from within the Department, she corrected that previous Treasurer Urban Karcher had appointed Dickinson Fowler as his deputy, from outside the Department. Prior to there being a Budget Officer, the Treasurer assumed that role. She cited several State Departments that regularly provide financial training seminars and opportunities, and stand ready to assist Treasurers with their duties. Mrs. Roy reported that 67% of New York counties have an elected Treasurer or other financial officer, deeming the voters intelligent enough to elect a capable candidate. In closing, she termed the estimated \$40,000-\$50,000 expense for a special election as an extreme waste of money; concluding, "If it is not broken, don't fix it".

Legislator Moser countered the Board of Elections had estimated \$20,000 for a special election. He asserted the voters would decide whether to retain an elected Treasurer, concluding the Board merely wishes to present the voter referendum.

Chairman Dolhof termed it a question of risk, supposing there was a sole candidate without proper credentials that may result an additional professional hire for an amount up to \$150,000 to fulfill the Treasurer responsibilities. He would like to present the issue to voters to determine whether the majority is comfortable with that risk.

Denise Yost, Sr. Account Clerk in the Treasurer's Department, announced her intention to campaign for the Treasurer position, asserting her "Competence, knowledge and background to serve the public as the next County Treasurer". Ms. Yost encouraged the Board to retain the elective position, while terming prospective special election costs a waste of taxpayer money.

Former District No. 7 Legislator William Burke voiced his objection to taking the ability to elect a Treasurer away from the voters.

Sheriff Michael Carpinelli concurred with Mrs. Roy's statements, respectfully stating that "Legislators trusted the people to elect each of them". In his mind, if the intent is for voters to decide, then presenting the issue at all causes unnecessary stress. The assumption of there being no viable candidate alludes lack of trust and respect of the local voters to elect the right person. Sheriff Carpinelli invoked strong support to retain the constitutional right of the voters to elect a Treasurer.

Hospital CEO Gerald Cayer introduced Dr. Kathryn McHugh, a graduate of LACS and St. Lawrence University, and practicing family physician with Lowville Medical Associates. Dr. McHugh expressed excitement for the opportunity to return to her hometown, especially noting the shortage of doctors in rural areas.

Mr. Cayer then unveiled a newly developed physician recruitment video that highlights various advantageous attributes our small community offers.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

Teresa Clark quoted from former District No. 1 Legislator Philip Hathway's penned comments, "The County Treasurer should remain an elected position. The voters can be trusted to make good choices."

Hospital Board of Managers' President Michael F. Young has informed that Randall Essenlohr does not wish to serve as a member of the Board of Managers beyond the end of his current term to expire 12/31/2018.

The Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board adopted a resolution opposing the adverse abandonment of the 30-mile section of railroad between North Creek and the former Tahawus Mine in the Town of Newcomb. They support private enterprise that intends removal of the high value aggregate tailings from the mine site that would be much more economical by rail than by truck.

Governor Cuomo issued a Proclamation declaring November 2018 as "STOP DWI" month in New York State.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Legislators have received copies of the Treasurer's October report, the 10/24/18 Highway and Solid Waste Audit Reports; minutes of the 10/17/18 Youth Bureau Advisory Board; and the apportionment of mortgage tax report for the period from 4/1/2018 to 9/30/2018 as follows:

APPORTIONMENT OF MORTGAGE TAX April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018

	<u>KEY</u>	<u>VALUATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Town of Croghan		375,139,028	\$20,179.06
Village of Croghan	.025090812	18,825,086	<u>519.34</u>
			\$20,698.40
Town of Denmark		181,253,084	\$12,173.84
Village of Castorland	.043150852	15,642,450	621.42
Village of Copenhagen	.111505369	40,421,384	<u>1,605.80</u>
			\$14,401.06
Town of Diana		191,587,289	\$13,758.39
Town of Greig		227,960,662	\$ 8,639.53
Town of Harrisburg		273,836,832	\$ 6,347.71
Town of Lewis		74,453,664	\$ 4,121.72
Town of Leyden		111,212,401	\$ 3,403.22
Village of Port Leyden	.073871762	16,430,912	<u>271.46</u>
			\$ 3,674.68
Town of Lowville		460,996,465	\$21,424.22
Village of Lowville	.283343021	261,240,262	<u>8,470.45</u>
			\$29,894.67
Town of Lyonsdale		116,775,116	\$ 6,234.21
Village of Lyons Falls	.038124346	8,903,950	254.21
Village of Port Leyden	.026932009	6,289,977	<u>179.58</u>
			\$ 6,668.00
Town of Martinsburg		401,295,210	\$ 6,419.79
Town of Montague		38,513,899	\$ 1,148.88
Town of New Bremen		179,685,315	\$11,266.01
Village of Croghan	.037170617	13,358,028	<u>434.93</u>
			\$11,700.94
Town of Osceola		52,675,509	\$1,686.75
Town of Pinckney		39,398,201	\$3,296.94
Town of Turin		83,733,146	\$2,333.63
Village of Turin	.075353767	12,619,216	<u>190.18</u>

			\$ 2,523.81
Town of Watson		212,617,505	\$14,880.36
Town of West Turin		143,056,020	\$ 6,719.47
Village of Constableville	.04837715	13,841,285	383.48
Village of Lyons Falls	.103933966	29,736,759	<u>823.86</u>
			\$ 7,926.81
		GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$157,788.44</u>
To County of Lewis			<u>\$78,886.93</u>

Randall LaChausse, Chairman
 Andrea Moroughan
 Gregory Kulzer
 Taxation Committee

Dated: November 6, 2018

WARRANT

TO: The Treasurer of the County of Lewis

You are hereby notified by the Board of Legislators of Lewis County that the sum of \$157,788.44 from the tax on mortgages from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018 has been apportioned to the Tax Districts entitled to same and, you are hereby directed to pay the respective Supervisors the amount due to the Towns, to their Village Treasurers the amount due the Villages, and to the County of Lewis the amount stated, according to the foregoing schedule, pursuant to the provisions of Section 261 of the Tax Law.

Given under the hands of the Chairman and the Clerk of the Board of Legislators of Lewis County and the seal of the Board of Legislators being thereto affixed on the 6th day of November 2018.

Lawrence L. Dolhof, Chairman
 Teresa L. Clark, Clerk of the Board

James Richmire's September Sealer of Weights and Measures activity report has been placed on file with the Clerk of the Board.

County Budget Officer Ryan Piche submitted the 2019 Tentative Lewis County Budget and a 5-year Tentative Capital Improvement Program accompanied by the following message, each being distributed to Legislators:

Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators
 Lewis County Court House
 7660 N. State Street
 Lowville, NY 13367

Dear Legislators:

Enclosed for your review and consideration is the 2019 tentative budget for Lewis County.

I am pleased to report that this year's budget contains zero increase in operational impact on Lewis County tax payers. The implementation of several cost-saving programs over the last year, and the continued receipt of strong sales tax revenue leaves the net cost of County operation neutral year-over-year.

Operational efficiency, however, is only part of the equation for our organization. Capital investment in County facilities has not sufficiently kept pace with building and infrastructure deterioration. Proposed in this budget is a new initiative to more effectively plan, and pay-for, capital improvement projects. Proposed is a \$300,000 transfer to the Capital Fund which will be set aside specifically for execution of a Five-Year Capital Plan, which is also enclosed in this packet. \$300,000 is certainly not enough to address the numerous capital needs of Lewis County over the next five years, but it is a step in the right direction.

The tentative budget proposes zero cuts to services, zero fee increases, and remains under the State-imposed property tax cap. However, in order to fund a renewed commitment to capital investment, and in order to protect from an unhealthy dependency on sales tax revenue, a 1.96% property tax increase is proposed.

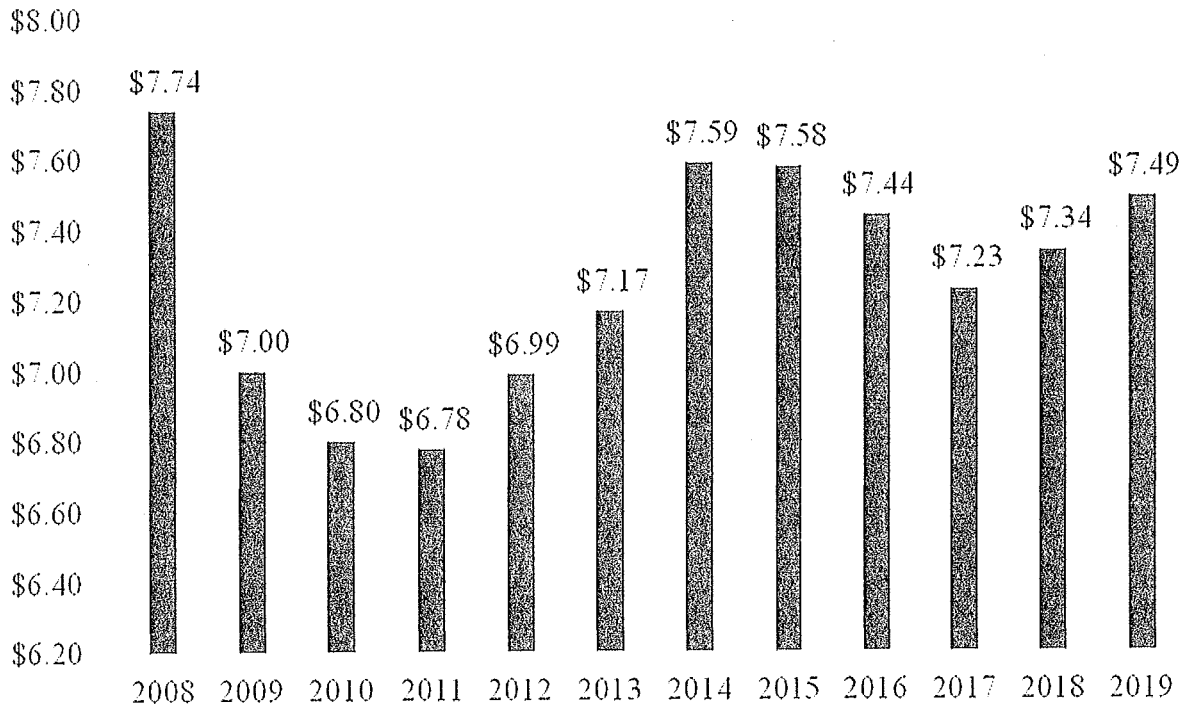
Budget Summary

A 1.96% property tax increase brings the County's rate-per-thousand to \$7.49, which represents a \$15.00 increase in the tax bill for properties valued at \$100,000.

	2018 Adopted Budget	2019 Tentative Budget	Year-Over-Year Difference	% Change
Total Revenue	\$28,848,485	\$29,585,356	\$736,871	2.55%
Total Appropriations	\$45,568,424	\$47,645,641	\$2,077,217	4.56%
Less Applied Fund Balance	\$820,000	\$1,650,000	\$830,000	101.22%
Property Tax Levy	\$15,799,939	\$16,410,285	\$610,346	3.86%
Taxable Value	\$2,151,665,601	\$2,191,931,158	\$40,265,557	1.87%
County Tax Rate	7.343	7.487	0.144	1.96%

Even with the 1.96% tax increase, property tax rates in Lewis County have remained relatively low. At a millage rate of \$7.49, the property tax burden for County government is still lower than the 2014 rate, and has remained below ten-year high reached in 2008.

Property Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of Value



Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Goals

The tentative budget also continues the County's commitment to our stated financial guidelines for long-term fiscal sustainability, established in 2015.

Goal #1: Maintain a General Fund balance of \$12M, or 10% of our combined hospital and County operating budget. In 2019, this goal is aided by the Hospital's adoption of its own fund balance policy, which creates a mandatory reserve of two months' operating expenses, or \$13M. The County's current unassigned General Fund balance is \$8M, with an additional \$4.8M reserved in the Capital fund. A Breakdown of the County's current fund balances is as follows:

Fund	Current Fund Balances (10/5/2013)
General Fund	\$8,074,147
County Road	\$536,000
Highway Machinery	\$186,810
Solid Waste	\$852,099
Lewis County General Hospital	\$26,534,000
Self-Insurance	\$1,913,368

Capital

\$4,826,247

Goal #2: Maintain the County's A+ credit rating. With low debt, and relatively high cash reserves, there is little risk of degradation from rating agencies. However, a high credit rating isn't helpful if it's not being leveraged. Lewis County, including Lewis County General Hospital (LCGH), is prime for investment in its physical plant, which will require our organization to take on additional debt in the near future.

Goal #3: Reduce the use of fund balance to \$500,000 or less by 2021 to account for the loss of windmill revenue. As you can see in the budget summary table, the tentative budget plans to use \$1,650,000 of fund balance in 2019. However, \$930,000 is strictly to fund increases in IGT payments to LCGH. For County operations, the budget proposes a \$100,000 decrease in fund balance use, from \$820,000 in 2018, to \$720,000 in 2019. This is the first time in the last three years we have been able to reduce our operational fund balance use.

Budget Highlights

Jefferson Community College – Lewis County Educational Center

2019 will mark the opening of the new Jefferson Community College – Lewis County Educational Center. The new college will be the first institution of higher education in Lewis County. JCC will host credit and non-credit classes, as well as other workforce development initiatives in partnership with BOCES and Cornell Cooperative Extension. This budget reflects the onboarding of a new building to our maintenance program. Page 22 of the budget shows \$200,000 in expenses to operate the new building, with offsetting revenue of \$250,000 paid as rent by JCC. The additional \$50,000 will go to the Capital Fund to offset investments in capital equipment to operate the facility, which were purchased in 2018.

Lewis County Drug Task Force

Like many rural, Upstate communities, Lewis County has not been immune to the affects of the nation-wide opiate epidemic. On a per-capita basis, Lewis County continues to rate poorly for opiate and methamphetamine use. In September of 2018, the Lewis County Board of Legislators approved the formation and funding of the Lewis County Drug Task Force. The 2019 budget continues funding the task force at an annual cost of \$49,000.

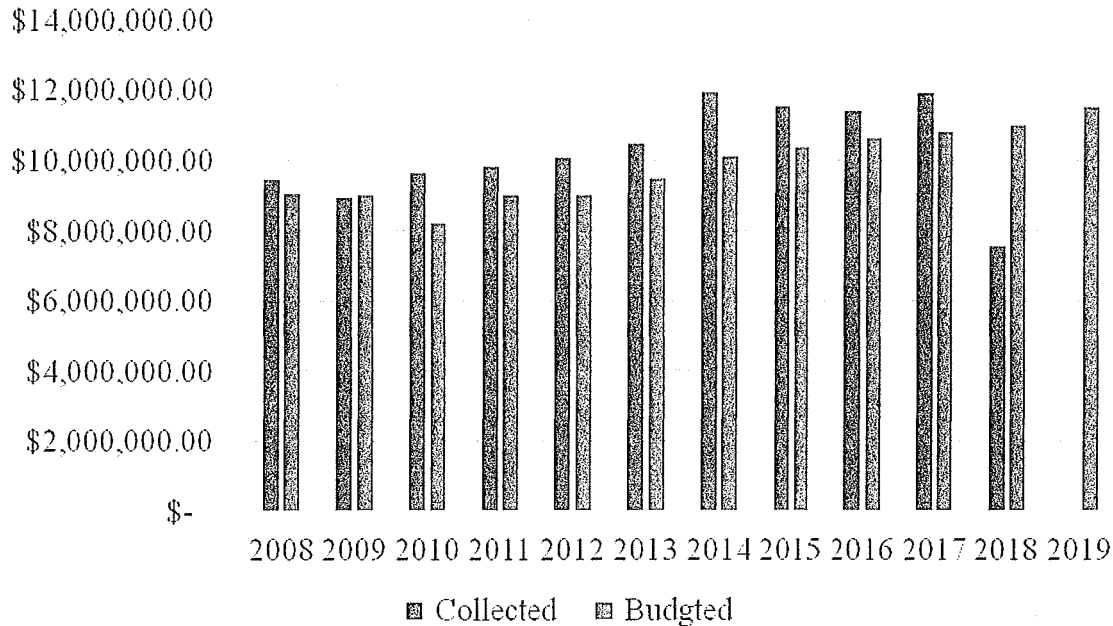
Health Insurance

After two years of dramatic increases in health insurance, I am proud to report that our health insurance costs have stabilized. Our Self-Insurance fund balance has reached a sustainable level, and only a 2% increase in premiums is recommended in 2019. Past-years' increases have certainly helped to balance the fund, but programmatic changes have also helped stabilize costs. In 2018 the County, in partnership with LCGH administration and CSEA union leadership, worked together to make several plan changes which have impacted the 2019 budget. Several departments are actually reporting a decrease in health insurance spending year-over-year in this budget. For the sake of employees and tax payers, this effort must continue into 2019 and beyond to ensure we are providing health benefits as efficiently as possible.

Sales Tax

A big story in this year’s budget is the continued escalation of sales tax receipts. 2018 will likely see \$12M in sales tax collection, an all-time high. The 2019 tentative budget is predicting \$11.5M in sales tax receipts, a \$575,000 increase from the 2018 budget. It is important to be conservative when budgeting sales tax revenue because it is determined by so many factors outside County control. However, as seen below, Lewis County has met or exceeded \$11.5M in sales tax receipts in four of the last five years. We feel \$11.5M is a fair and accurate target for sales tax collection in 2019. Sales tax represents 24% of County revenue in 2019.

Historical Sales Tax Collection



Solar

Earlier this year, the ten-acre, two-megawatt Lewis County solar project went live. This project is projected to save \$3M over its useful life. Since 2019 is the first year of solar operation, we are projecting a conservative \$50,000 in utility savings. At full capacity, the project should save around \$150,000 annually. We will monitor the savings in 2019 in order to make a more accurate projection in 2020 and beyond.

State Mandates

In 2019, state and federal mandates make up 80% of the total property tax levy. A breakdown of mandated programs and their funding source is as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Mandated Program</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>County share</u>
Public Defender	Indigent Legal	\$ 404,200.00	\$ 404,200.00
Probation	Probation	\$ 556,665.00	\$ 434,233.00
Public Health	Pre-Kindergarten	\$ 1,831,102.00	\$ 728,926.00
Public Health	Early Intervention	\$ 224,830.00	\$ 81,351.00
Social Services	Medicaid	\$ 6,055,642.00	\$ 5,050,000.00
All Departments	Pension	\$ 2,001,554.00	\$ 2,001,554.00

Social Services	Foster Care	\$	2,566,128.00	\$	255,173.00
Social Services	Safety Net	\$	1,469,620.00	\$	519,842.00
Probation	Youth Detention	\$	25,000.00	\$	-
Social Services	IGT	\$	3,750,000.00	\$	3,750,000.00
		\$	18,884,741.00	\$	13,225,279.00
			2019 Tax Levy	\$	16,410,285.00
			Mandates as % of Levy		<u>80.6%</u>

Medicaid

New York is one of the only states in the Country that relies on local governments to fund its Medicaid program. In New York, the federal government pays for 50% of Medicaid expenses, the state pays 25%, and county governments pay the remaining 25%. In Lewis County, this 25% totals \$5.05M, annually. In addition to direct Medicaid spending, LCGH is eligible for the federal IGT program. This program helps fund public hospitals and nursing homes where low-income payers often can't cover the cost of services provided by the hospital. Again, New York is the only state in which such programs require a match from local sponsors. In 2019, Lewis County will pay \$3.75M to LCGH for the IGT program. This brings the total taxpayer burden for New York State healthcare programs to \$8.8M, or 18.5% of total County spending in 2019.

Safety Net

The Safety Net program in New York State covers cash assistance and emergency shelter for qualified county residents. Due largely to substance abuse issues, the County's share of Safety Net expenditures has increased in recent years, particularly for emergency shelter placements. Since 2017, the County Safety Net budget has increased by 26%, with an additional \$75,000 recommended in 2019. This a consistent trend across the State, with many Upstate counties facing similar increases. DSS staff and County administration continue to work with community partners to locate affordable and safe shelters for those in need in our community. As the State shelter requirements continue to expand, so too will the cost of temporary housing.

Raise the Age

New to our list of State mandated programs is Raise the Age (RTA), which went into effect this October. The program raises the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age by 2020. Fortunately, Lewis County's caseload for 16 and 17-year-olds is relatively low, and we will not need to add staff or infrastructure to handle the new requirements. However, the new process for adolescent offenders and juvenile delinquents will still strain the County's resources. Any expense incurred as a result of RTA protocol is 100% reimbursable by New York State, but we are still waiting, along with every other county, to see if our RTA fiscal plan is approved by the State Division of Budget. We have planned on \$25,000 for secured youth detention in this budget, and we will address any other RTA expenditures as they occur. This is the first year of RTA implementation, and there is much unknown about the roll-out of this program. We will have a better grasp on how to properly budget for RTA expenditures and reimbursement revenue in 2020.

Capital Spending

Also included in this year's budget package is a five-year capital plan. The idea is that this plan be adopted by resolution each year with the operating budget. The capital plan is by no means set

in stone, however, it provides the County a framework to begin investing, and planning for our future. Currently, less than 1% of the annual county budget is spent on capital investment in County facilities. In order to keep pace with an aging physical plant, we should be spending at least 3% per year.

You will note in the Capital Budget the need for serious HVAC and electrical upgrades at the Public Safety Building, as well as much-needed investments in the DSS Building, should we continue to occupy that space. The additional \$300,000 transfer to the Capital Fund proposed in this budget will help fund these initiatives. Further, if the Board of Legislators chooses to move forward with a new County office building, the additional capital transfer can be used towards the payment of a bond.

Regardless of which specific investments the Board of Legislators chooses to make, it is imperative that Lewis County move forward with a renewed commitment to capital investment. Compared to businesses and nonprofits, local governments have the advantage of long-range planning. It's okay for us to think 30, 50, or even 70 years down the line, because we know Lewis County isn't going anywhere. Our capital outlay should reflect this long-range vision, and a formally adopted capital budget will help us prioritize future spending.

Conclusion

Proposed is a responsible spending plan for the 2019 fiscal year. Unfortunately, this plan fails to address several departmental requests, and doesn't provide the flexibility the Board of Legislators may be accustomed to regarding contingency funds. However, the fact that the County is able to sustain operations without a rate increase certainly speaks to the leadership of department heads and legislators. Initiatives to reduce costs, such as the solar project, and health insurance improvements, are paying off, and the County needs to remain open to creative solutions to operational efficiency.

Despite challenges, the County remains in an excellent financial position, and there is no reason that will change in 2019.

On a personal note, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our budget team. Our department heads are professional and reasonable, and they have been a pleasure to work with throughout this process. Thank you to Brittany Davis, Adam Zehr and the IT Department for helping pull together the budget document's new look; I hope the new format and additional information enhances everyone's understanding of the County's financial operation. Thank you to Cassandra Moser for coordinating with department heads, and for pulling together the Capital Budget document. Thank you to Terry Clark for her organization and support. And most of all, thank you to Patty O'Brien; without her expertise and patience this plan would not be possible.

The 2019 Lewis County budget is respectfully submitted for public comment and approval.



Ryan Piche
County Manager

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator John Lehman, Social Services/Office For the Aging/Youth Bureau Committee Chairman, reported Kathleen Lehman, 4-H Youth Program Educator had provided an overview of 4-H programs to the Youth Bureau Advisory Committee. The Homeless Christmas Tree on display at the Chamber of Commerce will accept donations of personal hygiene items and clothing through 12/21/18.

Legislator Lehman reported 617 early mailed HEAP applications, as well as recipient reminder robo calls. Payments will start to vendors on 11/19/18. The regular HEAP season opens for applications on 11/13/18.

There are 13 children in foster care, the highest number in five years, 7 of which were placed in October.

Legislator Randall LaChausse, Taxation/Information Technology/Election Committee Chairman, kindly reminded everyone to vote today.

Legislator Bryan Moser, County Officers/Veterans/Junkyards/Human Resources Committee Chairman, reported third quarter veteran disability payment receipts of \$498,825.49 largely attributable to one 2008 and one 2009 claim, each with recent settlements of over \$100,000. Education payments of \$83,838.75 and vocational rehab payments of \$11,184 equated quarterly total veteran receipts of \$594,568.24; with 52 healthcare enrollments.

The Veterans Administration is amending the healthcare program to allow veterans to utilize private physicians in certain circumstances. The Western New York National Veterans Cemetery will open in 2019 with space available for 96,000 veterans in Pembroke.

Legislator Jerry King, Ways and Means/Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairman, reported delivery of the new Maintenance Department van; and the Court House roof leaks would be addressed by the construction company awarded the painting project, dependent upon their ability to complete repairs before winter weather.

Legislator Thomas Osborne, Public Health/Community Services Committee Chairman, reported that on 10/22/18 the Arc of Oneida-Lewis had honored Lewis County employers who hire persons they serve with an awards ceremony and complimentary meal at the Lowville Firehall. NYS Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush was the keynote speaker.

Community Services Board members participated in their inaugural retreat, with educational information sessions by various healthcare experts and professionals.

Legislator Ronald Burns, Economic Development/Recreation, Forestry & Parks Committee Chairman, reported the IDA purchased the Climax Manufacturing building and named it the "Center for Business". Repairs and inspections will assure the sprinkler and fire suppression systems are in working order, overhead doors are air tight and restrooms are operating by 12/1/18. Thereafter, external doors, electrical mapping and snowplowing will be

addressed. Development of a business park will continue and be known as “Naturally Lewis Progress Park”.

Legislator Gregory Kulzer, Courts and Law Enforcement Committee Chairman, made a motion to authorize Sheriff Carpinelli to fill one full-time Dispatcher effective 11/1/18, due to a retirement, seconded by Legislator King and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize filling two part-time Dispatchers effective immediately due to employees assigned to full-time positions, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize filling one part-time Deputy Sheriff effective 10/19/18, due to employee assigned to full-time, seconded by Legislator Lehman and carried.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to authorize filling one part-time Correction Officer effective immediately due to a resignation, seconded by Legislator Moser and carried.

Legislator Kulzer reported continuing review by County personnel to comply with “Raise the Age” requirements. The County has contracted with the Capital District Youth Center at \$1,900 per night, or may avail a room at the Hillbrook facility in Syracuse at a cost of \$600-\$700 per night, if needed for a local youth.

He also relayed current department employment numbers reported by Undersheriff McIntosh of 14 road patrols, 2 investigators and 3 part-time employees. Although the NYS Division of Criminal Justice recommends 1.5 police officers for every 5,000 residents, which for Lewis County computes to 40 officers, there are only 25 officers.

Legislator Kulzer then announced his impending retirement from his State employment effective 12/27/18.

Legislator Chartrand, Hospital Committee Chairman, announced the Hospital Foundation is sponsoring a memorial and honorary brick program to raise funds. Persons are encouraged to contact Executive Director Joanne Rhubart at 315-376-5110 if they would like to pay tribute to a loved one.

Legislator Chartrand announced Director of Nursing Eileen Carroll as the September employee-of-the-month.

Legislator Chartrand reported a Hospital year-to-date surplus of \$8,417,897. Overall September gross patient revenue was higher in all categories for the first time. In-patient revenue is higher, especially operating room revenue. The Board of Managers approved the 2019 proposed Hospital budget. He requested Clerk of the Board Teresa Clark to advertise for resumes to fill the open seat on the Board of Managers.

Legislator Andrea Moroughan, Transportation/Solid Waste Committee Chair, reported the deck on the Jerden Falls Road Bridge was poured and the County has approved 6-day work weeks to complete the project in time for the planned opening the week of Thanksgiving. The Blue Street Bridge has been opened. The salt bid was awarded to Cargill at \$66.85/Ton, being \$5.76 more than last year. The higher price will result lesser salt purchase due to \$5,000 Highway budget deficit. This will result in a larger debt owed to the State at the end of the salt season 8/31/19. In accordance with stated terms, the snow and ice contracts with the Towns will not be affected, because the salt increase was below \$10/Ton. Highway Superintendent Warren Shaw agreed to allow the State to use their labor and equipment to push up the sand.

Legislator Moroughan reported a new backhoe had been ordered for the Solid Waste Department; and the insurance recovery of \$21,059.57 would cover tractor trailer repairs from the deer collision. Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste was paid \$2,253.89 for September recycling processing. Pete Wood is working with Kraft management to assist with finding markets for their recyclable materials that are not accepted at the transfer station.

Legislator Moroughan reported that Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director Nichelle Billhardt will install a modem for the Deer River stream gauge. FEMA grant funded equipment has been installed on the Sugar River at the Constableville stream bank near the wastewater treatment plant that will use natural stream design to protect from erosion.

Soil & Water District and Water Quality Coordinators participated in the Black River Trash Bash to gather and discard 200 lbs. of debris from the river banks in Watson.

Legislator Moroughan also reported that County, Town of Lowville and Village of Lowville officials had met with landowners and agreed to address the Mill Creek erosion. Adjacent landowners are pleased that the County has responded to place large stone along the creek for erosion abatement. The landowners will pay for the stone, the price of which will be based on the footage addressed.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Piche stated that proposed changes to the 2019 Tentative Budget must be presented by Resolution for board action. The Board will set the public hearing for November 20, 2018 and may decide to adopt it that evening, or defer until their next meeting. He included a 5-year Tentative Capital Improvement Program that delineates a general plan without committing funding for board discussion in early 2019.

He reported enclosure of the JCC-Lewis Education Center building and all contractors are continuing with interior work. The project is on schedule. Dr. Ty Stone is scheduled to present the Board with educational programming on 12/4/18.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer Patricia O'Brien recited the balances of the Special Legislative Contingency Fund - \$70,637.08; Contingency Fund-\$231,791.23; Capital Data Processing Fund- \$73,919.01

and Capital Equipment Fund - \$423,651.96, of which \$158,431.24 is the Highway portion. She reported sales tax revenue above projections at \$8,989,198.80 through 9/30/2018. The 8/31/18 Internal Service Fund balance is \$3,676,852.64.

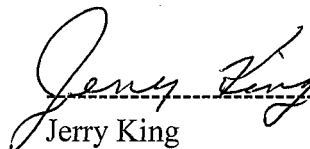
It being 5:58 p.m. Chairman Dolhof closed the public hearing for comments on the proposed Local Law.

REPORT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE:

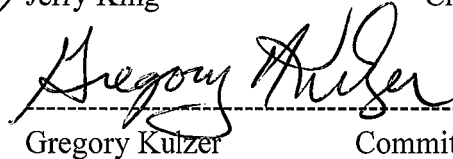
**REPORT OF
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
ON THE EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS**

To: The Honorable County Legislators

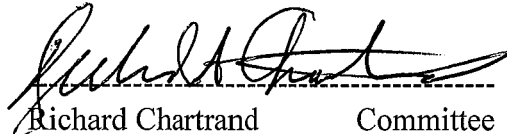
The Ways and Means Committee reports that they have examined the claims presented for payment in the total amount of \$ 3,343,122.93 and recommend that they be audited and allowed for the amounts claimed.



Jerry King Chair



Gregory Kulzer Committee



Richard Chartrand Committee

Dated: November 6, 2018

Approved on motion by Legislator _____ Lehman _____, seconded by
Legislator _____ Kulzer _____, and carried.