

REGULAR MEETING
November 26, 2024

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

Roll Call: All Legislators were present. There were 14 other persons present.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Dolhof opened the public hearing on the 2025 Tentative Lewis County Budget at 5:01 p.m.

Megan Harney of the Lowville Free Library and on behalf of the North Country Libraries thanked the legislators for their continued support. There are several libraries from Harrisville to Osceola and these libraries bring technology to some remote area with free Wi-Fi, desk top computers, printers and scanners. There is a large New York State Construction grant available to assist libraries with ongoing projects for more impact. Chairman Dolhof thanked Megan and all the libraries for their dedication and hard work.

Don Arthur of Lowville, NY introduced himself as a concerned taxpayer. He voiced his concerns over a lack of transparency in the 2025 budget. He stated he watched County Manager Tim Hunt's interview where he explained more of the budget in detail. Mr. Arthur felt strongly that the public wouldn't be able to understand the budget enough to even begin to ask questions. He went on to voice concerns over the Treasurer's monthly report, the lack of public information and transparency, again. He would like to see the Lewis County budget move more towards the Erie County budget with pie charts that clearly explain where the taxpayer's money goes. Chairman Larry and County Manager Tim Hunt both thought improvements can be made in future years to make the budget a document that everyone can understand better.

Chairman Dolhof closed the public hearing on the 2025 Tentative Budget at 5:16 p.m. with no further comments.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE:

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

Signed by: Thomas Osborne
Jeffrey Nellenback

Dated: November 26, 2024

Herb Frost
Vincent Nortz
Barry Lyndaker

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

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE:

RESOLUTION NO. 238 - 2024
RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2025 TENTATIVE COUNTY BUDGET
REGARDING LEWIS COUNTY FOOD PANTRIES ONE TIME PAYMENTS

Introduced by Legislator Herbert Frost, District 1 Legislator.

WHEREAS, the cost of food has caused an increase in Lewis County residents who seek meals and food provisions from the six (6) food pantries in Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, a change in the tentative budget by moving \$9,000 from the Recreation, Forestry and Parks budget to the Department of Social Services budget for distribution of \$9,000.00 to the Lewis County Pantries (\$1,500 to each pantry) will benefit those in need. Each pantry will be obligated to execute an agreement and invoice with the County to document the use these funds in support of food provisions for Lewis County residents in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. That the following changes are approved to modify the 2025 Tentative budget for final vote, related to the transfer of funds (\$9,000) from Recreation, Forestry & Parks to the Department of Social Services to distribute a total of \$9,000 equally among the six (6) food pantries in Lewis County (\$1,500 each) as set forth below from the identified accounts:

Decrease Expense:

A0799000-493000 Trail NYSORVA Fees	\$ 9,000.00
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Increase Expense:

A0601000-490900 DSS Misc. Expense	\$ 9,000.00
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Section 2. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Kalamas, seconded by Legislator Moroughan, and adopted on the 26th day of November, 2024, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 239 - 2024
RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2025 TENTATIVE COUNTY BUDGET
REGARDING LEWIS COUNTY SNOWMOBILE CLUBS ONE TIME PAYMENTS

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Kalamas, District 2 Legislator.

WHEREAS, the cost of maintaining over 500 miles of snowmobile trails in the county is always increasing and a challenge for the nine (9), all volunteer run clubs in Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, a change in the tentative budget by moving \$9,000 from the Recreation, Forestry and Parks budget under Trail Maintenance to the Recreation, Forestry & Parks budget under Snowmobile for distribution of \$9,000.00 to the Lewis County snowmobile clubs (\$1,000 to each club) will help alleviate these needs. Each snowmobile club will be obligated to execute an agreement and invoice with the county to document the use of these funds in support of the club's needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. That the following changes are approved to modify the 2025 Tentative budget for final vote, related to the transfer of funds (\$9,000) within the Recreation, Forestry & Parks budget to distribute a total of \$9,000 equally among the nine (9) snowmobile clubs in Lewis County (\$1,000 each) as set forth below from the identified accounts:

Decrease Expense:

A0799000-493000 Trail NYSORVA Fees	\$ 9,000.00
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Increase Expense:

A0714100-499900 Snowmobile Trails	\$ 9,000.00
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Section 2. That the within resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Kalamas, seconded by Legislator Frost.

Legislator Dolhof commented that he would like to see the county do something to reward landowners that allow use of their land and ATV clubs. He wasn't sure what to do or how to handle it but thought perhaps a banquet would be an idea. Legislator Kalamas voiced that there are seven (7) Rescue Squads for EMS that also assist with snowmobile accidents, and they deserve recognition too.

Legislator Leviker abstained due to a conflict.

The Resolution was then adopted on the 26th day of November 2024, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 240 - 2024
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
FOR THE CONDUCT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND
ESTABLISHING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS
AND EMPLOYEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Osborne, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the governing body has met and considered the 2025 Tentative County Budget and has conducted a public hearing thereon as required by Section 359 of the County Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. That the Tentative Budget as amended and revised and as hereinafter set forth is hereby adopted and that the several amounts as set forth in the "Adopted" column of such budget be and hereby are appropriated for the objects and purposes specified, and the salaries and wages set forth in Appendix D of that budget shall be and hereby are fixed at the amount shown therein, or by employees' contract effective January 1, 2025.

Moved by Legislator Leviker, seconded by Legislator Moser .

Legislator Nortz abstained due to a conflict.

The Resolution was then adopted on the 26th day of November 2024, pursuant to the following roll call:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 241 - 2024
ASSESSING AND LEVYING AMOUNT OF TAX CALLED FOR
UNDER THE COUNTY BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
ON THE 26th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024
AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER COUNTY LAW

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Osborne, Chair of the Finance & Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators of the County of Lewis by Resolution No. 240 - 2024 adopted on the 26th day of November 2024, a County Budget for fiscal year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Legislators by Resolution No. 240 - 2024 adopted on the 26th day of November 2024, has made appropriations for the conduct of Lewis County Government for fiscal year 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. That there be, and hereby is, assessed and levied upon and against the taxable property of the County of Lewis liable therefore the sum of \$19,929,191.00.

Moved by Legislator Osborne, seconded by Legislator Nellenback .

Legislator Nortz abstained due to a conflict.

The Resolution was then adopted on the 26th day of November 2024, pursuant to the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Dolhof reminded everyone that the next Board meeting would be on Tuesday, December 3rd and the final meeting of the year would be held on Thursday, December 19th beginning at 10:00 a.m.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Legislator Frost made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 p.m., seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.