

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
January 12, 2026**

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood, N.Y., was held,
Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:30 P.M

Present:	Randall G. Holcomb	Mayor
	Ben J. Troché	Deputy Mayor/Trustee
	Ellen E. Barnes	Trustee
	John L. Shedd	Trustee
	Scott A. Cooper	Trustee
Also Present:	Krysten G. Yager	Deputy Village Clerk
	Apryl Troutman	Village Clerk/ Treasurer
	Kurt Hallberg	Fire Chief
	Matthew Bentley	Police Chief
	John C. Certo	DPW Supervisor
	Jeff Swanson	Code Enforcement Officer
Absent:	Marilyn Fiore-Lehman	Village Attorney

A work session was held with no action taken

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Troché, to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Trustees held on December 12th, 2025.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion by Trustee Shedd, seconded by Trustee Barnes, that the claims as audited by the Auditing Committee of the abstract dated December 22nd, 2025, December 30th, 2025 & January 12, 2026 be approved and that the Clerk Department shall execute said abstract and direct payment by the Treasurer Department.

- Abstracts (#30 & #30)
 - o General Fund: \$42,804.46 (checks #22217 thru #22250),
 - o T&A Fund: \$81,574.65 (checks #9866 thru #9901),
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #22236– National Grid, ACH Payment
 - #22249 – Windstream, ACH Payment
- Abstracts (#32 & #32)
 - o General Fund: \$30,234.05 (check #22251),
- Abstracts (#34 & #34)
 - o General Fund: \$68,046.38 (checks #22252 thru #22287),
 - o T&A Fund: \$81,864.00 (checks #9902 thru #9932),
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #22271– M&T Bank, ACH Payment
 - #22272– National Grid, ACH Payment
 - #22287 – Windstream, ACH Payment

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Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Jones, Shedd, Troché)

REPORTS

DPW Supervisor John C. Certo:

- During the 2025/2026 snow season the DPW has plowed/salted 24 times.
- Mr. Certo thanked his crew for all their hard work during the holidays as they had to plow a lot.
- Christmas decorations have been taken down.
- The crew has been removing snow off the larger snow piles that are on the road
- Christmas trees have been being picked up around the village. They will be continued to be picked up until there is no more out.
 - o Trustee Barnes complimented the crew on how great of a job they do maintaining the roads.
 - The board echo's Trustee Barnes statement.

Chief Matthew Bentley:

- Ended 2025 with 11,009 calls for total call for service, which is approximately 700 calls from last year. Most of the increases were found in traffic stops, drug arrests, area checks, and walk beats. These areas were a little bit lower in the previous years.
- Since the last board meeting 1392 call for service have been handled.
- There is going to be a new drug drop box kiosk. He stated that they have signed an agreement with a group called Med Project Drug Drop Off. Chief Bentley stated that one of the advantages to this new drop box is they are going to be providing boxes and shipping labels to send the drugs off when the box is full. He mentioned that in the past they would have to wait for a national take back day and they were would taking a whole truck load of drugs to this location. He stated that the drugs would take up space in the evidence room which is just wasting space.
- The police department was awarded a grant for the K-9 fund and was given a donation for the K-9 fund. The grant was in the amount of \$2,000 from Cummins Engine and Mr. & Mrs. Lennon gave a donation of \$500. This money was placed in the custodial fund for the K-9 and that puts the account just shy of \$8,000. Chief Bentley mentioned that this is significantly more than when he started. When he started the custodial fund was \$-6,500.
- Lastly Chief Bentley stated they are working through the hiring process for the last fulltime vacant spot. The interviews started today and they will be happening throughout the week. There are going to be 11 or 12 interviews in total.
 - o Trustee Troché asked when the academy ends.
 - Chief Bentley stated the classroom portion ends the beginning of March and then they will have four weeks of field training. The graduation portion happens in May.
 - o Trustee Shedd stated that he had a question on his statistics. He asked if the increases in the subcategories, if those are surprising increase.
 - Chief Bentley stated that he thinks all the increases that he mentioned are positive increases. Area checks and walk beats are good for Community

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Relations. We're getting out there and we're interacting with the public and we are also checking areas of interest. Traffic stops are always good for not just only getting tickets, but getting beyond the stops and that's where we are getting a majority of the higher drug arrests. He also stated that the calls over at Walmart, more arrests have been made. He mentioned that this information will be more detailed in this annual report that he will hopefully be getting out at the beginning of next month.

- Trustee Shedd asked if Walmart contributes anything extra other than taxes.
 - Trustee Barnes stated that they use to but they haven't in years.
 - Chief Bentley stated they did get a donation from Walmart to participate with the shop with a cop program for Christmas.

Chief Kurt Hallberg:

- Ended 2025 with 1156 calls, 24 more than in 2022 which was the previous highest year.
- 34 calls so far this year.
- Waiting for the new heavy rescue it should be here by the end of the month
- The new engine should be here by the end of April.
- The new chief's car has arrived but it doesn't not have any radios so it is sitting in the station of now.

Clerk/Treasurer Troutman:

- On January 29th Mr. Certo, Mr. Bentley, and myself have a phone call with Tokyo Marine HCC. This is the village's General Liability Carrier. They are doing a risk assessment via phone. The gentleman said that we haven't been through one of these yet but it is standard practice for the company. This is our second year with them.
- On December 31st, the Village received the final payment from New York State LSD for the Hartley Park playground project. The payment was around \$45,620, so that closes out the final piece of that project.

CEO Swanson:

- Spoke with the Chautauqua County Land Bank today. They stated that we will be looking at early spring for the demolition of 51 Fairmount and 11 Linwood.
- Thanked the police chief for helping with the nuisance complaints that they have been receiving. This issue has been going back and forth between the police department and the code enforcement office. He stated that him and Chief Bentley sat down and called the person together and took care of the issue.

Mayor Holcomb:

- Welcomed everyone into the year and stated that he appreciated everything everyone does within the Village. He stated things would not get done if it was for everyone here.

Committees:

- **Village Historian**
 - Report was given by Clerk/Treasurer Troutman

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- Olivia stated “Since our last meeting we have submitted an application package for a large grant under the America 250 project. The deadline is on January 15th and we will hopefully hear back soon. I have joined a committee to produce the Chautauqua County history expo in August 2026. Lakewood will be represented in the Expo. We have digitized over 150 items and will be starting implementation of Past Perfect at the start of Next week. We currently have 25 volunteers who have committed to the digitization project.”
- **Buildings Committee:**
 - Trustee Troché stated that they are internally applying for the v-fire grant this year. Last year we paid someone to write the grant and this year we decided to do it on our own.

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION #8-2026-RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LAKEWOOD FIRE
DEPARTMENT CHIEFS FOR 2026**

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper, the Board of Trustees acting as the Board of Fire Commissioners, to accept the following members into Chief Positions for the year of 2026:

1. Chief-Kurt Hallberg
2. First Assistant Chief- Steve Smouse
3. Second Assistant Chief- Alex Hallberg

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

**RESOLUTION #9-2026-RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF A
LAKEWOOD FIRE MEMBER**

Motion by Trustee Baren, seconded by Trustee Cooper, the Board of Fire Commissioners, to accept the resignation of Shanna Vacanti, 133 Lakecrest Ave, Lakewood, NY 14750 as a member of the Lakewood Fire Department.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

RESOLUTION #10-2026- AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFER

- 1) Motion by Trustee Shedd, seconded the Trustee Troché, to authorize the following budget transfer
 - i. \$3,750 from account A5110.40 {Street Maintenance - Contractual} to account A5110.46 {Street Maintenance – Tree Service} for a budget shortfall
 - ii. \$5,000 from account A5110.40 {Street Maintenance - Contractual} to account A5110.43 {Street Maintenance – Vehicle Maintenance} for a budget shortfall
 - iii. \$1,770 from account A1990.40 {Contingent Account} to account A1420.40 {Law – Contractual} for a budget shortfall
 - iv. \$1,775 from account A1990.40 {Contingent Account} to account A9010.80 {State

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- Retirement} for a budget shortfall
- v. \$11,555 from account A1990.40 {Contingent Account} to account A9015.80 {Fire & Police Retirement} for a budget shortfall
- Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

RESOLUTION #11-2026-ACCEPT THE ECOSTRATEGIES PROPOSAL

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes to accept the EcoStrategies proposal for Professional Engineering & Surveying Services for the Fairmount Avenue Stormwater Project and authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

-Andy thanked the board for their time.

**RESOLUTION #12-2026-APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE FIRE PROTECTION,
EMERGENCY SERVICE AND AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper, to approve renewal of the fire protection, emergency service and ambulance service agreement and authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign the agreement.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

ANYONE TO BE HEARD

N/A

Krysten G. Yager
Village Deputy Clerk

RECESS

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Shedd, to recess the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:52 PM, to enter into executive session to discuss EMS contract negotiations and police and clerk personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present at the executive session, were Mayor Holcomb, Trustees Barnes, Cooper, Troché and Shedd. As well as Fire Chief Hallberg, Police Chief Bentley and Clerk/Treasurer Apryl Troutman. Motion by Trustee Cooper, seconded by Trustee Barnes to adjourn the executive session at 7:30 PM.

RESOLUTION #13-2026 – ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY CLERK

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Troché, to accept the resignation of Deputy Clerk Krysten G. Yager, received January 12, 2026. Mrs. Yager has been employed with the Village of Lakewood since August 28, 2023 and her last day of service will be January 23, 2026.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

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Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Troché and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Board of Trustees meeting at 7:32 PM.

Apryl L. Troutman
Village Clerk and Treasurer