

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026**

The twelfth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood, N.Y., was held,
Monday, June 22nd, 2026, 6:30 P.M

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

A work session was held with no action

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes, to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Trustees held on June 8th, 2026.

Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper, that the claims as audited by the Auditing Committee of the abstract dated June 22nd, 2026 be approved and that the Clerk Department shall execute said abstract and direct payment by the Treasurer Department.

- Abstracts (#2 & #4)
 - o T&A Fund: Abstract #2 \$50,293.98 (checks #10363 thru #10395)
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #10330-10362 Printing Error
 - o General Fund: Abstract #4 \$321,790.12 (checks #22661 thru #22702)
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #22688 – National Grid, ACH to vendor
 - #22701 – Windstream, ACH to vendor

REPORTS

DPW Supervisor John C. Certo:

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026**

The crew has been out picking up the debris from wind storm last week. They are also getting a decent amount of patching done while they can. A couple cross pipes – one on Lake Street and one on Cherry Lane.

The LCDC hosted their car show this last weekend where the DPW helped set up the barricades for the event. They attempted on Thursday, June 18th to have everything out but because of the wind storm they were delayed to the morning of the show. Parks department employee, Jim Fye, got it all ready by 8:30am.

- The Board thanked the DPW for all they do.

Mayor Holcomb stated the Village looks great, especially after the Junk Pickup.

- **Trustee Barnes** asked if the Office has the final totals from Junk Pickup. It looked like a lot was picked up from the pickers prior to Beichner going around.
- **Clerk/Treasurer Troutman** said they do not, yet. It did take Beichner all week to pick up when normally it's a day or day and a half at max.

Police Chief Bentley:

Since the last meeting, the Department has handled 518 calls with some fairly major incidents happening in the last few weeks. There was a shooting on Big Tree Road on June 13th in the early hours of the morning. In which they made two arrests on that. There was also an assault at Southern Tier Brewing Company on June 20th, which is still under investigation. On Sunday, June 21st they had a 12-year-old and 9-year-old driving their father's vehicle crash on Baker Street and Shadyside Road as they went to go get their father a Father's Day gift. It has been a busy time for the department. They are working on the assault at Southern Tier since there were several people involved. As far as the shooting they are working with the DA's office and Jamestown Police Department.

- **Trustee Barnes** asked if they are going to release the information after the shooting case is closed.

Chief Bentley said yes, they will. For now, they have done a press release.

- **Trustee Troché** asked how the victim is doing.

Chief Bentley stated the person who was shot has been treated and released from the hospital.

Fire Chief Hallberg

501 alarms so far this year. Engine 372 is getting the radios put in this week, as well as graphics at the end of the week. Chief Hallberg thanked Chief Bentley for including the Fire Department in all three of the incidents that he referred too. Chief Hallberg stated they had to fly the assault victim from the Brewery by Helicopter. It has been a very busy time for them.

- **Trustee Barnes** asked if there was a status on the victim from the Brewery.
- **Police Chief Bentley** stated they have been treated and released.

Code Enforcement Officer Swanson

Property maintenance issues continue. CEO Swanson has been working with DPW Supervisor Certo on a couple of the issues. Someone pressure washed their logo into the sidewalk and he is working to figure out what they can do about that. There is a frequent flyer for property

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026

maintenance issues that he is also working to get in contact with. After many attempts in prior years, they may have to contact the Sheriff's Department or a third-party server to figure out where they are to actually serve the individual.

It also looks like there will be another property tax sale, in which he has not seen a list for yet. He will reach out and see when the demolitions will be done for the home on Jones Street and Linwood Avenue.

Recently, CEO Swanson attended a seminar on the DEC wetlands for the new wetland's mapper. The courts have basically blocked the new DEC wetlands for now.

There was a call down on East Terrace about old pieces of a dock left in the right of way. He will seek legal counsel on this.

- **Trustee Troché** asked if there is anything that law enforcement can do for illegal dumping.
- **Chief Bentley** stated no because it's unknown who actually put the property there.
- **Kenneth Wray, 271 E Terrace**, stated he does have video of the individuals putting it there and will get it to the LBPd.
- **Nancy Jones, 215 Locust Street**, asked if anyone has complained about the weed garden at the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (recently renamed Everwild Land Trust).

CEO Swanson stated there has not been any complaints on it. While on the topic of complaints, if one comes in and there is not a name with the complaint then they do not have a complaint.

We are getting a lot of people that would like to remain anonymous. In this case, they did mow their tall grass before he could get a letter out. He said there are some cases in the Supreme Court where the weeds are being called wild flowers. It is a very narrow line on what is a garden and what is weeds.

- **Trustee Barnes** stated it doesn't look like they are maintaining. There's a small section that's mowed, but the rest of it looks like those rain gardens that were big several years ago, they just turned into these big overgrown weed gardens.

CEO Swanson stated he will be in contact with legal counsel on this issue.

Clerk/Treasurer Troutman:

No report.

Deputy Clerk Pilling:

The Board received a copy of the draft minutes from the June 11th Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. The ZBA has asked the Board of Trustees to review the Comprehensive Plan pertaining to Data and Battery Storage Centers. They stated that the Board of Trustees should use the necessary route to help update or make recommendations to the plan on these topics.

- **Trustee Troché** stated that he would talk to legal counsel to clarify if they need to update the Comprehensive Plan or write a law.
- **Trustee Barnes** stated they do need to update the Comprehensive Plan for both data centers and battery storage. The Board also needs to put in place a moratorium on both.
- **Troche Troché** stated there is a state moratorium.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026**

- **Trustee Barnes** stated she would be more comfortable with a Village moratorium as these storage centers use a lot of natural resources which we have.
- **Trustee Troché** stated that Attorney Lehman has a draft law that she said she would provide them since the Town of Ellicot just did one.
- **Trustee Barnes** stated the Town of Ellicot had to move quickly when it came to their properties. Someone purchased property in the Town in hopes to put a battery storage center there. She said the Village does not have a lot of property, but there are some vulnerable ones.
- **Trustee Troché** stated he would like to see the law because if they like it then the Village wouldn't have to pay the attorney for the moratorium process, just have the law right away.
- **Trustee Barnes** said they need to go over the Comprehensive Plan and have an amendment to it if there isn't something pertaining to Data Centers.
- **Trustee Troché** stated the law can happen without updating the Comprehensive Plan.
- **CEO Swanson** stated that he recommended six or eight months ago that there be a moratorium in place for battery energy storage systems. Most people thought that they were only tied to wind and solar, and they're not. They are tied to just basically high energy lines, and they buy the power when it's at the lower rate and sell it back when it's the higher rate.
- **Trustee Barnes** stated it has not been discussed in detail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Troché stated that there are some meetings coming up in the next month. First one is EMS billing committee's biannual meeting early next month with himself, the Fire Department, the Fire Company, and the front office.

On Thursday they have a personnel committee meeting scheduled for Thursday with Trustee Shedd and himself.

Recently, they had a public safety committee meeting with Trustee Barnes, himself, DPW Supervisor Certo, Fire Chief Hallberg, Police Chief Bentley, and Deputy Clerk Pilling to go over special events. Everyone was on the same page and it was beneficial to hear from all the departments. This will be a practice they will continue in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 79-2026 – to Authorize a Full-Time Parks Department New Hire

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper to authorize the new hire of Mr. Leo Kavic, 288 Shadyside Ave, Lakewood as a full-time Parks department employee. Mr. Kavic will start on July 8, 2026 with a starting rate of \$20/hr.

Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

Resolution 80-2026 – Authorize a DPW Capital Reserve transfer of \$11,152.50

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026**

Motion by Trustee Cooper, seconded by Trustee Troché to authorize the transfer of \$11,152.50 from the DPW capital reserve account, A 878.10 to expenditure account A 5110.20 Street Maintenance, Equip.

Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

Resolution 81-2026 – Authorize to Advertise and sell the Village of Lakewood’s 2000 American LaFrance Custom Pumper, E-372

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes to authorize to sell the Village of Lakewood’s 2000 American LaFrance Custom Pumper, E-372.

Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

Resolution 82-2026 – Approve the Jamestown Area YMCA Special Events Applications

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes to Approve the Jamestown Area YMCA Special Events Applications as follows:

- July 4th, 2026 - Fourth of July Fire Cracker Run
- September 19th, 2026 – Battle of the Businesses

Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

ANYONE TO BE HEARD

Andy Johnson, Engineer with EcoStrategies Engineering and Survey, alongside Ted McCague who has spearheaded the shoreline project at Richard O. Hartley Park’s public beach. Refreshing everyone’s memory they did the Master Plan in 2025 which looked holistically at the entire property of several improvements that the public liked as well as the Board. They have honed in now on just the shoreline piece alone, and the county granted Lakewood an award of \$10,000 for them to basically take the conceptual plans and move them to the design plans, so they could be permitted and constructed. This was also done to figure out a budget to pay for it, and fill out a grant application. Those grants are now due July 31st.

Mr. Johnson stated he is just here to tell everyone the process is going well. The shoreline is about 440 feet long total and a third of that are trees and rocks. Then the next third of that is nice beach, literally beach sand. Then the last portion is the old concrete retaining wall, vertical wall, there's also a concrete wall at the beach. The shoreline itself is something that everybody at large agrees needs to be fixed. It's crumbling and just kind of at the end of its design life. Mr. Johnson met with Mr. Certo with the DPW, because Lakewood's responsible for doing a 20 to 25% match, depending on which grants we leverage. Right now, the numbers are looking to be on the order of at least a half a million to do everything. 440 feet is pretty long, and that is also including sidewalks and removing the walls, kind of reworking the beach shoreline. That would mean on the order of roughly \$100,000 would come from in kind. After having met with the DPW to show them some of the in-kind stuff they were thinking, like moving some of the sand back, relocating the flagpole, reworking some stuff we thought was in their wheelhouse, but we want to make sure they're comfortable and that we're not stretching the resources you have. None of this would happen for at least a year anyway, so there'd be plenty of time to plan and work downtime in which could be

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026

phase. He brought a copy of the plans here for anybody that might want to look at it after. Again, just seeking general feedback. If anybody had any ideas or thoughts, now's the time. We still got a month, it's just kind of a courtesy update to let you know it's going well.

- **Trustee Troché** asked if all grant options accept in kind services as the 20% match.

Mr. Johnson said yes all of them do. EcoStrategies is also going to be doing some of the work pro bono. Things like equipment, resources, labor for the stuff the DPW can do, and that the DPW is comfortable doing will be in kind. The rest would just be the heavy construction and the actual materials and labor to build it.

- **Trustee Cooper** asked where the grants would be from.

Mr. Johnson stated from New York State either from the WQIP program, which is water quality improvement. More than likely it would be LWRP, which is Lake Front Water Revitalization program because it captures more of the stuff beyond the shoreline like the sidewalks and the beach. The WQIP program focuses more on the erosion spots, where the LWRP has more of the human factor and able to have the nicer things that will hopefully drive economy and other things to the beach.

Kenneth Wray, 271 East Terrace Avenue, states his survey says he has a right away along his property of five foot, in which he does not understand how that could be. The neighbors across the street put an old dock on his property there. He wants to know if other people can use the right of way for the use of a dock or even just walking on his property. He is worried about the liability if someone were to get hurt too.

- The Board collectively agreed that Mr. Wray should consult an attorney on this matter. As for the old dock they asked the Clerk's office to contact Beichners to see if they can have it removed as they had taken some of the dock but not all of it.

Dave Card, Chautauqua Avenue, stated the beach house landscaping needs some work. He recommended the Sailing Foundation do the work as they don't have to pay much to rent the building.

Ellen Coffaro, 92 West Fairmount Avenue, is disappointed because residents were not notified of the possible change that could happen with the sidewalk system. If there was a possible change, she wants to know why it was not advertised for public opinion.

- Mayor Holcomb stated this is a NYS project and to call the Department of Transportation.

Mrs. Coffaro asked who raised their objections to this project. Who will be liable for these sidewalks?

- Mayor Holcomb stated they would be state property.

Mrs. Coffaro asked if there is a letter, why it has not been published.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026

- Trustee Barnes stated the letter was read into the June 8th meeting minutes by Mayor Holcomb.

Nancy Jones, 215 Locust Street, states these sidewalks would be invading on people's properties and bring traffic closer to their homes.

- Trustee Troché stated that traffic is not coming any closer to residents' homes. Vehicle traffic is not moving towards West Fairmount. They are closer to Don's Car Wash to add a turning lane.

Candance Flanders, 96 Fairmount Avenue, stated that many people were not aware of any potential change in the sidewalk project. She questioned why the majority of the Board isn't listening to the residents who are against the sidewalks. After three meetings, with the majority not in favor of sidewalks, it looks like the Board is not taking their opinions into consideration. This project will really affect places like the Hospice House landscaping as well as trees along Fairmount. She asked if there will be any more public meetings with a new proposal.

- Trustee Troché assumes there will be no more public meetings since the NYSDOT have already done three.

Ms. Flanders believes the newest alternative plan would be safer and save the trees.

- Kenneth Wray, is a handicap individual that is in favor of sidewalks. He states he would love to have sidewalks; it is so much safer for people with disabilities than walking along the side of the road. It would be nice if there were sidewalks on Terrace Avenue too.

Ms. Flanders would love sidewalks on Terrace Avenue since there is no shoulder, on Fairmount there are four-foot-wide shoulders there.

- Trustee Troché stated a shoulder is a road.

Ms. Flanders said shoulders are smooth, wide and there has not been any pedestrian accidents that could have been avoided if there were a sidewalk there. She does not understand why if the NYSDOT has proposed another alternative plan why anyone would be against it.

- Trustee Barnes said we don't know what the NYSDOT will ultimately do. Each Board member wrote to the NYSDOT and shared their opinions on the project. The latest proposal will have a cross walk at Green Street. They put it there, that's where the design was to be restarted and go down further, further west. They will go towards 474, it's a heavily traveled roadway, and asking if they do complete sidewalks, say on the north side, and that's going to be the connect will be through that crosswalk to the south side of the road, which they're not going to continue everything on the north side of the road according to the plans as they are now. She states that it is a dangerous situation because of the heavily traveled road.
- Trustee Troché stated the NYSDOT added the crosswalk after compromising on sidewalks on one side of the road. Initially they did believe a crosswalk would be unsafe but would not be needed if sidewalks went along both the north and southsides.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026**

Ms. Flanders stated there was a deadline to notify the NYSDOT of their opinions which was June 12th, but the meeting minutes did not come out until June 15th. So, they got the Boards comments, but no one else. She also wants it to be known that the Village of Lakewood's website states, "Among Lakewood's many cherished assets are its beautiful shoreline with incredible sunsets, its large, stately trees, and many turn of the century Victorian homes and cottages."

- Trustee Troché wanted to defend the Villages employees. They have a lot going on, with a limited staff. He urges residents if they don't receive the Post Journal, then they should to stay up to date with what is happening around our area. Our staff works very hard and its unfair to say that you were in the unknown because the minutes were not out, because the public is also notified prior to the meetings.

Ms. Flanders said she is sure they do. It just happened that the deadline was reported to be June 12th, but the minutes did not come out until June 15th.

Laura Smith, 241 Elmcrest Avenue, asked each member of the Board to state their opinion and if they sent a letter to the NYSDOT.

- Trustee Barnes is not in favor of sidewalks from Chautauqua Avenue to Green Street. She did write to the NYSDOT and told them that in 1990 when they widened the road, they took property from the people who live along the road. It's densely populated, it has dense houses, businesses at the west end, and at that time they pretty much took as much property from people as they could take. Now with the sidewalks being proposed, they're going to take another 10 feet and there are people there who live close to the road as it is. They will be taking down a lot of trees in that area. People rebuilt their landscaping, and she feels they really are bringing the public space closer to the front of people's houses, their front door. She states she is not telling any tales, but with some of the people that do walk on Fairmount Avenue, she is not sure she would want them that close to my house either. Your home that's your safe place. It may not feel as safe with the public that much closer to it.
- Mayor Holcomb is in favor of the sidewalk project. He called the NYSDOT and voiced his opinion.
- Trustee Troché stated he sent a letter to the NYSDOT in favor of the sidewalks on one side. One of the largest arguments is that this should have been done 40 years ago. They are disrupting traffic flow, peace and tranquility, difficult construction season, and more. If they are going to put sidewalks in for walkability and they cited around 62 pedestrians to walk that strip in one day, then they should do it the right way without segmenting the sidewalks. It disrupts the entire purpose of a safer walkable street, so it is all or nothing for him. He also urged them to add a traffic light at Shadyside and Fairmount Ave, as well as removing the median in front of Tim Hortons.

Also, he thinks one of the biggest things that he wants to see is a pedestrian bridge over Winchester. Reconnect that dead end and reconnect the Village. If you look back at the Comprehensive Plan it states the majority, about 92% of the people, want to connect the north and south of Fairmount Avenue and this would help do that.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026

- Trustee Cooper says his perspective for the sidewalk is it should be on the north side all the way through. He feels that the most important responsibility we have as a Board to this community is safety, and that a sidewalk provides safety not only for pedestrians, it provides that curb work by keeping somebody on the road. There are some things that it's going to do in addition to that pedestrian trap. We are trying to promote a more accessible area that people from all over drive here to our parks and lake. In his letter he did specifically ask for the NYSDOT to look at the homes with the short frontages and have individual conversations with each of them. He also specifically addressed the median in front of Tim Hortons.

Mrs. Smith replied with the statement that there is such thing as a law of unintended consequences. New sidewalks are not going to be the panacea that many think it could be. When she walks the sidewalks on Fairmount from Elmcrest Avenue to Wegmans, if she isn't hyper vigilant and turning around, there are people on the sidewalks with e scooters, e bikes, bikes, in which she has almost been hit more than once, that could be a life-altering accident. She knows this project sounds good, but there's going to be things that come along with this that she doesn't think people who are out there actually walking on the sidewalks have really considered.

Lastly, she has two questions – why after multiple public comments and meetings did the NYSDOT come back with this. Is it all political theater for it to come back up to the Village Board? The NYSDOT did their studies and found that a sidewalk wasn't necessary there and that is why they proposed another alternative project. This feels very like governance by an edict, or we know better than you, and she does not appreciate that anywhere.

- Trustee Troché responded to Ms. Smith that he disagrees about her comment that the NYSDOT studies found this project was not necessary. The NYSDOT statistics prove the opposite. He thinks this latest letter is political theater, because they continuously said it's plan, it's moving forward, and then all of a sudden, we got this letter. He believes it's because Governor Hochul is up for reelection, because the letter itself shows statistically that there should be sidewalks. Then they yanked out a section of the sidewalks. The comment that we know better, he does not believe any of us portray that, and if you feel that way, he apologizes, because that is not the intent, but on vice versa, right? We have heard from so many people who live within the community on the opposite side of Fairmount, who don't let their kids travel to downtown Lakewood because of this reason. Also, like Mrs. Smith said it's community, so everyone has a say. We are representing the community, and we might disagree, and you have a higher stake, 100% and that's in his letter. There's a lot of things in my letter that said the reason why I'm supporting this. There were some guarantees that they've given homeowners directly on Fairmount, but in no way just because we disagree, it's because we know better. It's because there are also other opinions and other things to consider. I guess it means we're all in this together at the end of the day.
He recommended again for the public to contact NYSDOT with any questions as they do not know what their decisions on this project will be or a timeline.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026**

RECESS REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded Trustee Barnes to recess the regular meeting at 7:41PM to enter into an executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present at the executive session, were Mayor Holcomb, Trustees Barnes, Troché, and Cooper. As well as Clerk/Treasurer Apryl Troutman, Police Chief Bentley and DPW Supervisor Certo.
Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Adjournment)

Motion by Mayor Holcomb, seconded by Trustee Barnes, and unanimously carried to adjourn the executive session and re-open the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:10pm.
Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

REGULAR MEETING (Adjournment)

Motion by Mayor Holcomb, seconded by Trustee Barnes and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Board of Trustees meeting at 8:11pm.
Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

Shaunah Pilling

Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 22nd, 2026