

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
July 27th, 2026**

The fourteenth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood, N.Y., was held,
Monday, July 27th, 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:	Kim Fairbanks	Deputy Treasurer
	Shaunah Pilling	Deputy Clerk
	Kurt Hallberg	Fire Chief
	John C. Certo	DPW Supervisor
	Matthew Bentley	Police Chief
	Marilyn Fiore-Lehman	Village Attorney

Absent:	John L. Shedd	Trustee
	Jeff Swanson	Code Enforcement Officer
	Apryl Troutman	Village Clerk/Treasurer

**A work session was held discussing the Richard O. Hartley Park Shoreline Improvements
& an update from CLA President, John Ford**

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 July 13th, 2026.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Troché, that the claims as audited by the Auditing Committee of the abstract dated July 27th, 2026 be approved and that the Clerk Department shall execute said abstract and direct payment by the Treasurer Department.

- Abstracts (#8 & #8)
 - o T&A Fund: Abstract #8 \$54,867.55 (checks #10475 thru #100518)
 - o General Fund: Abstract #8 \$117,533 (checks #22750 thru #22783)
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #22772 – National Grid, ACH to vendor
 - #22779 – EFTPS, ACH to vendor
 - #22782 – Windstream, ACH to vendor

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

REPORTS

DPW Supervisor John C. Certo:

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Since the last meeting, the DPW crew has been out patching roads and preparing them for the stone and oiling. Last Thursday, Midland came into Lakewood for the day. Together they stoned and oiled five roads. The crew also helped other municipalities in the area last week in Kiantone, Busti, Harmony, and Stockton to finish their stone and oiling. When they work together, they get a better rate.

This past Friday, the crew helped set up for the LCDC's Rock the Lake concert which occurred on Sunday. Everything went well. Also, the crew has been out spraying the white lines for parking and crosswalks down by the Beach.

Police Chief Bentley:

Since the last meeting the LBPD has handled 525 calls for service. They have also received a donation from the Lakewood American Legion for the canine fund in the total of \$1,800, which is awesome. Those funds will be put toward a bulletproof vest for Canine Kor.

Chief Bentley gave the members of the Board a hand out on E-Bike and E-Scooter Laws from the Sheriff's office. The department has added it to their Facebook for the public to be aware of the State Laws regarding them.

- **Trustee Troché** asked if the Village or Town has had many accidents regarding E-Bikes or E-Scooters?

- **Chief Bentley** was aware of one on the Fourth of July, where a person injured their foot. Lastly, Chief Bentley, Mayor Holcomb, and Deputy Clerk Pilling attended a virtual meeting with a representative from Zambelli regarding the recent 4th of July fireworks display. We came to a conclusion that there needs to be a 300-foot radius minimum from where the fireworks are being lit. This year's display was dangerous, especially at the end. The representative from Zambelli did have photos from that night that show a very good display of the issues that were there. We talked about adding additional signage and fencing to keep people back and to serve as a warning. The other suggestion from Zambelli and Chief Bentley was to look into a barge for setting them off. The Village of Mayville uses a barge for their displays as well. He also stated it should be very easy to work with the Sheriff's office navigation patrol to be able to help enforce the 300-foot radius in the water, which depending on the location we would not have to move the snow fence for the spectators.

- **Trustee Troché** asked about law enforcement and the barge on the lake. His understanding was within this jurisdiction Chief Bentley is a police officer, but when he leaves this jurisdiction, he is a peace officer.
- **Chief Bentley** stated that he is still a police officer. He can take police actions on any crimes that are happening. So, on the water, it's the same.

Fire Chief Hallberg:

612 alarms so far this year. New Engine 372 is getting ready to be put into service, hopefully by tomorrow night they will have all of the equipment transferred from the other one. There have been feelers out about the sale of the old engine. The old heavy rescue that went to Colorado that they took the box off and had refurbished for the new trucks cab and chassis has been sold to a fireworks company in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

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CEO Swanson:

Absent.

- Mayor Holcomb stated that unfortunately, CEO Swanson could not be here tonight, but thanked him for getting the corner of Fairmount Avenue and Jones Street mowed for the first time this year.

Village Attorney Lehman:

No report.

Deputy Clerk Pilling/Deputy Treasurer Fairbanks:

No report.

Mayors Report:

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Cooper and Mayor Holcomb had an opportunity to meet with both Dr. Rocky Segal and his sister Barbara Gellman. They were able to have another conversation about the property they had donated to the Village on Chautauqua Avenue. They hope to get together with DPW Supervisor Certo to configure a possible timeline of the work that can be done by the Village and start moving forward. One of the things they talked about is really staying within the budget.

Trustee Troché and Trustee Barnes spoke on EMS billing. Item five on the agenda tonight would be a resolution to support Chautauqua County to expand staffing.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #90-2026 – to Adopt the Gender-Based Violence Policy

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Troché to adopt the Gender-Based Violence policy and authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign the Workplace Certification.

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

**Resolution #91-2026 - to Authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign subcontracts with the
Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Alliance, INC.**

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Cooper to authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign the subcontracts with the Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Alliance, INC. for the Fairmount Avenue Constructed Wetland Water Quality Improvement Project.

Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Holcomb, Cooper, Troché), 1 Abstain (Barnes)

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Resolution #92-2026 - to Authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign a subcontract with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, INC

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Cooper to Authorize Mayor Holcomb to sign a subcontract with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, INC. for the Fairmount Avenue Constructed Wetland Water Quality Improvement Project.
Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

Resolution #93-2026 - to Cancel the Monday August 10th Board of Trustees Meeting

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes to cancel the Monday August 10th Board of Trustees Meeting.
Adopted: 3 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Troché)

Resolution #94-2026 – Support to Urge Chautauqua County to Expand Staffing on Ambulance A-73 to 24/7

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes to support to urge Chautauqua County to expand staffing on Ambulance A-73 to 24/7 as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Lakewood (Village) located in Chautauqua County, New York provides fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS); and

WHEREAS, the Village is a party and participant in the Chautauqua County Mutual Aid Plan; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years EMS responses have grown significantly causing strain within the 911 system and delayed responses to people who need help, along with decreased volunteerism across Chautauqua County; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County Emergency Medical Services (CCEMS) provides invaluable support and assistance to the Village and all Chautauqua County fire departments; and

WHEREAS, CCEMS staff as part of their response an ambulance currently located in Ashville, New York assigned as A-73 during the day hours; and

WHEREAS, the need for this ambulance has drastically increased, especially during the nighttime when the apparatus is not currently staffed to respond to 911 calls throughout the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village's Board of Trustees that they urge and support Chautauqua County to expand staffing on this ambulance to 24/7 to assist all regional fire department's response and most importantly better serve the residents of Chautauqua County.

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

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Trustee Troché stated that this is urging the County Legislator and County Executive in the budget preparation process to submit 24/7 coverage for A-73, which is run by Chautauqua County EMS in Ashville.

ANYONE TO BE HEARD

Tom Marlinski, 36 Ohio Avenue, would appreciate on the Sunday's that the LCDC has music at the beach that Group Ther-Happy not be allowed to have music. He stated that the music at Group Ther-Happy is extremely loud and this happens every single Sunday. He said he has quit calling the LBPD because they have better things to do other than continuously go there regarding the music.

- The Board asked Chief Bentley to speak with the owners at Group Ther-Happy and to advise them that their special use permit is a privilege and the Board is contemplating pulling because of how loud the music is being played.

Debra Davis, 2 1/2 Gifford Avenue, she stated that she is aware that many of the Board members have come to view her property where multiple trees were taken down by a tenant of the apartments on Gifford without any notice. These trees were on Village property that acted as natural barrier to her neighbors. Mrs. Davis is attending this meeting to see what her next steps should be now that the Village Board is aware of the situation.

- **Attorney Lehman** stated at the last meeting there was some direction given in respect to the removal of the stumps that were still present. Since then, she had not heard anything further.
- **Trustee Barnes** asked what kind of trees were taken down and how many?
- **Mrs. Davis** stated there were 18 pine trees taken down that her father planted around 1976.
- **Trustee Barnes** was hoping to talk to DPW Supervisor Certo and CEO Swanson about the monetary value of the trees and if criminal charges could be involved.
- **Mrs. Davis** asked if she and her husband should have legal counsel.
- **Trustee Barnes** stated these trees were on the Village Right of Way.
- **Trustee Troché** made it clear that the Board of Trustees is dealing with the Village portion of the property. They are not involved with any destruction to Mrs. Davis' property.
- **Police Chief Bentley** stated there are two separate police reports at the department, one is for the Village and one for Mrs. Davis.
- **Attorney Lehman** is going to follow up with CEO Swanson to see what the next steps would be.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING

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Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded Trustee Troché to recess the regular meeting at 7:04pm to enter into an executive session regarding LBPd personnel matters & office security.
Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Holcomb, Troché)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present at the executive session, were Mayor Holcomb, Trustees Barnes, Troché, and Cooper. As well as Attorney Lehman, Chief Bentley, Deputy Clerk Pilling, and Deputy Treasurer Fairbanks.

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 7:55pm.
Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Holcomb, Troché)

REOPEN REGULAR MEETING

Resolution #95-2026 – Authorize the Permanent Appointment of Police Chief, Matthew Bentley

Motion by Trustee Troché, seconded by Trustee Barnes to authorize the permanent appointment of Police Chief, Matthew Bentley, effective July 27th, 2026.
Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Holcomb, Cooper, Troché)

Resolution #96-2026 – Authorize to Apply for a New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grant for the Hartley Park Waterfront Revitalization & Shoreline Improvement Project

Motion by Trustee Troche, second by Mayor Holcomb to authorize to apply for a New York State Department of State local waterfront revitalization program grant for the Hartley Park Waterfront Revitalization & Shoreline Improvement Project as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Lakewood Board of Trustees voted to accept and support as final the Master Plan for the Hartley Park Waterfront Revitalization and Improvement Project, via Resolution No. 143-2025 on December 8, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Village subsequently hired EcoStrategies Engineering and Surveying, PLLC as the project Consultant to further refine the project scope, design, and cost estimate, in order to allow the Village to pursue additional grant funding for implementation of certain features identified in the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Consolidated Funding Application includes New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant opportunities for community waterfront improvement projects that require local matching funds as cash and/or in-kind service in the amount of at least 25% of the total project cost; and

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WHEREAS, the Village has engaged the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) to assist the Village and EcoStrategies with the submission of a state grant application, at no cost to the Village by virtue of its membership in the Alliance; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Village of Lakewood Board of Trustees authorizes a grant submission to the LWRP grant program for the Hartley Park Waterfront Revitalization and Improvement Project, and if the grant is successful, that the Mayor is authorized to execute the State Assistance Contract, submit project documentation, and act in all matters related to Project and state funding assistance.

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

REGULAR MEETING (Adjournment)

Motion by Mayor Holcomb, seconded by Trustee Barnes and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Board of Trustees meeting at 8:10pm.

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

Shaunah Pilling

Deputy Clerk