

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
June 8th, 2026**

The eleventh meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood, N.Y., was held,
Monday, June 8th, 2026, 6:30 P.M

Present:	Randall G. Holcomb	Mayor
	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

Absent:	Ben J. Troché	Deputy Mayor/Trustee
	John L. Shedd	Trustee
	Marilyn Fiore-Lehman	Village Attorney
	Jeff Swanson	Code Enforcement Officer

**A Work Session was held with comments from Ted McCague, Chair of the Village of
Lakewood Historic Preservation Committee**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper, to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Trustees held on May 11th, 2026.

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

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

Motion by Trustee Cooper, seconded by Trustee Barnes, that the claims as audited by the Auditing Committee of the abstract dated May 29th, 2026 and June 8th, 2026 be approved and that the Clerk Department shall execute said abstract and direct payment by the Treasurer Department.

- Abstracts (#52, #54 & #2)
 - o T&A Fund: Abstract #54 \$51,247.33 (checks #10292 thru #10329)
 - o General Fund: Abstract #52 \$102,157.60 (checks #22571 thru #22615)
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #22599 – National Grid, ACH to vendor
 - #22615 – Windstream, ACH to vendor
 - o General Fund: Abstract #2 \$83,430.57 (checks #22616 thru #22659)
 - VOIDED CHECKS:
 - #22640 – M&T Bank, ACH to vendor
 - #22640 – National Grid, ACH to vendor
 - #22658 – Windstream, ACH to vendor

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

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REPORTS

DPW Supervisor John C. Certo:

The crew has been quite busy over the last few weeks adding Flags to the poles down Chautauqua Avenue, filling potholes, fixing landscaping, and most recently they put in a new concrete barrier for the sign at Richard O. Hartley Park. He thanked the Flower Committee for assisting in the landscaping.

The Department has received their two new dump trucks, they just need registered. He invited the Board to their shop to check them out at their convenience.

- **Mayor Holcomb** asked who is in charge of mowing along the railroad right of ways. DPW Supervisor Certo said it is not them, he was unsure but would look into it.

Police Chief Bentley:

The Department has handled 1,081 calls since the last meeting in May. Officer Perry has finished her field training and graduated from the Academy the last week of May and will be on night shift. They also participated at Southwestern High School in their mock DWI scenario along side Ellicot Police Department, Busti Fire Department, Lakewood Fire Department, and Celeron Fire Department. It ended up being a great event.

Fire Chief Kurt Hallberg:

462 alarms so far this year. He thanked Clerk/Treasurer Troutman for all the work she has done trying to get these trucks registered which is not an easy task. Once they are lettered and registered, they will have the Board over to see them.

Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Swanson:

Absent.

Village Attorney Lehman:

Absent.

Clerk/Treasurer Apryl Troutman:

Tax collection began on June 1st for the Village, and it's going very well. At the same time, our office also rolls into a new fiscal year, so we're just working out of the new budget, and then closing out last year, which is also going very well.

A reminder to residents that junk pickup will happen next Monday, June 15th. A briefly went in the paper a couple days ago.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Holcomb received a letter from the NYDOT earlier this month about the paving on 394 and sidewalk project. The letter was read:

“Dear Mayor Holcomb and Supervisor Robbins:

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is progressing PIN 506437 – NY 394; Elmcrest Avenue to NY Route 474 located in the Village of Lakewood and the Town of Busti. The project is a safety and paving project that is also intended to provide active

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transportation improvements to pedestrian connectivity. There has been extensive public involvement throughout project development, in which NYSDOT has participated in or hosted the following public meetings:

- December 14, 2023 – Chautauqua County hosted a community scoping meeting.
- September 26, 2024 – NYSDOT hosted a public meeting and introduced preliminary design concepts.
- March 5, 2026 – NYSDOT hosted a public hearing to present the build alternative.

Public sentiment expressed has been mixed throughout NYSDOT's public outreach. A significant portion of those in attendance at these meetings and project comment forms received expressed dissatisfaction with the sidewalks as presented. Village of Lakewood correspondence after the second meeting communicated support of pedestrian safety improvements but indicated concerns over impacts of installing sidewalks on both sides of NY Route 394.

NYSDOT reviewed comments, considered feedback and presented a build alternative of sidewalk on one side of NY Route 394 at the public hearing. The presented build alternative reflected a reduction of 12,600 LF of sidewalk from that displayed at the September 2024 meeting. This reduction in sidewalk significantly reduces the impacts to ROW and trees. Some of the comments shared by the community include: no need for sidewalks due to minimal or no pedestrians, loss of mature trees, impacts to driveways or parking areas, liability for the homeowners for accidents on sidewalks, maintenance of sidewalks, loss of privacy or security, and safety concerns of pedestrians crossing NY Route 394 at an unsignalized intersection due to unenforced high speeds on NY Route 394.

AS the primary feedback identified at the public hearing against sidewalk was a lack of pedestrians along Route 394. NYSDOT places traffic cameras throughout the corridor to obtain pedestrian counts. These pedestrian counts were collected over a six-day period between Thursday, April 2, 2026 through Tuesday April 7, 2026 from 6am to 8pm.

These pedestrian counts were completed at three locations along the project corridor: Chautauqua Avenue, Lakeview Avenue, and Green Street. The peak day was Saturday, April 4, 2026, with a total of 65 pedestrians. Weather on the 4th was partly sunny with a high of 80 degrees. The lowest count day was Sunday April 5, 2026, which was Easter Sunday, with a total of 15 pedestrians. Weather on the 5th was cloudy/raining and a high of 42 degrees. The average number of pedestrians per day was 38.

NYSDOT has reviewed and considered all the public input and the pedestrian count results, which demonstrate pedestrian use of NY Route 394. As such, NYDOT plans to progress the project with an adjusted preferred alternative. The proposed preferred alternative will consist of the following improvements.

- Resurfacing NY Route 394 between Winch Road and Elmcrest Avenue.
- Widening for a center two way left turn lane along NY Route 394 between Shadyside Avenue and Elmcrest Avenue.
- Replacement of signage throughout the corridor.

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- New sidewalk installation along the south side of NY Route 394 between NY Route 474 and Green Street. There are a significant number of destinations (ice cream shop, mini golf, cinema, Save A Lot Plaza, etc.) throughout this segment.

Installing sidewalk segments between Chautauqua Avenue and Green Street are not currently included in the preferred alternative.

We believe this final proposed alternative addresses the identified safety concerns within the corridor while balancing a strong public desire to minimize intrusions caused by new sidewalk placement.

As the chief elected officials representing the municipalities where the work is planned, we ask that you respond with any comments or concerns with this alternative.

To maintain the project schedule and ensure that the planned safety improvement are progressed timely, NYSDOT intends to finalize the Design Approval Document, approve the preferred alternative, and proceed to final design. Any concerns or comments from the Village must be received no later than Friday, June 12, 2026 to be considered prior to design approval.

Thank you for your interest in and support for the transportation system. IF you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (716) 847-3214.

Sincerely,

Cameron B Shultz, P.E.

Regional Design Engineer

CC: Eric Meka, P.E., Regional Director

Robert Shaller, P.E., Assistant Regional Design Engineer”

Mayor Holcomb stated this is the latest from the NYSDOT on the sidewalk and repaving of Fairmount Avenue. He has sent this letter to all of the Trustees and asked them to send their thoughts as requested in this letter to the DOT. He personally called them and said he would be reading this letter at the meeting and they were ok with that. Nothing in the letter is set in stone, it can be changed if legitimate reasons are presented.

He specifically asked because of where he lives on 394 between Green Street and Chautauqua Avenue - Why there will be no repaving and no sidewalks, and the NYSDOT said that was something they talked about. They thought they would put it into this design. However, it can be put back into this design if it's requested.

- **Trustee Barnes** asked if they are doing the paving anyway.

Mayor Holcomb replied that they are not through that section. He asked specifically, and there was no work plan in that section between Chautauqua Avenue and Green Street.

- **Trustee Barnes** stated that they will then have to do it at another time.

Mayor Holcomb said yes, but they are trying to work with us and the residents' voices that were heard.

- **Trustee Cooper** stated that his concern to respond to this is there's a lot there. When he looks at the whole picture and the importance of safety and to segment the sidewalk the way it's in this current proposal, he thinks that's a disservice to our community, and he felt that we were able to meet in the middle and have a sidewalk on the north side was

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optimal. He thought that was a very good compromise, and not doing the additional paving creates potential safety hazards for our community, and future ideas that they had discussed a little bit like the idea of a connection between the Village and the old Winchester Bridge. It would be fruitless to create this improvement to the property with no connection for walkability. Trustee Cooper said he will voice his opinions to the NYSDOT.

Mayor Holcomb agreed with Trustee Cooper and will also share his opinions to the NYSDOT. He stated he feels that this plan should be left the original way with all the paving down 394 without stopping at Chautauqua Avenue and restarting again at Green Street or the viaduct. He believes the compromise of a sidewalk on the northside is a very good one and that should still be considered and readded to the project.

- **Trustee Barnes** added as she had spoken to Trustee Cooper earlier that her opinion is that a sidewalk should not go there. It takes away half of some people's front yards or more, and all of sudden, they have the public walking about 10 feet from their front door, and that's a safety concern. Given some of the people that walk up and down Fairmount Avenue, she wouldn't want them that close to my living room and my front door. With that being said, the area was already developed. 394 was a two-lane road, it was pretty residential going back decades, and as the area has grown there is not a lot of room there. She is in favor of sidewalks, but in that area, they would be taking away a lot of space from people's front yards, it's their parking areas where they have their turnarounds. There would be all that coming in so much closer to their front door, so it encroaches on that. It is a concern since they just don't have that much property to work with. The state doesn't have that concern, unfortunately, but the area was already developed, and now they want to widen it.

Mayor Holcomb stated if she is talking about the three parcels that he believes she is, he specifically asked the NYSDOT about them. He said they would like to talk to them and see what kind of arrangements could be made.

- **Trustee Barnes** said they can do that, other than take their houses by eminent domain. She stated she does not mean to be flippant about it, but there is only so much room. They are the State and they can do whatever they want, but there just isn't that many people walking there. It's unfortunate that they want to continue to widen that area and when will they stop, when will the next project be. She does not understand the not paving, because at some point, they're going to have to repave that portion of the roadway anyway. Her other big concern is where people are going to cross down at Green Street. There is no signal there, and that is going to be a dangerous place for people to cross, because there's heavy traffic. People will get impatient, they want to go across the road, and they're going to try to scoot in between traffic, so that's a safety concern for her. When people walk along the road, they tend to stay on one side or the other. So that being said she applauds them for doing what they're doing, and I also will be writing to them about the median in front of Tim Hortons, the divider, that is an accident waiting to happen. Our EMS vehicles and our Fire apparatuses have to go on the opposite side, they have to go eastbound in the westbound lane to get around the traffic, because there's no

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shoulders to pull off on. All that is needed is one person who doesn't yield to the emergency vehicles coming through, resulting in an accident and damage or possibly other people getting hurt.

- **Fire Chief Hallberg** was also wondering what is going to happen with that divider.
- **Trustee Barnes** said since they are doing work on Elmcrest, why couldn't they add this to the current plans.

Mayor Holcomb stated he does not believe they are starting this project here until next year. The project begins with Jamestown and moves towards Lakewood.

- **Fire Chief Hallberg** asked if the divider is the first stage of the project.

Mayor Holcomb said that part is not in the plans.

- **Trustee Barnes** said it makes sense if they are already going to be working there, to remove the divider now than come back in a few years and do it then.
- **Trustee Cooper** wanted to add is that the public sentiment they heard a lot of negativities, but since that was publicized and put out there by the Post Journal, he has had many people really advocating for the sidewalk on both sides, and we're upset that it wasn't dual sided. He doesn't believe that they were heard that time or they didn't know that about some of the changes, and really advocating for the sidewalk all the way through here.
- **Trustee Barnes** has heard the opposite where they are saying to not let the NYSDOT do this. This is a personal safety issue physically with automobiles, but it's also a personal safety issue when they have some of these people walking through their front yard.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution #77-2026 – authorize the re-hire and new hire of seasonal lifeguards

Motion by Mayor Holcomb, seconded by Trustee Barnes to authorize the re-hire and new hire of seasonal lifeguards as follows:

- a. Rehire Donavin Brown, Head Lifeguard, at a rate of \$17.35/hr.
- b. Rehire Tate James, Lifeguard, at a rate of \$16.56/hr.
- c. Hire Gavin Anderson, Lifeguard, at a rate of \$16/hr.
- d. Hire Jamie Hughes, Lifeguard, at a rate of \$16/hr.
- e. Hire Kaylee Melquist, Lifeguard, at a rate of \$16/hr.
- f. Hire Calvin Salisbury, Lifeguard, at a rate of \$16/hr.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #78-2026 – Amend the EcoStrategies Engineering Contract for the Fairmount Triangle Stormwater Basin Improvements Project

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper to amend the EcoStrategies Engineering Contract for the Fairmount Triangle Stormwater Basin Improvements Project as follows:

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WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood approved the selection of Andrew Johnson of EcoStrategies Engineering & Surveying, PLLC., as the Project Engineer for the Fairmount Triangle Stormwater Basin Improvements Project on January 12, 2026, via Resolution #11-2026; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the public bidding process for construction, surplus grant funds remain that can be used to further enhance the benefit of the project to the Village and the health of Chautauqua Lake at no additional out-of-pocket cost to the Village; and

WHEREAS, in order to pursue these opportunities, the EcoStrategies contract scope must expand, making necessary an increased fee for additional work related to design, construction-phase, and post-construction services; and

WHEREAS, the Village wishes to amend its contract with EcoStrategies to perform these additional engineering services and has already secured the grant funding necessary to pay for them; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Village of Lakewood Board, in the County of Chautauqua, hereby authorizes an increase in the value of its contract with EcoStrategies, by an amount not-to-exceed Ten Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$10,000.00), for additional engineering work to be done in accordance with the Village's grant agreement #C02788GM with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, bringing the total not-to-exceed value of the EcoStrategies contract to Fifty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$52,500.00). The Village Board Authorizes the Mayor to execute a contract amendment with EcoStrategies.

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

Resolution #79-2026– authorize the following 2025/26 Budget Encumbrances

Motion by Trustee Cooper, seconded by Trustee Barnes to authorize the following 2025/2026 Budget Encumbrances:

- i. Public Safety – Police
 - Action Target – A3120.40, \$403.17
- ii. Public Safety – Fire
 - Firematic Supply Company, Inc – A3410.48, \$8,349.14
- iii. Health – Other Health (EMS)
 - Robert Burkholder – A4540.40, \$4,925
- iv. Transportation – Street Maintenance
 - Henderson ('25 International HX620 Cab & Chassis) – A5110.20, \$74,004

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

Resolution #80-2026 – Authorize to hire Heritage Resources LLC for grant writing services and Mayor Holcomb to sign the proposal

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Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper to authorize to hire Heritage Resources LLC, per proposal HRLLC P26-012 for grant writing services to prepare one Preserve NY Arts + Culture Grant Application for submittal to the Preservation League of NYS and to assist with consultation for the startup, in the amount of \$7,500.

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

ANYONE TO BE HEARD

Trustee Barnes stated she has been in communication with the new assessor at Town of Busti about the cell tower at the Fire Department Training Grounds. It now has quite a bit of antennas on the tower in which those antennas can go on the tax rolls, separately. She said she will begin the process of adding them.

Trustee Cooper spoke about the property donated from Dr. Rocky Segal for the purpose of a park. He asked if there has been any communication between him and DPW Supervisor Certo on this project.

- DPW Supervisor Certo said he has been in contact with him and hopes to have a meeting scheduled with him later this week alongside Jim Fye, from the Parks Department.

REGULAR MEETING (Adjournment)

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Board of Trustees meeting at 7:16PM.

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

Shaunah Pilling

Deputy Clerk