

Town of LeRay

Town Board Minutes

June 12, 2025

Call to Order

Proceedings of a Town Board Meeting held at the LeRay Town Municipal Office on June 12, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Supervisor Carpenter who led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Regular Meeting

Leland J. Carpenter – Supervisor, Melissa L. Verne – Town Clerk, Nathan Toutant – Director of Finance/Clerk to Supervisor, Board Members in attendance: Samuel Biondolillo, Michael Gracey – Absent, Merle Otis, Patrick O'Donnell, James Burrows – Town Attorney, Debbie Biondolillo – Planning Board Chairperson – Absent, Lee Shimel – Zoning Enforcement Officer, William Vargulick – Town Assessor – Absent, Bruce Shawcross – Highway Superintendent, Mike Altieri – Town Engineer, Tony Goodrich – DANC

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on May 8 and 30, 2025, were reviewed by the Board Members. A motion to approve the minutes as drafted was made by Councilman Otis and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Report from DANC – Tony Goodrich

Mr. Goodrich gave his monthly report.

Public Hearing scheduled at 4:00 p.m. in connection with a Resolution regarding Town of LeRay in accordance with Section 202-b of the Town Law

Supervisor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 4:21 p.m. Supervisor Carpenter asked Clerk Verne to read the Public Hearing Notice as published in the Watertown Daily Times on June 3, 2025. The Supervisor then asked if there were any comments from the floor. No comments were made.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell to close the Public Hearing.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

**RESOLUTION #10 OF 2025
AND PUBLIC INTEREST ORDER**

**IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES IN THE TOWN'S CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT
PURSUANT TO TOWN LAW §202-b**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of LeRay has reviewed a preliminary engineering report prepared by the Town's engineers and which address certain improvements including the construction of approximately 13,000 linear feet of new watermain extending along Route 11 and Martin Road from Waddingham Road to Steinhilber Road, to connect the Town's existing Consolidated Water District with the former Water District No. 3 to serve 31 new users along Route 11 and Martin Road, with new fire protection hydrants and water service connections (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the estimated maximum cost for the Project is \$5,500,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted a Resolution at its regular Town Board Meeting of March 13, 2025 to schedule a Public Hearing in accordance with NY Town Law §202-b and to review and discuss the Project, the estimated costs, and to similarly consider an amended Bond Resolution authorizing the issuance of serial bonds with an amount not to exceed \$5,500,000 to finance the Project; and

WHEREAS, Notice of the Public Hearing was duly posted and a public hearing was held at the Town Offices on March 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to consider whether it is in the public interest to undertake the Project at an estimated maximum cost of \$5,500,000, to bond for the same, and to hear all persons interested in the subject matter; and

WHEREAS, in an abundance of caution, the Board adopted a second Resolution on May 30, 2025 to schedule a second Public Hearing for June 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to reconsider all of the above and which Notice was duly posted and published; and

WHEREAS, the second Public Hearing was conducted on June 12, 2025 and support for the matter is clear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of LeRay, NY as follows:

1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if set forth hereafter.
2. The Town Board has familiarized itself with the engineering report and the specifications for the Project and has considered such input as it deems necessary.
3. The Town engineer was previously directed to prepare definite plans and specifications and to make a careful estimate of the expense with the assistance of the Town Attorney, if necessary, and to prepare a proposed contract(s) for the execution of the Project and did so.
4. The Town Board has received, reviewed and examined such definite plans, specifications, estimates, and the proposed contract(s) and may accept, reject, or make such modifications and

changes therein as the Town Board deems necessary and desirable and agrees to adopt the same and cause the Project to be constructed.

5. The Town Board shall consider financing the cost or expense of the Project pursuant to the provisions of the local Finance Law, as the same may be amended from time to time together with the appropriate amended Bond Resolution and will do so.
6. The Board has concluded that it is in the overall Public Interest to proceed with the Project as set forth in the final plans, specifications and amended Bond Resolution and the Town Engineers and Attorneys shall finalize the proposed contract to accomplish the same.
7. The Supervisor for the Town of LeRay is authorized to sign all documents and shall take all steps necessary to support this Resolution and Public Interest Order.
8. This Resolution and Public Interest Order shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by **Board Member, Biondolillo**, and seconded by **Board Member, Otis**, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Leland J. Carpenter	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Michael J. Gracey – Absent	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> </u>
Samuel J. Biondolillo	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Merle Otis	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Patrick O'Donnell	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>

Dated: June 12, 2025

Melissa L. Verne, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 11 OF 2025

CONFIRMATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION(SEQR) RELATED TO WATERLINE CONSTRUCTION WITH EXTENSION OF CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of LeRay, New York on/about May 13, 2021, adopted a Negative Declaration, Notice of Determination of Non-significance under the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act in its capacity as lead agency, advised involved agencies of that determination and published notice of the same in the ENB Region 6 Notice on/about July 16, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the criteria for determining significance of an action that is set forth at 6 NYCRR §617.7(c); and

WHEREAS, the estimated maximum costs for the Consolidated Water District project have increased from \$4,500,000 to the estimated maximum cost of \$5,500,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board in an abundance of caution is considering what aspect, if any, of its environmental review pursuant to SEQR should be changed, amended, etc. due to the increased project costs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the matter and is determined to proceed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of LeRay, New York that:

- 1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if set forth hereafter.
- 2. Based upon a thorough review and examination of the known facts related to the underlying project, and the increased project costs, and careful review of all potential adverse environmental impacts, and the entire record and proceedings related to the project, the Town Board finds that the increased costs to the project is de minimis, will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and that a draft environmental impact statement will not be prepared and no additional SEQR review is necessary.
- 3. The underlying Negative Declaration incorporated herein by reference, is reconfirmed and readopted for the reasons stated in the earlier Negative Declaration.
- 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by **Board Member, Otis**, and seconded by **Board Member, Biondolillo**, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Supervisor Leland J. Carpenter	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Gracey – Absent	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Samuel J. Biondolillo	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick O'Donnell	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Merle C. Otis	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Dated: June 12, 2025

Melissa L. Verne, Town Clerk

Report from Town Dog Control Officer – Lindsey Hess

Mrs. Hess submitted her monthly report.

Report from Highway Superintendent – Bruce Shawcross

Mr. Shawcross gave his monthly report. Mr. Shawcross reported that there is a broken window on the Town Barn and about 13 large dents in the siding from lacrosse balls, without the security cameras set up yet, no idea who is responsible for the damage.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell to auction off on Auction International; a 500 gallon fuel tank, 3 – 24 foot overhead doors, 2 – 18 foot overhead doors, 2007 International Single Axle and a 10 foot John Deere mower with low miles.

The vote went as follows:		
Ayes:	4	Nays: 0
The motion passed.		

A motion was made by Supervisor Carpenter and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo to accept the proposal from Verizon for seven (7) truck cameras for the Highway Department in the amount of \$318.50 per month.

The vote went as follows:		
Ayes:	4	Nays: 0
The motion passed.		

Report from the Town Engineer – Mike Altieri

The Town Engineers have used reasonable efforts to obtain the required bonds and insurance from the low bidder for the Highway Facility Security Camera Project, the low bidder has not been able to provide the required materials in a timely manner.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Otis to confirm that the apparent low bidder, All Tech Integrations Inc., is just not qualified as they have not provided the required materials and ask the Town Engineer to advise them of that fact they are disqualified.

The vote went as follows:		
Ayes:	4	Nays: 0
The motion passed.		

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell to contact and go with the next lowest bidder for the Highway Facility Security Project, ENI Mechanical Inc.

The vote went as follows:		
Ayes:	4	Nays: 0
The motion passed.		

Mr. Altieri discussed his project status update.

Report from the Zoning Enforcement Officer – Lee Shimel

Mr. Shimel reported the unsafe property on County Route 46 has been demolished. Candlewood Suites wants to put in an EV Charging station, it is not in our zoning, but it is bound by case law to allow.

The Wewer project the contractor has been trying to remedy the property, there is court again in July. There is a request for an area variance referred to the ZBA for a digital billboard on Route 11, that is bigger than what the Town Code

allows. The ZBA has referred this to the Town Board. The Town Board discussed it, and their thoughts are to leave the code alone and not change it.

Report from the Town Assessor – William Vargulick – Absent

No report.

Report from Planning Board

Mrs. Biondolillo reported on planning board projects.

Report from the Town Clerk – Melissa L. Verne

	Cash Balances as of May 31, 2025		Current Month Abstract 6	
General Fund	\$	2,332,388.49	\$	161,147.96
Highway Fund-Town wide	\$	1,005,386.29	\$	25,422.17
Highway Fund-Town Outside	\$	798,982.09	\$	36,420.99
Expendable Trust	\$	793.99	\$	0.00
Consolidated Water District	\$	2,279,946.53	\$	86,433.43
Water District # 3	\$	20,621.82	\$	15,616.44
Sewer District # 1	\$	971,199.08	\$	4,301.68
Sewer District # 2	\$	59,650.32	\$	1,397.74
Sewer District # 3	\$	22,872.17	\$	36,158.57
Sewer District # 4	\$	406,563.26	\$	1,551.91
Capital Project # 3 (Sewer Dist. 1)	\$	135,536.89	\$	0.00
Capital Project # 4W (Water 2 Imp)	\$	0.00	\$	0.00
Capital Project # 5 (Highway Fac.)	\$	0.00	\$	3,280.18
Trust & Agency	\$	222,282.75	\$	4,262.06

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell that Abstract #6 vouchers 707-846 in the amount of \$375,993.13 be paid from the above accounts.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Report from Nathan Toutant, Director of Finance/Clerk to the Supervisor

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to fund the request to the Evans Mills Public Library and Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, \$350.00 each respectively of bedtax money for REPCO, a program they offer to patrons.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Otis and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to accept the quote from Big Apple Music to install the projector in the back conference room , in the amount of \$1,700.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman O'Donnell and Councilman Otis to have Supervisor Lee Carpenter sign the Water Supply Agreement with the Village of Evans Mills.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded By Councilman O'Donnell to go into executive session to discuss Acquisition of Real Property at 5:38 p.m.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman O'Donnell and seconded by Councilman Otis to go back into regular session at 5:50 p.m.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Otis and seconded by Councilman O'Donnell to allow Supervisor Carpenter to bid and transact on behalf of the Town of LeRay for a piece of property in the 2025 Jefferson County Tax Foreclosure Auction.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Otis and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to adjourn this meeting at 5:52 p.m.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	4	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Respectfully given:

Melissa L. Verne

Melissa L. Verne, LeRay Town Clerk