

Town of LeRay

Town Board Minutes

March 14, 2024

Call to Order

Proceedings of a Town Board Meeting held at the LeRay Town Municipal Office on March 14, 2024. 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 – Clerk to Supervisor, Board Members in attendance: Samuel Biondolillo, John Eisenhauer, Michael Gracey, Merle Otis, James Burrows – Town Attorney, Jessica Jenack – Community Development Coordinator – Absent, Lee Shimel – Zoning Enforcement Officer – Absent, William Vargulick – Town Assessor – Absent, Dan Young – Highway Superintendent, Mike Altieri – Town Engineer, Kenny Kizzer – DANC
Additionally present: Bob Ingerson, Deana LaSage Debbie Biondolillo, Wayne Robbe, Pat O'Donnell

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on February 8, & 22 2024, were reviewed by the Board Members. A motion to approve the minutes as drafted was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Otis.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Comments from the Floor

Mrs. Hunt from Sally Ploof Memorial Library sent a letter to LeRay asking if the Town would donate money towards children's books for the Eclipse event they are having on April 8, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Eisenhauer to provide \$900 of bedtax money that will be used to purchase 100 books for Sally Ploof Library and 50 book for Evans Mills Library.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Public Hearing @ 4:10 to consider a Local Law to extend the Term of Office for the Town Supervisor from two (2) years to four (4) years.

Supervisor Carpenter opened the Public Hearing at 4:10 p.m. Supervisor Carpenter asked Clerk Verne to read the Public Hearing Notice as published in the Watertown Daily Times on March 4, 2024. Supervisor Carpenter 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 Gracey to close the Public Hearing.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Mr. Burrows explained the terms of office for elected officials and how towns are allowed to extend the terms from two (2) to four (4) years, the Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent are already four (4) year terms. If the Town Board determines they would like to go forward the Resolution will be adopted

RESOLUTION # 6 of 2024

EXTENDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR FROM TWO (2) YEARS TO FOUR (4) YEARS

WHEREAS, the term of office for Town Board members, other than the office of the Supervisor, is four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board for the Town of LeRay, NY is interested in enacting a Local Law to Extend the Term of office of the Town Supervisor from two (2) years to four (4) years consistent with other elected offices; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that an extended term of office for the Supervisor would bring greater continuity to that elected position and thus believes that the extended term is in the public's best interest.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §§10 and 23 the Town Board may by Local Law subject to mandatory referendum extend the term of office for the Supervisor from a two (2) year term to a four (4) year term; and

WHEREAS, the four (4) year term of Office for the Town Supervisor would commence effective January 1, 2026 following the next general election in November 2025, and to those elected to that office thereafter, if the Local Law is approved at the General Election in November 2024; and

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

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

1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and make a part hereof as if set forth hereafter.
2. The Town Board hereby adopts this Resolution to extend the elective term of office of the Town Supervisor from two (2) years to four (4) years effective January 1, 2026, if approved by the voters, and this change shall be considered to be in the best interests of the Town of LeRay.
3. The Local Law is subject to mandatory referendum and shall be considered by qualified electors at the upcoming General Election in November 2024.
4. The Supervisor of the Town of LeRay, the Town Trustees, and the Town Clerk, their respective

agents, and employees are authorized to sign all documents and take all steps necessary to bring full force and effect to this Resolution.

5. This Legislation shall be filed with the New York State Department of State; and with the Town Clerk of the Town of LeRay, if approved by the electors.

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

Supervisor Leland J. Carpenter	Abstain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Michael J. Gracey	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Samuel J. Biondolillo	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
John W. Eisenhauer	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Merle C. Otis	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Dated: March 14, 2024

Melissa L. Verne, Town Clerk

Report from DANC – Kenny Kizzer

Mr. Kizzer gave his monthly report.

Report from Highway Superintendent – Dan Young

Mr. Young reported on Highway work done. Eight (8) highway employees have done MS4 training. The new plow truck is in Watertown.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to deem the 1989 Mack, Vin # 1M2P198C9KW005112 as surplus property to be auctioned.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Report from Community Development Coordinator – Jessica Jenack

Debbie Biondolillo reported for planning. The 7-11 property that used to be old Stewart's will provide a rear entrance to proceed with their project. Mrs. Biondolillo has asked for Mr. Burrows help in an application for a zone change that has gotten a little complicated, they will connect outside of meeting for advice.

Report from the Town Engineer – Mike Altieri

Mr. Altieri reported that the surveys and field work is done for the Consolidated District Extension, with rerouting the main. Mr. Burrows has drawn up all the Easements for property owners.

A motion was made by Councilman Gracey and Councilman Biondolillo to authorize Mr. Altieri to seek income quotes in the Sewer District 1 area for the Board's consideration.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Mr. Ingerson went over a new list of options with the Town Board for potential improvements to the Old Highway Garage, a discussion followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Eisenhower and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to authorize BCA to prepare final drawings for a base bid package for the first five (5) items on the presented list, being Masonry Restoration, Fire Alarm, Ventilation Air, Building Exhaust, and Insulate wall between cold bays and maintenance bay along with the building heat with two (2) new LP powered furnaces and the four (4) 1000-gallon propane tanks as a base bid, all other items except for the new fuel oil tank and heat pump as alternate items.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Mr. Altieri stated that BCA will put a bid schedule together for the next meeting.

Supervisor Carpenter expressed his wishes to have the Town Offices and Highway Garage be closed at Noon on Monday, April 8, 2024, to give all employees time to get home and off the roads before the Eclipse.

Report from the Town Clerk – Melissa L. Verne

	Cash Balances as of February 29, 2024		Current Month Abstract 3	
General Fund	\$	4,205,429.19	\$	208,183.01
Highway Fund-Town wide	\$	1,154,438.79	\$	67,325.17
Highway Fund-Town Outside	\$	452,725.86	\$	17,128.00
Expendable Trust	\$	790.90	\$	0.00
Consolidated Water District	\$	2,296,793.97	\$	39,636.15
Water District # 3	\$	18,562.99	\$	10,332.00
Sewer District # 1	\$	712,122.57	\$	6,637.48
Sewer District # 2	\$	28,142.04	\$	2,350.12
Sewer District # 3	\$	24,893.40	\$	12,217.42
Sewer District # 4	\$	353,950.27	\$	759.66
Capital Project # 3 (Sewer Dist. 1)	\$	134,894.87	\$	0.00
Capital Project # 4W (Water 2 Imp)	\$	0.00	\$	0.00
Capital Project # 5 (Highway Fac.)	\$	0.00	\$	0.00
Trust & Agency	\$	59,570.00	\$	6,631.93

A motion was made by Councilman Gracey and seconded by Councilman Biondolillo that Abstract #3 vouchers 320-504 in the amount of \$371,200.94 be paid from the above accounts.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Report from Nathan Toutant, Clerk to the Supervisor

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Otis to have Public Sector HR add a policy pertaining to political advertisements in the workplace, to section 1106 to the Town of LeRay handbook.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

The Town Board reviewed Snow & Ice Shared Services Inter Municipal Agreement and also reviewed Hyde-Stone service contracts for Town Office and New Highway Garage.

A Spectrum line will be replaced at no cost to the Town from the pole to the basement due to issues with our phone lines.

The Board reviewed the Clerk to the Supervisor job description and discussed changes.

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Eisenhower to go into Executive Session at 6:09 p.m. to discuss an ongoing investigation and the work history of a particular person.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Gracey and seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to go back into regular session at 6:34 p.m.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

A motion was made by Councilman Biondolillo and seconded by Councilman Gracey to adjourn this meeting, at 6:35 p.m. to March 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

The vote went as follows:			
Ayes:	5	Nays:	0
The motion passed.			

Respectfully given:

Melissa L. Verne

Melissa L. Verne, LeRay Town Clerk