

Town of Louisville

Budget Workshop

26, August, 2026

6:00 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Member	Present	Excused
Larry Legault, Town Supervisor	X	
Kevin Perretta, Councilperson	X	
Dan O'Keefe, Councilperson		X
Nancy Charleston, Councilperson	X	
Shawn Thompson, Councilperson	X	

Call meeting to order:

Supervisor Legault called the budget meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Sandy Roberts and Audrey Szafranski addressed the Board concerning the **LVFD**. They presented a budget **for a new truck purchase**: A new pumper-tanker has been ordered for \$572,000. With the \$129,000 chassis already paid for, a balance of \$443,000 remains. The department sold an old tanker for about \$80,000 and will need a new bank loan for approximately \$150,000 to cover the rest. The truck is expected between January and February 2027. The department requested a 5% increase for most budget items and asked for the full \$42,000 from the power authority deposit to go toward the new truck fund. Historically, the full amount was provided when there was a mortgage, but not since it was paid off. **Fire Station No. 1 Assessment**: An engineer was hired to assess the structural integrity of Fire Station No. 1. The report is pending. While verbal feedback suggests the building is salvageable, major work (masonry, insulation, metal cladding) will likely be pushed to the spring. Separately, Councilman Thompson proposed using NYSERDA funds for an energy efficiency audit of the station to identify grant opportunities for upgrades.

Emily Wilkins addressed the Board concerning the **Summer Recreation Program**. The program was successful, with 30 kids registered and positive feedback on the counselors, all of whom wish to return. The program was under budget.

Christina Barber and Jeff Reynolds spoke to the Board concerning the **Town Court**. Contractual line item, budgeted for \$2,500, showed spending of \$2,618.64 year-to-date. The overage was unexpected. After review, Christina informed Supervisor Legault that the overage is from the charge of \$1,024.07, described as related to a "payroll scam." Court's CE remains under budget.

Town of Louisville

Budget Workshop

26, August, 2026

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Perry French addressed the Board concerning **Louisville Landing Recreation (River Course), with Brent Smith in attendance.** Brent spoke with the Town Board regarding his concerns with the RFP (request for proposal) for the River Course. **Financial Performance:** In 2025, revenue was \$536,355 against a budget of \$432,260. The 2026 projection is around \$520,000-\$560,000, slightly below 2025 due to poor weather. Heavy rain has led to lost green fee revenue and increased maintenance burdens. **2027 Budget and Fees:** Perry French suggested keeping daily fees and memberships the same to encourage play. A 3% wage increase for returning employees should be factored into the 2027 budget. Upcoming equipment needs include new leases for a greens mower and a Ventrac unit (est. \$1,200 increase per piece), a Sand Pro (lease at ~\$4,800/year), and a new zero-turn mower. A larger mower deck is also being considered to manage heavy grass growth.

Water Administration (Clerk Parker, Clerk Ellsworth): Clerk Ellsworth mentioned increasing CE for postage costs, as postage is expected to go up again in 2027.

Water Distribution system: John Beattie suggested providing retiree insurance for full-time employees with long service (e.g., 25-35 years). Relayed the need for a \$5,000 aluminum trench box for worker safety during repairs.

DANC will get a report to Supervisor Legault for the **water purification system.**

Code Department Clerk Parker informed the Board that Code Enforcement Officer Tony McManaman plans to retire at year-end. The board discussed the difficulty of finding a replacement for the \$17,370 on-call position and considered recruiting jointly with Waddington, likely requiring a higher salary.

Town of Louisville

Budget Workshop

26, August, 2026

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Robert Ball submitted a report for the **Assessor**, asking for an increase to his CE (contractual) to \$10,500.00.

Assessor's Report

August 26, 2026

- On August 13th I received an email from Amy requesting a report detailing the impact of the New Veterans 100% disabled exemption. Please know I am providing this information at the request of the board. I come from a military family; my stepfather retired as an E7, my brother-in-law has a Purple Heart after serving multiple tours in Iraq, my brother's best friend was blown into pieces serving in Iraq and I have several friends who are 100% Disabled Vets. Please understand when presenting this information, I am simply reporting the information you may need to make a decision that will have an impact on the entire town on a yearly basis.
- According to vetcalc.org the average VA disability compensation for a veteran rated 100% disabled is \$3,938.58 per month. \$47,262.96 per year. This is TAX Free Money that they cannot lose even in a divorce. On top of the Disability Compensation, often the Veteran is receiving retirement, health insurance and they can still work a full-time job without it affecting their benefits.
- According to GovSalaris.com the average annual salary for an employee in St. Lawrence County is \$50,824. From which they must pay taxes and the expense of going to and from work. After 20% taxes that's around \$46,592.
- We currently have 12 properties receiving the Veterans Exemption and have 100% disability rating. Combined they have an assessed value of \$2,585,000 for an average home price of \$215,416. If these 12 properties were to become 100% exempt it would have the following ANNUAL impact on the current tax burden:

o Town	\$5064.95
o County	\$17,847
o Waddington School	\$2,474.97
o Massena School	\$32,446.75
▪ Total	\$57,834.05 Annually
- The Town Currently has 45 property owners who are low-income senior citizens and 235 Senior Citizens with the Enhanced STAR exemption. These property owners as well as others would have to pick up the difference in the Tax Burden. There are other senior citizens as well who are receiving the STAR Credit Check, but I do not have access to that number.
- If the Town were to adopt this exemption there is potentially other future impacts as well. Disabled veterans are more likely to move to an area where they do not have to pay property taxes which would create an increase in the tax burden shift. Also, they will be able to afford more expensive homes within the town which will increase the average selling price of a home and again create an even larger shift in the tax burden to an aging population who on average makes less money than the disabled veteran.
- I am truly grateful for the sacrifice these men and woman have made for our Country. Unfortunately, especially in the long run, this exemption would have a huge impact on the community and our senior citizens.
- Since January of 2026 there have been 51 property transfers. Of which 25 are arms-length transactions and will be used when determining next years equalization rate.
- Currently have 77 properties with open building permits/site visits. I have visited most of these properties at least once and will be adding the new values to the assessment roll for 2027.

Lindsey Gladding addressed the Board concerning the **Highway Department**.

Town of Louisville

Budget Workshop

26, August, 2026

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Excavator: The group discussed purchasing an excavator to handle an increasing number of water main breaks, which currently cost \$800-\$1,000 per job for external contractors. A smaller model (306) at \$141,000 was considered more practical than a larger one (309) at \$193,000.

Trucks: The department plans to order one or two new trucks in June 2027 for delivery in 2028, coinciding with the payoff of two existing truck loans. High repair costs on aging equipment (e.g., a \$13,000 repair on a truck worth \$20,000) have highlighted the need for a more proactive replacement cycle, with leasing being explored as an option.

Loader: The current loader has 11,000-12,000 hours and is in poor condition.

Salt: Prices are increasing to \$80.44 per ton.

Paving: Martin Road, Tucker Terrace, and Forest are planned for next year and will likely require funding beyond the \$136,000 CHIPS allocation.

General Repairs: Budget is already over by about \$30,000 due to unforeseen major repairs.

Long-Term Projects: Grants are needed for bridge repairs on Nation and Dishaw Roads, which are complex projects requiring DEC involvement.

The parks, arena, and recreation facility maintenance and upgrades: Lindsey Gladding proposed several projects: remodeling the leaking recreation office (~\$5,000), replacing the parking lot (\$50,000+), repairing rotting door frames (\$9,600+), and continuing to seek grants for a new roof (\$200-300k) and dehumidifier (\$100k). A request was made for 50 new chairs and 10 new tables for the facility. The board discussed implementing a rental fee for tables and chairs loaned to the public, as they are being destroyed. Pick-up/drop-off will be restricted to office hours. The pavilion and arena rental fee will increase from \$100 to \$120 next year. The Waddington figure skaters will no longer use the facility, resulting in a loss of ~\$1,200/month in revenue. The 2011 F-150 recreation truck is in rough condition and will likely need replacement in the near future.

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Motion				
Accept moving forward with Milton Cat for further direction on generator repairs (Municipal Building)				
Motioned by: Councilwoman Charleston				
Second by: Councilman Perretta	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Excused
Larry Legault	X			
Kevin Perretta	X			
Dan O'Keefe				X
Nancy Charleston	X			
Shawn Thompson	X			
Motion is carried.				

Patti Shirley, **Town Historian**, would like a scanner.

Clerk Ellsworth addressed the Board concerning the **Town Clerk**: Nothing new to present; dog fees remain the same.

Motion				
Accept to adjourn meeting at 8:29 pm				
Motioned by: Councilman Thompson				
Second by: Councilwoman Charleson	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Excused
Larry Legault	X			
Kevin Perretta	X			
Dan O'Keefe				X
Nancy Charleston	X			
Shawn Thompson	X			
Motion is carried.				

Respectfully Submitted by:

Amy Ellsworth

Town Clerk