

Village of Lowellville Re-Organizational Meeting

1/7/26 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor called meeting to order

Roll Call: Don D'Onofrio, Leslie Daniels, Joe Donatelli, Dave Durbin, Ryan McNicholas, Dom Piscitelli

In attendance: Mayor James Iudiciani Sr, Joann Esenwein, Tina Strait

Motion to nominate Don D'Onofrio as president pro-temp moved by Donatelli, 2nd Durbin

Roll Call – yes / Abstain from vote D'Onofrio

Comment from Donatelli – you will need to be on LCIC along with the mayor and administrator

Mayor – normally regular meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 PM

Motion to keep meetings on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 moved by D'Onofrio 2nd Daniels

Roll Call – yes

McNicholas mentioned signs hanging in hall will need updated with current members

Mayor – 2026 committee's (naming chair only but everyone has a copy of what committee they are part of)

- Safety – Dave Durbin
- Finance – Ryan McNicholas
- Claims – Dom Piscitelli
- Improvements – Joe Donatelli
- Utility – Leslie Daniels
- Ordinance – Don D'Onofrio

McNicholas would like to set up standing meetings for committee meetings. Donatelli, not necessary for most committees, they can be scheduled right before regular meetings. McNicholas would like to have finance meetings the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM.

Esenwein mentioned that improvement committee will have a lot coming up soon with the opening of the park coming soon, also signage will need done and people will be asking questions regarding pavilion rental. Strait has requested a contract for the rental and what it will include. People will be calling soon for rental.

Council Members Goals for 2026:

- D'Onofrio – transparency with council, we all need to communicate. When there is an incident within the village, we should all know, including litigation. Transparency with residents, example increase with sewage rates. Addressing all projects, would like our engineer to have in writing, not only spoken in meetings. Committee meetings, would like to have. Police-we have

spoken about raising part and full-time to get more officers. Would like to finish up projects before starting new ones. LCIC would like to see minutes and more information.

- Daniels – focus on strengthening oversight of grants and capital projects, would like to know what's left of project as it's going on, make sure local match is completely understood, budgeted and tracked and council is aware of. Maximize outside funding without creating unintended burdens on the village. Clear communication within council and residence. Transparency and making we put the village in stronger position each year.
- Donatelli – working together even when we disagree and do what's best for the village. Improvements is important to me and we need to spend money wisely. Finish current projects and be careful, tighten belts and not take on new things without knowing if we have funding for them. Our mayor does a great job getting finance for us. We need to make sure we put that money to good use.
- Durbin – I'm nervous, we have a whole community depending on us to do a good job. I want to learn as much as I can as fast as I can and make a contribution. Safety is very important to me, see's people not stopping at stop signs and worried about the kids in the neighborhoods. People on scooters, no helmets, talking on cell phones and not stopping. Wants to partner with Fire & Police Depts. Fire-wants a good emergency plan, we all know what happened in East Palestine, don't know what Lowellville would do. If we have a plan, I don't know about it. We need to follow up on our ordinances, hold people accountable. Follow traffic laws and sense of obligation to our community. Want to increase citizens participation, and get to know your neighbors. Be transparent and let people know. Infostructure, curbs need fixed, sidewalks. Parking a problem on some streets. Financially, small town, it is hard to make improvements with such a tight budget. Wants to be frugal. Pay attention to the money. Keep up with projects. Wants to support our business' and get more to come in. Meeting on Friday with Regional Chamber and see what opportunities we could get for business to come here. Can't invite someone to come if we are not set up for them to be successful. Wants council to hold me accountable and I will hold you accountable, as well.
- Comment from Mayor-Chief Boggia does have a safety plan written-ER is Lowellville Rod & Gun Club for south hill. Can't remember the other locations at this time. Remember, you guys are the law makers, budget makers, and write policy.
- Comment from Joann to Leslie – we do have paper on every project and what money is spent on. Each time I update I can send you all a copy.
- McNicholas – Financial stability and stability for the village. Increase revenue and decrease expenses as well as working on attracting new business' downtown to generate tax revenue and work with LCIC. Transparently, as we all agree with. Working with local business to see what they want, can they expand? Can we get people to move to Lowellville? What can we do, work with the county on taxes? Continue to work with the school and the baseball fields. The Village needs to school and the school needs the village. Wants to implement a E-Newsletter, to come soon. Will be working with each committee for updates. Would like to attract a younger

audience, Facebook/Instagram. Enrichment group-need some new people along with new ideas.

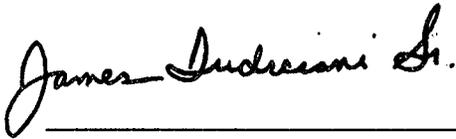
- Piscitelli – Transparency to the community. Facebook, can we help with that? Safety, agree with what Dave said, tons of kids in my neighborhood and people act like the stop sign does not exist. When I was younger people took pride but now when I walk around houses are falling apart, vacant houses, yards are a mess. Pride is not gone but not as strong as it used to be. Would like to build houses on the empty lots, bring families, get overall growth.
- Comment from Mayor – there was a comprehensive plan put together 5 years ago and we have accomplished a lot of it, sold homes, LCIC. These plans help with getting grants. We got \$936,000.00 for the park because we had a plan. And also, our street improvements. Most is federal money but plans need to take place first.
- Comment from Donatelli – When it comes to social media, in my opinion, do not contribute. You can suggest they come to a council meeting or get a hold of a council member. Best not to engage online.
- Comment from McNicholas – should we start to look over the strategic plan? Mayor-yes, most is done.
- Mayor – Council, one of the hardest parts of the job is separated personal from business. This is a business, it's a 2.6 million business. Remember you are the budget and policy makers. You let us know how to run the town. Mayor's job is to inform you and the public of what's going on financial, and where we are at as a village. Please, lets remember when/if we have an argument, we discuss it and when we leave it should be done with. I have attending just about every grant receiving meeting for at least 30 years and very involved outside the village. If you can, please do that and think outside the box. Go to Eastgate, commissioner's meetings, let them know who you are. Get involved. Business growth, McGaffney, Sharon Steel Mill, Spinosa's (sp), not sure what to do with this place. Financially we are in trouble at the sewage plant. Our rates are not going to help, talks with county about taking over. All council invited to attend meeting we are having tomorrow. We need to come up with \$728,00.00 just for a new plan then implement it. Maybe \$5M total. We have to do the orders and findings from the EPA and we are behind. The increase in rates is not helping. Also, the police/fire, join others? We need to pass levies. Now we also have a renewal levy that needs put in committee and get moving. It's \$105,000.00 year – needs submitted by Feb for May election to board of elections. WWTP, we have spent a lot of money and still not enough. Fire/Police-wanted to build a new fire station but funds not there. Someone to come in and get zoning permits for the buildings that are going in on Old School Park. Would like to get a new senior citizen bus but we got to joint venture with another community, maybe Coitsville, Joann has us on a list. Prior treasurer took money from our capital sewer fund and moved to general funds. We are paying this money back. Also, other finance is Pump station at \$1.1M and hope for not a lot of change orders. Meeting for change orders for Parsons coming up. Also want to get business on 300 acres we have.

- Administrator – will do a better job at keeping council informed of projects. Please read the emails I send and let me know you read. We are sending by email and printing you a copy. Should we maybe be looking for a part-time secretary or when we replace people make sure they can use a computer. When someone comes in we have to stop what we are doing to help them since they do not use computers and they do not have any set hours. We have to type letters for people. Zoning and Design committees, are we their secretary, are we to do minutes for them and everyday work for them? D’Onofrio-no

Joann is requesting all members to submit their pictures and biography.

Motion for adjournment moved by Donatelli, 2nd Daniels

Roll Call – Yes



Mayor James Iudiciani, Sr.



Fiscal Officer, Tina Strait