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Village of Lewiston to add stop signs at Fourth, Center & Water streets

Previte points to study suggesting more stops signs cause more trouble

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

Trustees in the Village of Lewiston voted Monday to install a series of new stop signs in an attempt to prevent future automobile-related accidents.

Motorists will soon notice markers at the intersections of Center and Water (north/south), Plain and Niagara (south), and Cayuga and South Fourth streets (north/south).

Mayor Anne Welch said, "Personally, I think it's needed."

At the start of a public hearing on the matter, she explained, "Niagara Street is when you're coming off of Center. It's a three-way stop. It is not a four-way stop. And because people are coming from Center Street, going all the way to Cayuga, the other people on Plain Street think they have a stop sign,

also. And they just pull out."

She further stated, "North Fourth Street has stop signs at Onondaga and Oneida and Mohawk going down, so it stops the traffic. From Center Street all the way down into Artpark, there is not a stop sign. So, people drive all the way down without having to stop."

Residents Maryalice and Ross Eckert encouraged the Village Board to look at "the bigger picture here," and add a stop sign to slow traffic along South Fourth Street.

"I've witnessed three accidents," she said. "Two of them, the women had to be hospitalized. They had to take them by ambulance."

Without a new stop sign, Maryalice Eckert cautioned it would only be a matter of time before a life was lost.

Lewiston Police Department Chief Frank Previte agreed with the decision to add stop signs at Center and Water and Plain and Niagara streets, but disagreed with the South Fourth Street assessment. He said there are better measures to deter speeding on that roadway, including more police patrols, enforcement and ticketing.

In fact, Previte read parts of an article published in the Gotham Gazette (New York City) that cited a U.S. Department of Transportation study noting, "Stop signs should never be installed as a rou-



Village of Lewiston trustees voted Monday to add stop signs at the intersection of Center and North and South Water streets.

time, cure-all approach to curtail speeding, prevent collisions at intersections, or discourage traffic from entering a neighborhood."

The writer noted, "When they are misplaced, stop signs can make a situation worse." He pointed to an information sheet published by the Center for Transportation Research and Education in Ames, Iowa, and shared, "Studies have found when stop signs are placed at intersections where they are really not needed, motorists become careless about stopping."

Previte said, "I can more than appreciate everybody's concerns, however, I think that we have to look at studies and address problems with correct solutions, rather than solutions that maybe are well-intended, but I don't think accomplish the goals that we're looking to do."

He added, "I've sat on Fourth Street. ... There's not a problem with people not understanding traffic flow. That is the reason for a stop sign. ...

"I've heard a couple times it's a straight shot. That's not a reason for a stop sign."

Initially, trustees were considering a fourth new stop sign, at Fourth and Seneca streets.

Resident Anthony Girasole agreed something needs to be done to calm traffic on South Fourth - "Our street is kind of a raceway at times," he said - but also expressed concern about an increase in traffic lights entering homes.

"We don't want more lights into our bedroom window; more than we have now," he said.

Neighbor Marianne Gittermann concurred, and also wondered aloud if stationary motorcycles would make more noise coming out of a stop sign.

Hearing this, and noting more vehicles travel along Cayuga Street, trustees voted against this traffic marker.

In adopting Local Law No. 2-22 (stop intersections), the board noted all other provisions of the Lewiston Village Code, Section §11-19, shall remain as therein stated and unchanged.

In Other News

The board voted to upgrade the camera system in and around the Red Brick Municipal Building, Marilyn Toohy Park and the inclusive playground.

Trustee Tina Coppins served as point person for this upgrade.

"We will be going from our current 8-channel Network Video Recorder to a 16-channel 4K NVR," she said after the meeting. "This will give us the ability to expand for future needs. We are currently adding six cameras to our current system. They will be upgraded to 8MP advance motion detection with a built-in mic, and starlight matrix IR night vision technology. Three will be placed out to monitor our new playground, and two SEE CHAMBER, continued on Page 3

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Speed limit (cont.)

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wrote NFP and stated, "Ensuring that pedestrians can walk through the Village of Lewiston safely has its benefits from both a public safety and also an economic standpoint. We want to encourage residents and visitors to park their cars, travel Center Street by foot, and visit businesses with the peace of mind that they are able to do so in a safer manner. If the village believes that lowering the speed limit will help achieve this, then I support their efforts."

Welch said she's informed the DOT that new speed limit

signs will be required for Center Street. She also asked the Lewiston Police Department to ready electronic signs to notify motorists of the change.

On Monday, the Village Board voted to slow down traffic by adding stop signs at the intersections of Center and Water (north/south), Plain and Niagara (south), and Cayuga and South Fourth streets (north/south).

Welch said Department of Public Works Superintendent Larry Wills is on vacation this week, but "as soon as he gets back, he will order the signs, and then we'll install them."

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