

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Monday, March 27, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor John Martin called the meeting to order. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Curtis, Myers, Willis, Paramore, Winslow and Cooke.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Chief Marko, Steve Bond, Shawn Pickworth, Don Patton, Lynn Phillips, Brad Romano, John Chapin, Joe Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Scott Thompson.

John Martin then asked for approval of the agenda. Curtis made a motion to approve the agenda. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the regular meeting held on March 13, 2017 were then presented for approval. Winslow made a motion to approve the minutes. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements.

Ellen Simmons stood and stated that it had been about a year since the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck had been dedicated. At the time of the dedication, Ellen had recognized Brad Romano, Mayor John Martin, council members, Terry's friends and family and other important people to the project. Ellen acknowledged that she had forgotten one very important person at the dedication and once she remembered she felt terrible that he had not been recognized. At that time, Ellen called Shawn Pickworth down and apologized for forgetting him at the dedication. Ellen wanted to publicly thank Shawn for his help with the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck. She stated that during the project he was very supportive and she knew with Shawn, they would be able to overcome any problem that came their way. Ellen presented Shawn with an etched glass mug.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Water Plant Improvement Project – First set of trains have been completed and are back in service. The filter run time went from 14-16 hours to over 60 hours. The rebuild of the next set of trains is expected to begin on Monday, April 3rd.
- Hydrant Flushing – April is hydrant flushing month. Every Wednesday & Thursday afternoon crews will be out flushing hydrants.

Wastewater

- Crew continues to work on the plumbing for the ferric bulk tank.
- A small storm sewer project was completed on Williams Street.

Sanitation

- **Spring Clean Up-** will be the last week in April for Village residents. **Tuesday's route will be Monday, April 24th & Tuesday, April 25th. Thursday's route will be Wednesday, April 26th & Thursday April 27th anything set out on Friday will be charged with an extra pickup. Starting Monday, April 3rd thru Friday, April 28th the Village will provide dumpsters at the Village Garage for Village Residents who would like to haul their spring cleaning trash.** Crews will empty the dumpsters daily. Please do not dump anything that cannot be landfilled. **Rules will be posted on the Village website www.newlondonohio.com . Security Cameras have been installed and are operating at the Village Garage and surrounding lots.** If you have any questions on what can & cannot be picked up call the office at 419-929-4091.
****We will not pick up or accept the following items.** Asbestos materials, gas tanks, chemicals, paint, sod, dirt, rocks, concrete, or batteries. **There will be an extra charge for Tires.**

Street

- Roof replacement has been completed on the Village garage. This is part of the hail damage claim.
- Firelands Electric is going to install a new security light in the parking lot here at this building.

Parks

- We are in the process interviewing candidates for the Campground Manager position. We would like to hold a special council meeting later this week for Council to approve and hire the candidate chosen from the interview process? This will allow us to get this person started around the first of April in preparation for the upcoming camping season. Neil Winslow, Joe Thomas, Mayor and I are the ones interviewing for this position.
- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny is April 9th from 8am – 11am @ the Hileman Building. Coloring contest & Egg coloring during the breakfast.
- 2017 Fishing Tournament will be May 13th, at the New London Reservoir. \$60.00 per team. Registration is 6-7:30 am; Fishing Hours are from 7:30 am – 2:30 pm.

Other

- Billing Software – John, Lucinda, Nancy & Michelle continue to work with Muni-Link preparing for the transition to the new software. We are still estimating the go live date around the end of May first of June.
- Weather Sirens – 2 still are not working. John is working with the County to get this resolved.
- Zoning Map – Met with Paul Tecpanecati Thursday, March 16th. We would like to schedule a workshop for April 24, 2017 @ 6:00 PM for both Council and Zoning & Planning Commission. We will review a proposed zoning map and discuss the process that we need to follow to make this happen.

- Ordinance Review Workshop – we would like to schedule a workshop with Council to review our ordinances for how we bill for water/sewer/storm and sanitation. April 10, 2017 @ 6:00 PM in Council Chambers?
- Computer/Phone/Internet - I am asking Council to allow us to use \$25,000.00 from the Rainy Day Fund towards this project. The rest of the money will come from the individual funds Water/Sewer/Sanitation etc.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko had nothing to report.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin stated that all the sirens are working but currently the county can't access them. The county is working on a resolution to this problem. The Village is working on installing manual push buttons on the sirens so they can be locally activated as a backup.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis had nothing to report.

John Martin then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James absent.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-09 An Ordinance Amending and Adopting the Village's Restated Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the second reading. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-10 An Ordinance Amending Section 921-10 of the Codified Ordinance, Relative to Water Rates. Second Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the second reading. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-11 An Ordinance Amending the 2017 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 17-11 to be passed on an emergency measure. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Paramore made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

Curtis asked Mayor John Martin if he had heard anything from the railroad concerning the crossing sidewalks. Martin stated that they were in the process of seeing who has the right of way but other than that he hasn't heard anything.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Scott Thompson presented council with information on the Revelation Christian Retreat that has been held at the New London Reservoir Park since 2012. Revelation Christian Retreat is a small non-profit interdenominational outreach event that includes live music, seminars, keynote speakers and other devotional programs. All retreat staff are volunteers. Mr. Thompson said when they first started looking for a place to have the retreat, they looked at fairgrounds but then they came across the New London Reservoir Park and decided it was the perfect place to hold the retreat. He also noted that he and his wife are seasonal campers at the park themselves. Mr. Thompson stated that they had overcome a lot of obstacles with the retreat including last year when the Alive Festival was held the same weekend. Mr. Thompson reported that ticket sales never cover the costs of the retreat. They have never even broke even.

Mr. Thompson listed the benefits to the village of having the retreat at the reservoir. He stated that they purchase items from Miller's Market that are used in their concession stand. They purchase all needed hardware supplies from Gilbert True Value Hardware. They purchase all of the pizza for their concession stand from Mr. Pizzahed. He also noted their staff and attendees also patronize McDonalds, the Pizza House, Dollar General and the gas stations. He then listed the benefits to the reservoir park. Most of the attendees camp at the campground using the cabins or camping sites. Many of the attendees also rent the kayaks, paddle boards and paddle boats and also purchase firewood and other supplies from the campground office. One of the major benefits that Mr. Thompson wanted to point out was the exposure the campground receives from the various forms of advertising that is done to promote the retreat. The retreat is advertised on the radio and in newspapers along with several other forms of advertisement. Mr. Thompson played a recording of one of the radio advertisements for the Revelation Christian Retreat.

Mr. Thompson then spoke of the huge hardship the retreat was facing due to an increase in pricing that was put in place by the New London Park Board. Mr. Thompson stated they had already been running the event for six months thinking the prices would be the same as the year before. Mr. Thompson asked council to consider either delaying enactment, reducing or waiving the fees for the 2017 Revelation Christian Retreat. Mr. Thompson expressed that they really want to keep their event in New London.

Stuart Cooke inquired if the price increase was the main issue.

Mr. Thompson replied that yes that was the main issue. When they sent out the information on the 2017 Revelation Christian Retreat they were going by last year's prices. Mr. Thompson ended by thanking council for their consideration.

Mr. Brad Romano then stood with a presentation from the New London Rotary/CIC on the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck. He started his presentation by thanking Shawn Pickworth and Mayor John Martin. The village had allowed the Rotary Club/CIC to borrow money from the CSX Fund to cover the cost of the deck while the clubs sponsored fundraising and solicited donations. Mr. Romano then gave a review of the fundraising and financials on the deck. He stated that 99% of the fundraising efforts came from Ellen Simmons. He then stated that he was concerned and thinks the community is capped out. As shown in the financial report given to council, the fundraiser money and donations have drastically dropped off. He noted that he felt the efforts have been hugely successful since the funds raised since 2014 total approximately \$47,000.00. Mr. Romano expressed his concern that they will start seeing a loss on future fundraisers and not be able to cover their expenses. He then asked council to absorb the remaining balance that was borrowed from the village's CSX fund to pay for the deck as the village's share.

Ellen Simmons then stood and stated how much she appreciates everything the village has done but she just doesn't know what to do next.

Stuart Cooke spoke and said he feels the fundraising has run its course and he agrees with everything that was said.

Marion Paramore stated he agreed also but wondered if we allow the CSX fund to absorb the balance of the deck will we also allow the fund to absorb what is owed by the recreation park.

Council noted that they have been using the CSX funds sparingly. They stated if they keep eating away at the CSX Fund the money will be gone.

Neil Winslow inquired about the original cost of the deck.

Ellen Simmons stated that the price had grown over the length of the project.

Shawn Pickworth explained that the price of the deck originally was around \$60,000 but had increased by approximately \$10,000 over the original price quoted due to changes in the project along the way.

Cooke stated he feels council should have a share. It's not apples to apples as to what Joe used his CSX money for. The recreation park borrowed money for improvements to the Hileman Building and to build two cabins by the water at the reservoir. Cooke said the parks receive income from the Hileman Building and cabins that will help pay off the debt.

Mayor John Martin then reviewed three proclamations he had presented at the Boys' Basketball banquet that was held on March 21. Martin proclaimed March 22, 2017 as New London High School Coaches Appreciation Day to honor Tom Howell as being named Firelands Conference Coach of the Year and District 6 Coach of the year. March 23, 2017 was proclaimed as Boys Basketball Appreciation Day to honor the Boys' Varsity Basketball team as being Firelands Conference Champions for the 2016-17 basketball season. Martin also proclaimed March 24, 2017 as Boys Basketball Honorees Appreciation Day to honor Ryan Lane for scoring over 1,000 points during his varsity basketball career at New London High School and for breaking the overall scoring record for career points.

Council scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to be held in council chambers. The meeting was scheduled to discuss hiring a new reservoir campground manager and to discuss the requests of Scott Thompson for the Revelation Christian Retreat and Brad Romano for the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck.

Myers made a motion to allow the village administrator to use \$25,000.00 from the Rainy Day fund to upgrade the Village's computers, phones and internet. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

Curtis made a motion to adjourn. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


John Martin
Mayor

