

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, May 8, 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, Cooke and Winslow.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Chief Marko, Steve Bond, Shawn Pickworth, Lynn Phillips, Bonnie Meyers, Dick Landis and John Chapin.

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

The minutes from the workshop held on April 24, 2017 were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the April 24, 2017 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no one opposed.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements.

Bonnie Meyers stood and stated that she had been to an earlier meeting asking for support on community drug awareness. She wanted to say thank you for all the resources and information she was provided with. She also said a huge thank you to Mayor Martin for showing up for the meeting on April 20 and to the rally that was held on May 6. The attendance at the meeting was 43 or 44 and 74 people attended the rally. She was happy to see the progression. Meyers stated that people are beginning to step up and ask what they can do and how they can help. Meyers reported she is trying to get a support group started. She stated she wanted to give everyone an update on what she had been doing and she again thanked Mayor John Martin for his support.

Dick Landis then stood and asked if there was anything the village could do about the property at 100 South Main Street. The lawn has not been mowed and it is almost knee high. There are bags, boxes and trash on the property and also abandoned vehicles and downed tree branches in the back of the property. Mr. Landis said he believes the owner of the property moved to Cambridge back in December and since then the property has become a mess. He just wanted to bring it to council's attention to see what could be done.

Mayor Martin stated that he would see about looking into the issue.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water - No word from the funding on our PTI yet for the Water Plant Improvement Project.

Wastewater - They have been busy cleaning the tanks and everything is back in service.

Sanitation – Spring cleanup went well. He does not have a total of the tonnage that was taken to the landfill yet but he will get an amount of tonnage for the entire month of April. They had the dumpsters located down

at the city garage and that was part of spring cleanup. He stated it would be hard to divide out the one week of spring cleanup.

Mowing - They are mowing properties around town. Last year there were about 18 properties that the village mowed. He did get some outside help and thinks that will be necessary again this year. He stated it would be too hard to pull an employee off his regular job to mow. Because of the number of properties needing mowed, it would take too much time away from regular duties. Shawn requested council's approval to look for some part time help or a solution on how to get the properties mowed.

Street – There are lots of pot holes to patch. With spring cleanup and all the rain there hasn't been an opportunity to patch them yet but they will be starting on them in the near future.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko reported that a couple weeks ago there had been some burglaries at the Gift Box, the Dairy Bar at the park and the Little League concession stand. He stated that they do have a viable suspect. The suspect has a felony warrant and he is 16 years old and is from Mansfield. Chief is confident they will be able to catch the suspect.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin asked council's approval to hire Trevor Spears as a volunteer Fire Fighter. He also stated they had a very nice chicken barbeque and Chief wanted to thank everyone who attended.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 31 runs for April. There were 16 in the Village of New London; two in New London Township; eight in Ruggles Township; one in Troy Township; four in Fitchville Township. There were no Mutual Aids. There were three motor vehicle crashes: one in Ruggles and two in Fitchville. There were two Negative Transports and two runs to the Laurels. Bill also reported that their third ambulance is in getting painted and touched up.

Shawn stated that he had one more thing to report that had to do with abandoned buildings. He and the mayor had been invited to a meeting at the Commissioner's office. There is an interest in starting a land bank in Huron County. He stated that this would be a controversial subject because of how the land bank is funded. It is funded with tax payer's money. Shawn reported that they are in the beginning stages of getting information. In New London there are several properties that would benefit from a land bank. Shawn and the mayor are invited to attend another meeting scheduled for June 1. They will bring the information back to council. This is something he would like council to start thinking about. He thinks there will have to be a push from our community if this is something council would like to pursue. Shawn stated he believes our community would benefit from a land bank even though it is somewhat controversial since it is funded with taxpayer money. Shawn said there would be more information to come on the subject.

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

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-12 An Ordinance Revising and Restating chapters 921, 925, and 927 of the Codified Ordinances Relative to Water, Sewers, and Utility Rules. Third Reading. Myers made a motion to table Ordinance 2017-12 until a later date. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-15 An Ordinance Amending Section 131.11 of the Codified Ordinances Relative to Fire Department Fees. 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 called for Old Business.

Bill Curtis asked if anyone had found out anything about the building located in the alley on the North side of St. Rt. 162 behind the downtown area. This building is collapsing and is in great disrepair and was mentioned at the last council meeting. There was nothing new yet, but Mayor Martin said he would contact Mr. Bond to see what the village could do.

Mayor John Martin gave an update on the railroad crossing on West Main Street. He stated he had an email in for the crossing and what they propose to do with the road crossing itself. He received a phone call from CSX out of Jacksonville concerning the sidewalks. They are looking into it at this time. Mayor Martin sent them pictures of the conditions of the sidewalks. He is waiting for a reply from them. He also included pictures of the North Main Street sidewalks at the crossing as well.

Neil Winslow asked if there was any update on the plan for the downtown sidewalks. Shawn Pickworth said the engineering is not done yet but he has reached out to Nadine Thompson from WSOS who was hired through the county to handle the grant. There is a \$300,000.00 grant we may be eligible for. The village would like to investigate putting new sidewalks and new lighting in the downtown area. If there is any money left over he would like to put it into the city parking lots. They are just talking about it now but he has reached out to the state to see if the village would be eligible for the project. Shawn feels the village would be eligible but would need help from Firelands Electric as far as giving conditions over the present lighting poles. It will be necessary to get an engineer's estimate on project costs and then submit a letter of intent if the village would chose to do so. The state will then review the application and then they will either invite the Village to submit an application or say the project doesn't qualify. It is just in the beginning stages at this point. This would be an open grant that can be applied for starting in June. There can only be two applicants from the county at one time and certain criteria must be met. Shawn believes what the village has going for it is our low to moderate income and its proposed project. The project has to benefit a certain percentage of the population to qualify. Doing the downtown area benefits the whole village. The grant can be used for paving roads but it has to benefit the majority of the population. For example, while West Washburn is in extreme need of being paved that would only benefit a small percentage of the population. The project needs to benefit the whole community so Shawn feels the downtown project would be a good one. There will be more information to come and Shawn is open to ideas and suggestions. He is going to move forward and get an engineer's estimate.

Neil Winslow then asked if anything had been done specifically about the one sidewalk downtown that was in really bad shape. Shawn stated he had asked the owner to fix it. The owner indicated that he was not going to pour new concrete. He was going to take a grinder and grind off the trip hazard. Shawn said the village could force him to fix it and they may be headed down that path.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Curtis made a motion to allow Fire Chief, John Chapin to hire Trevor Spears as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Winslow made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to hire a part-time seasonal mower to mow vacant properties on an as needed basis. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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


John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Paramore made a motion to approve Schedule B. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call: Paramore – yes; Winslow – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – yes; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.

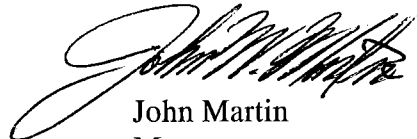
John Martin then presented the Then and Now monthly bills for approval under Schedule C. Myers made a motion to approve Schedule C. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked if there was anything else that needed to be brought before council.

Shawn Pickworth stated that as a part of the village’s computer upgrade, council would be receiving tablets. They will have a detachable keyboard and a touch screen. Shawn would like to try to move away from using so much paper. Each tablet will be set up with information for council. It will have ordinances and anything else council would like. Each one will be set up so they can receive emails on them. Shawn is hoping to have those ready before the next council meeting. Shawn is asking that council members come in one at a time to learn how to use the new tablets.

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


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


John Martin
Mayor