

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, July 10, 2017 @ 7 p.m.**

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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: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, John Chapin, Bill Given, Jim Finley and Mike Golden.

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

The minutes from the June 26, 2017 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Curtis 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. Bill Given stood and apologized because he knew the village had been working on the zoning change proposals for a long time but he stated he is new to the zoning issues and he had recently reviewed the proposed new zoning map and ordinance. Upon review, Mr. Given stated he noticed that the new zoning ordinance is substantially more restrictive than the old version and he is very concerned how it will affect the community. Mr. Given had one personal issue that he wanted to get out of the way right off the bat. His property has been split between heavy industrial and light industrial and he would like it all zoned heavy industrial because it is more fitting for what he uses it for. That was his only personal issue he had with the map; however, the map as a whole he felt was a problem. The previous ordinance allowed much more in the way of mixed use between commercial and different purposes. The new proposed map and ordinance does not without permissions from zoning boards etc. which opens the village up to a lot more legal problems. This proposed map gives the impression that we are satisfied with the current status of our community and that we are perfect the way that we are. Mr. Given then stated that as much as he loves the town, there still is a need for improvement. He has lived here for 41 years and it is a beautiful place but we haven't been headed in a positive direction in a long time. He is afraid that the additional restrictions which the new ordinance is going to place on any former movement may hamper any positive movement. The original ordinance pretty well stopped any further installations of trailers and manufactured homes. All you need to do is look around and see what happens when you put such restrictions on things. We have those same trailers from that same time still sitting around our community. He stated he is sure many people wish they were gone. We need to put incentive in our ordinance and in our map to move the village forward. He then gave an example of where there are areas where there are a lot of inferior structures. If the village would make it easier for somebody to realize the profit from getting rid of those structures, then the chances of that happening are greater. Right now the map seems to be spotty and it is an appeasement map. He stated that everyone was working very hard to put it through without too much trouble. He stated that there are still citizens who are upset with where they stand but he thinks the proposed map speaks greatly as to just an appeasement rather than moving forward and creating the zones and districts that you would want and that would eventually form a community of something good. He stated the map is spotty and mixed and there is no clear direction on the proposed map. He pointed out a spot on the proposed map that was zoned light industrial and stated that was the closest thing to a zone that the map has and even yet it is spotted with some heavy industrial. Around the downtown business district there are commercial properties that don't even come close to affording the same abilities to match into that downtown business district as what you may want. The way it is written now doesn't afford you the ability to intermix multi-unit housing like you can in a downtown business district. It doesn't afford you a lot of things a business district does and a residential so you are stuck with something that doesn't quite blend with the other. If we used our

header streets for our multi-family housing and opened up the header streets to that kind of thing that would create a zone rather than just spots of appeasement. Mr. Given stated that he had dealt with a lot of zoning issues and based on the way the map is structured, he feels that it doesn't give the village much to stand on. Mr. Given would rather see the village develop something that is workable. He feels there needs to be local participation in developing what the community wants to be not just something handed to us from an outside engineer who he feels didn't spend any due diligence in preparation. He thinks there needs to be some more research in developing a way for the village. Mr. Given pointed out another problem spot on the proposed map. Mayor John Martin asked him how he thought it should be fixed. Mr. Given discussed his thoughts. He stated the old zoning map had a lot of either or. It gave a lot of choices and a lot of abilities to work with people trying to develop things. The proposed map does not. Shawn Pickworth stated that the proposed zoning map was done based on what the land use is today. Mr. Given stated he understood but that is not how zoning districts are supposed to be established. He thinks that is going to be part of the problem. Stuart Cooke asked what they should do with existing people whose properties are zoned commercial and we say we will let commercial in the middle of residential. We want to change it to residential and they say absolutely not. Mr. Given stated he thought that is why the greater community approves the zoning map and not just the individual. Cooke stated it is tough because when you start taking someone's commercial property and forcing it down someone's throat that it is going to be residential you are taking money right out of their pocket because it is lowering the value of that land. Mr. Given disagreed and stated that the further restrictions placed on some of these districts specifically the light industrial has the most potential to diminish the value of the property. Bill Curtis stated that he thought that any of the zones can be changed. You just have to go through the process. He said what they were trying to do was take areas like by the school and keep it from being industrialized. The village did not want an asphalt plant going in next to the school. Shawn Pickworth then stated that Mr. Given's property was an easy fix. Since his property is butted up to heavy industrial and if that is what he would choose it all to be that would be an easy fix. Mr. Given thanked Shawn for that but he said he wasn't just at the meeting for himself. Shawn then stated that the proposed map is based on land use today. When you go through and you see red where it shouldn't be, like in the middle of residential, those are the things they are trying to fix. Mr. Given stated that a lot of what he is getting at is that he has hopes of being able to remove some inferior structures and putting up other things. Shawn stated he couldn't imagine anyone on council or anyone in the town restricting anyone from bettering the community. Mr. Given said he wasn't afraid to approach council and go through the process and do whatever he needs to do but the easier it is the quicker it will happen. He would like council to take some of the problem areas and facilitate it and create zones to prevent that. He stated that was why he was there. Shawn Pickworth stated they would sit down and talk about Mr. Given's suggestions. We want to give the community the best possible map. Stuart Cooke stated that the more input the better. Bill Curtis said they had a previous meeting about the proposed zoning map and only two people showed up. Shawn Pickworth added that attendance at meetings was definitely a problem. Mr. Given stated that he understood and that he wished he had heard about the proposed zoning map and ordinance earlier. Shawn Pickworth stated that it wasn't too late. He is more than willing to sit down with him and go over things. Mr. Given stated that even though he doesn't live in the village any more, he has a lot of properties in the village. Shawn stated that we won't be able to make everybody happy. Mr. Given agreed and thanked council for their time. Mayor John Martin thanked Mr. Given and informed him of the public hearing on August 14 at 6 p.m. in council chambers and invited him to come back up. Mr. Given said he was going to mark up the map that he has. Shawn Pickworth said he would email him a pdf copy of the map so he could pull it up and move things around.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

#### Water

- Water Plant Improvement Project – we received contracts for the OPWC portion of the funding for this project last week which total \$599,372.00. Still waiting on the OEPA for our PTI and the rest of the funding needed for this project.

- Water Line Project – crews did get the new line a crossed Prospect Street and connected, line is back in service. There is still a section of line that crews are going to replace on Prospect Street.
- crews are repairing/rebuilding the boring machine.
- Contracts signed for repairs on the water tower.

#### Wastewater

- Clarifier Rebuild – parts have been ordered and crews will start the process of rebuilding/repairing this week.
- Forced Main Project – materials have been ordered. Expecting deliveries to start this week.

#### Sanitation

- Crews did a great job keeping up the week of the fourth.

#### Street

- Nothing major to report.
- Winter Salt – contracts are in and we will be able to purchase road salt for \$34.51 per/ton. Remember 2 years ago, we were paying \$115.00 per/ton.

#### Parks

- **“Rockin the Rez”** – Saturday was a huge success! A huge Thanks to everyone involved. We have never seen so many people at the reservoir at one time. No major issues to report, everyone had a great time.
- Continue to work on the new Putt – Putt course.

#### Other

- Employee Evaluations- we still have a few evaluations to finish. I will email the results and ask council to consider raises for village employees.

Stuart Cooke asked about the new police garage plans. Shawn stated they have plans. They had a list of ten conditions. The only major one is Shawn has to go find the truss builder. He has to give Shawn engineered stamped plans of the trusses and he has to take them back to Richland County. The rest of them are small things that Shawn will make sure get done. He got two more bids for the project. The original guy gave them an excellent price of around \$24, 000 but he can't begin work until September. They didn't have a signed contract so Shawn shopped around to see if he could find anyone who could start work sooner. He found someone who would do the work for \$20,000 and he is going use a little better materials and throw in the garage door openers. As soon as Richland County is satisfied they will get the project moving.

Janice Myers asked how many ton of salt we will be getting this year. Shawn stated he signed up for 150 tons. He can get up to 200 tons and we only have to take 100 tons. He said it is a gambling game. If we have a mild winter like we've had, we won't need it but if we have a winter like we had a couple years ago we will need every bit of it. He looks at what they have right now. They have about 150 tons in storage and they

can probably store another 100 tons. It is a juggling act every year. You look at what you have and try to see what you need.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he had a video he wanted to show later. Last month due to shortages in the police profession he lost three part-time officers to other departments for full-time jobs. Chief stated he would like to up one of his reserves to part-time. He has been working approximately 30 hours per week on and off for the last few years and he thinks he deserves to be part-time. He would really like to up three reserve officers to part-time but his budget will only allow for one. He would really appreciate it if council will allow him to add the new part-time officer. Chief then restated that he would show a few short videos toward the end of the meeting.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin expressed how much fun he had at Rockin' the Rez. He really enjoyed it. The following day was then Spill on the Hill and it was a lot of fun as well and he thanked everyone for their help. It went very well. There were about 14 or 15 hundred water balloons thrown that day. Everybody had a good time.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 58 runs for June. There were 30 in the Village of New London; two in New London Township; four in Ruggles Township; 10 in Troy Township; 10 in Fitchville Township. There were two Mutual Aids; both in Clarksfield. There were seven motor vehicle crashes: one in Ruggles, two in Troy and four in Fitchville. There were 13 Negative Transports and three runs to the Laurels. Bill also reported that Jeff Vanderpool was the new Fiscal Officer for the ambulance. He is taking over for Tammy Montgomery. Tammy is helping get him trained. He will be there six hours a day.

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

John Martin then presented Resolution 2017-5 A Resolution to Adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Huron County Solid Waste Management District, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2017-5 to be passed on an emergency measure. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Curtis made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin stated he had talked with ODOT concerning the marking of the lines on West Main Street and he and Shawn will be meeting with them at 10 a.m. on July 14 and hopefully he will have some better news or maybe it will be completed by the time council meets again. He does not have a good update on the railroad concerning the sidewalks.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Curtis made a motion to allow Chief Marko to hire Matthew Morel as a part-time police officer beginning July 11, 2017. Cooke 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. Paramore 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.

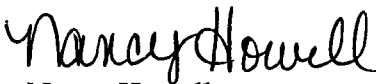
Shawn Pickworth stated he would like to thank Michael Golden for coming to the council meeting and helping them out. Michael works for Advanced Computer Connections (ACC) in Norwalk. Shawn stated that when we started the process of upgrading our computers he had no idea what we were in for but he feels we are better for it. He stated ACC has done a lot of work.

Chief Marko then stated he wanted to show some short clips from the body cameras the officers wear. The first week in June the police department received calls about a gentleman walking down the street in a hoodie in the heat and he was using foul language. It took them a few days to locate him. They found him living in deplorable conditions. He was having some mental health issues. Chief had dealt with him a few times in the past. The chief then showed several short clips of when they went to the gentleman's house. Chief explained that the gentleman had been drinking and hadn't been taking his medication. He said they needed to get the gentleman out of his residence. It is what they call an involuntary transport. They had to force him to go to the hospital. They try to do it as humanely as possible. Bill Curtis asked where the house was located. Chief replied that it was at 54 East Washburn Street. The next set of videos was from a call the officers received about a fight. There were six people who had been drinking. One guy took a baseball bat to another guy. The guy was so intoxicated he didn't realize how badly he was hurt. Chief showed the video to see what the police officers sometimes go through. Chief explained that sometimes he has two officers on the road. Sometimes he has three. The reason he does that is because of what they put up with. He wanted to make it clear that while there may be two or three officers on the road, only one officer is getting paid. Chief showed clips of the call. The clips showed council how the officers are sometimes in dangerous situations. He stated it's not a weekly thing but it's enough that he likes to have more than one officer working at a time. Even though chief can get there in five or ten minutes a lot can happen in that five or ten minutes and it can become a long time. Chief wanted council to be aware that his officers sometimes are in harm's way. He said he would continue to show clips from time to time to keep them updated on what the department is doing.

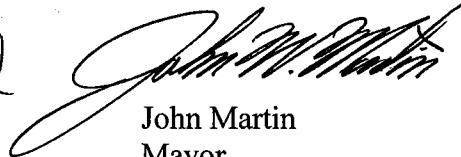
Janice Myers asked John Chapin if he as Fire Chief could get 54 East Washburn Street condemned. John replied that they did not have any certified fire inspectors. Myers then asked if he could get the health department to do it. Chapin stated he did not think the health department did that anymore. Chief stated that he had gone to the health department and they said the only authority they have is to write the owner a letter. They told Chief Marko that the fire chief has the authority. John Chapin said he would place a call to the State Fire Marshall and bring them in. He said they had used them several times. John Chapin also suggested that someone talk to Mr. Bond about it. Chief stated he had put police tape around the house. Council asked if John Chapin could see what he could do.

Chief ended by commending his officers for always doing a good job.

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



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



John Martin  
Mayor