

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, November 13, 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, Cooke and Paramore. Winslow was absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Marvin McCallister, Don Patton, Lynn Phillips, Ellen Simmons, Toby Thomas, Gayle Ashbaker, Keith Landis, Bob Cooke, Mary Jo Paramore and Tim Boggs.

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 October 23, 2017 Recreation Budget meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no none opposed.

The minutes from the October 23, 2017 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Paramore 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. If you have anything, please rise and state your name. You'll be allowed three minutes to state your questions or comments.

Ellen Simmons stood and stated the CIC Fun Night is tomorrow night at the bowling alley starting at 5 o'clock and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

John Martin thanked Ellen Simmons and Ellen responded by saying thank you to John Martin.

Gayle Ashbaker then stood and said she wanted to find out about the strong mayor government.

John Martin replied that has gone from the Bureau or Board of Public Affairs back in 1972 to an administrator and at that time they went to what I understand is a strong mayor. I do not feel that I am actually a strong mayor because I do not take care of the day to day operations. The administrator does. I do not take care of the budgets. The administrator and the fiscal officer do. I do not do any of those things. I would be paid a lot more that the \$7500 that I am paid yearly now if I was to do that. The only reason I say that is because I have tried to talk to the Ethics Commission and I got nowhere with them because they said if there's something ongoing they will not give it to me. I talked with the Attorney General's Office and they said it is up to Local Government and Local Government has not changed since I have been on council or since I have been mayor. So I do not know what else I can say about your question.

Gayle Ashbaker stated that we need to straighten it out with the Attorney General and get it off the books as strong mayor. And everything that I ask, they all referred back to what does your charter say. Well we don't have a charter. So we are governed by the state and if the state is saying we are strong mayor and we're saying we're city administrator, somewhere in there that has to be corrected.

John Martin replied that he would turn that one over to the solicitor because he could not answer that.

Gayle Ashbaker stated that she could not answer that either. But I don't think we should be strong mayor at the state level.

John Martin stated that they had not said that the Village of New London was strong mayor.

Gayle Ashbaker said yes they did.

John Martin replied they did not tell him that.

Gayle Ashbaker said the Attorney General's Office...

John Martin stated that the Attorney General's office told him it was up to local government and if local government has been operating as a mayor, council, administrator, that is how they are being operated.

Gayle Ashbaker replied but it's not how it's listed John. That's a big difference. And they told somebody else. I had somebody else call to make sure that I was understanding it and they told him the same thing. So I don't know what the problem is but it has to be corrected in Columbus.

John Martin asked how am I to do anything if we have done this since 1972 the same way.

Gayle Ashbaker stated that she didn't know. And I don't know where the mistake was made. But it's something that has to be corrected.

John Martin replied that he had looked into it. And he will look into it further.

Gayle Ashbaker stated that it needs to be discussed out here and not in a private meeting.

John Martin stated that he had not discussed it in private meetings.

Gayle Ashbaker said John do you know how many executive sessions I called in my years as strong mayor? Zero.

John Martin asked Village Solicitor, Steven Bond, if he had anything to say.

Mr. Bond stated I don't understand what possible difference it could make to anything.

John Martin stated that he didn't either.

Mr. Bond continued by saying the structure of the village is set up by state law. It is what it is.

John Martin asked if there were any other questions or statements.

Marvin McCallister stood and directed his question to Shawn Pickworth. I think I saw something in the minutes from the last meeting about a new dump truck?

Shawn Pickworth verified it had been mentioned in the minutes from the last meeting.

Marvin McCallister then questioned how bad the dump truck was. Is the old dump truck bad bad?

Shawn Pickworth stated it's bad bad. The cab is rusting off the frame.

Marvin McCallister asked if Shawn had considered getting a used truck.

Shawn Pickworth replied that yes they had.

Marvin McCallister then asked is that the only vehicle we have that salts is that truck?

Shawn Pickworth replied that yes it was the only truck we have that salts.

Marvin McCallister asked if they had ever considered getting a second salt truck?

Shawn Pickworth stated that we had to take care of getting one first that works.

Marvin McCallister stated that Adelman's down in Canton have some nice ones down there for 12 or 13 thousand dollars with snow plows and salt shakers on them so as opposed to getting one new one we could get two good used ones and save some money and put it toward your other projects.

Shawn Pickworth stated that was being considered. It's what's going to be the best in the long term. Are we buying somebody else's headaches, problems? I mean they traded them in for a reason.

Marvin McCallister stated they will trade them in because of the time frame and the mileage on them.

Shawn Pickworth agreed that they could.

Marvin McCallister then stated that Adelman's tell you if there are dump trucks we cut the motors out, we cut the rear ends out. If they're good trucks they keep them and sell them.

Shawn Pickworth responded by saying you know I've even looked at what if we just bought a cab and chassis and transfer the bed and lift on the truck we have since we just replaced it three years ago. If we do that yeah we are going to save a little bit of money but then what we end up with is a cab and chassis that nobody wants. I don't even know that you'd get scrap price out of it.

Marvin McCallister stated if it's that bad you would take what you get for it.

Shawn Pickworth continued by saying right now if you leave it as a whole truck and sell it on govdeals.com you might get 20 grand to go towards another truck. Somebody will buy it as is versus piecing it out and end up having nothing.

Marvin McCallister replied if it's that bad is it even worth selling?

Shawn Pickworth answered that we have to get what money we can out of it. You just can't leave it rot. You know we've had it towed last year twice and every time it's in the shop we talk to the mechanics and the first thing that comes out of their mouth is you guys need to address this truck. I mean right now we have a ratchet strap holding the air tanks on inside the frame. A ratchet strap. I mean it's getting pretty bad.

Marvin McCallister asked it's just a rust issue with it right? Pretty much?

Shawn Pickworth replied yes but it's starting to become a mechanical and a safety issue and that's why we need to do something.

Marvin McCallister wanted to make sure Shawn would look into the used trucks at Adelman's. You get snowplows and salt spreaders with them.

Shawn Pickworth stated that absolutely they would.

John Martin asked if there were any other public questions or statements? There were none.

John Martin then stated the floor is now closed to public questions and statements for the public.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Water Plant Improvement Project - still waiting on PTI. Received an email today requesting information for the WSRLA funding. I have forwarded this information on to Poggemeyer engineering to begin the process.
- Water Tower Repairs – repairs to the water tower have begun. Project expected to last a couple of weeks.
- Annual EPA Inspection – annual inspection went well with no major findings. As always, the inspector was very impressed with our water & wastewater operators & staff. Great Job to all.
- Fire Hydrant replacement – crews replaced a fire hydrant on Park Ave. on Tuesday, October 4th. Everything went as planned.

Wastewater

- UV Disinfection – UV lights are shut off for the year. Our permit allows us to shut down this part of our treatment through the winter months.

Sanitation

- No major issues.

Street

- Crews getting equipment ready for winter.

Parks

- Crews finished up shutting off the water and closing the parks.
- Hileman Building – building had lost its main source of heat on Tuesday, November 6th. Had to call in JD Comfort for help. Ended up being an electrical issue which we needed assistance from Firelands Electric.
- Friends of the Park Gun Raffle was a success. Profits where around \$18,000.00 for the event. Thanks to everyone involved.

Other

- GSI (Geographical Information System) – the village is receiving a grant through RCAP & the USDA to have this done with our water, sewer & storm sewers.

- Farming Contract – our 3-year farming contract is up and we will need to advertise for bids. I would like council to increase the time of the contract up to 5 years instead of 3. Last time we only had 2 bidders and I think this might help to get others to bid.

Stuart Cooke asked about previous farming contracts.

Shawn Pickworth looked through his records and replied that the value of the land had actually gone down over the years. Shawn Pickworth also stated he apologized because there were actually three bidders last time instead of two. The winning contract in 2015 was \$94 an acre. In 2016 it went to \$92 an acre and in 2017 it was \$90 an acre. I think the last contract before that was just right at \$100.

Stuart asked how any acres.

Shawn Pickworth replied that it was close to 40. But we need to get that out and get it bid at the beginning of the year so the farmers can plan on that.

Shawn continued by saying Muni-Link, the new billing software in the office, was up and running. Everything seems to be good knock on wood. He thanked Nancy Howell, Michelle Popa, Lucinda Biddinger and John Chapin for the work they did to prepare for the new system.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he had nothing to report unless someone had something for him.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin absent.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 58 runs for October. There were 28 in the Village of New London; seven in New London Township; three in Ruggles Township; seven in Troy Township; eight in Fitchville Township. There were five Mutual Aids (2-Greenwich Twp., 1-Greenwich Village, 1-Wakeman, 1-Bronson Twp.). There were seven motor vehicle crashes: two in Fitchville, two in New London Township, one in Troy Township, one in New London and one in Bronson. There were two law enforcement stand bys. It was a busy month.

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

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-28 An Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Village Solicitor. First Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin reported that the last information I got for West Main Street crossing and North Main Street crossings at the railroad, the sidewalks are supposedly being taken care of by CSX facilities and I am waiting to hear any updates from them concerning that.

John Martin then called for New Business.

John Martin stated the weather warning sirens are tested by the county the first Wednesday of each month at twelve noon. The sirens are located outside the Morton Building on Fir Street, at the fire station on Prospect Street and New London Reservoir at the campgrounds. These warning sirens, if you do not hear these sirens

on those given days that they test, it would be greatly appreciated if the village residents would report that so they can be looked at. We have had incidences where the sirens have not gone off. The problem lies, after much troubleshooting, lies with the county and their antennae system that feeds us out. I hear it's in disrepair and we're waiting on the county to take care of that problem. I was also told that that siren, it's an outside siren and residents inside might not be able to hear that depending on how much insulation is in their homes or businesses so just be aware of that.

On Saturday, November 18, the Huron County Veterans Services will be doing a pinning ceremony for Vietnam era veterans. Those veterans are from 1955 to 1975. They are going to honor any and all that would come in as a Vietnam era veteran. They are also going to have a Blue Star family recognition which is the surviving spouse or member of anyone that had served in Vietnam or during Vietnam and after the war had passed away. There is also a recognition for the Order of the Silver Rose which is in recognition of those that served in Vietnam who contracted a disorder following Agent Orange.

To conclude, John Martin called Keith Landis forward to present him with a proclamation honoring both New London High School boys and girls cross country teams making it to the state level of competition. Keith Landis is the coach for boys and girls cross country teams. They have had another great year and both the boys and girls cross country teams had gone to state. I'm not going to say how well they faired but they turned in some pretty good times. I would like to recognize them. At that time, John Martin read his proclamation and proclaimed Tuesday, November 14, 2017 as Cross Country Appreciation Day in New London.

There was a round of applause and Keith Landis thanked Mayor John Martin for the proclamation. Keith Landis also thanked the village for all they do when they have the 5 K and all the other things. We've had a few fire truck rides and a few things like that. We appreciate that. Thank you.

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 – absent; Willis – yes; Curtis – yes; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.


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

John Martin then asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to consider the discipline of a village employee or official. Myers made a motion to enter into executive session. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes.

Paramore made a motion to return to regular session. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Winslow, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes.

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


Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer


John Martin
Mayor