

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, December 11, 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, Winslow and Paramore. Cooke was absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Lynn Phillips, Ellen Simmons, John Chapin, Joe Thomas and Bob James.

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

The minutes from the November 27, 2017 Street, State Highway, Sanitation and Storm Sewer Budget meeting were then presented for approval. Paramore made a motion to approve the minutes. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no none opposed.

The minutes from the November 27, 2017 regular meeting 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 for the December 4, 2017 All Other Budget Meeting were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; no one opposed.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements.

Ellen Simmons stated Hometown Holidays was a big success and she wanted to thank everybody again. We actually made some money this year which is very exciting because we usually lose or come out about even so we have some money to work on next year.

John Martin thanked Ellen Simmons.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

John Chapin read Shawn Pickworth' s report in his absence due to an illness.

Water

- Water Plant Improvement Project - we have received a PTI & Plan Approval from the OEPA. Tentative schedule moving forward with this project is as follows; Advertisement for Bids – February 15, 2018, Bid Opening - March 29, 2018, Construction to Begin – April 30, 2018. We have one year to complete the project
- Water Tower Repairs – repairs continue. Hoping to finish up this week.
- New water tap made on Daisy Drive.

Wastewater

- Crews have cleared a path through the woods at the Reservoir Park and Campground for the forced main project. Next step is laying the rest of the pipe and setting the lift station.

#### Sanitation

- Garbage Truck – old garbage truck broke down on the way back from the landfill on Thursday, December 7, 2017. Truck had to be towed to a shop for repairs.

#### Street

- Winter is here. Please be careful driving during winter events. Crews will do their best to keep intersections clear of snow and ice. 50 tons of road salt has been ordered.

#### Parks

- Lots of dead trees being removed by crews. This was the number 1 concern from seasonal campers this past year.

#### Other

- GSI (Geographical Information System) – representatives from RCAP met with Village employees on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 to kick off this project. RCAP will begin to gather data after the holidays for this project. Project is expected to last 12-18 months. Also in that project we have to go out ahead of them and we have to mark all the village owned lines – water lines, sanitary sewer and storm sewer. We will also be marking meter pits, curb stops, fire hydrants, main line valves and this will all be put on a digital format. There's going to be a lot of paint marks all over town. Also to add to that, the gas company called. We met with them and they said at the start of the second quarter 2018 they will be replacing the gas lines on the north side of town which their idea of that is from the railroad tracks north. Most of the south side was done several years ago.
- Asset Management – the OPEA is requiring all municipalities to have an "Asset Management" program for our water and sewer departments in place by October 1, 2018. We have reached out to RCAP for assistance with this project.
- Farming Contract – I would like Councils permission to advertise for bids and make this a 5-year contract.
- Utility Bills- bills were late going out this month due to an equipment failure. Letters would not seal and we had to get a replacement machine. We apologize for any inconvenience.

John Chapin then asked park director, Joe Thomas, if he wanted him to do something with Joe's park report but Joe stated he would take care of it at the end of the other departmental reports.

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 stated he had a couple things. I would like to ask council's permission to promote Chris Rowland from Lieutenant to Captain and also Ray

Barber from Firefighter to Lieutenant. I'd also like to say during the Hometown Holidays we gave rides in the fire truck and had a good time. People liked it and they gave us donations of \$149.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 40 runs for November. There were 16 in the Village of New London; seven in New London Township; two in Ruggles Township; seven in Troy Township; seven in Fitchville Township. There was one Mutual Aid (Wakeman Village). There were two motor vehicle crashes: one in New London Township, and one in Ruggles Township. There was one Law Enforcement Standby and two Fire Standbys. It was a slower month.

John Martin then asked for a report from zoning. Bob James stated he had nothing unless someone had something for him.

John Martin then asked Joe Thomas to present his park report.

Joe Thomas stated they would be having their Breakfast with Santa event this Sunday at the Hileman Building from 8 a.m. to noon. We will be serving pancakes and sausage and the kids will be able to visit with Santa. We are going to do something different this year. We are going to have reindeer games instead of just a coloring contest. Michelle Collins has been working with me doing some games for the kids to make it a little more fun. Hopefully we have another great turnout. Every year it's really fun for those kids.

We have been busy at the reservoir cutting trees down. I bet we have cut 60 or 70 dead Ash Trees and we probably have that many more to go. They are all over but we are getting them down. If anyone needs firewood they can contact me because that is what we are using them for.

We met with the Rotary today at noon about the Super Raffle that we are hosting. The Friends of the Park and the Rotary and CIC are doing this as a joint effort. The raffle was originally scheduled for February 24 and we had to move it to the 17<sup>th</sup>. We didn't want to do it the same day as the Huron County Fairgrounds Reverse Raffle. A lot of people from New London go over there so we didn't want to take away from them or them take away from us. The raffle will start at noon. They are \$10 a ticket or six for \$50. We will have all the prizes at the first of the year that we will be giving away. It should be a great fundraiser.

Council we need your approval to reapprove Brittany Roeder, Dick Sutherland, John Benci and Emory Bateson. Their terms are up for the Park Board. We need to reapprove them to be on the Park Board. We also need council's approval to allow Keaton Ruggles and James Hofheins to join the Park Board.

The last thing is our campground rates. We have been talking about it at Park Board meetings for the past couple months. We need to get these rates set. I would like to do that tonight if we possibly could. Joe gave council a rate comparison sheet for their review. He compared the New London Reservoir rates with other campgrounds in the area such as Indian Trails, Clare-Mar Lakes and Country Stage. We are below everybody. Joe did not understand why Clare-Mar is as high as they are. They are upwards of \$3,000 for a full hookup. There is no way we could go up that much. We would lose most of our campers. Currently the reservoir charges \$1250 for a water and electric hookup. If you add their air conditioning fee onto that it is \$1400. What we are going to do next year is not even give them an option for an air conditioning fee. We are just tacking it on there. Every camper has an air conditioner. Even if they say they don't use it, they probably do. The rate is going to be \$1400.00 and the full hookup would be \$1500.00. Right now Indian Trails is at \$1527 for a water and electric and that includes their dumping and a full hookup is \$1552. They have a seasonal premium that I assume is by the water and that is \$1800. I don't think that is with sewer. The Country Stage for water and electric is \$1714 and their full hookups vary from \$1760 to \$1964. The Park Board would like to recommend a \$300 increase over the next three years of \$100 each year which would put us at least where everybody else is. If you are not in favor of that, we have a plan B of raising it \$350 over the next three years. It would be raised \$150 for 2018 and then \$100 the next two years. Joe expressed his feelings about making too big of an increase. We have 90 seasonal campers right now. At 90 seasonal

campers at an average of \$1800 we are going to bring in \$162,000 for just seasonal rates. For 2017 for 90 campers at the current rate we brought in \$135,000. This is rough. This is not 100% accurate. If we raise the rates too high right now? Yes, we have a waiting list but if our rates go up too high those people on the waiting list are going to say I'm sorry we came to you guys because you were a little lower than everybody else. We are going to go elsewhere. If let's say we go from 90 seasonals down to 70 at the \$1800 we are only going to get \$126,000. That's lower than what we would get this year. I think we need to watch jumping it up too high. That's my opinion. Ultimately it's your decision. You have our Plan A and Plan B there but we would really like for you guys to vote on something tonight so we can get letters sent out in the mail this week to all our seasonal campers.

Marion Paramore asked if Plan A was \$100 a year.

Joe Thomas replied that it was \$100 a year for the next three years.

Bill Curtis asked if they had ever received how much more it was going to cost with the new improvements out at the reservoir.

Joe Thomas answered that it depends on how much is spent. If we spend 100% of the funding I think it is going to be roughly \$17,000 a year.

Janice Myers asked if that was for the sewer project.

Bill Curtis inquired about the electric project.

Janice Myers stated that Shawn Pickworth had said it would be \$40,000 for an electrical upgrade.

Joe Thomas stated he went to BCU just out of curiosity to ask what it would cost to redo a couple sections of electric. They would directional bore some of it and put in new pedestals. I think it was \$25 to \$30,000.

Janice Myers stated that at Country Stage they each have individual electric meters.

Joe Thomas replied that he didn't think they did.

Janice Myers stated that yes they do. She had just talked to her. They pay their electric separate.

Joe Thomas stated that maybe it was Indian Trails. What Indian Trails does is if you stay more than four nights they charge you an electric fee but they just charge you a flat fee. They don't have the pedestals.

Bill Curtis stated that he thinks Indian Trails is not like us where you can come here from Florida and stay the whole season.

Joe Thomas replied that it's four nights. You can pay more to stay more but they stay four nights. I think two weeks out of the year you're allowed to stay a week like a vacation.

Bill Curtis stated there was some difference there. My concern is and I said this at the Park Board Meeting is I want to see what the costs are going to be with the sewer and the electric and everything and make sure we have enough to cover that. That is my biggest fear. We are still going to be cheap. Even if we went up to \$1800 we are still going to be cheaper because Country Stage's rates are going up because they are becoming a Jelly Stone.

Joe Thomas stated that just for that name alone their prices would go up.

Bill Curtis stated they would have to because Jelly Stone sets their prices and they are nationwide.

Janice Myers stated that a higher increase would give Joe extra money. You've got a lot of improvements you want to do and it's pretty tight. There isn't money.

Joe Thomas replied that the park isn't in the negative. The park is doing well. He agrees with them and whatever they say he will go with. He just doesn't want to go too high. Whatever you recommend we are going to go with and we will support you. I just don't want to get it up there too high.

Neil Winslow asked Joe knowing what he has in his budget and what needs done what his recommendation would be.

Joe Thomas stated that he had talked to Neil Winslow earlier because he had been at the Village Office. Neil recommended raising it a certain rate and then possibly leave it that rate for the next three to five years instead of doing an increase this year and an increase next year and then an increase. Here is my concern, if we go from \$1500 to \$1800 that is almost a 30% increase. I know we are below what some people are. I mean a cost of living rate is 3%.

Bill Curtis stated that he didn't know where you could go and rent a house for the summer and only pay \$1800.

Joe Thomas stated that he agreed.

Janice Myers replied that Stuart Cooke had made a comment at the budget meeting that people live at the reservoir rather than in town because they can save money because it is cheaper than in town.

Joe Thomas stated that we have more New London people out there now than in the past which he thinks is great because people used to not even know where the reservoir was. We have seen life come back to the reservoir and I think we are doing things right. I don't want to undercut anybody to do it. Whatever you guys recommend we will go with. If we just raised it \$200 this year and reevaluated it ourselves at the end of the year and see if it would cover the costs of the projects we have going on right now if we keep the campers we have. So it would cover that annual payment. I don't want people to think we are raising rates just to cover this payment. But it would help. That would be my recommendation. I know you are going to say no to the \$100 so we'll just skip that one. But if we raise it just \$200 this year and then we can reevaluate it at the end of next year and see where we are at financially and go from there.

Janice Myers stated plus you are paying back CSX money too.

Joe Thomas said they had been paying that already.

Janice Myers stated but that is another \$2,000.

John Martin asked how much was the electric bill for the reservoir last year?

Joe Thomas said he would have to get with Nancy Howell. She is the one who pays the bills. I don't know what we paid for the year.

John Martin stated he was just wondering because you've got the electricity and you've got the wages and when it's all added into that how much did you actually fair above – the revenues versus the expenditures.

Joe Thomas stated he would sit down with Nancy Howell and look at that. It would be hard to do the wages because Charley and Frank mow at both parks and their wages go both ways. Really the only office wages

were for Michelle Collins this year. We had three kids from the TANF program that their salaries come right from the county which is great for us.

Bill Curtis replied that he would like to have Stuart Cooke there to discuss the situation before they make a decision.

Joe Thomas was concerned that would be too late.

Janice Myers asked if it would be okay as long as it was decided by the next meeting.

Bill Curtis said they would be able to put it out first thing in January to let everyone know there would be an increase and what it would be. He just thought it would be better if all council members were there to discuss it. Then Shawn Pickworth would also be there so they could get exact numbers on the sewer project.

Joe Thomas stated then they would make sure they had all their rates set for all things like nightly rates, weekly rates, monthly and that way they could get it all done at once.

Bill Curtis stated it was definitely something that needed done and we want to be fair to our campers.

Joe Thomas replied that he understands not everybody gets to camp. It's a luxury. If you can't afford it, you shouldn't do it.

Bill Curtis stated that some people like to pay for their camping with their income tax.

Joe Thomas agreed and ended by reminding everyone to come out to the pancake breakfast.

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

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-31 An Ordinance Changing the Rates for Utility Services, and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to table Ordinance 2017-31. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-32 An Ordinance Authorizing a Restated Contract with the Township of New London to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the first reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-33 An Ordinance Authorizing a Restated Contract with the Township of Fitchville to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented Ordinance 2017-34 An Ordinance Authorizing a Restated Contract with the Township of Clarksfield to Provide Fire Response Services and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Paramore made a motion to approve the first reading. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin stated he had some Old Business. It was brought before council three or four meetings ago about the type of government in New London. After conferring with Mike DeWine and his office in Columbus, the mayor received a letter. Mayor John Martin read the following:

#### Plan of Government for the Village of New London

New London was incorporated as a village in 1853. According to the Ohio Municipal League, the electors of the Village of New London have not adopted a charter form of government under Article XVIII, Section 7 of the Ohio Constitution.

Examination of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of New London also discloses no evidence to demonstrate that the village electors ever adopted one of the three optional plans of municipal government authorized by the General Assembly in R.C. Chapter 705 (i.e., the commission plan, the city manager plan, or the federal plan).

By process of elimination, therefore, the Village of New London operates as a statutory village in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. Specifically, this means that the law controlling the substance and procedures of the village government is that which the General Assembly has enacted in Chapters 707 through 761 of the Ohio Revised Code.

#### Publication of Plan of Government for the Village of New London

Under current law, when territory is incorporated as a city or village, the responsible officials file the proper incorporation papers with the Secretary of State and the county recorder, as set forth in the R.C. Chapter 707 (incorporations-cities and villages). I find nothing in R.C. Chapter 707, however, that requires that the incorporation documents for a village specify the form of government that will prevail in the village.

The lawyer I talked with, Kevin McIver, found no provision elsewhere in the Ohio Revised Code or the Ohio Constitution requiring officers of a village to publish a formal statement that declares which plan of government controls within the village. It is signed Very respectfully yours, Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General and signed by Kevin M. McIver, Chief-Opinions Section for Mike DeWine's office of the Attorney General.

I just wanted to put that out there to clarify any misconceptions that might be out there as to the type of government that New London has in store for them. Thank you.

John Martin asked if there was any other Old Business.

Bill Curtis asked if there was anything on the sidewalk uptown.

John Martin replied that there was not.

Bill Curtis said it was the one caving in uptown.

John Martin replied for the one caving in they had sent a letter out again to address this issue and he's got time with which to address it before we do anything further.

Bill Curtis stated that he has claimed it's a washout underneath there. Which maybe it is and maybe it isn't.

John Martin answered that the only thing is if that's the case and he goes to repair it and he does find something to that effect, then he needs to contact the village and the village will ascertain whether it is the

village's problem and would probably recoup his expenses. They would take care of his expenses but at this point in time it's in his court.

Chief Michael Marko stated he could add something to that. Approximately a week and a half before the 30 days are up, we will call him and let him know that if he doesn't comply he will be issued a criminal summons. Sometimes that lights a fire under folks and sometimes it doesn't so we will kind of have an idea about a week and a half before.

John Martin then called for New Business.

I've got a note here. December 25 is a holiday and it is our council meeting night and it's suggested that we set a date for Thursday, December 28, 2017. Any suggestions or anything as to when you might want to meet?

Bill Curtis stated that the 28<sup>th</sup> was o.k. with him. Same time, same place.

John Martin stated there would need to be a motion for that.

Bill Curtis made a motion to switch the December 25, 2017 council meeting to December 28, 2017 at 7 p.m. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Bill Curtis said he would like to allow Shawn to advertise for the rental of the farm land. He inquired whether they could just make a motion to go from three to five years on the contract of if it needed to be in an ordinance.

Steve Bond replied that for advertising you just need a motion. When he comes up with a proposed contract, then you will do an ordinance.

Bill Curtis then made a motion to allow Village Administrator, Shawn Pickworth, to advertise to put out for bids the farmland use for a five-year contract. Winslow seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked if there was any discussion as to the two individuals to be put on park board?

Bill Curtis made a motion to allow Keaton Ruggles and James Hofheins to be on the park board.

Joe Thomas stated that they would also need to reapprove the four members whose terms expire this year.

John Martin stated that those four would be approved the first of the year. You just have to let us know that they want to be reinstated.

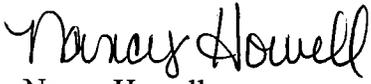
Winslow seconded the motion to allow Keaton Ruggles and James Hofheins to be on the park board. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Marion Paramore made a motion to approve the fire promotions of Chris Rowland from Lieutenant to Captain and Ray Barber from Firefighter to Lieutenant. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes: No one opposed.

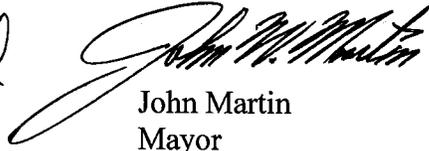
John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Myers made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

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

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



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



John Martin  
Mayor