

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, October 22, 2018 @ 7 p.m.

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

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

Also present: Chief Marko, Don Patton, Steve Bond, John Chapin, Erik Von Kamp, Ellen Simmons, Marvin McCallister and Joe Thomas.

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 October 8, 2018 Police and Recreation Budget Workshop were then presented for approval. Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the regular meeting held on October 8, 2018 were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements. He asked anyone who had a question or statement to stand, state their name and they would be allotted three minutes to talk.

Erik Von Kamp stood and asked if the letters had gone out yet for the sidewalks.

Mayor John Martin replied that they had not to his knowledge at that time. He said they were working on it. Shawn Pickworth had been out of the office the past week but they were working on it.

Erik Von Kamp asked if they were trying to put it off until after the election.

Mayor John Martin stated that no he was not; he was working with Shawn on it. They are going to look at the sidewalks downtown and they are going to look at those that need the repair the worst at this time.

Erik Von Kamp stated that it had only taken him four hours to walk the business district and write down the addresses of those that didn't fit the code. Now if it took him another eight hours to write letters, what's taking so long? Why can't two people do it in a month?

Mayor John Martin then replied that he could not answer that for him at that time.

Erik Von Kamp said it seemed to him that it was taking an awful long time. If it is a safety issue, then it needs to be addressed. He then asked when the village was going to fix their sidewalks.

John Martin asked Erik Von Kamp which sidewalks he was referring to.

Erik Von Kamp replied that if the village was working on the sidewalk issue, they needed to know which sidewalks they own so they know which ones to fix.

Mayor John Martin stated that the village's Zoning Inspector and the Village Administrator were supposed to be looking at that together and he has not gotten a report on that.

Erik Von Kamp had nothing else to say.

John Martin thanked Erik Von Kamp for his comments.

Ellen Simmons stated that the CIC had met about a week ago at the Laurels of New London. The Laurels had hosted them and it was their final meeting of the year. They discussed some of the new business things in town. They meet quarterly now and the first meeting for next year will be January 16th at noon. They are not sure of the location yet.

John Martin verified that the date was January 16th.

Ellen Simmons replied that he was correct. It is always the third Tuesday. They would like to meet at Firelands Electric if they are all set up in their new facility but they would have to see.

John Martin thanked Ellen.

John Martin then asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

Shawn Pickworth was absent from the meeting so there was no Administrator's Report.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he knew that at the last council meeting he had asked council to promote two part-time officers and he wanted to do the same thing that evening. Chief Marko explained that there is a shortage of police officers so police departments are beginning to have to recruit officers. He continued to say that the officers that leave New London, don't leave for another part-time position or reserve position. They move onto full-time positions which he doesn't blame them for doing. The village has good officers and he knows they will be good wherever they go. The good thing is the department has plenty of reserve officers. He saw this coming two years ago. Very few people want to become police officers. Chief Marko stated that fortunately he still teaches at the Police Academy so he can recruit good officers and he is going to continue doing that. He then asked council's permission to promote Jake Johnson from a reserve officer to a part-time officer. Jake had filled in four night shifts the previous week and worked 32 hours as a reserve officer. He did an excellent job for no pay. Jake also works part-time at the school as the School Resource Officer which he does get paid for but when he works for the village he doesn't get paid. Chief would really like to give him a little Halloween gift and promote him to part-time. He feels he is more than deserving of the position. Chief Marko assured council that the budget would not be affected.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin stated he would like to ask council for the same thing. He doesn't want to promote anyone, but he would like to add three fire fighters. He has recently lost three fire fighters; two of them to the military. They took applications and interviewed three potential candidates a couple weeks ago. He continued by saying he would like to add Marcus Bess, Trey Cox and Mike Sword.

Bill Curtis asked if they were already certified or if they would have to go through school.

John Chapin replied that they would have to go through school. Schooling starts November 2nd. He has two other fire fighters that will be attending as well. The other two were put on the department six or seven months ago, but this is the first schooling they have had since then. So all five would be going to the same school. The schooling is \$525 per person but the state has a grant program where they give you \$350 of the total back.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported the only thing he had was to remind everyone about the membership drive. Area residents can pay \$50 to be a member and if an ambulance is needed and there is no insurance, there is no charge to the member. If the member does have insurance, there will be no other charges due except for what the insurance covers. He went on to say that it is a good deal for people with high deductibles. He also noted it covers everyone living in the household.

Don Patton asked who to call to become a member.

Bill Curtis stated they should call Jeff at the ambulance building.

Joe Thomas asked if there was a deadline to sign up or if they could sign up anytime throughout the year.

Bill Curtis replied that they could become a member anytime throughout the year, but he had taken a ride in an ambulance and it was \$600 to go from Lorain to Cleveland in a van.

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

John Martin then asked for a report from the Recreation Department. Joe Thomas announced that the Gun Raffle would be held on November 10th. There had been some miscommunication that the Gun Raffle was November 3rd so he wanted to make sure everyone knew that November 3rd was an incorrect date. Tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50. He anticipates it will be a good raffle this year. There has been a lot of interest shown. Tickets are available at Gilbert Hardware, Marathon and the village office. Park board and CIC members also have tickets.

Joe then passed out a sheet listing the current camping rates for the reservoir. He noted they had raised rates the year before. They have lots of campers paying their deposits for next year's camping and it is a nonrefundable deposit. Joe asked council to consider moving up the date to approve camping rates for the next year. Campers pay the nonrefundable deposit and then if rates increase and they don't want to return, they don't get their money back.

Stuart Cooke asked when the deposit money was due.

Joe Thomas replied that it was due by the last day of the season which this year is November 1st.

Stuart Cooke asked if it was a \$100 deposit.

Joe Thomas stated it was a \$100 deposit and a \$100 storage fee. If they decide not to come back because of another rate increase he was afraid there would be a lot of campers coming to the next council meeting to complain about not getting their deposit back.

Stuart Cooke wanted to verify that the due date was November 1st.

Joe Thomas verified that yes it was. They have to pay it before they leave.

Stuart Cooke asked if it wasn't paid would the site go to the next person on the waiting list.

Joe Thomas replied that yes they would go right to the waiting list. Joe continued by saying that the campers really wanted to know what was going on with the rates. He stated council had seen his budget and could see that the recreation department was doing well. Joe was hoping that since they had just raised rates significantly the year before, council would leave them the same for the next year. Joe stated they had good campers. He realizes they have a waiting list of campers wanting to come in, but that's with rates at the

current price. Joe stated he felt if they raised rates two years in a row, people on the waiting list would be hesitant to take a spot. Joe thought they should take a step back and see where they are at.

Stuart Cooke asked Bill Curtis to share with Joe Thomas what he had told him earlier about what Jelly Stone does.

Janice Myers interjected that she had talked to them and they raise rates every year. They don't raise them significantly, but rather than one big rate jump, they raise the rates a small amount every year. That way they don't get behind. In addition, they have separate electric meters for each camper. Electric is not included in the regular rates.

Joe Thomas stated that they had a huge jump the previous year and he has seen on Facebook people posting about other campgrounds and they are saying if the village raises rates, they will be gone. He stated he knew for a fact that if they raise rates they will lose at least a dozen campers if not more.

Stuart Cooke added that when they had gone over rates the previous year and raised them, Joe had thought the same thing.

Joe Thomas agreed and stated that no one had ended up leaving but they hadn't raised rates in several years. Joe just thought with an increase two years in a row it would be different. Joe added it was just his opinion and he realized council had the final say. He again asked council to remember they had seen his budget and they know where he is at. He ended by saying he believes it is in the reservoir's best interest not to raise rates. They could then revisit it the next year and suggested they review the rates sooner than normal so they can have a decision made prior to when the deposits are due.

Mayor John Martin stated that given the fact that they had just been given the camping rates that night, he thought council should look into a possible waiver for the deposit. If they would end up raising the rates, they could return the deposits to those that want to leave.

Bill Curtis asked how much the deposit was.

Joe Thomas replied it was only \$100.

Bill stated it actually wasn't a deposit then, it was just a storage fee.

Joe Thomas stated that no it was a deposit, the storage fee was extra.

Bill Curtis then asked how much the storage fee was.

Janice Myers stated that it was \$100.

Bill Curtis asked if that was for the whole winter.

Joe Thomas replied that yes it was.

Mayor John Martin asked when it was due.

Joe Thomas stated that everything was due by the last day. He added that they had to pay before they could store anything.

John Martin then stated that given the fact that council hasn't really had a chance to talk about it, he thought the waiver may be something they could look at for the time being. If they do raise the rates, those that want to leave would be given the opportunity to get their money back. That would be up to council.

Joe Thomas agreed.

Mayor John Martin asked if there were any other questions for Joe. There were none.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-27 An Ordinance Amending the 2018 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Paramore made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2018-27 to be passed on an emergency measure. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-28 An Ordinance Amending the 2018 Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Cooke made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2018-28 to be passed on an emergency measure. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, 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 presented Ordinance 2018-29 An Ordinance Amending the 2018 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 2018-29 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Curtis made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No on opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin stated he had been in contact with the Ohio Rail Development Commission and the last email he had gotten was they were making progress but nothing had been set yet about the sidewalks on West Main Street and North Main Street at the railroad crossings. He is still pursuing it and he will hopefully be getting some sort of answer shortly but he can't say when. He thinks they are dragging their feet again. He ended by saying they are doing what they can. He wishes he had more information and better news.

John Martin asked if there was any more old business. There was none.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Police Chief to hire Jacob Johnson as a part-time police officer at a rate of \$11.00 per hour. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Bill Curtis made a motion to allow the Fire Chief to hire Marcus Bess, Trey Cox and Mike Sword as Volunteer Fire Fighters. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mayor John Martin asked if anyone wanted to make a motion for a waiver on the deposit fees prior to talking about any camping rate increases.

Bill Curtis stated he felt that if they did increase rates and wanted to do waivers, they could waive them at that time. They could decide to give them a refund if they so desired. He felt they really hadn't talked about it enough.

John Martin stated the campers weren't wanting to sign any paperwork prior to knowing if the rates were going to increase.

Bill Curtis stated that if they didn't sign it, then the lot would become available. If they do sign the paperwork and the rates increase and they want to leave, he feels at that time they could decide to refund the camper's deposit. That was his opinion because they hadn't had any discussion on raising the rates.

Mayor John Martin stated that was why he was asking for a possible waiver for those that were wanting to sign their contract and pay their deposit. That way they are guaranteed that if there is a raise, and they don't like it, they won't be out any money.

Stuart Cooke said he would guarantee they would get a refund.

Bill Curtis agreed they should get a refund but he didn't think they should do anything yet because they hadn't really discussed anything.

John Martin was okay with that.

Bill Curtis stated that really the only thing that had been discussed was what Jelly Stone was doing.

Joe Thomas added that John Chapin had just told him he had paid his \$100 deposit and his storage. He got receipts for his payment but he didn't sign a contract yet.

Bill Curtis wanted to make sure they were getting a copy of the rules because that had been a big complaint last year that they hadn't been getting a copy of the rules.

John Chapin verified that yes he had received a copy of the rules. He also stated that there had been a copy of the contract included and all the prices were there except the annual price for camping.

Bill Curtis stated he thought the annual price should be in there too because it was already set. There is already something on the books stating it is \$1800 a year for camping. If they decide to raise it for next year, they will need to do an amendment.

Joe Thomas stated he thought they had left it blank because they weren't sure about the price. That was the camper's complaint. They didn't want to sign a contract for \$1800 if that wasn't really going to be the price.

John Chapin added that he had not signed his contract. He had gotten one, but he had not signed it.

Mike Willis stated what they were trying to say was if a camper signs a contract for \$1800 how can you later come back and say the rates are raised to \$2000. They can come back and say they already signed a contract saying the rate was \$1800.

Bill Curtis stated he understood what Mike Willis was saying. He continued by saying he thought they were trying to see how things were going to go because Shawn Pickworth was taking over the management of the reservoir and then there would also be someone in the office that would actually run the reservoir. He stated that was his understanding so he thought they would wait and see how things were working out.

Stuart Cooke asked how it would be if they didn't make the deposit due until December.

Joe Thomas replied that a lot of people had already paid their money.

Stuart Cooke asked if it would be tougher for Joe because the campground would be closed up.

Joe Thomas stated it would depend on the weather. If council decides to raise rates and they want to pull out, bad weather would make it harder to do.

Stuart Cooke stated he thought they needed time to look at the rates.

Bill Curtis thought they should call other places in the area.

Mayor John Martin stated that there was no motion so was there any other new business.

Mike Willis wanted to verify that there was no waiver. So basically they are paying their deposits without a contract. He wondered if they would still be able to withdraw their deposit if the rates were changed.

Joe Thomas stated it was supposed to be a nonrefundable deposit so that was what he was trying to get at.

Stuart Cooke replied that the way he sees it, if the rates go up and they don't want to stay there, then they will get their deposit back.

Joe Thomas asked if they would get the storage fee back as well.

Stuart Cooke thought they would get that back too if they pull the camper out right away.

Bill Curtis commented that if campers are unhappy with a rate increase and want to pull their camper out, they would get their storage money refunded as long as they remove their camper immediately. If they don't remove it immediately, they will have to pay the rent for storage.

Stuart Cooke stated he thought they should have something by the next council meeting that they could vote on stating whether the rates would be the same or increased. That way everybody would know and then they really wouldn't be using storage because if they aren't happy they would have to pull their camper out right away.

Mayor John Martin added that he didn't think they would want to just have word of mouth because the contract states one thing and they want to make sure it is right for everyone. He then asked Joe if he was right.

Joe Thomas agreed but he went on to say that at the current time, the contract did not list an amount for seasonal camping.

Stuart Cooke asked if to make things simpler, should they put a rate on it and stick to that rate for next year and then discuss it again a year from then. Since they had just received the information during budget time and the campground was getting ready to close up he wondered if that would make things easier.

Marion Paramore thought they should leave things the way they were for one more year.

Stuart Cooke stated he would be willing to do that also.

Joe Thomas felt it was a good idea to go a year without raising the rates and then reevaluate them earlier in 2019 for 2020.

Stuart thought they should start getting numbers around the middle of next summer.

Bill Curtis agreed and thought that way they could see how much electric was being used and so forth. He continued by saying that electric usage was a big concern. He said there were campers out there with ceiling fans and refrigerators on their porches.

Joe Thomas stated they were handling the refrigerators on the porches but he reminded Bill Curtis that they had seen all the electric usage at both parks for the entire year of 2017 and also to the current date in 2018 when they reviewed the recreation budget for 2019 and Joe thought the electric costs weren't really that bad.

Marion Paramore asked if they would need to make a motion to keep the rates the same.

It was determined that no motion would need to be made since the rates were not changing. John Martin felt they could now include the seasonal camping price on the contracts and go from there.

Bill Curtis stated he would like to make sure they put the board together that Shawn Pickworth had talked about.

Joe Thomas said they had four seasonal campers, Shawn Pickworth, the reservoir office manager, a couple council members and himself that the board would be comprised of.

Bill Curtis thought they would be able to get some valuable feedback from them.

Mayor John Martin told Joe that he guessed he had his answer.

Ellen Simmons then asked if there was a police/fire levy on the ballot.

It was noted it was just a renewal.

Ellen Simmons asked if there had been anything published about it because she didn't know about it.

John Martin said not that he was aware of. He didn't think there had been anything in the paper.

Ellen Simmons said she thought that seemed odd.

Mayor John Martin stated he had just been about to make a comment concerning the different levies that will be on the ballot. He stated that first they had the Senior Enrichment Services. It is a tax renewal with a small increase. There is also the New London Village Income Tax renewal at 1.5%.

Stuart Cooke added that was the police and fire levy.

Ellen Simmons was glad to have that clarified.

Bill Curtis added that it was just a renewal.

Marvin McCallister wanted to verify that just the half percent was the renewal and the one percent would stay on no matter what.

Mayor John Martin stated that yes that was correct.

Ellen Simmons wanted to verify they were voting on the extra half percent.

Marvin McCallister stated that was why when it is read it sounds like it is a new tax coming on but it really isn't.

Ellen Simmons stated she realized it wasn't a new tax. She just hadn't heard anything at all.

John Martin went on to talk about the New London Public Library levy. He stated they were requesting a general operating tax levy. He ended by saying New London Locals schools was asking for a permanent improvement income tax levy of not more than five years.

Ellen asked if the school levy was just a renewal.

John Martin stated that no it was not. It is a new tax which is not for salaries. It is for maintenance of the buildings and the buses. He ended by saying he couldn't tell anyone how to vote, he was just saying everyone should get out and voice their concerns by voting Tuesday, November 6.

Ellen Simmons thanked John Martin for the information.

Police Chief Michael Marko rose and stated that there was going to be a mailer sent out in regards to the police and fire levy.

John Martin thanked Chief Marko and then asked if there was any more new business. There was none.

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

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



John Martin
Mayor