

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, December 10, 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, Willis, and Cooke. Paramore and Ball were absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Steve Bond, Marvin McCallister, Lynn Phillips, John Chapin, Tom Neel, Ellen Simmons and Don Patton.

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 November 26, 2018 All Other Budget Workshop were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Abstain; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Absent.

The minutes from the regular meeting held on November 26, 2018 were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Abstain; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Absent.

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.

Tom Neel, President of the New London Area Historical Society, stood and stated he had three suggestions. His first suggestion was on behalf of the Historical Society. He stated they had received a letter about replacing their front sidewalk. He wanted to respectfully ask that council consider extending the deadline for the sidewalk replacement to August 1st. If the internet is correct, concrete should be poured at 50 degrees and higher for a period of three to seven days. He continued to say that in April it still gets below 50 degrees at night so he wondered if he could get more time. He added that summer was really the best time to pour concrete.

Tom Neel brought up his second suggestion which he said was a personal suggestion. Years ago they had talked about having sidewalks at the recreation park and also a pathway of some sort from the recreation park to the reservoir park. There are kids with bikes all the time at both parks. They are heavily used. Automobiles and kids don't mix well. He stated they had been pretty lucky because as far as he knew there had not been anything major that had happened over the years. He felt that the pathway would be an easy thing to get funded. He hoped that council would consider it down the road.

Tom Neel then stated his third suggestion was about the Historical Society again. He brought up how a couple years ago the building on the corner that is owned by Simon Yoder had problems with bricks and the wall had to be rebuilt. At that time, he had been talking to some council members in front of the building and they had told him that the building where the Historical Society Museum is would more than likely become condemned and that the Historical Society would probably end up paying the bill for the Village to tear it down. He continued by saying he realizes that statement may have been from a council member individually and he didn't think it was a council policy. Tom Neel wanted to suggest on behalf of the Historical Society that council reverse their statement and make a new public statement in support of historic restoration in the village. So many neighboring communities have taken that path. He noted that Medina, Oberlin, Wellington

and Milan all have businesses downtown that have been restored. He believes those buildings are what brings the tourist dollars to those communities. He thinks some of the statements that were made during that former problem scared some of the businessmen along that side of the street because almost every building is empty right now. He stated the Historical Society was one of the few that were still there. Tom Neel ended by saying thank you.

Ellen Simmons stated she wanted to thank everyone associated with the village for any help that was given for Hometown Holidays. As far as she knew it was successful. They have not heard any complaints. She stated they were looking forward to next year. Ellen continued by adding that they hold the event to bring people into New London so she liked the idea of historical restoration. She thinks it is a good idea.

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

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project – A progress meeting was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 in Council Chambers. Work continues on the sludge drying beds. Work is scheduled to begin soon on the new clear wells. We are having some issues with delays in equipment getting built for the new tanks, contractors and engineers are working to resolve this issue.
- GIS Project – project continues. A training is scheduled for December 19, 2018 here in the Village for village employee's.
- Crews have been working on updating our SCADA system.
- John Chapin and I met with Representatives from Rural Lorain Water Authority on Friday, December 7, 2018 to discuss contract relations.
- Asking Councils permission to offer David Patton and Andrew Goss job offers at \$16.00per/hour with a 3% increase after probation.

Wastewater

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- **Christmas Week Schedule** – December 25, 2018, Tuesday's Route will be picked up on Wednesday, December 26, 2018.
New Year's Schedule – January 1, 2019, Tuesday's Route will be picked up on Wednesday January 2, 2019.

Street

- Took delivery of 120 ton of road salt.
- CDBG funding (Johnson Drive, Pearl Street, City Parking Lot) has been reviewed and okayed by the state, forms went to County Commissioners for their approval and signing. We should be hearing something about going to bid after the first of the year.

Other

- We need to change our last Council meeting of the year from Monday, December 24, 2018 to Thursday, December 27, 2018.
- Would like Councils permission to close the office December 26, 2018 for vacations.

Shawn Pickworth asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

John Martin stated that before he moved on to departmental reports, he wanted to reply to Tom Neel's statements. When council gets together and reviews the ordinance and brings it back to the floor they will be looking into and talking about the first two suggestions Mr. Neel had. The sidewalk extension should be sufficient. He stated they are looking at the weather restraints and they understand those situations and they will gladly work with the owners. He stated he would give ample time to work with those who have property issues. He thought there should be no problems and he thanked Tom Neel for his comments.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he didn't have anything unless someone had something for him.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin stated he didn't have anything fire related but he did want to bring council up to speed on the moving of the antennae. He had talked to council members about it during his budget meeting. He talked again about them relocating the antennae to the top of the water tower. They have had several meetings with all the groups and they are progressing quite well. It appears that there are seven different radios that are going to be attached to the project. The Sheriff's office, the EMA, police, village utilities, fire department, the school and Firelands Ambulance are the different groups participating. They are going to enter into a contract and they are all going to share in the cost of installation and operation of the system. They found a used building and they are going to purchase it and set it beside the water tower. They are going to add a fence around it. All of the radios will be moved to that location. They are adding a 40 foot antennae on top of the water tower which will increase their height by about 70 feet from where they currently are at. They have been told that will kill the dead spots that they have. They have a problem at the water and wastewater department. When they go out into the country they can't communicate with their portable radios. The police department has several dead spots. Most of them are out by the golf course and reservoir. He again stated those dead spots should go away. At the fire department they experience lots of dead spots in their system because the area they cover goes out so far. They are hoping to improve that system. The reason for the change is because Firelands Electric is moving into a new facility. They are not putting up an antennae and right now the sheriff, EMA, police department (a little bit through the sheriff's office), the school and Firelands Ambulance are located on that tower at Firelands Electric's present location. So they need a new home and it seems like the right thing to do for them to all get together and do this. In the contract, after the installation is done, they are all going to pay annual fees into a fund that they are working with the Fiscal Officer to get set up. The fees will be paid to the village. The cost to operate the system will be paid out of the new fund the group of people will contribute to. John continued by saying this would really improve the communications on the village's side for safety services and then maintain the school, Firelands Ambulance and the Sheriff's department and EMA communications. Another meeting will be held on December 11th. In the process, they hired a new tower guy to look at the water tower and evaluate it. He has been coming to the meetings and he is the expert to make sure that everything they do is not going to effect the operation of the water tower in any way, shape or form. So far he has agreed with everything they are doing.

John Martin asked if they had an estimated time frame or date as to when the new antennae will be put into service.

John Chapin stated that he did not. They are getting quotes on the cost of the project for the radios and getting the antennae installed. John ended by saying he would keep everyone informed as the project progresses.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 52 runs for November. There were 26 in the Village of New London; five in New London Township; three in Ruggles Township; four in Troy Township; 13 in Fitchville Township. There was one Mutual Aid (Bronson-1). There were two motor vehicle accidents; Fitchville – 2, New London Village – 0, New London Twp. – 0, Troy Twp. – 0, Ruggles Twp. – 0, Mutual Aid – 0. There were four calls to the Laurels. There were two Fire Standbys. There were 13 Negative Transports. There were zero Law Enforcement Standbys, 10 Service Calls and four Overdoses. Out of all of those, 16 of the transports were ALS and 24 were BLS. Their Advanced Life Support is almost catching up with their Basic Life Support. Bill Curtis went on to say the school was still going on and all the students were doing well.

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 absent.

Shawn Pickworth stated he had a flyer for Breakfast with Santa since Joe was unavailable. One new addition to the breakfast this year will be carriage rides.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-31 An Ordinance Changing the Rates for Utility Services. Third Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the third reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-32 An Ordinance Amending the Village's Employee Handbook Relative to the Salary Schedule. Third Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the third reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-33 An Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Village Solicitor. Third Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the third reading. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-34 An Ordinance Amending Section 143.04 of the Codified Ordinances Relative to Direct Deposit of Employee Compensation. Third Reading. Willis made a motion to approve the third reading. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-35 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. John Martin stated it would have to be under a first reading due to not enough council members being present. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-36 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. John Martin stated this ordinance would have to be a first reading as well. Cooke made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-37 An Ordinance Authorizing Amending the Village Policies on Use of Credit Cards. First Reading.

Bill Curtis asked if there had been a problem with credit card use.

Mr. Bond answered that there were new credit card laws. The village already had a credit card policy in place that was pretty close but the state law requires the village to be fully matching what the regulations are.

Curtis made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin stated he had submitted all the applications needed to ORDC and PUCO for the CSX sidewalks for West Main Street and North Main Street. Winter is coming so the work will need to wait until spring or when the weather allows them to be replaced.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the Village Office to be closed on December 26, 2018. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Bill Curtis asked if the two new hires that Shawn requested were for both the water and sewer departments.

Shawn Pickworth replied that yes they were.

Bill Curtis wanted to verify that they were two new positions and that they were not filling vacant positions.

Shawn Pickworth verified that yes they were new positions.

Stuart Cooke asked if the new positions were being generated because they would be having a couple people retiring. He wondered if the two new positions would get the village up to speed when the current employees actually do fully retire or will they still have to hire replacements when they retire.

Shawn responded that it was partly to help with retiring employees but with the EPA regulations that are coming down, they are just killing them.

Stuart Cooke asked if they were just trying to keep up.

Shawn Pickworth verified that yes they were just trying to keep up. They have to add to their crews to keep up with what is coming down the pike.

Stuart Cook asked if either one of the new employees would be learning the paperwork that Wendy Kidd currently does or does he have somebody else in mind.

Shawn Pickworth answered that yes that is part of their plan. One of the guys in the existing crew will learn and start that process and that is part of their discussions.

Stuart Cooke thought that position was going to become a full-time position as much as the regulations have changed.

Shawn Pickworth commented that it absolutely was and they needed someone to learn that job.

Bill Curtis asked if either of the new employees Shawn wanted to hire had any experience.

Shawn Pickworth verified that yes one of them had some wastewater experience.

Bill Curtis made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to offer David Patton and Andrew Goss jobs at \$16 per hour with a 3% increase after probation. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Janice Myers made a motion to move the December 24, 2018 council meeting to Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 6 p.m. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Willis made a motion to approve schedule A. Cooke 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: Ball – absent; Paramore – absent; 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. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked if there was anything else to be brought to the floor before he asked for an adjournment.

Stuart Cooks stated he did. He continued by saying he had gotten some information on meters for electric that would hook right into preexisting pedestals at the reservoir. They mainly just hook in line through the feed coming in at a cost of somewhere between \$45-\$60. He thinks it is something council should explore to get a more accurate reading on the electric use at the reservoir. They have permanent residents out there all summer and they have some that just use electric on the weekends but everybody is basically paying the same cost. He thinks it will be fair for everyone to just pay for what they use. He thinks sometime between now and when the season opens maybe they could have a direction to go on with it and see if it is feasible.

John Martin stated he had talked to a previous owner of a campground the prior week and they have meters on theirs and they charge 17 cents per kilowatt hour.

Stuart Cooke replied that it was his understanding that you can only charge what the electric company charges and he asked Mr. Bond to check into it. He didn't think the village would be able to charge extra on top of what the kilowatt hour was.

Shawn Pickworth asked if the village would be responsible to read the meters.

Stuart Cooke stated that yes they would and they would send bills individually to each campsite.

John Martin commented that the campground he had contacted had stated that also. They give a monthly bill to each one.

Stuart Cooke replied yes but they couldn't make money off of them. He then stated he had talked to someone who owns a campground and he said his rates were \$1900 a season plus electric but the \$1900 did include water, sewer and garbage pickup. He thinks it is something council should investigate to see if what he was told was correct.

Council had a short discussion about different options they had for electric meters. More discussion on this topic to come.

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

Nancy Howell

Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer

John W. Martin

John Martin
Mayor