

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, January 14, 2019 @ 7 p.m.

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

Mayor John Martin then asked for nominations for council president.

Bill Curtis made a motion to elect Stuart Cooke as Council President. Janice Myers seconded the motion.

John Martin asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Steve Bond, Lynn Phillips, John Chapin, Ellen Simmons, Dawn Hess, Joe Hicks, Kristofor Pinkerton, Greg Massie, Pamela Massie, Seth Miracle, Anthony Gagnon, Coty Bravo, Lance Capiot, Christene Durfey, Jacob Johnson, Bob James, Derek Johnson, Wilson Velazquez, Josh Kerns, Jordan Flecha, Larry Hess and Don Patton.

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 regular meeting held on December 27, 2018 were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: All ayes; No on 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.

Ellen Simmons stated there was a CIC meeting the next day at noon at the diner that used to be the Wildcat Café. They are meeting quarterly now. They would be discussing the future of the organization. She wanted to encourage anyone who is able to attend to be there.

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 – Project continues.
- GIS Project – project continues. Team is spending a lot of time connecting the dots.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – John, Don & I to present to Council.

Sanitation

- Nothing major.

Street

- First snow of the year. Crew did a good job cleaning up. Please help our crews by getting your vehicles off the streets during snow events and please drive safe.

Other

- Ask permission for the Friends of the New London Veterans to sell beer at their gun raffle in March?
- I need a motion from council to allow me to enter into an agreement with ODNR for the Natureworks Grant. This is the grant for sidewalks out at the reservoir.

Shawn stated he would like to go back to wastewater. He, John Chapin and Don Patton wanted to talk to council a little bit about the wastewater treatment plant project. They have gone as far as they can with the engineering on the project. They are down to the point where it is time to do some financing on the project. Shawn continued by saying they have a good chance of getting a big grant for the project but in order to get the grant, they have to complete the engineering which would have to be paid for. He stated they would like to finish the engineering.

John Chapin then added that they have several options. They would like to duplicate what they did previously on the sewer project with the underground collection system. What they had done was borrow money from OWDA for the engineering. It's an engineering loan. There is no annual pay-back or anything like that. Once they get that loan, then they can move forward with the engineering and get their preliminary engineering report done and submitted to Rural Development. John continued by saying they had met with Rural Development and they have a lot of money and they would like the village to use them for financing and the village would like to use them as well. Once the Rural Development loan is done, it will pay off the first loan through OWDA. He stated he thought council was all aware of what needs done at the wastewater treatment plant. There had been a workshop down at the facility and they had gone through the components that the village needs to upgrade. John added that it was a needed project and it was their best option to minimize their cost because of the grant aspect of it. John stated he is really hoping for a 75% grant on the project and it doesn't get any better than that. The village could borrow the entire amount from OWDA but they don't have early payoff and they have set interest rates. If the interest rates go down, they don't care. John stated they had one of those loans back in the early 1990's and the village was stuck at an interest rate of 8.75% even when interest rates dropped down to 3%. Rural Development is more acceptant of early payoffs and deductions in interest if that is the way interest rates are going. It's a good project and John feels that the village needs to move forward with it. This would be a commitment to do the project and see the project through.

Janice Myers asked what the total cost would be.

John Chapin and Shawn Pickworth agreed that the cost would be right around three million dollars for the total project.

Stuart Cooke stated that the sewer department had been saving money for the last several years to go toward this project. He wondered if quite a bit of the funding was available in the village sewer fund already.

John Chapin replied not really. The increases they had put in place years ago were for the sewer project they just did. He stated they do have some money. They are in pretty good shape with the wastewater budget but the new project will require an increase in rates. He stated there would be no way around it. It is just a matter of how much. It depends on how much grant money they receive.

Stuart Cooke asked if they go ahead and borrow the money and get the engineering done and they don't receive the grant, could the village put the project on hold until money is available for a grant?

John Chapin replied that would be something they could do but why do an engineering report then? The project will never change from what is needed.

Shawn Pickworth added that sooner or later the project would have to be done.

Stuart Cooke realized that but wanted to know if there was a mandate from the EPA right now to complete the project.

John Chapin and Shawn Pickworth both stated that no there was not.

Stuart Cooke wondered if anyone was forcing the village to do the project.

Don Patton and John Chapin stated not at the current time.

John Chapin went on to explain that they have had equipment issues and the equipment needs replaced.

Stuart Cooke stated that was a discussion they would have to make once the grant is applied for and either accepted or rejected and how much.

John Chapin stated that was absolutely correct. He thought that decision would have to be made later.

Shawn Pickworth added that the village wouldn't know until the offer was made.

Stuart Cooke just wanted to make sure that the village would have the option to put the project on hold if need be as long as the engineering was complete.

John Chapin answered that yes they would.

Shawn Pickworth again stated that they wouldn't know that until the offer was made.

Janice Myers asked how much just the engineering would cost.

John Chapin stated he thought it would be around \$83,000.00 for the engineering.

Shawn Pickworth agreed with that amount.

Janice Myers asked how much of that amount did the village have available to put toward that from the wastewater fund.

Stuart Cooke asked if they would just want to borrow the entire amount.

John Chapin and Shawn Pickworth agreed that they wanted to borrow the entire amount.

John Chapin also added that if they received a good grant, a portion of the engineering costs would be covered by the grant funds.

Stuart Cooke wanted to verify that any grant money would go toward the engineering too.

John Chapin verified that yes it would.

Shawn Pickworth added that it all gets absorbed.

Stuart Cooke stated that it didn't make any sense to put in any of the village's money.

John Chapin agreed and said that was correct.

Shawn Pickworth told council members that they had legislation in front of them to allow him to enter into a cooperative agreement with OWDA. He had wanted to talk to council members before the legislation was put to a vote that evening. As far as his administrator's report, that was all Shawn had.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he had a few things. Chief Marko asked that council consider pay raises for the officers. The officers have not had a pay raise since 2015. He also stated he was in the process of putting on another full-time officer since they hadn't replaced the officer they lost last year. He asked that council consider both of his requests.

Stuart Cooke asked Chief Marko if he had any recommendations for what he would suggest for raises. He wondered if Chief Marko had any information on it for council.

Chief Marko stated that yes he did but he wondered if they could discuss it in an executive session.

Council agreed to let Chief Marko have an executive session.

Joe Hicks, Lieutenant, then came forward and stated that first he wanted to thank council and the mayor for their support and then he presented a plaque to Chief Marko and said he and the officers appreciated everything that Chief Marko does. They wanted to take a moment to acknowledge him for his service to the department and his commitment to the community. He noted that Chief Marko had done a lot of great things in his 10 years with the Village of New London Police Department. The department has accomplished a lot and he stated that a lot of it wouldn't be possible without council's support and the community support. Joe Hicks continued by saying the department was thankful for Chief Marko and for what he has done during his time with the village. He stated the plaque was a small token of the officers' appreciation.

Chief Marko came forward and accepted the plaque gratefully. He really appreciated it because he stated he wasn't an easy guy to work for. He stated again how much he appreciated the plaque and everyone's support.

Stuart Cooke stated he would like to say that as far as council was concerned, the chief has kept the budget of the police department in check for several years. If it wasn't for him, they would be struggling on trying to come up with money to keep the department funded. Stuart continued by saying Chief Marko has been excellent in watching how he spends money yet still giving the Village of New London a very good police department. He ended by thanking the chief.

Mayor John Martin told Chief Marko job well done.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin asked council if they had received his email. He had emailed them all totals for fire calls for 2018.

Council members stated that yes they had received his email.

John Chapin stated that was all he had and if anyone had any questions to let him know.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 61 runs for December. There were 32 in the Village of New London; six in New London Township; four in Ruggles Township; five in Troy Township; nine in Fitchville Township. There were five Mutual Aids (Greenwich-3, Clarksfield-2). There were six motor vehicle accidents; Fitchville – 2, New London Village – 1, New London Twp. – 1, Troy Twp. – 1, Ruggles Twp. – 0, Mutual Aid – 1. There were four calls to the Laurels. There were two Fire Standbys. There were 11 Negative Transports. There was one Law Enforcement Standby, four Service Calls and three Overdoses. Out of all of those, 27 of the transports were ALS and 21 were BLS. He wanted to note that their Advanced Life Support was getting a lot of use. Bill also had the 2018 Firelands Ambulance Call Totals. Bill Curtis stated they had broken the record for their busiest year and it didn't appear to be slowing down any. There were 638 total calls for service. Of those calls, 278 were Advanced Life Support Transports, 168 were Basic Life Support Transports, and 192 were Non-transports. Bill went on to say that a lot of the Non-transports were the Police and Fire Standbys, assists to the public like someone needing help being moved into their house, or the caller refuses transport once the ambulance gets there. Bill Curtis continued by saying they had provided Mutual Aid to Norwalk, Greenwich, North Fairfield, Wakeman, Bronson Township, Greenwich Township, Ripley Township, Hartland Township, Fairfield Township and Clarksfield Township. He stated it had been a busy year and he anticipated it getting even busier. They also now have Mutual Aid with Southern Lorain County Ambulance Service. Firelands has tried to get mutual aid with them in the past and for whatever reason they were never able to work out the legalities. This is the first year that they actually signed an agreement with them.

John Martin then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James stated he did have one thing he wanted to talk about. Around the middle of December Bob had received a call from the Huron County Health Department. They said they were doing a preview of the restaurant because it had been sold. Their concern was there was no space for the dumpster that had been behind the building. While Bob James was checking it out, he determined that all that he thought was private property back there was actually not. The village actually owns four parcels behind the buildings. About 10% of the restaurant's storage building and the dumpster that is sitting there is on village property. Bob James talked with Mr. Suvar, the previous owner of the restaurant, and he said the building was probably put up in the late 80's. Bob James continued by saying he had talked about the situation with the Mayor and Shawn Pickworth and at that point he turned it over to Mr. Bond to get his thoughts on the problem.

Steve Bond stated that the simple solution would be to grant them a license to continue the encumbrance on the village's property. That solves the problem and gives them an explanation as to why they are there but still maintain the position that it is public.

Stuart Cooke asked Mr. Bond how the village would go about doing that. Would it just be a vote by council or would something have to be written up?

Steve Bond stated he thought as long as council doesn't have an objection to the license, then Shawn Pickworth and Bob James can talk to the new owners of the restaurant. If they are agreeable to it, they can work up some kind of a license.

Bill Curtis asked if there was any liability on the village's part with the restaurant's building being on the village's property.

Steve Bond replied that they could include in the license that they have to have liability insurance.

Stuart Cooke asked if they would need Bob James to talk to the new owners and run the idea by them and then they could go from there.

Steve Bond replied yes.

Bob James was in agreement and said that was all he had.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Recreation Department. Joe Thomas began by saying he wanted to thank Chief Marko and all the officers too because they help him out a lot with everything. They help with all of their events, things at the park and the reservoir. He wanted to thank them for all of their work. He continued by saying he had a couple things. First of all, he wanted to let everyone know the New London Parks/Rotary Super Raffle was coming up. This event is sponsored by the New London American Legion. It will be held on February 2nd. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the raffle will begin at 6 p.m. They also will need council's permission to sell beer at the raffle. There will be lots of good prizes at the event. Prizes range from an all-inclusive trip to Punta Cana for five days, a trip for two to Las Vegas for five days, and lots of other really good things that will be raffled off. Joe Thomas then told council that he and Shawn Pickworth had conducted interviews over the past two weeks for the new campground office manager. After conducting all of the interviews, Joe and Shawn wanted to ask council's permission to hire Heather Brown for the position. They feel that she will be a great fit for the campground.

Bill Curtis asked how many people applied for the position.

Shawn Pickworth replied that overall there were probably 15 applicants.

Joe Thomas stated that he thought it was over 20.

Shawn Pickworth added that he thought most of them were out of the area. There were only a few that were local and that became a problem as far as interviewing because they wanted someone local. That's who they picked from as far as interviews went.

Joe Thomas stated they had set up six interviews. Two people canceled at the last minute because they were also interviewing at other jobs and accepted a different position. They conducted four interviews and out of the four, Heather Brown was who Joe and Shawn Pickworth agreed upon.

Bill Curtis asked if council could see the four applicants that were interviewed.

Shawn Pickworth agreed to let them see the four applicants.

Joe Thomas replied that his only question and concern was that it was already January 14th and if they wait until the next council meeting to hire someone that sets everything back. They have stuff they need done now. There is stuff in the office, there are phone calls that need made and contracts sent out.

Stuart Cooke asked what kind of hours the new employee would be working.

Joe Thomas answered that they had told every interviewer that they would work from April 1st through the end of October and probably a week or two into November because the camping season goes until the end of October. That would give them a week or two to get things closed up. Then the manager would come in one to two days a week during the winter time and answer phone calls, return phone calls and get things ready for the next season. It would just be 40 hours a week April to November and then after that the hours would go down.

Stuart Cooke asked Mr. Bond if that would fall under the village's seasonal full-time category with the number of hours they would be working.

Mr. Bond replied that it seemed like a long time period. He said he would have to look at it.

Joe Thomas stated he thought one of the reasons they did the off season one or two days a week was because if the manager would be done in November they would file for unemployment so the village would have to pay unemployment during the off months. If the village would allow them to stay on for two days a week and work around 16 hours instead of 40, that would save the village money.

Stuart Cooke stated he thought as long as it falls within the seasonal full-time employment it would be fine. He thought Mr. Bond would need to see the schedule so he could give council an answer on that.

Joe Thomas asked council if they were going to wait until the next council meeting to make a decision.

Bill Curtis answered that yes he thought they should wait and look at everybody that applied and that would also give Mr. Bond time to check into the seasonal status.

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

John Martin presented Ordinance 2018-37 An Ordinance Authorizing Amending the Village Policies on Use of Credit Cards. Third Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the third reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-01 An Ordinance Amending the 2019 Temporary Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Curtis made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2019-01 to be passed on an emergency measure. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Paramore made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Resolution 2019-01 A Resolution Authorizing the Village of New London to Apply for Accept and Enter into a Cooperative Agreement for Planning or Construction of the Sewer Plant Improvement Project Between the Village of New London and the Ohio Water Development Authority and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2019-01 to be passed on an emergency measure. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business. There was none.

John Martin then called for New Business.

Chief Marko stood and said he wanted to thank his officers for what they have done. None of it is possible without their help. Every day they come in and at times have to handle a very, very difficult job and they do

it very well. Chief continued by saying they make him look good. He wanted to make sure everyone knew it was an absolute team effort. He appreciated everything they have done and without their help, nothing gets accomplished.

Curtis made a motion to allow the Friends of the New London Veterans to sell alcohol at their gun raffle in March. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Myers made a motion to allow the Friends of the New London Parks/Rotary to sell alcohol at the Super Raffle on February 2nd. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Curtis made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with ODNR for the Natureworks Grant. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked if there was any other new business. There was none.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Myers made a motion to approve schedule A. Willis 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 – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – yes; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.

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

John Martin asked if someone would make a motion to enter into executive session to discuss compensation for personnel.

Cooke made a motion to consider the compensation of a village employee or official. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes.

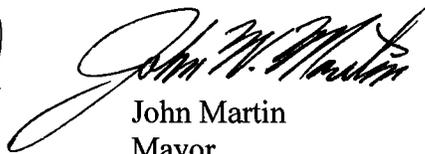
Cooke made a motion to return to regular session. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Absent; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes.

Cooke made a motion to give a \$1.50 pay raise to the Police Chief, Lieutenant and Sergeant and a \$1.00 pay raise to the Investigator beginning January 13, 2019. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes: No one opposed.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



John Martin
Mayor