

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, August 9, 2021 @ 7 p.m.

Council President Stuart Cooke called the meeting to order in the absence of Mayor Toby Thomas. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Gullett, Willis, Cooke, Jennifer Ball and Myers. Steve Ball was absent.

Also present: Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, John Martin, Joe Hicks, Brett Harrenton, William Given, Buddy Workman, Joe Thomas and Lynne Phillips.

Stuart Cooke asked for approval of the agenda. Myers made a motion to approve the agenda. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the July 26, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Gullett made a motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke asked if there were any public questions or statements.

John Martin from 37 Park Avenue stood and asked for approval from council to add Officer Wilson Velazquez to the monument at the Memorial Park. The cost would be approximately \$180. Secondly, John Martin stated he was looking at possibly re-etching the wording in memory of the war veterans with a certain type of paint that will hold up better. The cost of the paint would be around three or four hundred dollars. John Martin then requested that the village plant two new shade trees to replace the two large Maple Trees that had been cut down. He also requested a sign for the Memorial Park that would prohibit skate boards and other similar devices from being ridden on the bricks to prevent scratching and wear and tear. In conclusion, John Martin announced that the Monument committee would be meeting in the next week or two and he was hoping members of council would approve his three requests.

Janice Myers stated she thought there may be people interested in donating toward the cost of adding Officer Velazquez to the memorial since he had been very well liked by many.

John Martin replied that he would accept any donations.

Stuart Cooke stated that he didn't see any problem with John Martin's requests but asked him to return after he had exact prices for what he was proposing. At that time, council would make a decision.

Bill Given then stood and requested council's permission to purchase the village's property on Park Avenue. He has already purchased the adjacent land from the Methodist Church. He would like to turn a section of the land by the school's weight room into a public walkway and then donate it to the school. The rest of the property would go toward whatever project worthy of pursuing. He would like to offer \$28,000 for the land.

Stuart Cooke stated that council would discuss the request with the village solicitor and get back with him.

Bill Given added that according to the village's zoning regulations, the land was a non-conforming property.

Stuart Cooke called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth reported the following:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Right now we aren't planning to go to bid for this project until later this year, early next.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – crews have been out investigating/identifying services and working with engineers to be included in the project. Finishing up the funding paperwork.
- Backflow/Cross Contamination Inspections – crews have been out in the Twp. conducting the annual inspections per OEPA rules and guidelines.
- Crews will be pumping out and cleaning our wet wells at the pump station south of the reservoir starting Wednesday.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Contractors have been working on the new fence installation. Crews are also slip lining tile going into our treatment plant.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.
- Crews working on Charles Pwy. right now installing new 15" tile.
- Birch Park Drive – crews repaired a section of failed tile.
- East Washburn – crews installed a new catch basin.

Sanitation

- No major issues.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.
- West Washburn Project – Engineering continues with this project. The way it is looking most of this project will not be done until spring of 2022. A lot of things come into play when planning and bidding a project. Also, I was contacted by Columbia Gas and they are planning on doing a small project on West Washburn during the 4th quarter of this year in which we would want completed before we begin the road project.

Other

- Met with Janotta & Herner last week regarding utilities on Industrial Drive for the Tip Products Project.
- We have begun the interview process for the Office/Campground position advertised and continue to interview candidates for the Street & Sanitation position.
- Invoice Cloud – The Village would like to add on to our Munilink software with Invoice Cloud software. It will give customers more options to pay their utilities and taxes online. We can even

set up Zoning Permits, Camping and Building Rentals with online payments. The software will even allow customers to sign up for payment reminders that they will automatically get every month through email or text. The cost of this add on is minimal to the Village.

Stuart Cooke then asked for a report from police. Police Chief Joe Hicks reported the following: Part-time officer Robert Lambert submitted his resignation effective July 14th for a job with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office.

I would like to hire Brett E. Harrenton as part-time to fill that position. Ofc. Harrenton graduated from the Medina Police Academy on July 16, 2020 and has been with our department since 03/25/21. During this time, he has completed more than the minimum 320 hours required by our department to be released from his FTO training period.

I am also requesting an executive session to discuss the possibility of placing an additional full-time officer at New London Local Schools as a school resource officer. I have met with Superintendent Brad Romano to discuss some options. This is the result of Huron County Sheriff's Office relocating the current deputy to another school district.

Myers made a motion to promote Brett Harrenton to part-time officer effective August 9, 2021. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke asked for a report from fire. Fire Chief John Chapin absent.

Stuart Cooke asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had July's run report. There were 81 total runs (New London Village-48; New London Township-6; Fitchville Township-10; Troy Township-10; Ruggles Township-4; Mutual Aid-3). It was a very busy month.

Stuart Cooke asked for a report from zoning. Buddy Workman gave the following report to members of council:

1. Have issued 2 Permits - 1 Fence, 1 Porch
2. Have received over 2 complaints.
3. 92.5 South Main court date set for August 18th. Myself and Chief Hicks are required to attend.
4. Have issued 2 – 30-day notices for property maintenance.
5. 100 South main Notice has been posted on the residence. Village will go in to clean up the property hopefully before Labor Day Parade.

Stuart Cooke then asked for a report from Recreation. Joe Thomas presented the following report:

- The park board is still looking for volunteers for working the gates for the Labor Day Festival. If you are interested please contact Lana Bateson or Janny at the hardware store.
- The Labor Day parade is at 1pm Saturday September 4th. There was a mistake on the flyer that says noon.
- The Friends of the Veteran's concert is this Saturday. If anyone is interested in tickets contact Buckeye Korner.
- September 25th is the reservoirs next concert 3 Decades of Rock. The 70's band is Renegade, 80's band is Flash Back Band, and 90's is Bad Juju. Music will start at 3pm.
- The parks gun raffle is November 20th. We just received our tickets. We will have them for sale at the marathon station, the hardware store and any park board member. Tickets are

\$10 or 6 for \$50. Ticket includes your entry into the drawing and lunch. We will have many side raffles going throughout the day.

- The duck blind draw will be before the next council meeting August 23rd at 6pm.

Stuart Cooke then called for Old Business.

There was none.

Stuart Cooke then called for New Business.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to allow the village to add on to the Munilink software with Invoice Cloud software. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Stuart Cooke then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Absent; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes; Myers, Disqualify; Cooke, Abstain.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to Consider the Employment of a Village Employee or Official. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Absent; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

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

Cooke made a motion to allow Police Chief Joe Hicks to begin the search for an officer to fill a full-time position at New London Schools. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer

Stuart Cooke
Council President