

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, December 14, 2020 @ 7 p.m.**

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Mayor Toby Thomas 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: Myers, Jennifer Ball, Willis, Gullett. Cooke and Steve Ball.

Also present: Shawn Pickworth, Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Marvin McCallister, Joe Hicks, Joe Thomas and Lynne Phillips.

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

The minutes from the November 9, 2020 Zoning Public Hearing were presented for approval. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 9, 2020 Street, State Highway, Permissive, Sanitation and Storm budget meeting were presented for approval. Gullett made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 9, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 11, 2020 Special Meeting were presented for approval. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 12, 2020 Special Meeting were presented for approval. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the November 23, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any public questions or statements.

Ellen Simmons then announced that the New London Public Library would be closing until January 4<sup>th</sup>. It was becoming increasingly difficult to staff the library due to the pandemic. The library would be open the following day until 8 p.m. and then it would remain closed until January.

Since there were no questions coming through online, Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth then reported the following:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – We are working with GLCAP to resubmit this project to the State for Critical Infrastructure Grant funding. This would pay for most of the project.

- GIS Project – crews met with GLCAP (formally RCAP) representatives to correct some mistakes on our GIS mapping.
- Reservoir – pumps have been running for the past 2 months filling the reservoir.

#### Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Mr. Bond, John Chapin, Don Patton and I were part of a conference call with USDA-RD and Jones & Henry Engineering last Thursday, December 10, 2020. The purpose of the call was to discuss what else needed to be done before closing instructions would be issued by the USDA-RD. The goal is that we are ready to go to bid for the project sometime in January – February 2021.

#### Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

#### 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.
- OPWC Funding – OPWC Engineering Review Committee met on Friday, December 4, 2020 for the scoring review of Round 35 project recommended to be funded by OPWC. Projects in Huron County making the list were: Huron County Engineer, City of Norwalk, City of Willard just like they have been in the past. Our project scored high enough to make the list of the 5 projects sent to Small Governments. We won't hear until May – June of 2021 whether we are funded or not.

#### Other

- Columbia Gas Project – project continues. Crews continue to work on service connections.
- Farming Contract – The farmer we have a contract with is wanting to put lime on the Village farmland. His contract is up in 2022 and the benefits of applying the lime is best at year 3. With him not knowing if he will be awarded the next contract he was wanting to know if the Village would be willing to take it off his rent?
- Care Act Grants- an application was missed while doing the grant process. The right thing to do is honor this application and allow it to be processed. Asking Council's approval to process the grant.
- With this being the last Council Meeting before Christmas, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

Steve Ball asked Shawn Pickworth if instead of taking the cost of the lime off the farmer's rent, if they could extend his contract for a year.

Members of council and Shawn Pickworth agreed this would be a good solution.

Steve Ball made a motion to extend the farming contract in lieu of paying for lime for the fields. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated he didn't really have anything to report but he wanted to ask Mr. Bond what the proper way to address Joe Hicks would be. Since he was currently acting as police chief, should he be addressed as Chief Hicks or should he still be addressed as lieutenant since he had not been permanently named as police chief.

Steve Bond replied that it would be fine to address him as chief since he was acting in that capacity.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the police. Chief Hicks stated he had received a resignation from full-time officer Jacob Johnson. Jacob Johnson had requested he be allowed to remain a part-time officer for the village. Chief Hicks explained that once Jacob Johnson left, the police department would be operating at 60% capacity. He wanted to request permission to begin the search for a new full-time officer. Chief Hicks then continued by saying he had also received the resignation of part-time officer Kristofer Pinkerton. He wanted to also ask council for approval to start the search for another part-time officer. Chief Hicks explained that both officers had been exploring other opportunities for quite some time so their resignations were not a surprise. He also notified council that he and the other full-time officers were working on possibly changing the schedule to a 12-hour rotation unless it would require overtime.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to allow Chief Hicks to move forward with replacing one full-time and one part-time officer due to recent resignations. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to honor and process one last small grant application that had been missed. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

It was noted that an ordinance would also need to be passed at the next council meeting.

In the absence of Fire Chief John Chapin, Toby Thomas spoke of the deck project the fire department had been working on. Everyone was happy with the project.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated there had been 59 total runs for November. There were 36 in the Village of New London; 5 in New London Township; ten in Fitchville Township; 4 in Troy Township; and 4 in Ruggles Township.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James absent.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Recreation. Joe Thomas shared the following report:

- We have received a \$1500 donation from the new London eagles for new picnic tables.
- Brian Cucco, Karson and I have been busy at the reservoir working on fixing up some camp sites and cutting trees.
- There are six camp sites at the reservoir that I heard you would like to turn into seasonal sites. Lot 10,11,12,14,55,56 weekend sites brought in \$9,983.24 last season. If they were seasonal sites they would have brought in \$11,400. We also would like to add an additional 3 seasonal sites which would bring in \$5,700 totaling \$17,100. I would also like to add some weekend spots out by the cabins. If we turn those 6 weekend sites into seasonal we need places for our weekend campers to go. I got a quote from BCU to do all

the electric on those 12 sites for \$23,500. With the 6 sites we are turning into seasonal we brought in almost \$10,000. I think we will bring in \$15,000-\$20,000 with the new 12 weekend sites by the cabins.

- One of our major priorities at the reservoir is to get sewer to all the seasonal sites. Don and John told me to put in sewer to all the campsites would cost \$25,000. This would add 35 more full hookup sites. This would include a pump station at the lowest end of the campground and all those sites gravity feeding to it and then pumping to the main sewer line. If we add all these sewer sites it will generate an additional \$3,500 per year. So the cost for the sewer is \$25,000 and the cost for the weekend lots is \$23,500 totaling \$48,500.
- The other thing I would like to present to council is changing the camping dates. The number of days would be the same just changing the dates. I would like to change it from April 16 – Oct 17 to April 30 -Oct 31. I feel it would give us and the campers better camping weather and hopefully better weather for opening the campground. I would also on the weekends of April 16,17,23,24 have a cleanup weekend. This would give campers the opportunity to come in before the season starts to try clean their site. We would have someone in the office while the gates are open and at the end of the day the gates would be locked.

## WEEKEND SITES 2020

LOT 10 \$1878.72  
LOT 11 \$1483.25  
LOT 12 \$1194  
LOT 14 \$1540  
LOT 55 \$2606.80  
LOT 56 \$1280.50

TOTAL \$9983.24

IF THEY WERE SEASONAL SITES \$11,400

IF WE ADD 3 MORE ADDITIONAL SITES THEY WILL BRING IN \$5700.

ALL 9 SITES TOTALING \$17,100

### SEWER PROJECT

THE COST OF THE SEWER PROJECT IS \$25,000

THIS WOULD ADD AN ADDITIONAL 35 FULL HOOKUP SITES TO THE RESERVOIR  
BRING IN \$3500 MORE PER YEAR

### NEW WEEKEND SITES

WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD 12 MORE SITES DOWN BY THE NEW CABINS.

THE ELECTRIC COST OF THE PROJECT IS \$23,500.

WE BROUGHT IN \$9983.24 WITH THOSE 6 SITE. IF WE ADD 12 MORE I FEEL THAT  
WE COULD BRING IN \$15,000-\$20,000 WITH THOSE NEW SITES

THE TOTAL COST OF BOTH PROJECTS IS \$48,500

IF COUNCIL WILL LET US BORROW THE MONEY THE FRIENDS OF THE PARK  
WILL DONATE \$10,000 TO GO TO THE PROJECTS. BRINGING THE TOTAL TO  
\$38,500. I ALSO FEEL THAT WE NEED TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN

**COUNCIL AND THE PARK STATING THAT WE WILL PAY BACK \$5,000 PER YEAR UNTIL THE LOAN IS PAYED OFF.**

Steve Ball asked if Joe Thomas would be using the \$1500 donation for picnic tables to buy lumber and then assemble them himself.

Joe Thomas stated he would be using the money to buy the lumber and he had a camper that was willing to help him assemble the picnic tables.

Adam Gullett stated that the campers at the reservoir had raised \$1600 over the summer to go toward the sewer project so that amount could come off the total of the project.

Joe Thomas explained to council that there may be an additional cost to the project for road grindings so he was asking to be able to borrow \$40,000 from the CSX Fund. Any unused money would go directly back to the fund.

Janice Myers stated she didn't have a problem with Joe Thomas' proposal.

Stuart Cooke agreed that it was a good project.

Janice Myers made a motion for the Recreation Department to use \$40,000 from the CSX Fund to create 12 new weekend campsites, change nine weekend sites to seasonal sites and install sewers to the remaining seasonal sites currently not having a sewer hookup. In addition, the Recreation Fund would make an annual installment payment of \$5,000 to the CSX Fund until the balance was paid in full including the previous balance borrowed from the fund for cabins and Hileman Building improvements. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mr. Bond was questioned as to whether an ordinance would have to be passed to allow the Recreation Fund to use the CSX money. Mr. Bond stated that if the purchases were paid directly from the CSX fund and no transfer would need to be made, the motion from council would be all that was needed.

It was agreed that all money spent would come directly out of the CSX Fund and a record would be kept of total expenses so the total to be paid back would be known.

Steve Ball made a motion to set the seasonal camping dates to begin April 30<sup>th</sup> and end on October 31<sup>st</sup> with cleanup weekends scheduled for April 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2021. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-34 An Ordinance Providing for the Appointment of the Village Solicitor. Second Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the second reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-35 An Ordinance Amending Section 921.10(a), 925.07(b), 931.02(d), and 959.10 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to the Rates for Utility Services. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the second reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-38 An Ordinance Amending the 2020 Annual Appropriations Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Certain Expenses and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-38 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Cooke made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-39 An Ordinance Adopting the 2021 Temporary Annual Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures for the Operation of the Village of New London and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2020-39 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business. There was none.

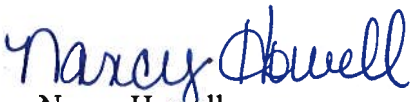
Toby Thomas then called for New Business. There was none.

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

Toby Thomas 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, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes; Myers, Disqualify; Cooke, Abstain.

Toby Thomas then presented the Then and Now Bills under Schedule C. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule C. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas  
Mayor