

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, December 23, 2019 @ 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: Cooke, Myers, Willis, Ball and Paramore. Curtis was absent.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Steve Bond, Ellen Simmons, Bob James, Jayne Carroll, Scott Carroll, Steve Ball, Don Patton, Johnathan Bond, Lynn Phillips, Dick Murr, Melissa Martin, Terry Knudsen and Megan Sherlund.

John Martin then asked for approval of the agenda. Paramore made a motion to approve the agenda. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the December 9, 2019 Workshop were presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the December 9, 2019 regular council meeting were then presented for approval. Paramore made a motion to approve the minutes. Ball seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements. He asked anyone with questions to rise, state their name and present their question or concern to council. They would be allotted three minutes to speak. There were none.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Water Tower Communication – We are working off the Water Tower. Vasu still needs to move FAS and the School.
- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – applications have been submitted to the State. We are hoping to hear something around February.
- GIS Project – project continues. Project is close to being completed.
- Tower Improvement Project – application has been submitted. I forwarded a letter from the State to you stating this project has been approved. I am asking Council's permission to go to bid in February 2020.
- Water Main Break – crews repaired a major water main break on Prospect Street.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – engineering is working on plans to submit to the USDA-RD. We are starting to receive drawings from Engineering.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing Major.

Sanitation

- Christmas Week – Tuesdays and Thursdays routes will be normal. Wednesday route will be done Tuesday, December 24, 2019.

Street

- Potholes – with the crazy up and down temps. and the amount of moisture that is under the road we are going to have a lot of potholes. Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.

Other

- Terry Wilson Memorial Deck – met with Mark Chase last week. I would like Council's permission to have Mark begin the process of drawing plans to replace the deck.
- Council needs to set a public hearing date for the Sign Ordinance issue. You might want to have Bob James refresh everyone's memory on how the Zoning Board ruled on this. You need a 30-day notice to have this hearing.
- We are asking Council's permission to close the office on December 26, 2019. The ladies would like to use Vacation for this day to be home with their families.
- I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Shawn Pickworth stated that he had one thing he needed to add to his report. Regarding the Land Bank, he was happy to announce they had taken possession of ten properties the previous week. Two of the properties were within the Village of New London. The properties were 31 North Maple and 52 North Maple. Shawn will be posting "Land Bank Project" signs on both of the properties and they will be doing something with the lots to clean them up and refurbish them. They are working in partnership with the New London Alliance Church. Shawn concluded by saying there were 10 properties taken possession of in Huron County and they are hoping there will be more.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he did have a few things. On December 11th at around 3:30 in the afternoon, police officers executed a search warrant at 66 Birch Park. Narcotics, drug paraphernalia and drug instruments were confiscated. There were two small children at the residence who fortunately did not wake up during the incident. Once testing is complete, it will be sent to the prosecutor where charges will be filed. That same evening, at around 8 p.m., officers initiated a traffic stop due to suspicious activity. As officers approached the car, the rear passenger took off running. The male ran into an apartment and locked the door. The police made contact with the resident residing at the apartment and she gave the officers permission to enter without her because she was working. They knocked the door down and searched for the male and eventually found him hiding under a large pile of clothes. The male confessed that he had run because there was a warrant out for his arrest. Then the past Saturday, December 21st, officers executed another search warrant at around 1:30 a.m. Methamphetamine, \$300 in cash, cell phones, Marijuana, Drug Instruments and Drug Paraphernalia were confiscated. Again, once testing is complete, it will be sent to the prosecutor and charges will be filed. Chief Marko concluded that was all he had unless someone had something for him.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Fire Chief. Chief John Chapin absent.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis absent.

John Martin then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James stated he didn't have anything unless someone had something for him.

John Martin asked Bob James if he would like to go over the sign ordinance to refresh council's memory.

Bob James stated that the recommendation from the Zoning Commission was to abolish the criminal part of the ordinance stating the violation was a Third Degree Misdemeanor but to leave the verbiage the same as far as not allowing signs in the tree lawn.

John Martin asked if there were any questions for Bob James. There were none.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Recreation Department. Megan Sherlund started by saying all the Christmas Lane decorations were up. They had been dealing with some electric issues but the displays would be up until after New Year's. They have started doing inventory on all the items they have along with Christmas decorations including small and large equipment and tools and other items to determine how much value the parks have. The Recreation Committee has been meeting frequently to finalize dates for all 2020 events. Megan Sherlund continued by saying they had just had Breakfast with Santa and it had gone well. They had about 50 children sit on Santa's lap and get their picture taken. The next event will be the Super Raffle on February 22nd. The Recreation Committee is hoping to do several additional smaller events in 2020. A calendar with all the major events will go out after the first of the year. The smaller events will be added to the calendar as they go. Megan added that she had begun doing basic winter maintenance throughout the parks. The weather has been so nice that she has been able to get out and make a list for Charley and Frank when they come back in the spring and a time frame for them to be done.

John Martin asked if there were any questions for Megan Sherlund.

Steve Ball stated that he wanted to add that the next Recreation Committee meeting would be on January 8th at 6:30 p.m. They would begin holding their meetings at council chambers for the winter instead of the Hileman Building. The next week on January 15th they would be having a Recreation Committee Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the same place.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-35 An Ordinance Amending the 2019 Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2019-35 to be passed on an emergency measure. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Absent; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Willis made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Resolution 2019-10 A Resolution Accepting the Gift from the Boy Scouts of a Log Cabin for the New London Recreation Park. First Reading.

Stuart Cooke said he had a question for Steve Bond. He wondered if Mr. Bond had been able to review the attachments that were part of the resolution.

Mr. Bond stated that yes he had. His issue with the attachments was not that there was anything illegal about the changes that were made, but he did have two issues he thought council should consider. The first was that the original deal back in 2011 had a valuation of \$36,000. They have now increased that amount substantially. His second issue is the attachments because they aren't needed. There is nothing illegal about

them but they could lead to some complications down the road. He concluded by saying that if council wanted to approve things as they were, they could but he just wanted them to be aware of the issues he had.

John Martin stated that he saw there were two Scout Masters in attendance and he thought they would be open to questions if council had any.

Stuart Cooke asked Dick Murr and Terry Knudsen if they had any comments or anything they wanted to say.

Dick Murr answered that he had always preferred the handshake method but with the times it seems necessary to put things in writing. He was concerned there could be problems in the future. He thought everything would be fine with the current administration at the Village but was worried about when the administration changed down the road. They were just trying to avoid future problems.

Stuart Cooke acknowledged that Dick and Terry had been involved with the scouts for many years. He was worried that once they were no longer involved there would be no one to step up and take over.

Dick Murr replied that they had three young men ready to step up and take over. The way he saw it, he thought as long as it stayed troop 217 and not another number, everything would be fine.

Stuart Cooke stated that they were just doing the first reading on the resolution that night. If council had any questions or any changes in the language, they had time to address it before the second and third readings. He thought council could look over the proposal and then bring up any concerns they have at the next council meeting.

Terry Knudsen added that he felt the Scouts had always had an excellent relationship with the Village of New London. The Boy Scouts are a service organization and that was the purpose for Exhibit C that lists all of the Eagle Scout projects so the community would know what the town would be like without them. Exhibit B was his attempt at putting the first part in layman's terms. He again acknowledged that the Scouts and the Village had always had a good relationship but they were trying to prevent having problems down the road. If future administrations were anti-scouting they could try to get rid of the program or the cabin so the land could be used for other things. That would leave the Boy Scouts with nothing. He also pointed out that the size of the group goes up and down and that is why he wanted to include that if there was a break in the Boy Scout organization because of low attendance, they would be able to come back at a later time once attendance was back up and still have a facility.

Dick Murr pointed out that the original deal included the Girl Scouts as well and they also use the facility quite frequently.

Stuart Cooke stated that he thought what Mr. Bond had been trying to get at was that if down the road the Boy Scout group is no longer affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, then he didn't know if the group should still have access to the building. He thought that could be a problem.

Terry Knudsen then explained how the Boy Scout organization is set up and how they were a stand-alone business entity and not tied into the National office. They are owned by their sponsoring organization which is the New London Rotary. For someone to get through to the New London Boy Scouts, they have to go through the New London Rotary Club. It's a completely different business model than what the Girl Scouts have.

Stuart Cooke replied that he wasn't as concerned about that as long as there isn't someone that comes in that isn't in with the Rotary or one of the Lake Erie councils. He doesn't want someone showing up and start using the facility without being a legitimate part of the organization.

Terry Knudsen felt it goes back to what they are trying to do. He feels at the current time they have a very good relationship. They are just trying to look to the future. He hopes that the relationship with the troop will continue and they will continue to be able to serve the community as they have in the past.

Stuart Cooke added that he felt council had been wanting to do something like this for quite a few years. They are all in favor of it but also they are trying to look to future events on the side of council and the side of the Boy Scouts which is just trying to cover all of the bases.

Terry Knudsen stated that he didn't know if they would be able to successfully put everything into words. It would be hard to take over a century of working relations between the Boy Scouts and the Village of New London and commit it to just a couple pages. He thought that at some point there would have to be a judgement call between the leaders of the Boy Scouts and the Village. They are just trying to put a framework down and have some guidelines.

Mike Willis asked if they couldn't just make it so it read local Boy Scouts. That way if there is a lapse, it would have to be the local group with a certain number and not just anybody can take it back over.

Terry Knudsen added that they work with the Girl Scouts and also the preschool comes out. Local church groups, 4-H groups, FFA and a lot of other groups come out and use the cabin. He thought that was the desire of Chuckie Thomas and he thinks it is also the desire of the community. That is what they want to do. They want to take that facility and continue to use it for the various youth organizations throughout the community.

Dick Murr stated their goal is to get the exhibits written so that everyone is happy with them. They just want to protect what they have.

Terry Knudsen added that they have done the best they could to be good stewards of the facility. It is really just all about the youth in the community. He is hoping they could get this part in writing done and move on and work together like they have in the past.

Mayor John Martin stated that with everything being said, was there a time frame that they were looking at if there was a lapse in the scouting program.

Terry Knudsen responded by saying with the charter they have to have a minimum of five youth and five adults at the same time. There was a time when they used to have 15 or 16 new members come over from the Cub Scouts. They now have only had one to two new members come over from the Cub Scouts in the last four to six years. He continued by saying that if ever they got to the point where they didn't have the minimum of five youth, he thought it would be within two years that they would get the program up and running again. Terry also explained how a girl troop would be able to get up and running. If that ever happens he stated, they would share everything they have and help them out.

Dick Murr wanted to emphasize what a good program it was.

John Martin stated he appreciated their comments and he thought they had given council quite a lot to think about.

Dick Murr asked if anyone had any questions for them.

John Martin stated that there may be questions at the next meeting.

Stuart Cooke replied that if any members of council had questions, they would get a hold of them.

Stuart Cooke then made a motion to approve the first reading of Resolution 2019-10. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mayor John Martin thanked Dick Murr and Terry Knudsen for coming to council and explaining what the scouts were all about.

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

John Martin then called for New Business.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the Village Office to be closed on December 26, 2019 to use vacation days by office staff. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball – yes; Paramore – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – absent; Cooke – yes; Myers – yes.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to have Mark Chase begin the process of drawing plans to replace the Terry Wilson Memorial Deck. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball – yes; Paramore – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – absent; Cooke – yes; Myers – yes.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to go to bid in February of 2020 for the Water Tower Improvement Project. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball – yes; Paramore – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – absent; Cooke – yes; Myers – yes.

John Martin reminded council that they would need to set a date for a public hearing for the sign ordinance issue.

Council decided to have the public hearing on February 10, 2020 in council chambers before the regular council meeting that evening. A legal notice would be put in the paper 30 days in advance to notify the public.

Mayor John Martin then called Steve Ball forward. John Martin then swore in new member of council, Steve Ball, by having him repeat the Oath of Office for council.

John Martin asked if there was any other New Business. There was none.

John Martin stated he had been given a plate of cookies and he invited everyone in attendance that night to stay after the meeting and share some cookies.

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

John Martin then presented the monthly then and now bills for approval under Schedule B. Myers made a motion to approve Schedule B. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mayor John Martin stated that before he asked for a motion to adjourn he wanted to read a letter.

To the New London Village Council and All Concerned:

I wish to take this time to thank the residents of New London for their trust in me as Mayor from 2016 through 2019. It has been a great term with many opportunities for a better New London. It all started with the dedication of the New London Veteran's Memorial, a more reliable sanitation sewer system with reduced ground water influx, safer sidewalks across two railroad crossings, a new Fireland's Electric business complex, University Hospital Urgent-care, upgraded water treatment plant, a Village Safety Forces radio

antennae placement for a safer, more reliable means of communication for those safety forces and school and a new Fisher Titus medical facility to accommodate those doctors already in the Village.

Many people were responsible for these accomplishments and no one person should take claim for any of these.

I thank New London Village Council, Solicitor, Administrator, Fiscal Officer, Safety Forces and all New London Village employees for all their hard work in keeping New London a safer and greater place to live, work and play.

Respectfully,
John W. Martin
Mayor-New London, Ohio

John Martin concluded by saying thank you.

Everyone in attendance gave John Martin a round of applause.

John Martin stated he appreciated their applause and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Mayor John Martin concluded the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas
Mayor

