

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, February 10, 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: Curtis, Myers, Willis, Cooke, Jennifer Ball and Steve Ball.

Also present: Chief Marko, Steve Bond, Shawn Pickworth, Don Patton, Scott Carroll, Marvin McCallister, John Martin, Megan Sherlund, Mark Chase, Jessica Khaledi, Pam Massie, Greg Massie, Brenda Filak, Jim Filak, Dawn Hess, Dr. Harwood, Bob James, Hazel Michowka, Tyson Wittman, Duane Tanner, Matthew Mattner, Maggie Anadell, Briana Anadell, and Lynn Phillips.

Toby Thomas then asked for approval of the agenda. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the agenda. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the January 27, 2020 Workshop were presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Before the minutes from the last meeting were approved, Bill Curtis wanted to make sure that there was a correction made. At the previous meeting, the Pledge of Allegiance had been done first before the invocation. He wanted to make sure that was corrected in the minutes. The minutes read that the Invocation was done and then the Pledge of Allegiance. The correction will be made.

A couple other questions about the minutes were asked but it was determined no other corrections needed to be made.

The minutes from the regular meeting held on January 27, 2020 were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for any public questions or statements. He asked anyone with a question or statement to please step forward to the microphone and state their name before they began speaking.

Greg Massie stood and stated he was told that the Labor Day Campsite procedure had been changed at a previous council meeting. He continued by saying he and several other Labor Day campers had come to the meeting because they wanted to know how they had received a letter the previous summer explaining how the Labor Day camping would be run and now they were being told it was changed. The letter they had received had stated that as long as the campsite was paid for by August 1<sup>st</sup> there would be no need to pay a reservation fee and the campsite would still be theirs. Now he was being told it was going to a first-come, first-serve system like they had previously done years ago. He then explained his reasons why that system does not work. He stated again how he did not know how they could change the procedure after the campers had already received a letter about the 2020 Labor Day camping. He doesn't know why they would want to change the system because it was working better than any previous system they had used.

Toby Thomas explained that from his understanding there was a change in leadership for the Parks and Recreation Department and Megan Sherlund, the current manager for the parks, had not been aware the letter had gone out.

A discussion between the Labor Day campers began about when the letter had been received and that it had come from the Village of New London.

Jennifer Ball commented that council had not known that campers had received a letter.

The upset campers began speaking all at once on issues they were not happy about.

Mayor Toby Thomas requested that they try to keep some order and asked that anyone wanting to speak come to the microphone and state their name and then begin with their comment. He then asked Steve Ball as chairman of the recreation committee, if he had anything to say in response to the campers.

Steve Ball began by saying none of the Recreation Committee had known about the letter that had gone out. He stated he didn't want to refer to it as a letter because it wasn't signed. It was a handout. He continued by saying, he had planned on discussing the situation again that night under Old Business and propose that they honor the letter for the 2020 Labor Day Festival. The Recreation Committee and Parks Director would still like the changes moving forward but they also want to be fair since they had no knowledge of the letter.

Stuart Cooke stated he had brought it up to the Parks Director in the last meeting before they had taken a vote. He had asked what would happen with the people who had already paid for their 2020 Campsite.

Steve Ball replied that Megan had answered that question at the previous meeting. Anyone who had already paid for their campsite, they would honor those. What he was talking about wasn't about those who had already paid, but this is based on a document that said you didn't have to pay a reservation. It was just necessary to pay before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Stuart Cooke stated that he was on council when it had been changed to the way it was right now. They changed it because the first-come, first-serve system had been such a hassle and all the campers in attendance agreed.

Toby Thomas wondered if all those in attendance about Labor Day camping would want to wait until Old Business when they can bring the issue up and make any motion council decides to make. Then the campers can talk about the new motion made. If for some reason, no new motion is made, he will still give everyone the opportunity to voice their opinion.

The campers were fine with that idea.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any other public questions or comments that did not concern Labor Day camping. There were none.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn then reported the following.

#### Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – met with Alex White, Engineer at GRW to review prints. Still waiting to hear from the State on funding application. I was told last week we should hear something later this month or March.
- GIS Project – project continues.

- Tower Improvement Project – Bid opening for this project was held Friday, February 7, 2020 here in Council Chambers. We received a total of 6 bids ranging base bid from \$132,640.00 to \$325,000.00. Alternate bids ranging from \$6500 - \$20,940. Bids went back with Alex White for Engineering review. I will recommend one of these bids to Council at the February 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.
- Train 4 – crews are still working to get this train back in service.

#### Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – engineering continues.

#### Storm Sewers

- Nothing Major.

#### Sanitation

- Nothing Major

#### 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

- Gas Line Project – contractors have completed the install of the new gas mains. Crews will return in the spring to finish the landscaping.
- Equipment lease – our lease is up next month on our equipment lease and it is time to turn them in. We have been demoing new equipment for the last 6 weeks, gotten quotes (state bid quotes) for that equipment. I would like Council permission to move forward with the lease process. If so, there will be legislation for you to pass at a future meeting.
- The Mayor and I will be attending a meeting tomorrow night in Norwalk, called by our County Commissioners. This meeting is about economic development and the direction they vision for Huron County. If you haven't heard or don't know we have always been a part of HCDC (Huron County Development Council). New London, New London businesses have benefited over the years from being a part of HCDC. HCDC has always been partially funded by the Commissioners along with Community Funding, Private Partnership Funding and Fund Raisers. Back in December the Commissioners elected to no longer fund HCDC through their interim budget 2020, delivered by an email sent to Carol Knapp, Executive Director, Huron County Development Council. There is a movement from other Cities, other Counties to combined HCDC with their organization. This is very concerning as we depend a lot on HCDC here in the Village. The Villages and Townships cannot afford to hire our own economic expert and what I believe will be proposed will only benefit Norwalk, Willard, the Cities. Huron County boarders extend well beyond the city limits of Norwalk and Willard. Who will then look out for us smaller communities? Huron County Development Council serves the entire County not just the cities. Make no mistake this comes back to the almighty dollar; another organization wants the funding

from the Commissioners. The Commissioners have already committed to funding another economic organization for multiple years and this organization is based in Erie County & Norwalk City not Huron County. Why? And their commitment is far more than they ever invested in our own HCDC. Hopefully the Commissioners will remember that they were elected by the citizens of Huron County to serve the entire County and not just the Cities and do what is right, what is fair for the entire County. HCDC belongs to 4CG which is a partnership between Huron, Ottawa, Sandusky & Seneca Counties. I guess we will see what they have to say tomorrow night. More to come.

Mayor Toby Thomas stated that he had met with Brian Cucco and he wanted to share the stats for the cemetery with council. In 2018 there were 17 lots sold, 14 full burials and nine cremations. In 2019 there were 16 lots sold, 12 full burials and five cremations.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated the police department had lost a full-time officer and wanted to ask council's permission to promote a part-time officer to a full-time position. That was all Chief Marko had unless someone had something for him.

Toby Thomas asked Steve Bond what they needed to do in order to promote the officer.

Steve Bond replied that they would need a name and a pay rate and then council would need to make a motion.

Toby Thomas asked Chief Marko if he had that information.

Chief Marko stated the officer he wanted to promote was Coty Bravo. Coty has been with the police department for all of their search warrants. He is educated, trained and ready to go. His starting rate of pay will be \$15.34.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the Police Chief to promote Coty Bravo to a full-time position beginning on March 2, 2020 and starting with a pay rate of \$15.34 per hour with a raise to be determined once probation is completed. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Fire. Chief John Chapin absent.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis stated they had 39 runs in January. There were 22 runs in the Village of New London; 9 in New London Township; 4 in Fitchville Township; 1 in Troy Township and 3 in Ruggles Township. Of the 39 runs, 21 were Basic Life Support and 18 were Advanced Life Support. There was one overdose and one motor vehicle accident. He concluded by saying January had been somewhat of a quiet month.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James reported they had a meeting of the New London Zoning Commission prior to that evenings council meeting to revisit a variance request by Robert Travis. He had applied for a variance the previous fall but was denied because the lot was way too small. He has changed the way the lot would be split. He now has a 60-foot frontage and he is only nine feet short in the back which is less than 600 square feet. The Zoning Commission voted to allow the variance contingent on two items. He will need to have the lot surveyed to make sure the new lot sizes would be what he says they will be. He also will need to enlarge the building on the smaller lot to bring it up to code. Bob James then asked Steve Bond what other action they would need to allow the variance to go forward.

Mr. Bond replied that since the Zoning Commission had approved it, there was nothing else needed.

Bob James stated he didn't know if anyone had seen it but there was a big Senior Center sign that was on the vacant lot up town. He called the director and told him he had to remove it which he has already done. The reason he had to remove it was because the sign was too big. Bob James was bothered by the fact that someone had given them permission to place the sign there. The director did not know who had given them permission but Bob James stated he intended on finding out who it was.

Toby Thomas then asked Megan Sherlund for a report for the Recreation Department. Megan Sherlund stated she had given council packets and also emailed them on three different items. The first item was about the available seasonal camping spots at the reservoir. Her recommendation was to keep the spots available as seasonal campsites and make them available to the outside list. The second item she gave council was the new campground brochure. With council's permission, she would like to get them printed at Shelby Printing. Her final item was for seasonal employment at the parks for 2020. She went over the positions she would like to hire back, some new positions and the pay rates she would like for them to receive.

Stuart Cooke requested an Executive Session at the next meeting with Shawn Pickworth and Megan Sherlund to discuss the seasonal employment for the 2020 season at the parks.

Toby Thomas stated that they would set that up for the next meeting.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2019-21 An Ordinance Amending the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Signs Within the Right of Way. Second Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the second reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-01 An Ordinance Amending the Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies Relative to Uniform Allowance. Third Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the third reading. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-03 An Ordinance Amending the Village's Employee Handbook Relative to the Salary Schedule. Second Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Toby Thomas asked Steve Ball if he wanted to talk more about Labor Day camping or make a motion to amend the previous decision.

Steve Ball suggested they take a step back. There were a lot of people that had attended the meeting with a lot more history on the issue than he has. They have a Recreation Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers. He wondered if the Labor Day campers would be willing to come to that meeting to discuss the matter.

Most of the campers were in agreement that they would go to the meeting.

Steve Ball thought they could discuss it with the Recreation Committee and then the Recreation Committee would come back to council with a recommendation.

Toby Thomas replied that he thought that would be good. He thought the campers should also be thinking about how someone new might be able to come and camp in one of the Labor Day campsites. He wondered if all of the campsites are always taken.

Jim Filak came forward and stated he had only been camping at Labor Day for five years. He was on the waiting list for two years.

Toby wanted to verify that there was a waiting list and people were able to get a spot that way.

Jim Filak stated that was how he had gotten his spot. He continued by saying that was the way it had been for years.

All the other campers agreed.

Toby Thomas added that they would be having the Recreation Committee meeting the upcoming Wednesday and encouraged everyone to attend. They all could work through the issue and the Recreation Committee would come back to council with a recommendation.

Maggie Anadell then came forward and stated she had just received her Labor Day campsite this past year. She had been on the waiting list for three years. Most of her brothers and sisters had already been camping there. She had been driving back and forth before she received her site. She and her brother live over an hour away and she doesn't know if Wednesday would work because of the distance they would have to travel.

Toby Thomas wondered if the other Labor Day campers would represent her at the meeting and mention all the things she would like to say.

Maggie Anadell responded that yes she thought they would. She had just received her campsite after being on the waiting list for three years. She was excited to receive her site so that she could camp with her family.

Stuart Cooke stated he thought Jim Filak and Maggie Anadell were two examples that need to be brought up to the Recreation Committee at the meeting on Wednesday. The Recreation Committee was concerned that new people were never able to obtain a site at Labor Day because there were never any openings. Stuart Cooke felt like Jim Filak and Maggie Anadell were both examples that new people can receive a spot.

Greg Massie added that he didn't think all of the spots had been taken the previous year. Several other Labor Day campers agreed with him. Greg Massie then commented that even the spot where the softball players used to camp was empty. He wondered if more campsites could be added.

Stuart Cooke stated that the Health Department has certain criteria that doesn't make it feasible to add more sites.

Greg Massie wondered about the back area where the primitive sites were. He thought there was a lot of room for more campers back in that area.

It was noted that almost all of the primitive sites had been purchased with the exception of maybe two or three. All of the water and electric spots were paid for. If there were a lot of empty spots, it wasn't because they weren't paid for.

Dawn Hess questioned the procedure for someone on the waiting list and specifically wondered about a friend of hers who had been able to purchase a primitive camping site the previous year.

It was explained that when someone requests to be on the waiting list, they are asked if they only want a water and electric site or if they would be ok with a primitive site. That information is noted so it is possible for someone further down on the waiting list to receive a spot as long as they are fine with it not having water and electric. All water and electric sites are called in the exact order they are put on the waiting list.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Toby Thomas stated that there were representatives from Fisher Titus there that evening to share about the new Fisher Titus Facility.

Dr. Jeff Harwood and Jessica Khaledi came forward. Jessica Khaledi announced that the new Fisher Titus building will be open to see patients beginning Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The old building is scheduled to be demolished on February 28<sup>th</sup>. They will then follow up with asphalt sometime in mid-March if the weather allows. They are hopeful all phases will be done by the end of March.

Doctor Harwood then gave a Rail Trail update. The goal is to turn an abandoned rail bed between New London and Greenwich into a recreational trail. Dr. Harwood announced they had acquired a property last May and with the help of Bob Archer and Kent Sporting Goods they now own the property free and clear. They also had a generous donor give them \$10,000. They expect to start work on the trail in July or August. The New London site will begin at the West Main Street property location. The Greenwich site will be on Kniffen Street. He is hoping to generate more interest in the project and stated more people have been attending the work sessions and signed up to become members. Dr. Harwood thanked Stuart Cooke and his crew for their work. The goal is to have the first section done by mid-summer. He isn't sure how professional looking the surface grade will be, but it will be open. The last thing Dr. Harwood wanted to announce was thanks to a generous contribution by Fisher-Titus they have acquired the abandoned house on West Main Street that sits right where the trail will be. They will be clearing the brush around the property. Mark Chase and Janotta & Herner have taken on the task of figuring out how to demolish the building. They will also make a small parking area. They will keep the current garage as an equipment storage area. The project has been named the Fisher Titus AC & Y Trail Project. Dr. Harwood concluded by saying their 501(c)3 group working on the project is known as the New London-Greenwich Rail Trail Inc. He passed out brochures to council and thanked them for their time.

Toby Thomas then announced that the Zoning and Planning Commission would be meeting in council chambers on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. He would also like to have record of when any of the other village committees are meeting. He would like to get all committee meetings on a calendar and also add a calendar to the village website so the community can know when the different meetings will be.

Toby Thomas also wanted to let everyone know that they had begun getting in applications for Chief of Police. The members of council are listed as the Police Committee. He had talked to Stuart Cooke and they would like to have a smaller committee to do the interviewing process. He asked council to be thinking about that and they will discuss who should be on the smaller committee at a later date.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to allow the Village Administrator permission to move forward with the lease process for new equipment since the current equipment lease will be expiring. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Steve Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Steve Ball – yes; Jennifer Ball – yes; Willis – yes; Curtis – yes; Cooke – abstain; Myers – disqualify herself.

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

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



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas  
Mayor

