

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, February 24, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

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, Marvin McCallister, John Martin, Megan Sherlund, Pam Massie, Greg Massie, Ellen Simmons, Wendy Kidd, John Chapin and Lynn Phillips.

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

The minutes from the February 10, 2020 Zoning Public Hearing were presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

The minutes from the regular meeting held on February 10, 2020 were then presented for approval. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Curtis 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.

Ellen Simmons stated she had handed out a town event card to all the members of council. She had also distributed them to businesses throughout town. She keeps them with her at all times and she has plenty of them. She would be happy to share them with anyone. Any church or organization that would like some should let her know. The Community Club makes the event cards. They are also the group that does Hometown Holidays and they recently had a successful Jungle Terry presentation.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any other questions or comments. 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 – Waiting on an answer from the State.
- GIS Project – project continues.
- Tower Improvement Project – I am asking permission to enter into contract with D & M Painting Corporation. I forwarded the Recommendation of Award for the engineer to Council. Council discussed the wildcat logo being placed on the water tower. The cost for the logo came in higher than expected. The Athletic Booster Club was originally going to pay for the logo, but with the high cost, Shawn was unsure they would be able to. They went over different options and Shawn is going to check into the different ideas mentioned by council.

- Train 4 – Filter had media removed, contractor, engineers all met last Thursday to come up with what is needed to happen in order to correct the issues we are having. Wes Tech has taken back data to their engineers for them to run flow tests. Results from this should give us what our next plan of action is going to be.
- Tower Communication Project – the bills have come in for this project and are due. We have sent out bills to all the entities involved and should be receiving those payments soon. The total amount owed is right around \$79,000.00. Would it be okay if we used the CSX fund to pay the bill, then reimburse it as the monies from the entities are paid? This shouldn't take very long at all. If so, I would need a motion from Council that would allow Nancy to do this.

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

- With spring coming we felt very uncertain about renewing the mowing contract with Pott's Mowing. I am asking Council permission to go to bid for the mowing of the cemetery, offices, triangle park and Memorial Park.

Actions –

- Motion to allow us to use CSX funds to pay for the communication project bills, until we receive the monies from the County, School, FAS, EMA.

Myers made a motion to allow bills for the Tower Communication Project to be paid out of the CSX Fund until the monies are collected from the other entities that are part of the project. The money will then be paid back to the CSX Fund. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Cooke made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to go to bid for the mowing of the cemetery, offices, triangle park and Memorial Park. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mayor Toby Thomas shared he, Shawn Pickworth and Steve Ball had attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Fisher-Titus building. He appreciated the work that Fisher Titus and Janotta & Herner had done on the facility. He then reported that the village planned on working with a couple churches to help clean up residential properties in the village. The New London Methodist and New London Alliance Churches are willing to send teams of people to homes during April to help with those in need of yard cleanup. Toby Thomas continued by saying he and the Zoning Commission had been discussing ways to revitalize some of the residential properties. The Zoning and Planning Commission has taken a look at some of the empty

homes whose owners live out of town. They are trying to work through absentee owners and abandoned properties. They are hoping the Huron County Land Bank will help with that. There are also some grants available from Great Lakes Community Action Partnership to do home improvements and weatherization projects. Anyone interested in any of these programs should call Toby Thomas or the village office. Toby Thomas concluded by saying they had received several resumes for the Chief of Police position. He asked if everyone would please be in prayer that the village would find the right replacement for Chief Marko. It will be a hard thing to do.

John Martin raised his hand and said he had a question on 33 Park Avenue. It is the residence beside his and it has been in question for some time. It has gone into a Lien Company and they have been asking for \$30,000. He was asking that since the village was offering a maintenance cleanup would they be able to get permission from the Lien holder to go onto the property and clean it up. There are a number of animals that live inside the house. It is flea infested. He has had Public Health go in but they can only do so much. He has had the police go in and they came out flea infested. The issue has been ongoing for years and he is wondering what Toby Thomas can do about it since he is talking about maintenance and upkeep of village residences. He needs to have something done. The Fire Chief has gone in and he cannot condemn it. The State Fire Marshal has been in the property and he has not gotten word back from him yet. He would like some kind of satisfaction on the house because it currently is nothing but a detriment to the properties surrounding it.

Toby Thomas stated that nobody would be able to go on the property without permission. He knows it is difficult to find out who buy up the liens. He suggested that John Martin seek help from Bob James.

John Martin stated he had done that and he had also gone through the County Auditor and through the state with no answers.

Toby Thomas replied that there wouldn't be much they could do. The group that is trying to help will be unable to spend that many hours on finding out who to contact to get permission to go on the property. The churches are more interested in those properties who have owners that are ready and willing to help. He wondered if maybe the Land Bank had been able to look at the property. He suggested that John Martin contact them.

Stuart Cooke reminded John Martin that he had been mayor for several years so he knew how much time had been spent on houses like the one next to him. He continued by saying they had to consider the legal rights of the village versus the property owner.

John Martin commented that it was the village's responsibility.

Toby Thomas replied that it would go back on the zoning inspector. He would need to find out who owns it and get it taken care of. Since the Fire Chief and State Fire Marshal had been at the property it seemed like people were looking into it. Other than that, he really didn't have any answers.

Stuart Cooke added that they always look for the Fire Marshal to condemn a property or the health department. If they aren't willing to condemn them, there isn't anything the village can do.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he didn't have anything unless someone had something for him.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Fire. Chief John Chapin stated he had applied for two additional grants. They had already received one for new radios. That grant was county wide and the village's share is 5% which is a little under \$4,000 for over \$75,000 worth of radios. The other grant is through FEMA for SCBAs. He thinks the last time they received SCBAs was in 2004 so he wanted to replace them with the grant. The other grant he applied for was an equipment grant through the State Fire Marshal for \$10,000

worth of gear. They may have to pay 5% of that one too but it would only be \$500. John Chapin concluded by saying that they would be having a pancake breakfast at the fire house on March 8th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Stuart Cooke asked John Chapin if water production was being effected by the problems they are having with train #4 at the water plant.

John Chapin replied that no it was not at that time. They have some issues. They run three trains at a time. The idea is to rotate the trains and take turns taking one out of service and they can't do that right now. They need to do some minor work on the other trains and they aren't able to do that.

Stuart Cooke asked John Chapin what would happen if they had to take one of the trains out for an emergency.

John Chapin answered that if that happened, they would be in a little bit of trouble. They do have a contingency plan if they lose a train. They would be alright for a short period of time but not an extended period of time. John Chapin thought the issue with train #4 had gone on long enough.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis stated he had nothing to report at that time.

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

Toby Thomas then asked Megan Sherlund for a report for the Recreation Department. Megan Sherlund stated they had their Super Raffle over the weekend. She wanted to thank everyone who had come and volunteered their time. She also wanted to thank the businesses around town who had donated various items. She also thanked the village employees who came on Friday to help set up for the event.

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

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-04 An Ordinance to Approve Current Replacement Pages to the New London Codified Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the first reading. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-05 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Contract with the Lowest and Best Bidder for Phase II-250,000 Gallon Elevated Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project, and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the first reading. Cooke seconded the motion.

Steve Ball wanted to know what they were going to do about the Wildcat Logo on the tower since the price was so high.

Stuart Cooke and Shawn Pickworth discussed that Shawn was going to check with the boosters and meet with them before they made a final decision. Since this was just a first reading, there was time to make changes to the ordinance if necessary.

Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-06 An Ordinance adopting the 2020 Permanent Annual Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures for the Operation of the Village of New London and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-07 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Proceed with the Lease of Two New Kubota ZD1211-72 Inch Mowers and Authorizing the Village Manager to Auction Two Mowers Which Are No Longer Needed for Public Purposes, and Providing for an Immediate Effective Date. First Reading. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-08 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Contract for the Trade-In and Lease-Purchase of a Backhoe, A Mini-Excavator, and a Skid Loader, and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the first reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-09 An Ordinance Amending Section 131.11 of the Codified Ordinances, Relative to Fees for False Alarms. First Reading. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the first reading. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Bill Curtis, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Cooke, No.

Resolution 2020-01 A Resolution Appointing Farmers Savings Bank as an Additional Depository for Active and Interim Funds, and Authorizing the Village Fiscal Officer to Enter into Agreements and to Deposit Village Funds in Accordance Therewith and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2020-01 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes. Cooke made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Steve Ball stated that all members of council should have received a recommendation from the recreation committee regarding Labor Day camping. There had been many Labor Day camping representatives at the last Recreation Committee meeting and after further discussion the committee had decided to keep doing things the way they were with a couple exceptions. Going forward, there will be a limit of one site per person. For 2020 Labor Day camping, the sites can stay the same but those with multiple sites will be required to put the site in the name of the person who actually camps there. Only immediate family members as defined as spouse, partner and children, will be able to camp on the site. The only other change is starting in 2021 they are changing the payment due date to July 1st rather than August 1st. The reason for moving the due date forward is to allow anyone taking an available site to have plenty of time to prepare and plan.

Steve Ball recommended council approve the recommendation from the Recreation Committee to leave Labor Day camping as is but with the exception of one site per person and the earlier due date beginning in 2021. Bill Curtis seconded the motion.

Janice Myers asked if that meant they would be going back to reserved spots from now on.

Steve Ball replied that it would cover this year and next year but issues may change down the road and they may come back some time in the future with a new recommendation.

Janice Myers wanted to make sure it would be the same until it was brought back to council.

Steve Ball stated that if things change and down the road the Recreation Committee feels that a different thing should be done, they will come back to council with a different recommendation.

Toby Thomas wanted to verify that the main changes were that there was a limit to one site per person.

Steve Ball wanted to add that person and that person's immediate family as defined earlier in the meeting would be the only ones allowed to camp on that site.

Toby Thomas asked if there was any further discussion. There was none.

Roll call: All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Bill Curtis addressed Mayor Toby Thomas and New London Village Council and read the following letter.

"This letter is to inform you of my resignation from New London Village Council and all Council affiliated committees effective immediately. It has been an honor serving with you and serving the residents of the Village of New London. Sincerely, William H. Curtis Jr."

Toby Thomas thanked Bill Curtis.

Steve Ball made a motion to accept the resignation of Bill Curtis. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas thanked Bill Curtis for his years on council.

Bill Curtis stood and left his spot and took a seat in the audience.

Toby Thomas asked if there was any other New Business. There was none.

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

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

Toby Thomas asked for a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment and compensation of seasonal recreation employees and new Police Chief.

Myers made a motion to enter into executive session. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes.

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

Steve Ball made a motion to allow Charley Crawford, Frank Murr, Andy O'Dell, Mary Oney, Tom Howell and Kelly Pence to come back as seasonal recreation employees with a 5% pay increase and to allow the Village Administrator to hire five additional seasonal recreation employees at \$9 per hour. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to replace Bill Curtis on the Ambulance Board with Jennifer Ball. Mike Willis 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

