

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, January 11, 2021 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor Toby Thomas called the meeting to order. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Toby Thomas asked if they could appoint someone to take the place of the fiscal officer when she is unable to attend a meeting.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to appoint Steve Ball as a substitute clerk in the absence of the Fiscal Officer. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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. Cooke made a motion to approve the agenda. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the December 28, 2020 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

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

Marvin McCallister asked where the village was with the investigation on the former police chief.

Toby Thomas replied that he would have to contact the Huron County Sheriff's Department because they were the ones in charge of the investigation. Toby Thomas thought that there was nothing within the department. He thought they were still working on the investigation but wanted to check with Chief Joe Hicks to make sure the New London Police Department was not taking part in the investigation.

Joe Hicks verified that the New London Police Department was not dealing with any of the investigation. Any investigation on the former chief was being done by the Huron County Sheriff's Department. His understanding was that the BCI had turned their portion of the investigation over to the Huron County Sheriff's office as well.

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. I would like to thank those who have submitted letters of support for this project. It will help with the funding agency.
- Water Main – 12/29/20 crews fixed a water main at the corner of West Main & Johnson Drive.

- Raw Water Main – crews discovered a leak in the raw water main going into the water plant from the reservoir. The leak is right at the foundation wall of the plant and is expected to be a major project.
- The OEPA has announced a Principle Forgiveness program that will allow communities to eliminate lead services within the distribution systems. We know we have several of these within our systems and we would like to apply for this funding. The first step of this is to hire an engineer. I am asking Council's permission to advertise for qualifications to hire an engineer for this project and permission to apply for this funding?

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Everyone is working to finish up the funding requirements so we can close and go to bid for this project.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- No major issues.
- Working on the Compost Annual Report, to be submitted by the end of the month.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.

Other

- Terry Wilson Deck – held a pre-proposal meeting last Friday, January 8, 2021 @ 11:00 am at the Reservoir. Two contractors attended. Proposals are due by 11:30 am on January 22, 2021 and will be opened and read at 11:45 am. This will happen in Council Chambers.
- Project Leadership – I was contacted by a representative inquiring the use of the Hileman Building. They are asking to use it free of charge or a discounted rate for 3 events this year. Project Leadership is a Huron County 501(3)(C) organization that holds classes throughout the County mentoring future leaders.
- Community Wi Fi – the Mayor and I will be meeting with Brad Romano and team this Friday about the installation of Wi Fi on the top of our water tower. Brad Romano was successful in getting a grant through the State of Ohio to allow this to be done.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to advertise for qualifications to hire an engineer for the Principle Forgiveness Program that will allow lead services to be eliminated within the distribution systems and apply for funding for the program. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Council then discussed allowing Project Leadership to use the Hileman Building for three events during 2021.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow Project Leadership to use the Hileman Building free of charge for three events during 2021. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated he didn't really have anything to report but he was working on the State of the Village report that he would present at the next council meeting.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the police. Chief Hicks stated he didn't have a whole lot. He stated that things were getting easier and the transition was getting better. It will take some time but things are getting easier each day. Chief Hicks continued by saying that the police department was moving forward with Lexipol regarding updating the police policy manual. This will entail approximately 8-10 web meetings with a customer service representative over the next two to two and a half months. He is not sure when he will get to the point where they are utilizing the new manual but he is hoping it will be by spring or summer.

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

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated there had been 64 total runs for December. There were 36 in the Village of New London; six in New London Township; nine in Fitchville Township; seven in Troy Township; five in Ruggles Township; and one Mutual Aid. Total runs for 2020 were 661 runs. It was a very busy year for Firelands Ambulance. She concluded by thanking all the volunteers for the great service they provide for the community.

There was no zoning report.

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

- Everything is going well at the reservoir. Out of the 9 new seasonal sites we have already filled 5 of them and calls have been made to the next people on the list.
- We have been working on the 12 new weekend camp sites by the cabins. Thank you to Brian Cucco and the water guys for their help.
- BCU is in the process of getting permits for the project.
- Shawn, Don, Brian and myself met with Keen Pump to review the campground for ordering the lift station to add all the sewer sites.
- Emailed council rates and hoping to get them approved and asked for council to consider discussing 2022 rates over the summer so they can be determined before the campers leave in October.
- Would like council's approval to pave roads at the reservoir by using the majority of funds from the Friends of the Park money and just \$5,000 of village recreation money.
- Park Board meeting for the upcoming Wednesday would be at 7:30 p.m. instead of 7 p.m.

It was determined that an ordinance would need to be passed to change and approve the recreation rates for the 2021 year. It was also noted that no motion was necessary to allow the roads at the reservoir to be repaved but council was in favor of Joe Thomas' plan.

Toby Thomas then reported that he and other village employees had attended the calling hours for Bob James and had been able to give their condolences to his family.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-01 An Ordinance Amending the 2021 Temporary Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading.

Stuart Cooke asked for clarification on what Ordinance 2020-01 was for.

It was explained that this ordinance would allow the Fiscal Officer to move money from the General Fund into the Police/Fire Fund. Transfers take place several times throughout the year because the Police/Fire Funds needs support from the General Fund.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-01 to be passed on an emergency measure. Cooke 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 called for Old Business. There was none.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Stuart Cooke thought council should be thinking about what they would like to do about the police chief job and he also thought they should discuss advertising for a new Zoning Inspector.

Toby Thomas stated they would be talking about some of that during the executive session that was on the agenda but he continued by saying that his intention was to let Joe Hicks get comfortable and see where they go from there. Zoning would be discussed during the executive session.

The next topic was the 2021 Committees. Toby Thomas had questions on a couple of the committees.

Council began discussing the Shade Tree Committee. They discussed why it had originated and how it was used. Janice Myers was on the committee as a member of council. Toby made sure she was fine with being on the committee as long as she was a member of council.

Janice Myers agreed.

Council then discussed the Income Tax Board. Toby Thomas stated they would need to replace Linda Roeder since she had moved out of town but she was due to come off the board at the end of 2020 anyway. The empty seat was a council appointment so Toby Thomas asked council to think about who they would like to have on the committee and bring it to the next council meeting.

Stuart Cooke stated he would like to appoint Marvin McCallister to the board.

Marvin McCallister agreed to be on the Income Tax Board.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to appoint Marvin McCallister to the Income Tax Board. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The next committee discussed was the CRA Council. Toby Thomas asked Shawn Pickworth to explain a little bit about the CRA Council.

Shawn Pickworth gave a brief overview on the committee and how it originated. He explained that currently only commercial properties were eligible for the CRA. Shawn Pickworth reminded council that they could always change it and allow residential properties to be eligible as well. He continued by saying he didn't think the committee had met since Firelands Electric built their new building. He thought they should meet sometime soon.

Toby Thomas asked what council thought about allowing residential properties to be eligible for the CRA.

Janice Myers and Stuart Cooke thought they should meet and discuss it.

Shawn Pickworth added that he would like to invite Carol Knapp to the meeting as well. She was the one who had helped them establish the CRA Council.

Toby Thomas stated there were three openings on the committee. Two were appointed by the mayor and the other one was the Zoning Inspector. He asked council if it would be okay to wait to fill those openings until after the committee met and decided what they wanted to do about residential properties so they could take care of everything at once.

Council agreed that would be fine.

Toby Thomas stated the last committee he wanted to discuss was the Monument Board which has to do with the Veteran's Memorial by the library. The village did not have an ordinance as far as he could see defining the board and how the members are chosen. The members are Steve Ball from council and resident John Longbrake and resident John Martin but other than that there is no information telling him what the village needs to do with the committee because there is no ordinance. He knew it had started with the American Legion and John Martin had worked with the legion. Eventually, the Legion gave the remaining funds to the village to handle but there is no ordinance or any regulations on the committee or upkeep of the monument or anything. Toby Thomas asked council if they wanted to tackle that.

Stuart Cooke wanted to verify that Shawn Pickworth had been involved in the money aspect when the memorial project first began.

Shawn Pickworth answered that yes he was. At first, all the money went through the American Legion. They raised all the money and at some point they turned the money over to the village. The money is now in its own fund at the village. All proceeds from the sale of memorial bricks go into the Veteran's Memorial Fund. When a flag is replaced or anything else at the Memorial Park that is where the money comes out of. The previous year they had replaced the flags and reimbursed the girl scouts for the flowers they planted at the memorial.

Stuart Cooke asked Steve Bond if they should do an ordinance putting guidelines in place for the committee.

Steve Bond replied that they could if they wanted to.

Stuart Cooke asked if they needed to.

Steve Bond stated that he didn't know what the board was supposed to be doing.

Toby Thomas asked if they didn't do anything what would happen. The memorial is on village property so the village takes care of it. Nobody really knows what the board is for. Toby Thomas thought that if something needed replaced the village would just take care of it.

Steve Bond added that unless there was something in the deed when it was given to the village that stipulated there would be a board, he doesn't know why it was created.

Shawn Pickworth did not think there was anything like that in the deed.

Toby Thomas stated that other than the fact that there was a member of council on the board, he had it marked as a non-village committee so that he knows there is nothing in the village ordinances about it. He wanted to know if he should leave it that way because he didn't think it would be a village board because it doesn't even say who does what. He just wanted to know what happens if one of the board members came forward in the future asking for money to fix something because they aren't really part of the village.

Steve Bond replied that he didn't know why they were appointing people to something the we don't even know what it is.

Stuart Cooke wondered if they should eliminate the board.

Steve Bond stated they could do that.

Toby Thomas asked if they eliminate the board then the Memorial Park is just a village property and it would be up to the village administrator to take care of the property the way the village does.

Steve Bond replied that was correct unless someone finds something in writing that states otherwise.

Toby Thomas wanted to verify that the village takes care of it all now including the statue that was already there.

Shawn Pickworth verified that was correct.

Toby Thomas thought they may not need the board. He thought maybe it had been established because he knew John Longbrake and John Martin had put a lot of work into the project.

Stuart Cooke stated he knew they were both involved when the memorial park was being redone.

Toby Thomas noted that John Martin still sells the memorial bricks for the park. He didn't think they would need a committee for that. He thought all the money was delivered to the village office and then the fiscal officer took care of depositing the money. It was confirmed that was what happened. Toby Thomas asked if he should just tell them that the village was doing away with the committee and they would care for the Veteran's Memorial Park as a village property.

Steve Bond agreed they could do that.

Stuart Cooke stated that before they did away with the board, he thought Toby Thomas should contact them and let them know what they had discussed and see if they have any additional information that might change council's decision.

Toby Thomas agreed that he would do that.

Stuart Cooke thought that if there was no further information they would do away with the board.

Toby Thomas stated he would contact them and report back at the next council meeting.

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

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

Toby Thomas asked if there was anything else before they entered into executive session.

Steve Bond stated council needed to elect a president pro tem.

Gullett made a motion to elect Stuart Cooke as council president pro tem for 2021. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.


Jennifer Ball made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment of a village employee or official. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Adam Gullett 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; Gullett, Yes.

Myers made a motion to hire Mary Oney as the Reservoir Campground Manager at a rate of \$14/hour and working at least an average of 30 hours per week. She will also be offered the full-time benefit package. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion.

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