

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, January 13, 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.

The Mayor then swore in Bill Curtis to his new term on council.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Curtis, Myers, Willis, Cooke, Jennifer Ball and Steve Ball.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Chief Marko, Steve Bond, Shawn Pickworth, Don Patton, Jayne Carroll, Scott Carroll, Marvin McCallister, John Martin, Jill Crandall, Duane Crandall, John Neel, Sheri Thomas, Mary Oney, Megan Sherlund, Chris Rowland, Bob James and Lynn Phillips.

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

The minutes from the regular meeting held on December 23, 2019 were then presented for approval. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers 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 begin speaking.

Jayne Carroll came forward and stated she lived at 123 New London Avenue. She had a picture of a snow marker that she wanted council to look at. She wanted council to verify if the snow marker would be considered the same as having a sign in her tree lawn.

Council wanted to know if she was basically asking if snow markers were allowed in the tree lawn.

Jayne Carroll stated that was all she wanted to know.

Stuart Cooke answered that he didn't think it was up to him to say whether snow markers were allowed in the tree lawn because it wasn't his property. It was the village's property.

Jayne Carroll replied that she realized that but she felt that if some snow markers were allowed throughout the village in tree lawns then they should also be allowed at 123 New London Avenue.

Council agreed with her.

Ellen Simmons then stood and stated that the Community Club would be meeting the next morning at 9 a.m. at the Wildcat Café. They are beginning to work on Hometown Holidays for 2020. She wanted to encourage everyone to come and also anyone interested could be added to her email list. Secondly, Ellen announced that the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) would be meeting on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at noon also at the Wildcat Café. Everyone is welcome. The purpose is to bring everybody up to date on what is happening in the business community and also to determine what they would like to accomplish during the year.

Toby Thomas asked if anyone else had any public questions or comments.

Chris Rowland came forward and stated on February 2<sup>nd</sup> they would be putting on a demo at Firelands Electric. It is a car/pole scenario exercise on downed power lines to raise awareness. He also wanted to thank the village for their help with the downed tree on Third Street after the wind storm. The village and Firelands Electric have always had a good working relationship.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any more questions or statements. There were none.

Toby Thomas then realized they had never elected a Council President Pro Tempore. He then asked council for a nomination for Council President Pro Tempore.

Janice Myers nominated Stuart Cooke as Council President Pro Tempore for 2020. Bill Curtis seconded the nomination.

Mayor Toby Thomas asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

#### Water

- Water Tower Communication – Project is complete.
- 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. Village employee's will be training January 15, 2020 with representatives from GLCAP.
- Tower Improvement Project – We have received a release of funds letter from the State. This means the environmental came back okay and we can go to bid for this project.
- Train 4 – we have a set back with a new filter. About 5 weeks ago during a backwash cycle, water used to clean the filter started back flowing out of an air vent flooding the area. Crews shut down the process and found the inductor had failed. A new one was ordered and installed, and we still cannot backwash the filter as we should. The contractor is now on site removing the media from the tank to investigate what caused the failure. Once the repairs are made, new media will have to be reinstalled into the tank and the tank will have to be disinfected again before putting it back into service. This is all warranty work at no cost to the Village. We are hoping to have this train back in service soon.

#### Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – The Village met with Dan Miller from Jones & Henry to review the first set of engineered plans. Updates and changes are being made. Once the Village signs off on the designs they will then be sent to USDA-RD for engineering review and approval.

## Storm Sewers

- Nothing Major.

## Sanitation

- CDL – we now have another CDL driver. Congratulations to Clayton Englet for passing the test.

## 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

Shawn Pickworth concluded his report by notifying everyone of a New London Avenue, Park Avenue and Fairhome project beginning by Columbia Gas. They are installing a new gas line in that area. There will be some directional boring in that area. He also stated the whole east side of the town will be getting new gas lines over the summer like the North and West sides of town had gotten a few years ago.

Steve Ball asked Shawn Pickworth if there was anyone at Columbia Gas to follow up with. When they did the north end of town they did a pathetic job of restoring the tree lawns. He wanted to make sure they would do a better job this time.

Shawn Pickworth stated that if any residents had a problem they needed to notify the village office right away because it is hard to get them to come back after a lengthy time. If any tree lawns are not repaired like they should be, the village will make sure they come back and do the job properly. Shawn Pickworth continued by saying that the village tells every contractor that comes to town that they need to make sure the finished project looks good but they can't do anything if they don't know about it. He encouraged residents to notify the village if they are unhappy.

Mayor Toby Thomas stated that he would be giving a mayor's report from time to time. Since this was his first meeting, he wanted to let everyone know what he had been doing to catch up with all of the things in the village. Toby then shared the following report.

## General Stuff

- I've toured the Village with Shawn and been briefed on a million things that I've already forgotten!
- I went to a 911 meeting in Norwalk, so I'm beginning to learn how much work there is to do within the County to help our Village be better.
- I've also been in a meeting that discussed our sewage treatment.
- I am finding out just how awesome our village employees are as they serve all of us.

## Personal Beliefs

- Please call me Toby and not Mr. Mayor.
- I am deaf in my left ear so I'm not ignoring you. I just can't hear you.
- Mark 10:45 – Therefore I see myself as a Servant Leader like Jesus. I am here to serve you. Anyone of you may call or text me at any time. I will get back to you, if I can't answer right away. (I do have another job!)
- If any of you have needs that I can pray specifically about, you may text me and I will pray for you concerning the matter.

Toby Thomas  
Mayor  
330-835-7503

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he wanted to put the sign dispute to an end. A sign is an object. It doesn't necessarily have to be written. It can be a marker. It is perfectly fine for the police department or a village employee to put something in the tree lawn because the village is responsible for the tree lawn. There is no selective enforcement at the New London Police Department. That was all he had unless someone had something for him.

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

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis reported there were 65 total runs for December. Of those runs, 35 were Basic Life Support and 32 were Advanced Life Support. They had six overdoses and five traffic accidents. He also had the yearly totals. For the year, they had a total of 693 runs. The top runs were for public assists, motor vehicle accidents, falls, breathing problems and chest pains. Sadly, there were 16 overdoses in 2019. The total calls were up by 55 from the year before. Firelands Ambulance is extremely busy.

Toby Thomas then asked Megan Sherlund for a report for the Recreation Department. Megan Sherlund reported council had before them a list of Recreation Committee members but there were five names on the list that have not been approved yet. They were Denise Ball, Clayton Englet, Chet Blanton, Chad Blanton and John Martin. She was asking for council's approval of the new Recreation Committee members. Megan also reported they had their main acts for Rockin the Rez and the Country Concert. Rockin the Rez will feature a Lynyrd Skynyrd cover band and the Country Concert will feature a band from the Cleveland area called AC Jones. They have an EP coming out over the summer and they are using the Country Concert as a launch for the EP. Opening day for the reservoir campground will be April 10<sup>th</sup>. The seasonal camper's association is no longer active at the reservoir so Megan has taken it upon herself to have 13 different events for the children of the seasonal campers. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in council chambers.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James had nothing to report.

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

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2020-02 An Ordinance Amending the 2020 Temporary Annual Appropriations Ordinance by Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Funds and Appropriations as Needed for Operations, and declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Curtis made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2020-02 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. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2019-10 A Resolution Accepting the Gift from the Boy Scouts of a Log Cabin for the New London Recreation Park. Second Reading. Cooke made a motion to approve the second reading. Jennifer Ball 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.

Toby Thomas went through each committee to approve them.

Steve Ball made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee and specifically the new members, Denise Ball, Clayton Englet, Chet Blanton, Chad Blanton and John Martin. Cooke Seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Mayor Toby Thomas asked council what they would like to do to replace Marion Paramore on the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Bill Curtis stated he would like to nominate Steve Ball to replace Marion and be on the Zoning and Planning Commission. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked council if they were in favor of leaving Bill Curtis on the Ambulance Board. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated Tom Neel's term on the Records Commission had expired. Toby Thomas had spoken with Tom Neel and he stated he would remain on the commission.

Janice Myers made a motion to leave Tom Neel on the Records Commission for another term. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Bill Curtis made a motion to add John Martin as a member of the Monument Board. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas explained to council that George Eastman and Steven Fawcett's terms on the CRA Housing Committee were up so council needed to appoint two new members.

Stuart Cooke thought Toby Thomas should contact George Eastman and Steven Fawcett and see if they would be interested in serving another term on the CRA Housing Committee.

Toby Thomas stated he would check with George Eastman and Steven Fawcett and then they could talk about it again at the next council meeting. He then stated that he had spoken with Bob Johnson because his term on the Shade Tree Committee had expired. Bob Johnson was fine with continuing on the committee.

Bill Curtis made a motion to allow Bob Johnson to serve another term on the Shade Tree Committee. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas stated he spoke with Chief Marko and he is planning on retiring. The date is yet undetermined but Toby wanted to ask council when it would be an appropriate time to start thinking about a replacement and what needed to be done to begin the process.

It was determined the first thing to be done would be to advertise for the position.

Toby Thomas asked council if they felt that they should begin the advertising process. He asked Chief Marko if he was planning on retiring around March.

Chief Marko replied that he would stay on until the village found a replacement for him.

Toby Thomas asked Mr. Bond what the process would be.

Steve Bond answered that the first thing they would need to do would be to run an ad.

Stuart Cooke stated he thought it would be a good idea to state in the ad what the salary would be to cut down on the applicants that wouldn't be interested due to the salary.

Toby Thomas asked Mr. Bond if that would be okay to do.

Mr. Bond stated it would be fine.

Toby Thomas then brought up zoning. He thought Chief Marko had mentioned awhile back that it may be good to have the police do the zoning. He would like to have a conversation about that and he wanted to set up a workshop to talk more about it.

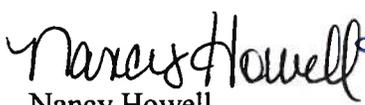
A council workshop was scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. before the next council meeting. Toby welcomed the public to attend.

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Curtis 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: 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. Cooke made a motion to approve Schedule C. Jennifer Ball 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