

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Monday, March 25, 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: Curtis, Myers, Willis, Paramore, Cooke and Ball.

Also present: Chief Marko, Shawn Pickworth, Steve Bond, Lynn Phillips, Ellen Simmons, Dawn Hess, Greg Massie, Pamela Massie, Jason Anderson, Steve Ball, Gayle Ashbaker, Mark Roeder and Don Patton.

John Martin then asked for approval of the agenda. Paramore 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 March 11, 2019 were then presented for approval. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Abstain; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes.

John Martin asked for any public questions or statements. He asked anyone who had a question or statement to stand, state their name and they would be allotted three minutes to talk.

Gayle Ashbaker stood and stated she had talked two weeks ago about the audit and the recommendation that the money from Labor Day gate receipts be put into the Friends of the Park account instead of the village's account. It would be easier for the Fiscal Officer and the auditor. She stated she had a copy of the audit and she had read it. She continued by saying that it did make sense but the only problem she had was that someone on council needed to publicly say that Joe Thomas and Shawn Pickworth would not be sent to jail because if it goes in the Friends of the Park account, it takes Joe to get it out.

Stuart Cooke asked Gayle Ashbaker what she meant by that.

Gayle Ashbaker replied that the village's attorney had threatened to send Joe and Shawn to jail for being on the board of the Friends of the Park.

Steve Bond and John Martin both replied that he had not.

Gayle Ashbaker commented that someone needed to take charge of what was going on. She again stated she didn't see a problem with the Friends of the Park account being used and if Joe Thomas didn't see a problem with it and the board didn't see a problem with it then they would do it for the Fiscal Officer.

Stuart Cooke commented that what they go by as council is what their solicitor advises them. That is why he is there.

Gayle Ashbaker asked why under Mayor Darwin Anderson the solicitor had made \$18,000 to \$20,000 a year and under Mayor John Martin the village solicitor was making \$40,000-\$41,000 a year. She asked if the village was writing that many ordinances. She thought that was a big jump. That was \$20,000 more a year for the solicitor.

Stuart Cooke responded by saying the price the solicitor had been charging the village for years was way under what the market was. He suggested that Gayle Ashbaker check what other villages were paying for their solicitor.

Gayle Ashbaker replied that New London wasn't "other villages".

Stuart Cooke stated he was just telling her what it was. The solicitor had done that for years. He was way under paid for what the market price was.

Gayle Ashbaker commented that the village could have paid off the fire truck with the extra they had paid the solicitor over the last two years.

Stuart Cooke replied that there was always seats available on council. If she doesn't think things are being run properly, then she should have run for a seat.

Gayle Ashbaker stated that John Martin had been after everybody. She then asked if council knew that he took it upon himself to go to the people on the west end of town and told them he was going to annex them or the village would turn off their water.

John Martin asked what she was talking about.

Gayle Ashbaker thought John Martin was saying the people on the west end of town don't tell the truth.

John Martin stated he wasn't going to answer that.

Gayle Ashbaker stated that instead of sitting down and having a decent conversation with the people he had threatened to turn off their water.

John Martin changed his mind and said he would answer Gayle Ashbaker.

Gayle Ashbaker stated she didn't care what he said. There were four people who say different. She concluded by saying "nobody in town tells the truth but John Martin".

John Martin thanked Gayle Ashbaker.

Gayle Ashbaker concluded by saying he was welcome.

John Martin asked if there were any other questions or statements. There were none. John Martin closed the floor to public questions and statements.

John Martin then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn reported the following.

Water

- Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project – We are getting back on track. Equipment is being delivered this week, last week crews started working on the new clear wells. Hopefully everything will be back in full swing by the end of next week.
- Water Tower – Council has legislation before you tonight that will allow me to use RLF for certain repairs to the water tower. This is required by the State of Ohio.

Insurance Claim – I talked to the insurance company last week and they stated they are going to pay on this claim and they want me to go to bid for the repairs that were done as a result of the ice damage to the inside of the tower. I am asking council permission tonight to allow us to do this. We met with Alex White from GRW Engineering last Friday and have given him all the information he needs to include in the bid specs.

- GIS Project – project continues. We are getting really close to completing this project.
- North Main Street – water main break was repaired near the intersection of Fir Street.

Wastewater

- South Clarifier – crews are making plans to drain the tank and repair some switches that were damaged by ice built up over the winter causing false alarms.

Storm Sewers

- East Hooker & East Washburn – crews are planning to install a new catch basin and new section of storm sewers.

Sanitation

- Spring Clean Up – April 22 & 23 is Tuesday's Route and April 24 & 25 is Thursday's Route.
- Dumpsters will be out starting on Monday, April 1 thru 3:00 pm, Friday, April 26th at the Village Garage on West Fir Street for Village residents to use.

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 – I did hear back from the insurance company last week and they are claiming the deck as a complete loss. They had a third party engineering company come in and look at the deck. That deck was built according to code and was built correctly. They found nothing wrong with the build of the deck. They have begun the process of getting an estimate on how much it is going to cost to rebuild.

John Martin then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he didn't have anything 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 reported that the seven people currently in the EMT class were getting ready to graduate soon. He was looking forward to having seven new EMTs.

John Martin then asked for a report from Zoning. Bob James unexcused absence.

John Martin then asked Shawn Pickworth if he had anything to report for recreation since Joe Thomas was absent.

Shawn Pickworth asked if he could go back to zoning for a little bit. He has been working over in Huron County with the land bank. They have been working hard over the last year to get a land bank started in Huron County. They are very close to where they are almost ready to take over their first property. They have had \$66,000 deposited into their account two weeks ago. They now have enough money that they can go out and start looking at properties. What they are looking at now is for the communities to prioritize properties on the list. He has a list and there are two properties in New London that could be forfeited directly over to the land bank. These properties could be torn down, sold or flipped. One property is 107 West Main Street just across the tracks and the other one is 81 South Main Street. He said he knows there are other houses there in town that are run down, abandoned and dilapidated. That doesn't mean they can't go after those homes. They are asking the villages to make priorities and a list to send to the county so he is wondering what council would like to see done first. They are asking the cities, townships and villages all to do it. The goal is to go around and they will make an impact in every community. It won't just be Norwalk or Willard. They are going to share all over the county to show that the land bank will work. He believes it is a good thing and he is excited about it.

Stuart Cooke asked what will be done with the land once the land bank takes over.

Shawn Pickworth responded that there were a lot of things that could be done with the land. It could be given to the neighbors or it could be flipped and sold and the money would go back into the land bank funds. Another option would be it could be donated to the village. There are lots of things that could be done with it.

Stuart Cooke asked about new construction.

Shawn Pickworth stated that absolutely a new construction could be built on the property. He continued by saying it wasn't just tearing down homes. He used 81 South Main Street as an example. He said if you look at the structure alone, it is a decent structure. He stated he knew it was probably tore up inside. He thought the land bank would not look at it and necessarily want to tear it down. He thought if the village saw a use for the structure, they wouldn't demolish it. It is a decent structure and the roofline is straight. That is something that would be evaluated at the time of the possession of the land before they actually would take over the land.

Janice Myers asked who makes the decision on if it is demolished or not?

Shawn Pickworth answered that it would be up to the board of the land bank and a lot of input from the villages and cities.

Stuart Cooke asked if all the communities in the county were involved with the land bank?

Shawn Pickworth stated that they were trying to get everyone involved. They haven't heard from everybody. They have reached out to all the townships and villages. Some have responded and some haven't. The ones that respond are the ones who will benefit from it.

John Martin asked Shawn Pickworth if he had anything to add for the recreation department.

Shawn Pickworth didn't really have anything for recreation but he added that they had been working hard. The interviews were going well. They had done two interviews and they had three more scheduled for the positions at the reservoir. He was hoping to come back to council with recommendations for the positions at the next council meeting.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-04 An Ordinance Changing the Rates for Utility Services. Second Reading. Myers made a motion to approve the second reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-07 An Ordinance Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Curtis made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2019-07 to be passed on an emergency measure. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Paramore made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Ordinance 2019-08 An Ordinance Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Fund and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Willis made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ordinance 2019-08 to be passed on an emergency measure. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Myers made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Resolution 2019-02 A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2019 and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Myers made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Resolution 2019-02 to be passed on an emergency measure. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes. Paramore made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin presented Resolution 2019-03 A Resolution Supporting and Urging the Adoption of Ohio House Bill 62, to Increase the Ohio Motor Fuel Tax by 18 Cents Per Gallon in Response to a Clear and Important Need for Roadway Maintenance in the State of Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading.

Janice Myers asked what exactly the resolution was for.

Shawn Pickworth stated the bill would bring approximately \$163,000 into the Village of New London. If it passes, that is the estimate according to the Ohio Municipal League.

Bill Curtis asked if the money would have to be used strictly for roads and bridges.

Shawn Pickworth stated that was correct.

Janice Myers asked if this would be on top of what the state wants to increase it.

Shawn Pickworth said no that would be the total amount. There has been another bill introduced for 8 cents so by the time they get done fighting who knows what it's going to be.

Marion Paramore asked if it was just for state roads and bridges and not the side streets.

Shawn Pickworth said yes it was but the money that comes back to the village would be able to be used for side streets.

Bill Curtis added that he wondered if this would be like what Kasich did before. The Ohio municipalities and local governments funding that the townships and the villages used to get was from income tax that was sent down to the state. They used to get a percentage of that back per person in New London but Kasich kept taking it away. First he took half then he took another quarter and then he took it all. Basically he kept it

down in Columbus to make a Rainy Day Fund so now the village doesn't get that money anymore and that was what was used for the roads.

Stuart Cooke wanted to verify that the estimate would be an additional \$160,000 that would come back to the village that would be able to be used on side streets and not just state highways.

Shawn Pickworth verified that yes that was what would go into the village funds that they could use for infrastructure for the roads and bridges.

Mayor John Martin added that would only be the case if they approve the 18 cent increase. Right now it has come back with an offer of 10.7 cents increase. Until they battle it out and come to a decision as to how much they are going to increase it by, no determination can actually be made about how much money the village will get.

Shawn Pickworth stated he had seen that they were going to allow the village's, as part of this, to increase the license plate tax another \$5 to help with that. Currently, they aren't even taxing the amount they are allowed to tax. That will be available if it passes because that is part of the bill too he believes.

Bill Curtis asked why the village needed to pass something on an emergency measure if it hasn't gone through the state yet.

Shawn Pickworth stated that they just want the support. They are just looking for support for their bill.

Bill Curtis commented that he was afraid that if it was passed the state would just decide to keep it all because he has seen them do that before.

Janice Myers added that passing the resolution didn't necessarily mean anything.

Shawn Pickworth agreed and said it didn't guarantee anything. All the resolution does is show support.

Stuart Cooke stated that he wasn't in favor of an 18 cent increase.

Marion Paramore added that he wasn't supporting it either.

Shawn Pickworth stated it would impact the village too because the fuel prices are going to go up.

Don Patton asked if they did the license plate tax if that would be guaranteed money.

Shawn Pickworth said that was correct.

Don Patton stated he felt that was the direction the village should go. He continued by saying the village needed some funds for the streets and they need to go down the avenue to get it. If the license plate tax is a way to get it then he feels that is the route they should go.

Bill Curtis added that maybe they should send a letter down to DeWine and ask him to recall some of Kasich's executive decisions and ask him to send the money back to the communities.

Don Patton stated that he agreed. They give money and then all of a sudden they take it back.

Bill Curtis stated that was his biggest fear with the state. He's afraid they will change their mind and not give the villages the money.

Stuart Cooke stated that they didn't have any control over it.

Janice Myers asked if they had to do something with the resolution.

Shawn Pickworth answered that council didn't have to do anything because he knows they are going to take care of the big three first which are Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus.

Stuart Cooke made a motion to table Resolution 2019-03. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Ball, Yes; Curtis, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Paramore, Yes.

John Martin presented Resolution 2019-04 A Resolution Adopting the Huron County Hazard Mitigation Plan. First Reading. Curtis made a motion to approve the first reading. Paramore seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin then called for Old Business.

John Martin stated he had something. The new sidewalks at the railroad crossings on North Main Street and West Main Street are complete except for leveling the ground next to the sidewalks. He signed an agreement with the state ORDC and upkeep on the sidewalks will be maintained by the village per the agreement for 10 years beginning with that day's date, March 25, 2019.

Bill Curtis stated the last time the state put the sidewalks in on West Main Street when they did the culvert there the railroad busted them all up when they added the second track when coming and going with their equipment. Bill Curtis wondered if the railroad busts them up again will they be responsible for repairing them or will the village have to foot the bill.

John Martin replied that if the railroad damages the concrete sidewalk, it will be theirs to repair. The village will have to maintain the sidewalks if they are heaved up or busted out and certain sections need to be replaced. That will be the village's responsibility from now until 2029.

Bill Curtis stated he was just concerned because they had never fixed them the last time. They just left them like they were.

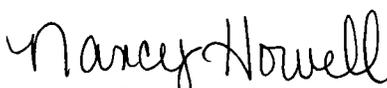
John Martin then called for New Business.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the Village Administrator to go to bid for repairs needed due to ice damage on the inside of the water tower. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

John Martin asked if there was any other new business. There was none.

John Martin then presented the monthly bills for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

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



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



John Martin
Mayor