

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, January 27, 2020 @ 7 p.m.**

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

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, Megan Sherlund, Tiffany Green, Eric Green, Nancy Kasicki, John Chapin and Lynn Phillips.

Toby Thomas then 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 regular meeting held on January 13, 2020 were then presented for approval. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.

Toby Thomas then introduced Eric and Tiffany Green who did a presentation on school choice. School Choice week was January 26<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>. School Choice is the process of allowing every family to choose k-12 educational options that are best for their child. Eric and Tiffany Green then gave a quick synopsis of the different school choices. They discussed the traditional choice of Public School which encompasses about 85% of students. They then talked about Public Charter Schools. This choice is tuition free like Public School but it is unique because Public Charter Schools have extra freedom to innovate. Another tuition free choice is a Public Magnet School. This is a more specialized school and may require a test to attend and students must meet certain criteria. Private School is an option but there is tuition required at these schools. These schools are usually faith based. A more modern choice is an Online Academy where students communicate with their teachers digitally. This choice is technology based. The final option discussed was Home School. Approximately 3.4% of the school age population is home schooled. Depending on the state, there are certain criteria and certain things expected of Home School students. In Ohio, Home School students now have the ability to participate in their host school district's activities. There is certain documentation such as test scores that are required to be submitted every year to make sure the appropriate criteria are being met. Eric and Tiffany Green concluded their presentation.

Toby Thomas thanked Eric and Tiffany Green for their presentation and asked if anyone had any questions on school choice. There were none.

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.

Ellen Simmons came forward and stated she wanted to report on the CIC meeting that took place the previous Tuesday. It had been very well attended. They had representatives from the village and other businesses around town. They received lots of information. There should be an article in the next edition of the New London Record summarizing the meeting. She wanted to let everyone know the next meeting would be in April and she will let them know the date and time of the meeting once it is determined.

Toby Thomas thanked Ellen Simmons and asked if anyone else had any public questions or comments. There were none.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth started out by saying he wanted to add on to what Eric and Tiffany Green had discussed. He stated that Work Force Development was currently a huge topic at the county, state and national levels. Right now, there are more jobs than employees. It's a problem that is nationwide. For years, America has taught their kids that they have to go to college. It has back fired. They have industrial jobs and good trade jobs but no work force. Now everyone is trying to figure out how to fix the problem. There is now a big push to emphasize that there are good paying jobs available without attending college. It's a bigger problem than just the county. It is a state and national problem. The goal is to level the table so that more kids go into trade schools. He concluded that he wanted to put that out there because it is a huge topic right now and a huge problem.

Shawn then reported the following.

#### Water

- 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.
- Tower Improvement Project – We are out to bid right now for this project. Bid opening will be February 7, 2020 in Council Chambers.
- 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 been working on Park Ave., Fairhome & New London Ave. Crews are doing the best they can to maintain traffic, expect delays. This is an inconvenience mostly for the residents living within the construction areas. For all others, there are other routes you can travel to avoid being delayed by this construction. This is only temporary. They have had reports of calls to the police department.

Scott Carroll asked if he could make a comment.

Shawn Pickworth allowed his comment.

Scott Carroll stated that the contractors were all very nice and doing a great job. They live on New London Avenue and they are doing well.

Jayne Carroll wanted to make it known that no calls of complaint had been from their residence at 123 New London Avenue. The contractors have all been very pleasant and have let them in and out. They have no complaints at all.

Shawn Pickworth stated he thought it was just growing pains. Every time they do an infrastructure project these kind of things are dealt with. They deal with them and continue on. It is for the betterment of the village.

Lastly, Shawn Pickworth stated that the Friends of the New London Veterans were asking councils permission to sell beer at their annual gun raffle. He requested a motion during New Business if council agrees.

Mayor Toby Thomas shared the following State of the Village Address for 2019. He had asked department heads to help gather the information in the report.

## State of the Village 2019

- 1) Introduction: It is my privilege to report to the Village of New London the State of the Village for 2019.
- 2) Fiscal Report – Nancy Howell
  - a) 2019 Revenue-\$4,259,646.17
  - b) 2019 Expenses-\$4,153,204.42
  - c) 2019 Reserve-\$106,441.75
- 3) Departments:
  - a) Water Department – John Chapin
    - i) Average to RLCWA: 498,900 gallons per day
    - ii) Average to NORW: 136,400 gallons per day
    - iii) Average to New London: 300,000 gallons per day
    - iv) Completed a \$2,100,000 project at the water treatment plant that moves all the treatment to plant #2 and added Granular Activated Carbon filters. This greatly improves water quality and helps meet current and future Ohio EPA regulations.
    - v) Completed GIS mapping and training for the entire water distribution and sewer collection systems.
    - vi) Worked with RCAP on our mandated Asset Management Plan and training.
    - vii) Worked with GRW Engineering on plans to replace and abandon a 4” water main with a new 6” main and fire hydrants.
    - viii) The interior of the water tower was repaired and painted.
    - ix) The Sheriff, HC EMA, the school, FAS, Fire, Police and village utilities went together and moved all our radio communications to the water tower.
  - b) Sewer Department – John Chapin
    - i) Worked with Jones and Henry Engineering to design a new pumping station and other improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Aging equipment is in need of repairs or replacement.
    - ii) Purchased a new jet/vac truck for cleaning sewers and hydro excavation.
    - iii) Replaced continuous monitoring equipment.

- iv) Rebuilt the collector mechanism on both clarifiers.
- c) Street/Sanitation Departments - Don Patton
- i) We have 2 new employees in 2019 due to retirement and 1 going to ODOT.
    - (1) Brian Clime
    - (2) Clayton Englet
  - ii) 4 new dumpsters were purchased
  - iii) Johnson Drive, Pearl Street, Section of East and Village Parking Lot paved.
  - iv) 150 Tons of road salt contracted for the 2020 season.
  - v) Catch Basins – replaced or rehabbed – Village Parking lot, North Railroad, West Main, South Railroad, Downtown.
  - vi) Cooperative Purchasing with New London Twp. on street sign replacements.
  - vii) New Sidewalks on St. Rt. 162 and St. Rt. 60 over the railroad tracks.
  - viii) New Sidewalk from Laurels to UH Medical Building on West Main.
  - ix) 250 CU YDS of brush ground up and hauled away.
  - x) Grant Street Bridge – repaired, new guardrails.
  - xi) Prospect/Euclid/Minor Rd. – went to bid for resurfacing of around 2000 LF. of this road. Project to be done spring 2020.
  - xii) Replaced 1 new snow plow.
  - xiii) Light poles painted downtown.
- d) Recreation/Reservoir Parks - Megan Sherlund
- i) April 7th 2019 was a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event at the Hileman Building.
  - ii) The campgrounds opened in April.
  - iii) July 20, 2019 was the Rockin then Rez event where 3 bands played on the stage of the Reservoir, there were food vendors and a beer tent.
  - iv) July 27 - 28 was the F.A.R.M. tractor show at the Recreation park.
  - v) The Firelands Labor Day Festival was from August 30, 2019 - September 2nd.
  - vi) September 21st there was a Country Concert at the reservoir with Jessica Hannan, Ava Rowland and County Line Band.
  - vii) The Recreation park had its first ever trunk or treat event on November 2, 2019.
  - viii) The Campground closed on November 2, 2019.
  - ix) The 7th Annual Gun Raffle was held on November 16.
  - x) The park was decorated for Christmas Lane in early December.
  - xi) The annual Breakfast with Santa was held on December 15th.
- e) Fire Department – John Chapin
- i) We have 27 Volunteer Firefighters. (1 Chief, 1 Assistant Chief, 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 18 Firefighters.)
  - ii) In 2019 we responded to a record 113 calls including mutual aid calls.
  - iii) All the electric was replaced and brought up to code in the station. The outside metal was replaced. Foam insulation was added on the interior and then new metal was added to the interior walls.
  - iv) A new standby generator was installed. We were connected to the generator at Firelands Electric and lost that connection when they moved. We wish to thank them for allowing us the usage of that generator for many years.

- f) Police Department – Mike Marko
- i) The Police department employees 14 officers. (The Chief of police, Lieutenant, Sergeant, investigator, and another full-time officer, three part-time officers, and six reserve officers.)
  - ii) In calendar year 2019 the New London Police Department answered 3,674 calls for service including traffic stops, search warrant executions, assaults, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, dogs at large, drug offenses, assisting other agencies including federal and state agencies, Firelands ambulance service, Volunteer Fire Department, Huron County Sheriff's office, and other police agencies in the county.
  - iii) All officers at the NLPD wear body cameras and activate them during all interactions with the public. They also carry a "less lethal" weapon known as a Taser. Police equipment such as body armor, bulletproof vests, computers, and service weapons have been upgraded with assistance from grants.
  - iv) The New London Police Department has a popular Facebook page with over 4600 friends and we urge others to become friends and read daily the "Police Calls for Service" section.
- g) In conclusion:

The information above represents thousands of hours of hard work by the employees of the Village of New London. It is to their credit that we are kept safe and sound in our own homes.

I want to thank Shawn Pickworth, Nancy Howell, Michelle Popa, Lucinda Biddinger for their hard work in the day to day running of the Village office and all the work that goes on behind the scenes.

We are fortunate to have such a good team of leaders and workers who are committed to making New London the best it can be.

Respectfully,  
Toby Thomas  
Mayor

Toby Thomas added that the Zoning and Planning Commission had met and elected officers. Jim Van Sickle is the Chairman of the committee. Marvin McCallister is the Vice Chairman and Cheri Raphael is the Secretary.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Police Chief. Chief Marko stated he was going to be losing a full-time officer shortly. Sergeant Seth Miracle's last day would be February 7<sup>th</sup>. He works the day shift and is chief Marko's right hand man during the day. Chief continued by saying he was going to ask council to hire a full-time officer. He believes one of the part-time or reserve officers will be ready to go. One thing about the police department is they are always prepared. He is going to leave the Sergeant position open but he would like to fill the full-time position. He will have a name for council as a recommendation at the next council meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>. That was all Chief Marko had unless someone had something for him.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Fire. Chief John Chapin stated he had given everyone a spreadsheet of all the calls for 2019. He also included the calls from 2017 and 2018 so a comparison could be made. He stated they actually spend more time doing service work than firefighting. He concluded by thanking everyone who participated in the fire service. Not just the fire fighters but also their wives and their families who suffer while they are gone on calls and training.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from the Ambulance. Bill Curtis stated he didn't have anything but would have a full report at the next council meeting.

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 shared the following report.

1. Getting quotes to resurface the drives in the reservoir campground. I would like to ask council to allow me to use the money that was once dedicated for the gate to get the drives completed. This money would be paid back in 5 years.
2. All shifting is done for existing campers. Would council like me to start contacting the outside list or would you like for me to let you review the available lots and determine what to do with each lot whether it be, keep it seasonal or change to transient.  
Members of Council decided to have Megan gather information to determine which way would be more profitable and then present it to council.
3. Super Raffle prizes are purchased. Trying to sell tickets they are available at the Village Office, Gilberts, or any Recreation Committee Member. This year's dinner will be a Taco Bar.
4. Knock Out is giving us a quote on one large tree that is very damaged from wind near the playground at the rec park
5. Labor Day admission cost will be \$7/day. Derby area will be fenced off and there will be a charge of \$5 to get in to cover cost of renting bleachers.
6. Created new vendor concession agreement for Labor Day. Cost will be \$350 unless you are selling just one item then it will be \$200. All vendors are to be approved by the Recreation Committee and Parks and Recreation Manager.
7. McGinnis is locked in for another year of providing rides and entertainment.
8. Labor Day Camping. Executive board of the recreation committee has decided to make a recommendation that we change from the reservation style camping to a lottery first come first serve operation. There was much discussion due to a few concerns. First it has come to our attention that there are people who are on the reservation list but are not staying at their campsites and allegedly subletting them for additional money to someone else. Our mission is to operate the parks in the fairest possible way for the most amount of people. We believe that changing to a first come first served operation gives everyone a fair chance and opportunity to get a campsite on Labor Day. Change is hard but our efforts are based solely on the desire to give all citizens a fair and equal opportunity. If we did the lottery it would be on Aug 1st at 8am and they would be given out on a first come first serve basis and if we did not sell all the sites, then they would be open for renting until they are sold.

Stuart Cooke was concerned that people who had camped there for years and donated their time at the festival would lose their spots.

Megan Sherlund verified that they have about seven spots that are donated to individuals who provide some sort of donated service to the festival and those sites would still be donated to them.

Stuart Cooke added that the Labor Day campground had been filled every year for the last several years and he was afraid that the change would leave open sites.

Steve Ball voiced his concerns that there are a lot of people who would like to camp at Labor Day and the way it stands currently; they will never get a spot. He believes it shouldn't always be about money but he doesn't think they will have any trouble filling up the campground. They are trying to provide an equal and fair opportunity for every person to have a chance to camp at Labor Day.

Stuart Cooke and Janice Myers brought up the point that they do the same thing at the reservoir campground.

Steve Ball answered that the Labor Day camping was not the same because it wasn't seasonal camping.

Stuart Cooke wondered what would happen to those people who had been purchasing sites faithfully every year. He felt they would be throwing them under the bus.

Steve Ball replied that he understood that but he also doesn't think that it is fair that the same person gets the same site for 10 years and no one else gets a shot at it.

Stuart Cooke didn't agree. He feels that they have been there supporting the village and the park and should get to keep their spot. He stated he did not agree with the change.

Toby Thomas thought they could resolve the issue by bringing it to a vote.

Steve Ball made a motion to change the Labor Day Camping to a lottery system beginning August 1, 2020. Bill Curtis seconded the motion.

Jennifer Ball wanted to verify whether it was a first-come, first-serve system or a lottery system. Lottery would mean they throw all the sites in a hat and pull them out one at a time.

Steve Ball answered that the proposal wasn't really a lottery system. It was a first-come, first-serve system.

Toby Thomas thought they should amend the motion to read a first-come, first-serve system.

Steve Ball made a motion to amend the motion to read first-come, first-serve system beginning August 1, 2020. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call to approve the amendment: J. Ball, yes; S. Ball, yes; Willis, yes; Curtis, yes; Myers, yes; Cooke, no.

Toby Thomas commented that was only a motion to amend the motion from lottery to first-come, first-serve so he wondered if there was further discussion on the issue.

Jennifer Ball wondered how many spots would be available to each individual.

Megan Sherlund answered that each person would just be able to purchase one spot. If someone wanted more than one, they would need another person standing in line with them.

Stuart Cooke stated he didn't know how they could vote on something without anything in front of them. He thinks they shouldn't vote until they see something in writing.

Janice Myers stated she would like to hear from the community.

Shawn Pickworth added that he wanted everyone to understand that the decision was not made with the intention to make anyone mad. The intention was to determine what was the fairest thing to do for the entire community. He also commented that a lot of discussion had gone into the idea and it wasn't made hastily.

Stuart Cooke replied that before they went to the current system, the campground used to have empty spots. Once they started the current system they had no empty spots so they had guaranteed money. Ever since then it has grown in leaps and bounds.

Megan Sherlund felt that was more of a statement on how the festival itself has grown versus how the campground was being filled. The festival grew so more people wanted to come.

Stuart Cooke added that the friends of his that he has talked to said to have a campsite not only at Labor Day but any holiday, you have to reserve it far in advance.

Toby Thomas agreed and said that was definitely the way it was at the reservoir and then he asked everyone if there was an in-between. He wondered if they could still go to a first-come, first-serve but handle it in a different way. He brought up the point that anyone who wanted to make sure they still got their site could camp the night before to ensure they were the first in line so it wasn't totally limiting people from getting their current site. He wanted to check to see if there were any other ideas before they took a vote.

Bill Curtis stated that he had been on the park board for a long time and when he first started on it, they had a first-come, first-serve system and it really wasn't a problem. He thought they went to the current system to make it more easy. There used to be a reserve fee to reserve your site for the next year. It made it a little easier but it didn't make it any fairer because there were people reserving sites with no intention of camping there and there were a lot of them.

Stuart Cooke felt that the system they have isn't being applied the way they intended it to be applied and implemented.

Toby Thomas wondered if there was a way to still use the current system but only allow one site per person.

Steve Ball stated that no matter what system they use; it is impossible to police the sites to make entirely sure no one was camping that wasn't supposed to be.

Toby Thomas stated if there was no more discussion they would take it to a vote.

Roll call to approve changing Labor Day to a first-come, first-serve system: J. Ball, yes; S. Ball, yes; Willis, yes; Curtis, yes; Myers, no; Cooke, no.

Toby Thomas told Megan Sherlund that since the motion had passed, she could go ahead with that plan to start August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Stuart Cooke asked about the people who had already paid money last year.

Megan Sherlund stated those people would still receive their sites for one more year.

Stuart Cooke was unhappy that they had taken a vote on something that they had no forms or anything to look at. He didn't think that was what they should be doing.

Steve Bond suggested that for the future, the Recreation Committee should probably make recommendations in writing so everyone would know exactly what the proposal was.

Toby Thomas asked Megan Sherlund if she understood what Mr. Bond was saying.

Megan Sherlund understood and that will be done in the future.

Toby Thomas wondered if they needed to do something about the resurfacing of the reservoir roads that evening.

Stuart Cooke requested a proposal in writing.

Toby Thomas asked Megan Sherlund if she would put a proposal together in writing and they would bring it up at the next council meeting under Old Business.

Megan Sherlund agreed that she would.

Stuart Cooke asked Megan Sherlund if they were going to resurface with stone.

Megan Sherlund stated that she had three different quotes. One was a recycled pavement with roof shingles, one is typical asphalt pavement and then the third quote was to grind out what they have now and reuse that to form better drives.

Bill Curtis asked if there hadn't been a drainage issue at the campground that should be addressed before they redo the roads.

Shawn Pickworth replied that yes if they redo the roads there are a couple catch basins they will want to put in to divert the water. As far as the three options, of course paving would be the best, but recycled roof pavement is used at the Fitchville Cemetery. What he doesn't like about that option is if there is anywhere it isn't held in by soil, it breaks away and breaks up. He would like to see an example of the option where they make the regrind into asphalt before a decision was made.

Toby Thomas stated that Megan Sherlund would get all the information together and present it to council at the next meeting.

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

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Toby Thomas stated George Eastman and Steven Fawcett had agreed to leave their names stand on the CRA Housing Committee. Toby Thomas then asked for a motion to accept them as committee members.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to accept George Eastman and Steven Fawcett as members of the CRA Housing Committee. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Toby Thomas introduced Nancy Kasicki who had come to talk about the 2020 Census. She had come to talk about the many jobs that will be available due to the census. These jobs will run from four to 10 weeks. There will be full and part-time positions. They are temporary and are between 15-40 hours per week. In Huron County they will be paying \$16.50 per hour with paid mileage and paid training. You can only apply online. No references are required. No resume is required. She offered to come with a computer and help interested applicants to apply online. She also asked council for permission to put up yard signs.

Toby Thomas asked Nancy Kasicki when the jobs would start.

Nancy Kasicki answered that training would begin in mid-March. The actual job will be April, May and June with flexible hours. The trainee will be issued a device such as an iPhone or Netbook and they will be following up with questionnaires not submitted on line or submitted by mail. Nancy Kasicki concluded by saying she felt it was a good opportunity and thanked council for having her.

Shawn Pickworth stated he had asked Nancy Kasicki to attend the council meeting because the census is so important to the village as far as funding.

Scott Carroll asked if the village had ever put anything out about that because he had not known the importance of the census to the village. He thought it would be a good idea to let people know.

Shawn Pickworth agreed.

Toby Thomas then asked council if the New London Alliance Church could continue to use the grounds of the village to have a Hope Community Garden that would provide free vegetables for the community. He also wanted to let council know that the Fitchville Methodist Church and the New London Methodist Church had expressed an interest in helping also.

Janice Myers made a motion to allow the New London Alliance Church to use the village's grounds to have their Hope Community Garden in 2020. Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow the Friends of the New London Veterans permission to sell beer at their annual gun raffle being held on March 14, 2020. Mike Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for a motion to replace the Zoning Commissioner.

Steve Bond stated they needed to make an opening for the Zoning Commissioner before a motion could be made to replace the Zoning Commissioner. Currently there was no opening.

Toby Thomas then asked for a motion to terminate the current Zoning Commissioner.

No motion was made.

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

Steve Ball made a motion to adjourn. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; no one opposed.



Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas  
Mayor