

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (BUDGET WORKSHOP) OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2018**

Present: Colleen Teal, Supervisor
Kevin Smith Sr., Councilmember
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Mark Baumli, Councilmember
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember
John Tingley, Attorney for the Town

Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Bill Black, CC Emergency Management
Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Eugenia Browning, LVPA
Kevin Darcy, LVPA
Gregg Gilliland, LVPA

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Supervisor Teal.

LVPA:

Councilmember Smith stated that he reached out to the Comptroller's office about the Town holding on to the capital funds for fire equipment and it is not a law but it is their opinion that the town should be holding on to these capital funds. He stated that Supervisor Teal went through and did the 3 year actuals and average costs have been running about \$92,500. He would like to see the LVPA take \$30,000 of the money they have already and put it in their truck fund that the LVPA retains. With the truck and building funds, he would like them to make sure it is only used for whatever it's classified under. If the LVPA would take \$30,000 of their money and put it into the truck fund, then he would suggest, with the board's acceptance, funding the LVPA operating around \$95,000 for 2019.

Kevin Darcy asked where that \$30,000 is coming from. Councilmember Smith stated that is up to the LVPA. Supervisor Teal stated that part of that would also have the contract stipulate the capital, and have it restricted because that would be a legal restriction on it like the town has. The building fund could then only be used for the building and the truck fund could only be used for trucks. It couldn't be used for anything else, it would be legally binding.

Ed Godfroy stated that the town is asking the LVPA to do what they have been doing with their leftover money, putting it in their capital reserve accounts. Supervisor Teal stated that we have to specify a specific amount in the contract, so it would say that the LVPA would move \$30,000 of their funds to their truck capital. She stated the town is allowed to fund capital for the LVPA only if we specify in the contract how much it is and that it is going to capital. We have never done that, ever. But we have \$400,000 that has been established. We cannot continue to do it the old way.

Kevin Darcy stated he doesn't know where the LVPA would come up with the \$30,000. Councilmember Baumli stated that the LVPA has roughly \$62,000 left with the leftover from 2016 that they agreed to use for their 2018 operating budget and the final payment the town owes them for 2018 and they have only spent \$68,000 through September. They should have a good amount of money left over in the 2018 operating budget. Kevin Darcy stated that they have to buy tires for \$13,000 and they still have another quarter to get through.

Bill Black stated that the LVPA does not have enough money in next year's budget for tires either. The LVPA gave him a copy of their budget. One of the trucks is a Class A pumper which has to meet the ISO ratings which affects each and every home owner in the town. The LVPA has to meet a certain standard. There are certain things the LVPA must do to keep these trucks up and that is one of them. That is something that they didn't carry enough in their budget last year for and they don't carry enough in their budget this year. There is not enough money.

Bill Black stated that he has not really had a chance to meet with the LVPA. He met with them tonight for an hour and a half before this meeting. They talked about a lot of issues and they looked at their budget and he thinks he is starting to understand their side. He would like to speak with the board about it. The LVPA is behind in their operating expenses to keep their equipment at a certain level. They also have a problem with capital expenditures, which we all know we have to establish something. He can't give the board something tonight but he would like to have the board accept the LVPA's budget and let him work through this process for the next few months. He will give the town and LVPA reports and we will go from there. Everyone is looking for the same thing. The LVPA is very frugal with their money. They have buttoned this down so tight that they are not doing things that they should do. He thinks there is a way to get to where we need to be. He would ask that the town board look at it that way. Accept the budget as requested, then we can work out the details. The town pays quarterly so it can be adjusted as we go along. Attorney Tingley stated that the sum that is going to be in the contract has to be set at contract time and doesn't change.

Bill Black stated that in his cursory review, there are a lot of areas that the LVPA is underfunded. He said that by next week he can give a much better evaluation, but tonight he can't. Supervisor Teal stated that Monday is our deadline for coming up with the numbers. Bill Black stated that he needs to meet with Supervisor Teal and the LVPA committee.

Kevin Darcy stated that the LVPA is in the negative for their operating budget every year. He stated that they spend around \$130,000 every year. Councilmember Baumli stated that in 2017, the numbers the LVPA provided the town show them only spending \$99,000. Over 2016, 2017 and 2018 YTD if you stay on the average, the average annual spending of the LVPA is \$92,000, not \$130,000. Kevin Darcy stated that he believes their average spending is about \$150,000 per year. Councilmember Baumli stated not according to the numbers the LVPA is filing with the town. Kevin Darcy stated that the LVPA went over the numbers on the spreadsheet Councilmember Baumli created and they couldn't figure out where he came up with those numbers. Councilmember Baumli stated that they are the numbers the LVPA files with the town each month. Kevin Darcy stated that it didn't jive with their stuff. Supervisor Teal stated that it should as it was created with the numbers they submitted.

Councilmember Newton asked the LVPA to share these other numbers with the town that show the \$150,000. Supervisor Teal stated that if the reports the LVPA is sharing with the town says they are only spending \$92,500 but they are actually spending \$150,000, that is part of the problem. The town can only go by the numbers the LVPA submits to them. Councilmember Smith asked if the LVPA can drop a copy of the reports tomorrow.

Bill Black stated that the town is looking at the last 3 years when the LVPA has been operating on a shoestring budget of around \$100,000. Historically they have needed more than that to operate and because they have been operating on such a tight budget, you are seeing important maintenance items like the tires not getting done. He stated that the LVPA need to invest more money in maintaining their trucks and equipment. He stated that the budget request from the LVPA is accurate as to what they need to operate properly. They will need at least \$16,000 in maintenance for the trucks in 2019 to get them up to par. The LVPA is trying to just tie it together and keep it going, but you can't do that. You have to invest in the equipment so it is reliable when you need it.

A general discussion ensued regarding capital funding moving forward and what is needed to properly fund capital for the LVPA. A general discussion ensured regarding operating expenses for the LVPA and what was actually needed.

Supervisor Teal asked if the board wants to give Bill Black a little more time to work with the LVPA and address this again on Monday. Everyone was in agreement that the LVPA discussion should be adjourned to the budget workshop on 10/29.

PARK MAINTENANCE SHED:

Supervisor Teal stated that to customize the size of the park shed, there is going to be an additional \$1,100 cost and that is still below the other bid we received. Councilmember Smith stated the maintenance shed has to be cut down to 23.7' by 23.7' and that is what the additional fee is for. Councilmember Newton stated that originally the Shed Man told us it was sizeable but what he meant was it could be ordered in specific sizes, not that it can be made whatever size we need.

Supervisor Teal made a motion to approve the \$1,100 add on to the contract with the Shed Man for the park maintenance shed. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Smith -	Aye
Supervisor Teal -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Baumli -	Aye

PARK:

Councilmember Smith stated that the fountain for the Indian Head should be finished tomorrow. Water in the park will be shut off tomorrow. Councilmember Newton will drain the hot water tank in the snack shack. Councilmember Smith asked Town Clerk Houghtling to send a letter to the Summer Youth Baseball Association asking them to

return their keys to the snack shack for the season.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Supervisor Teal to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling
New Lebanon Town Clerk