

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
ON THE LVPA BUDGET FOR 2020
HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2019**

Present: Margaret Robertson, Interim Supervisor
Kevin Smith Sr., Councilmember
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Mark Baumli, Councilmember
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Jessica Byrne, Town Justice
Jack Nevers, Town Justice
Steve Powers, CAC Member
Cynthia Creech, CAC Member & ZRC Member
Eugenia Browning, LVPA
Judy Zimmer, NL Rep to CC OFA & Cleaner
Several Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The public hearing was called to order at 6:16 p.m. by Interim Supervisor Robertson. Interim Supervisor Robertson called for a moment of silence for the California fires followed by a flag salute.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:

Town Clerk Houghtling read the following public hearing notice aloud:

**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE LVPA 2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND
THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PRELIMINARY BUDGET of the TOWN OF NEW LEBANON for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020, including general town funds, highway funds, and fire protection district funds, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22, New Lebanon, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested persons during regular Town Clerk office hours. The Preliminary Budget for 2020 has also been posted on the town website (www.townofnewlebanon.com) and can be viewed or downloaded from the website.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon shall hold a public hearing on the Lebanon Valley Protective Association's 2020 Preliminary Budget on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22 for the purpose of receiving public input on said budget.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon shall hold a public hearing on the Town of New Lebanon’s 2020 Preliminary Budget on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22 for the purpose of receiving public input on said budget.

The following are the proposed 2020 salaries of the Elected Town Officers of the Town of New Lebanon:

Supervisor	\$14,772
Councilmembers (4)	\$4,000 each
Town Clerk	\$35,000
Highway Superintendent	\$64,840
Town Justices (2)	\$11,259 each
Tax Collector	\$10,812

The following is the proposed amount for 2020 for the Lebanon Valley Fire Protective Association:

SF-1	\$129,500
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By order of the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Interim Supervisor Robertson opened the floor to public comment.

Nobody spoke in favor of the proposed budget. Nobody spoke opposed to the proposed budget.

Councilmember Baumli stated that the LVPA was budgeted in 2019 at \$129,500 for operating and another \$30,000 that went into a contingency account. At this point, the board at the last budget hearing discussed \$129,500 again for operating which the LVPA is willing to accept. His thoughts are could we possibly put more money into the budget for their capital reserve accounts. They currently have a large dollar amount in their capital reserves for their building fund but they only have roughly \$100,000 sitting in their capital reserve account for their truck fund. Some of these trucks, brand new, exceed \$500,000 so it is his belief that there is not enough money in their truck reserve account so he would like to propose tonight that we add additional funds to the reserve account for their trucks. He is willing to go back to the \$159,500, the total we gave them last year, with \$129,500 in their operating expenses and another \$30,000 in the truck capital reserve account.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked if the money was earmarked for the truck capital reserve, if that would be all that money could be spent on. Councilmember Baumli and Smith stated yes, they would only be able to use it for the purchase of trucks. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that it makes a lot of sense to put more money in the truck capital reserve but it is still probably low in the account for trucks so either way we need to fund it, we might as well start funding it now.

Councilmember Newton stated that he agrees with setting aside money each year for trucks. Councilmember Rasmussen asked how much money they estimate will be leftover from the 2019 operating budget. Councilmember Smith stated that they are looking at roughly

\$25,000 that they might possibly have left over this year. Councilmember Rasmussen asked what the LVPA will do with that money, put it in the truck reserve? Councilmember Baumli stated they discussed that with the LVPA a couple of weeks ago and they want to create a new reserve as well. Right now it is just building and truck and they would like to create one for equipment. They have agreed that they will take whatever is left from 2019 operating budget and split it between truck and equipment capital reserve accounts. Councilmember Rasmussen stated why don't we match whatever they put into the reserve accounts. He thinks we are sorely under-reserved for trucks and equipment for the LVPA but he also thinks that when they have money leftover from their operating budget it should either come back to the town or go into those reserve accounts so whatever they feel they can take from 2019 operating budget leftovers, the town should put that amount in as well.

Councilmember Smith stated that we won't know what the leftover amount is until after 2019 ends. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that we can do a resolution that says up to \$30,000 matching what the LVPA puts in from leftover 2019 operating funds. Councilmember Rasmussen stated let's say they have \$20,000 left over from the 2019 operating budget and they put \$10,000 in the truck capital reserve account and \$10,000 in the equipment capital reserve account then the Town, out of the 2020 budget, will put \$10,000 in the truck capital reserve account and \$10,000 in the equipment capital reserve account. Councilmember Newton asked about the building capital reserve account. Councilmember Baumli stated that the LVPA has indicated to them that they would not put it in the building capital reserve this year. Councilmember Smith asked how that works with the final budget. Town Clerk Houghtling suggested putting the full \$159,500 in the budget and then in the contract specifying that \$129,500 is for operating and up to \$30,000 is to be split between equipment and truck capital reserves, in matching amounts that the LVPA puts into those accounts from their left over 2019 operating funds.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve up to \$159,000 for the LVPA 2020 budget with \$129,500 for operating and no more than \$30,000 to be put into the equipment and truck capital reserve accounts to match the amounts of unexpended operating budget from 2019 that the LVPA puts into the equipment and truck capital reserve accounts. Councilmember Newton seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Smith -	Aye
Interim Supervisor Robertson -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Baumli -	Aye

Monte Wasch stated that Councilmember Baumli said that the building fund is quite large. He heard that the building fund has been building for 10 years and when he was on the board there was some controversy as to how the building fund was being built but it is quite large. He asked if there is a plan on the part of the LVPA to do anything on construction for a new firehouse in the next 3-5 years. Councilmember Baumli stated that what was happening, that has not happened in the last 4 years since he has been on the board, is they were getting \$225,000 a year. What they did not spend in operating funds, because once they get it it's

theirs to do what they wish with it unless it specifies in the contract what they can do with it, they were taking their excess money and putting it into the building fund which got them over \$300,000 in the building fund. He stated that the LVPA is not looking at other options. They are looking at building a possible new firehouse. It is still on the table. Not to the tune of the roughly \$5 million they were looking at originally. It is considerable less and there are a lot of different options that they are looking at. They want to consolidate and they are looking at building it at the American Legion building in the center of town. They are actively looking at one and building it for extremely less money. Monte Wasch asked if there is any timeframe on that. Councilmember Baumli stated that is up to the LVPA.

Councilmember Smith stated that with the buildings the LVPA has, they have committed if they were to sell the West Lebanon and uptown, all the proceeds from selling the buildings would go right into the cost of the new building.

Cynthia Creech stated that around two months ago, Ed Godfroy mentioned that if they didn't get more membership that they might not have an association. She asked how that is going to work with building a new building. Councilmember Baumli stated that she thinks that is where they are at with it, that is where the possible delay is with the building. If they don't have enough members, why should they build a building.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING:

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, a motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Baumli and approved unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling
New Lebanon Town Clerk