

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2020**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember
John Trainor, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha “Marcie” Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Mary Young, LVPA
Matt Larabee, LVPA
David Farren, CAC Member & ZRC Member
Judy Zimmer, CC Office of the Aging & Cleaner
Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Cynthia Creech, CAC Member & ZRC Member
Peg Munves, CAC Member
Robert Gilson, CAC Member
Robert Smith, Ethics Board & Planning Board Member
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Environmental Management
Hazel “Cissy” Hernandez, CEO/ZEO
Doug Banker, Deputy Supervisor
Kevin Smith Sr., NL Rep to Emergency Mgmt. & CC Traffic
Safety Council
Ted Salem, ZBA Member & ZRC Chair
Georgette Tefoe, Ethics Board
Brian Fitzgerald CPA, Town Accountant
Michelle VanHorn, Reporter, *The Eastwick Press*
Several members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Houghtling. A moment of silence was held followed by the flag salute. Supervisor Houghtling pointed out the emergency exits.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Budget Amendment #1 of 2020:

General Fund:

\$604 from A-1990.4 (Contingency)
\$505 to A-1910.4 (Unallocated Insurance – Contractual Expense)
\$ 99 to A-1920.4 (Municipal Association Dues - Contractual Expense)

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Councilmember Trainor to approve the above noted budget amendment.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

AUDIT OF BILLS:

2019:

**General Nos. 477 through 486, in the amount of \$2,465.62; and
Highway Nos. 154 through 155, in the amount of \$6,967.01;
As listed on Abstract No. 12C, dated January 14, 2020.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Supervisor Houghtling to pay the above noted claims from their respective account.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

2020:

**General Nos. 1 through 27, in the amount of \$35,086.41;
As listed on Abstract No. 1, dated January 14, 2020.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Councilmember Trainor to pay the above noted claims from their respective accounts.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **December 31, 2019 Year End Meeting, January 2, 2020 Organizational Meeting**, and the **January 8, 2020 Year End Audit of 2019 Books** were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Supervisor Houghtling and approved unanimously to approve the minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Houghtling provided the public and TB members with a copy of the Supervisor's Report as of December 31, 2019. A motion was made by Councilmember Trainor to accept the Supervisor's report as typed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

J.J. Smith asked that when we get to the section about smoking on the agenda that Town Clerk Robertson read the letter that she submitted.

Monte Wasch stated the he was doing some online research on Air B&B's and discovered that we have sixty-six listings in the Town of New Lebanon. Many are legitimate but he is concerned, as are other towns, about people taking real estate off the market and turning them essentially into hotels in disguise or not being owner occupied when they are using Air B&B. He would like to recommend that the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the new Business & Economic Development Committee and the Town Board take under advisement the idea of looking into how we can best determine what is happening in New Lebanon with respect to Air B&B's. Councilmember Newton on behalf of the Zoning Rewrite Committee stated they are currently working on a law right now. The big thing is that you can't tell people what they can do with their property and it comes down to defining a short term rental. They are currently working on it, it is on their agenda and is mostly roughed out right now. Erminia Rasmussen asked if the Air B&B's will have to apply for a permit from the town. Councilmember Newton stated it will be similar to a Bed & Breakfast.

David Farren stated that he is the Treasurer of the Cork Screw Rail Trail Association it is not the Stephentown Cork Screw Rail Trail and he lives in New Lebanon.

Cynthia Creech stated her concern for posted speed limits in town not being adhered to. It's dangerous and disrespectful and she was hoping that in the next newsletter we could put in a blurb reminding residents to be mindful of posted speed limits and adhering to them for the safety of all. Supervisor Houghtling suggested increasing police patrol again for a period of time.

Judy Zimmer stated her concerns for the intersection of Old Post Road and State Route 22, that it is a very dangerous intersection. Is it possible to request a traffic signal of some kind at this intersection? Supervisor Houghtling stated that we can certainly try for some

kind of signage.

Kevin Smith Sr. stated that the state is now going to start charging the towns for a portion of the traffic studies conducted.

Doug Banker wondered if anyone knew what DOT's policy was on the digital signs? He thought it might be a helpful tool to slow traffic.

Carole Roseman asked if there was anything being done at the Route 20 / 22 intersection by the yield sign. She stated that it is quite dangerous. It really should be a stop sign, not a yield sign.

Kevin Smith Sr. stated that he needed to know when the Traffic Safety Council meeting dates are. He might be able to bring these speed limit, dangerous intersection and road sign concerns to the committee. Supervisor Houghtling will get the meeting information for him.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ice Skating Rink:

Councilmember Newton stated that the rink is all framed, they will be laying plastic over the weekend, putting updated lights in the pavilion and he has volunteers to help with laying the plastic and hopefully they will pump it full of water at the same time.

Compensation Plan Committee:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the committee was started with Colleen as the Supervisor, Tistrya as the Town Clerk, Norman Rasmussen as a Board Member, Jack Lancto as a member of the public and Jeff Winestock as an elected official. They did a lot of work over the past two years and the Board approved the plan with a few edits to be made. There is still a little work to be done with the evaluation process and the job descriptions. Supervisor Houghtling requested permission to move forward keeping the same positions; she would stay on as Supervisor, Marcie would come on as Town Clerk and keep Norman, Jeff and Jack. Councilmember Trainor asked if an evaluation plan had been developed. Supervisor Houghtling stated that yes they had a plan that Councilmember Rasmussen worked extensively on that might need a little tweaking. The sample was distributed to employees and department heads to see what they thought. There was a training for all of the department heads to get their feedback. Supervisor Houghtling would like to present something to the Board by the March meeting for the Board to edit and adopt. Highway Superintendent Winestock would not like to continue on the Compensation Plan Committee. Hazel "Cissy" Hernandez was asked and agreed to take Jeff's place on the committee representing a department head.

Comprehensive Plan Committee:

Ted Salem stated that by virtue of Deborah Gordon being elected to the Town Board she has vacated her community member slot on the committee. The committee is recommending that Michelle Bienes fill that vacancy. Supervisor Houghtling made a

motion to appoint Michelle Bienes to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
Councilmember Newton seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Highway Grader:

The prior board went out to bid on a used grader because there was a really good deal on a 2015 John Deere with only two thousand, eight hundred fifty hours on it. We did receive one bid from Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor (PLT) for \$159,900.00. Councilmember Newton stated that we weren't necessarily looking for a grader this year but the offer made to us is \$40,000.00 less than PLT has it listed for right now. This grader is one that we have been looking for. The grader we have now is a 1988, thirty two years old, well over the recommended replacement, depending on who you talk to its either twelve or fourteen years for a large piece of equipment like the grader. We have put quite a bit of money into our current grader on repairs. Councilmember Newton is making the recommendation that we apply the \$20,000.00 that we already have set aside for the purchase of a grader and look into a bond for the balance owed. Supervisor Houghtling asked where in the budget we would find the extra money? Councilmember Newton stated that if we bond out the grader, we can set aside the \$20,000.00 that has been set aside for the purchase of a grader we can use that for the first payment. Highway Superintendent Winestock stated that a new grader would cost about \$400,000.00. This grader is basically what he is looking for at a much lower price of \$159,000.00. Councilmember Newton stated that there is still some value in the old grader, when PLT was here they said there is about \$25,000.00. We could auction the 1988 grader. Councilmember Rasmussen asked what the cost was for a bond? Supervisor Houghtling stated that it is about \$2,500.00 for the attorney fees and approximately \$3,500 for interest. Councilmember Rasmussen asked Highway Superintendent Winestock when is the next piece of equipment he is expected to need? Can he go five more years without any more equipment? Councilmember Newton stated that we have already set aside \$50,000.00 for a new backhoe in 2020. Highway Superintendent Winestock stated that it's really hard to tell, you never really know. Ideally he would like to replace the smaller trucks about every three years and the large trucks about every twelve years. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she is very fiscally conservative but she agrees that the grader is in need of replacement and that this is definitely a great deal. Councilmember Rasmussen asked Councilmember Newton if he had any idea of when they would have a first draft of the asset management plan? Councilmember Newton stated hopefully by next month.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to have Supervisor Houghtling draft a letter of intent to Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor (PLT) for the purchase of the 2015 John Deere Motor Grader Model #772G with funds to be used from money set aside from our 2020 budget

planning and to go out for bond information. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Music In The Park:

For the past three years, Doug Banker has been volunteering to coordinate music in the park, unfortunately he no longer has the time to do this. Supervisor Houghtling acknowledged and thanked Doug Banker for his countless hours of volunteer work to ensure the success of this event and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Supervisor Houghtling stated that we are in need of someone to take care of the music piece, the Recreation Commission she thinks can take on the set up and the food and drink vendors. Monte Wasch volunteered to take over Doug's role in music in the park.

Behan:

Supervisor Houghtling remembers past Supervisor Teal talking about this grant that we were owed. Supervisor Houghtling called Behan to follow up and confirmed that yes they do owe us a grant. Behan is looking into the specifics of what the grant can be used for and will get back to us. Supervisor Houghtling suggested a skate park. Councilmember Newton agreed that a skate park would be a great idea.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously authorizing Supervisor Houghtling to work with Behan to see what is available for grants for a skate park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Highway 284 Agreement:

Supervisor Houghtling asked Highway Superintendent Winestock if he knew what roads he would be working on. Highway Superintendent Winestock expressed his concerns and disagreement with the Highway 284 Agreement. Supervisor Houghtling did reach out to the Association of Towns with his questions and they said that Highway Superintendents go based on last year's figures from CHIPS, Extreme Winter and Pave NY and then when the state budget comes out they amend it by resolution. We are to take our best estimation of what roads will need repair and if that change the Highway Superintendent will just go to the Board and ask for the changes. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the State Law says we are not allowed to authorize any payments out of the highway accounts without having the signed Highway 284 Agreement. Supervisor Houghtling will work with Highway Superintendent Winestock to complete the agreement.

Proposed ROW Agreement – Crown Castle Fiber LLC:

Crown Castle Fiber is looking to install fiber on a town right of way on Old Route 20, West Lebanon. She talked with Dick Comi and he recommended getting an escrow so that our town attorney could look over a proposed right of way agreement and so that Dick Comi could be involved in whatever aspect his company needed to be involved. There would be a small annual fee that the town would be paid that was in the right away agreement for them using our property. Councilmember Newton stated that this fiber serves one residence and he would like the property owner made aware of what is going on.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen and approved unanimously authorizing Supervisor Houghtling to proceed with Crown Castle Fiber LLC proposed right of way agreement.

Bids – Plumbing/Electrical/HVAC/Etc.:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that now that we have to pay prevailing wage the contractor we used to use is no longer interested. Councilmember Newton stated there are two types of companies that we will be dealing with. They are either Owner Operator, like a sole proprietor that can exempt themselves from the prevailing wage requirement or very large business that will be coming out of Albany and Hudson. Primarily HVAC is the one that we need to look into, he is hoping that we can find a possible employee or maybe segueing Donnie Sears, the Park Superintendent into that. He is also going to reach out to some small local contractors to see if they are interested because an owner operator business could do it. It was agreed to table this until the next meeting.

Smoking at Town Hall Entrance:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that over the years she has had many complaints about smoking at the town hall entrance. She would like to set up a designated smoking area away from the building. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she spoke to the current town employees who smoke and no one had an issue with a designated smoking area away from the Town Hall entrance. CEO/ZEO Hernandez stated that the issue she has is the amount of times the cigarette receptacle has caught on fire and cleaning up the butts all the time, she'd be happy to get rid of the whole situation. Councilmember Gordon stated that she thinks it's worth looking into alternative entrances. Supervisor Houghtling stated that a member of the public, J.J. Smith, had a letter that she would like to be read into the minutes. Town Clerk Robertson read the following letter:

*Stone Soup
Community Volunteers
44 Shaker Road
New Lebanon, NY 12125*

1-14-2020

*To the New Lebanon Town Board;
Outside the rear door of the N.L Town Hall is a small, covered porch that has always been the unofficially designated area for smokers to take a cigarette break. The town even provided a*

receptacle for cigarette butts, which has kept the area clean for many years. The porch is wide open on three sides, allowing for more than adequate ventilation for the 1.2 seconds it takes for one to cross it.

The State of NY does have in effect a "Clean Indoor Air Act" that is adhered to by all with no objection. There is not however, a "Clean OUTDOOR Air Act" that prohibits smoking outdoors, except for specifically designated areas. Hospital and Health Facility grounds are non-smoking areas, as are schools and public playgrounds.

Depending on what section of the law you refer to, there is also a 15 or 25 foot smoking ban outside the doorways of libraries and Privately-Owned businesses who choose to post and enforce said ban.

The New Lebanon Town Hall is Public Property and is equally owned by the taxpaying residents of the town. Smokers and Non-Smokers share equal rights on Town Hall property, and frankly, are tired of being the only ones to make all the concessions for the other side. First we were moved to designated indoor smoking areas, then to the outdoors, and on to Designated Smoking Areas only. Private property can do that, but not PUBLIC property. Stripping residents of the outdoor smoking area they have used for years and attempting to force them out into a parking lot, is a violation of the Right to Self-Govern and exercise Personal Liberty. It is also unfair, petty, and selfish. We have given up enough for the benefit of others, and we have been pushed far enough.

Very rarely is there ever more than one or two smokers in this area at one time, and as I mentioned earlier, it takes 1.2 seconds to pass those two people. Not even time for one complete breath. A human breathes in a minimum of 25 times that much smoke just standing beside their own barbeque making burgers for dinner, and 30 times that much sitting in their car at a red light. All of which makes this complaint ridiculous, baseless, and another bully-tactic by those who want everything their way and to heck with everyone else who happens to live here.

In referring to the research by Dr. Ronald Bayer of Health Affairs and William Mitchell of Law Review, outdoor smoking bans have been taken way too far and have little effect on anyone. The amount of smoke exposure in an outdoor venue is essentially negligible.

As taxpaying residents who have always used this tiny smoking area, we request that the board consider OUR needs and rights too, as we are prepared to continue our objections up to and including legal action. NO ONE is suffering any harm, and we are tired of being unfairly treated.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling that there is no smoking within fifty feet of the Town Hall and to create a designated smoking area by the mailboxes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Nay
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Supervisor's Office Open Hours:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Supervisor's Office now has open hours: Tuesday's 9:00am to 2:00pm, Thursdays 12:00pm to 5:00pm and by appointment.

Live Streaming of Town Board Meetings:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she would like the board to consider live streaming of the Town Board meetings. She is all about open and transparent government, if we live stream the meetings it will allow residents who are unable to make the meeting in person to watch the meetings. There are options available such as Facebook live streaming from an individuals Facebook page and also a company called Town Hall Streams that a lot of towns are using for a small fee. Councilmember Newton stated he does not have a problem with it but would like to start with a no cost option. The board agreed to have Supervisor Houghtling look into it further and get the cost for this service.

Town Facebook Page:

Supervisor Houghtling discussed the option of having a Town Facebook page. She called the Association of Towns and they said that it is allowed. They do recommend a page without allowing commenting on the page. Councilmember Newton mentioned that his only concern is that they were advised by an attorney not to do a Town Facebook page and he would like to revisit this with our town attorney. Supervisor Houghtling will call the town attorney. Supervisor Houghtling has a call into Columbia County MIS Department to see if the town website and possible Facebook page can be linked to one another.

Ethics Board Resignation:

The Town Clerk's office received a letter of resignation from the Ethics Board from Rocky Brown, so now there are two vacancies on the Ethics Board. Letters of interest are due by February 7th, 2020 to the Town Clerk's office by 4:00pm. On February 11th, 2020 we are having a special meeting at 6:00pm to hold interviews, then the Board can choose the two best applicants. Georgette Tefoe, Ethics Board Member, stated they do not have a quorum they cannot do their work. They have time limits on things and due to a former board member they were set back two months on a request that they never received. She is only one of two people left on this board that is willing to do this work. They have someone willing to work for them but the Town Board is unwilling to appoint them to the Ethic Board to help them along. Supervisor Houghtling stated that as of this moment we have received two letters of interest, she knows there are more coming. She did talk with the town attorney because Georgette expressed concerns. The attorney said that it would not be proper to change the process that the board has already laid in place. Kevin Smith Sr. commented that Supervisor Houghtling said at the last meeting that she did not want a board that thought alike, you don't know how anyone on that board thinks. He stated that this is the only committee that is being handled the way it is by requiring letters of interest and interviews, not going by the existing Ethics Board members letter of recommendation to appoint him. Supervisor Houghtling stated anybody that was currently in a position that wanted to continue, continued. Anybody that did not want to continue, we put out an add for a vacancy. In the ten years that she has worked for the town, she has never seen an existing board's

members, write a letter to the Town Board, the appointing agency and say who should be put into the vacancy. Kevin Smith Sr. stated that they have been asking that on boards for the last year, recommendations from the boards first. Supervisor Houghtling stated that that was for the Chair position of a committee or board.

Request from the New Lebanon Library:

The library board has requested a town board liaison so they can work more collaboratively with the town and be on the agenda every month in the committee/liaison reports. Councilmember Trainor volunteered, Supervisor Houghtling added a library committee and appointed Councilmember Trainor as liaison for the library.

Newsletter:

Supervisor Houghtling reminded that the Newsletter is coming out February 1st, 2020 and submissions are due by end of day on Tuesday, January 21st to the Town Clerk's office. As of this moment it can only be for Town business and Town departments, she is working on how we can expand it to promote businesses and tourism, similar to the way we had it before.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

Assessor (Councilmember Rasmussen):

No report.

Building Department (Councilmember Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that he is trying to develop an action plan for one of the town employees so he would like anyone that works in the town hall to make note of any building repairs or anything that might need to be done in the town hall and bring them to his attention. They can email him or leave it in his mailbox in the mailroom.

Business & Economic Development (Councilmember Gordon):

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we are going to skip this for right now because it is not yet formed. The request of letters of interest went out and she mailed out letters to businesses today. Letters of interest are due by February 7th, 2020. Hopefully at the February board meeting we can form an official committee. She did meet with Mike Tucker, head of the Columbia Economic Development Committee, they are funded a lot by our County taxes and there is a lot that they can provide that New Lebanon hasn't been taking advantage of.

CAC & Environmental Management (Councilmember Gordon):

Councilmember Gordaon asked when the regular meetings are for the CAC. David Farren responded that they are always the Monday before our Regular Town Board meetings. David Farren stated that the CAC met last night and they are going to pass forward to the Comprehensive Plan Revision Committee their recommendations on action items from the 2005 plan and they began discussing their goals for 2020.

Bruce Shenker spoke on behalf of the Environmental Management Committee, they have been discussing waste reduction both for the environment and to save the county money. There is talk about composting but the actual thing that they've done is they have language for a polystyrene ban which will be presented to the government committee on Thursday night. There are a couple of events: Natural Resources Inventory Update for the South part of county on March 16th, 2020 and the Northern part on March 30th, 2020; Capital Conservation Round Table which is like the CAC Round Table which we have in our county but the Capital Area one is January 21st, 2020. James Hanson, Climate Scientist is speaking at Kingston High School on February 6th 2020. Kara Humphrey from Astro Power would like to do a presentation to the board on Community Solar and Jill Falchi from Climate Smart would also like to present to the board. The board agreed for Bruce to arrange for a climate smart presentation for the February meeting.

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency (Councilmembers Newton & Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor spoke to Ed Godfroy of the LVPA and he and Councilmember Newton will attempt to attend the LVPA Board meetings on the fourth Mondays of the month.

Highway (Superintendent Winestock & Councilmembers Newton):

Councilmember Newton mentioned the condition of the roads due to the unseasonal warmer temperatures and that Highway Superintendent Winestock is doing a great job keeping up with them.

Historian & LVHS: (Councilmembers Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stated that the Historical Society does not meet in January, their next meeting is at the end of February. He has spoken to Elizabeth Sheffer-Winig, Town Historian who now has an office upstairs in the town hall and she has open office hours on Monday 9:00am to 12:00pm and Wednesday 12:00pm to 3:00pm and by appointment. Supervisor Houghtling stated that we did receive the annual report from the Historian for 2019. Historically when the Historian has needed supplies it has come out of the Supervisor's account and she doesn't feel that is the proper place. The Board agreed to do a budget amendment at the next meeting and put a small amount of money into the Historian's .4 account.

Justice Court/Constable (Councilmember Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stopped by and met Samantha Long, Court Clerk. He has nothing to report.

Buildings, Parks & Recreation (Councilmembers Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that they talked about the skate rink. Unfortunately they have lost another spruce tree by the pavilion, the rest will be going pretty soon too. This is just another case where they can't find anybody paying prevailing wage to take them down so it will have to be done in-house. The same with the fence repair from a crash that

damaged the fence.

Seniors (Councilmember Gordon & Judy Zimmer):

Judy Zimmer apologized to Councilmember Gordon that they didn't notify her of the meeting that they just had. Judy explained that her and David Russell are Senior Reps. through the Office of the Aging. The New Lebanon Seniors are a different organization. Judy and David met to prepare something to go into the upcoming Newsletter. They are going to regularly submit to Grow The Valley. David has assisted three residents and Judy has assisted one in about the last six months. These referrals did come from Office of the Aging. They also go to the New Lebanon Seniors meeting to keep them up to date.

Volunteers (Councilmembers Rasmussen):

No report at this time. Councilmember Rasmussen is just getting started and will have something to report next month.

Project Management (Councilmembers Rasmussen):

No report at this time. Councilmember Rasmussen is just getting started and will have something to report next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FEBRUARY:

Tuesday, February 11th ~ Special Town Board Meeting for Interviews @ Town Hall @ 6:00 pm

Tuesday, February 11th ~ Regular own Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7:00 pm

Georgette Tefoe made an announcement that the first New Lebanon Table will be held on Friday, January 17th, 2020 at New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. This is a free community event. They are hoping to have one every month until June.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Carole Roseman just following up on what Bruce Shenker said about the Climate Smart, she would like to suggest that there is a meeting that is open to the public so that people can learn about what it entails, what it does not entail, how it may be a benefit or how it might hurt the town. Supervisor Houghtling suggested that everyone who is interested in climate smart to come to the February 11th meeting where there will be a presentation.

Georgette Tefoe asked Supervisor Houghtling to try to look into what is going on at the Berkshire Farm. Supervisor Houghtling spoke to the Supervisor in Canaan who invited the CEO of Berkshire Farm and heard it was a good meeting. She will reach out to the CEO of Berkshire Farm and invite him to come to a meeting. Berkshire Farm can hold up to sixty kids, currently they have seventeen. It is not a done deal yet but it is pretty far along that they will be getting federal funding to take in immigrant children who are

orphaned from their parents.

Monte Wasch asked Councilmember Newton about the fiber right of way, is this just a small fiber connection to a single user? Councilmember Newton answered no that it runs across their property. The fiber is to benefit to all who will be connecting to this new fiber connection.

Doug Banker stated that Governor Cuomo in his State of the State Address expressed support in the intent to do cell service everywhere initiative similar to what was done for broadband. He is wondering if we've heard anything about that and if not then we should be looking at getting connected to that. Maybe it is something we can roll off under the Broadband Committee or make it part of the Economic Development Committee.

Supervisor Houghtling mentioned that she will serve on three committees at the County level; Economic Development Committee, Broadband Committee and Public Safety Committee.

OTHER:

AUDIT OF THE 2019 BOOKS OF THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER:

Chief Fiscal Officer: The books of the Chief Fiscal Officers, Colleen Teal and Margaret Robertson, were audited and found to be in order. The audit report is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Rasmussen and seconded by Councilmember Newton to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk