

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MARCH 10, 2020**

Present: Doug Banker, Deputy Supervisor
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember
John Trainor, Councilmember

Absent: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marcie Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Cynthia Creech, Deputy Court Clerk, CAC & ZRC Member
Peg Munves, CAC Member
Robert Smith, Ethics Board & Planning Board Member
Steve Powers, CAC Member
David Farren, CAC Member & ZRC Member
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Environmental Management
Michael Blatt, Planning Board Member & Chair
Jeff Hattat, Deputy CEO
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 Deputy Supervisor Banker. Deputy Supervisor Banker announced that Supervisor Houghtling and members of her family are suffering from the flu and that Supervisor Houghtling felt it best that she not attend the meeting tonight. Deputy Supervisor Banker also stated that the other thing to note is that we only have three board members because Councilmember Rasmussen is also out. The Deputy Supervisor conducts the meeting but cannot vote on anything. So that means that any action or motion taken tonight that does not get three Aye votes, it will have to be tabled until a future meeting. A moment of silence was followed by the flag salute. Deputy Supervisor Banker pointed out the emergency exits.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 11, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting and the February 11, 2020 Special Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilmember Trainor, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously to approve the minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

Deputy Supervisor Banker provided the public and Town Board members with a copy of the Supervisor's Report as of February 29, 2020. A motion was made by Councilmember Newton to accept the Supervisor's report as typed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

RESIGNATION & CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Wes Powell is resigning from his two positions with the town, Constable and Animal Control Officer. His resignation is effective March 31, 2020. The Town Board will take an action to accept his resignation. Given the service that he has provided to the town, Supervisor Houghtling wanted to present him with a Certificate of Appreciation but Wes is unable to be here to accept it. We are going to table presenting him with the Certificate of Appreciation.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to accept Willard Powell's resignation from Animal Control Officer and Constable effective March 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Deputy Supervisor Banker opened up first privilege of the floor and reminded everyone of the rules. This is an opportunity for the public to address the board and provide them with concerns or comments about things. It is not a debate. Nobody spoke at this privilege of the floor.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Budget Amendment #3 of 2020:

General Fund:

\$ 183	from A-1990.4 (Contingency)
\$ 725	from A-3120.1 (Police/Constable)

\$15,000 from A-1420.4 (Attorney – Contractual Expense)
\$ 2,500 from A-1440.4 (Engineer – Contractual Expense)
\$ 183 to A-1910.4 (Unallocated Insurance)
\$ 725 to A-1110.15 (Justices – Pers. Serv. – 2nd Deputy)
\$15,000 to A-1420.42 (Attorney – Litigation)
\$ 2,500 to A-8664.42 (Code Enforcement – Engineering)

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

AUDIT OF BILLS:

**General Nos. 70 through 106, in the amount of \$57,709.80;
Highway Nos. 13 through 28, in the amount of \$51,562.27;and
Escrow No. 2, in the amount of \$962.50;
As listed on Abstract No. 3 dated March 10, 2020.**

And approval to pay an Interim Voucher to pay VISA bill in the amount of \$1,344.00 from account # A-5132.2 for the carport purchase for the outside fuel tank on what will be Abstract No. 3A

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Live Streaming of TB Meetings & Other Possible Volunteer Collaboration with HS:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that this is mainly an informational update from Supervisor Houghtling. Supervisor Houghtling did reach out to the High School. The school is interested in providing a volunteer student to live stream the Town Board meetings as well as to volunteer for other things. The High School would like to collaborate more with the town but they have not yet found a student who is interested

and capable of doing that. The school is promoting the opportunity within the school and hopefully we will hear from them soon.

Town Facebook Page:

Due to Supervisor Houghtling being sick with the flu, she did not have a chance to do much work on the Facebook page. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Business & Economic Development Committee – appoint chair & two new members:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that the order of business is to appoint a chair and two new members. Supervisor Houghtling recommends that the Town Board appoint Monte Wasch as the Chair and Sharon Powers as the Clerk to take minutes of the meetings. There are two other people interested in joining the committee, Mitch Kelleher and Rochelle Dire.

Deputy Supervisor stated that Supervisor Houghtling thinks the board should accept all of these volunteers for this committee.

Councilmember Trainor made a motion to appoint Monte Wasch as the Chair of the Business & Economic Development Committee, Sharon Powers as the Clerk and Mitch Kelleher and Rochelle Dire as the two new members. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement for Highway Work:

Councilmember Newton stated the Attorney looked this over again. Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent will not be here and he needs to sign the agreement. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Quotes on Plumbing / Electrical / HVAC / Etc:

Councilmember Newton stated that he has two quotes and is waiting for a third quote. Councilmember Newton stated that we are covered for emergency work. He stated we are going to table this until the next meeting because we have to have three quotes.

Climate Smart Communities – creation of task force:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling recommends that this be tabled until the next meeting because she still needs time to prepare the resolution. Supervisor Houghtling wanted everyone to know that there are eight letters of interest for this task force and the appointment will be done in April.

Update/Re Adopt Town Policies – Cell Phone, Data Breach Notification & Investment Policies:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that it is up to the Town Board to do this tonight or to wait.

Councilmember Newton stated that he was fine doing it tonight.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to adopt the Cell Phone Policy, the Data Breach Notification Policy and the Investment Policy as they are with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Slight Amendments to Travel policy and Purchase Order Form:

Councilmember Trainor stated that Cissy was not at the meeting and he thought the board should wait on these two policies.

Councilmember Newton stated he wanted to wait too because there was a change on the Purchase Order Form that he wants clarified as well and Supervisor Houghtling was the one working on it.

Reviewing these two policies will be tabled until the next meeting.

Proposed Local Law #1 of 2020 – set public hearing date:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that we need to set a Public Hearing date and that Supervisor Houghtling feels that it can be done before the next Town Board Meeting on April 14th, 2020 if that works for everyone.

Councilmember Newton agrees with that but he thinks it needs to be at 6:30pm on April 14th, 2020.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to set a Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2020 at 6:30 pm on the night of the Regular Town Board Meeting which is April 14th, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Trainor - Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

Compensation Plan Committee Recommendations to Town Board:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling recommends that this be tabled because both her and Councilmember Rasmussen were quite involved in this and it would be best if one or both of them could be present to answer any questions. The remainder of the board agreed, this will be tabled until the next meeting.

Intermunicipal Agreement with CC for annual employee training:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling needs authorization to enter into this agreement so that she can schedule training for March or April.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to allow Supervisor Houghtling to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with Columbia County for annual employee training. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

CAC Request to Add New Member:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling would like to table this because she would need the file setting up the CAC to prep the resolution and this file is in the Town Hall. Due to her illness she is unable to enter the Town Hall to get what she needs. The board agreed to table this until the next meeting.

Water Test Results from the Landfill on Old Post Road:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that in a fairly recent development because of the finding of PFOS and PFOA in various town water systems and ground water around the state, NYS DEC has been commissioned to go around and look for other possible sites that might be causing this type of contamination of water. The DEC did pull samples of our closed town landfill, there are monitoring wells around that site and they did find levels that were of concern.

Deputy Supervisor read a letter from Vincent Fay of the NYS DEC:

*“Please find attached a spreadsheet of the results for the New Lebanon Landfill. The results of concern are the Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The results are in parts per Trillion (PRT).
Monitoring well MW-03: PFOS – 28 PPT
PFOA – 160 PPT*

*Monitoring well MW-05: PFOS – 14 PPT
PFOA – 83 PPT*

If the results from any well on the landfill exceeds 10 PPT for either PFOA or PFOS and the combined value exceeds 20 PPT, then a focus list investigation is initiated. The focus list investigation identifies any private water well of public water supply well within .25 miles downgradient of the landfill. The Department's consultant is currently putting together this list. If the DEC in coordination with the Dept. of Health determine that there are any wells within this zone, then these wells are sampled to see if any of these wells are affected by the landfill. The Town of New Lebanon will be notified prior to any sampling of private water wells."

*Vincent Fay, P.G.
Bureau of Solid Waste
Division of Materials Management
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that before we do anything he would like the CAC members who are here, if they wish to address this. Also any members of the public who have concerns about this the board will try to answer any questions.

Councilmember Newton stated that the landfill is not officially closed, it has been inoperable for about 25 years. Councilmember Newton added that he does not think this was anything malicious, there weren't containers that were clearly dumped there. Unfortunately this can be from stain resistant carpeting for example. The town has had to legally close that dump for some time.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that there are still ongoing discussions with the County which originally took responsibility for that closing. Obviously if it now identified as a site that is producing PFOA and PFOS then that may change the type of sealing and closing that has to be done. Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that this is all very new. Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that obviously the next order of business is what the DEC wants to do right away, which is to try to find out whether it is only in the area of where the landfill was or has it been contaminating further away. He stated if you are not in the vicinity of it, you're not likely to be exposed to these things. It is anyone who is downgradient from the landfill that might have concern.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Steve Winkley and the CAC have already been reviewing what is going on and there is a request in place for the Town Board to make the CAC the lead agency for the town itself to work with the DEC.

Councilmember Newton stated his only concern would be reaching out to the Attorney first and seeing where the liability lies. The Town Board does have some authority, the CAC is just an advisory council.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling forwarded email discussion to him, that there was a strong feeling among the CAC members that they shouldn't just start doing this, that the Town Board needs to authorize it as a lead agency. Deputy Supervisor Banker also stated that the CAC felt they would need the legal assistance of the Attorney and they wanted that to be authorized as well. Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling is fine if the board decides to authorize the CAC as the lead agency, she feels that in the interim she would rather have any legal issues that do come up be directed to her.

Cynthia Creech, CAC Member stated that the CAC did discuss this last night at their meeting and they are willing to be the lead town committee but with the understanding that there are liabilities, legal and otherwise, that they will have no knowledge of then Cynthia Creech stated to please understand that the CAC does not want to be put in a position where they are either individually or on behalf of the municipality entering into things that they have no knowledge of.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that in his humble opinion he does not think that the urgency of this is such that the board has to take this action tonight. It might be smarter to wait and get a little more information. The DEC is going ahead with their work anyway and we are already in contact with them through Steve Winkley and others, so we won't be short on information.

Councilmember Newton stated he is totally willing to appoint if the Attorney says it is okay. He stated the other thing, is maybe to reach out to other towns that have had to deal with this already.

David Farren, CAC Member stated his understanding is that DEC will test but we do not know just when they are going to test and they have to get permission of the owner of the well.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated Supervisor Houghtling thought once they identify who those people are to be tested, to have the board authorize her to send the people letters, so they are informed.

Councilmember Newton stated he thinks the first thing we need to do is talk to the town Attorney. Councilmember Newton refers to Supervisor Houghtling's recommendation to send letters to people who live within a ¼ mile of the landfill. He stated this is an open forum, he didn't think we have to authorize to send a letter out to residents.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that he thinks Supervisor Houghtling thought that this was the best way to do it, so that people knew that the town was aware of it and that the Town Supervisor is letting them know that they may be approached by DEC people.

Councilmember Newton stated he would open it up from ¼ mile to ½ mile.

Peg Munves, CAC Member stated that Steve Winkley let them know today that by Friday, he will give them information that will help pinpoint where those people to be tested are.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling also mentioned that if we are going to have that level of surveillance for these compounds in our town, she would like to see a couple of other sites added to the list. One of them being the pond down at Ceramacil, which never freezes and also the old brown field next to the Theater Barn. There are things buried there that may be breaking down and causing contamination.

Peg Munves, CAC Member stated that the CAC is also prepared to do an overall study of the town so we really know what we are talking about.

David Farren, CAC Member stated that there are monitoring wells at the landfill and there are more than two.

Councilmember Trainor stated he thinks Councilmember Newton's idea to get legal advice is good but the board should authorize Supervisor Houghtling to contact people within ½ mile of landfill.

Councilmember Trainor made a motion to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to send letters to people within ½ mile downgradient from the tested wells. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Deputy Supervisor Banker asked the public if anyone had any other questions to be answered.

Michelle VanHorn, Reporter, The Eastwick Press asked about town members that might be interested in having their wells tested if they are further then a ½ mile downgradient?

Councilmember Newton responded that the cost of testing is expensive enough and we will probably find out once DEC gets more involved in . Residents are free to have their water tested, but he doesn't think this hits the regular scope of testing.

Peg Munves, CAC Member stated she had hers tested, she lives a mile and ½ south and she was totally negative for all of it. The test cost was \$300. She received a 10% discount from that company if anyone is interested in getting their water tested, but they will have

much more information for everybody about what is recommended and the types of information. They just need to get all that so they know what they are talking about and they give good information to everybody.

Michelle VanHorn, Reporter, The Eastwick Press asked what does DEC stand for? David Farren, CAC Member answered her with DEC, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Monte Wasch stated it is important that people understand that the kind of water test you can buy on Amazon or local hardware store do not test against these chemicals. They are basic mineral and bacteria tests. Deputy Supervisor Banker recommend that the press might put that in their article.

NYPIRG Sign on to Letter of Support for NYS Water Infrastructure Funding:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that NYPIRG sent Supervisor Houghtling an email that is an attempt to get about \$1 billion of funding restored for water infrastructure work that has been cut. Does the Town Board want Supervisor Houghtling to sign onto this?

Councilmember Trainor made a motion to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to sign on to support a new appropriation of \$1 billion to the Clean Water Infrastructure act in the 2020 NYS budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

County Update Regarding Preparedness for Possible Outbreak:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that the county is responding to the threat of Coronavirus in our area. The County is setting up the ability to work from home for a lot of their non-essential workforce. A number of staff here in the town are already set up to work from home, but there are some that are not. Supervisor Houghtling would like the board to authorize the towns IT department to set town employees who are able to, to work from home.

Councilmember Trainor made a motion to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to set up the ability to work from home and the authority to make a judgement call on if and when this becomes necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye

Supervisor Houghtling -	Absent
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Veteran Services, Purple Heart Community & Banners:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling spoke with Brian Sedgwick from our local legion hall and Louise Waters would like to volunteer to help, Supervisor Houghtling thinks they can all work collaboratively to get the banner program going in New Lebanon.

Supervisor Houghtling also spoke to Senator Daphne Jordan's office about New Lebanon becoming a Purple Heart Community which is another way of honoring veterans. Supervisor Houghtling thinks its as simple as passing a resolution and purchasing a sign to put up in town that honors the members of the US Armed Forces wounded in action from our town. Supervisor Houghtling is not looking to pass the resolution this month, just wants to make people aware that this is an initiative she would like to take and to get a feel for whether the Town Board supports this. All Town Board members present agreed with this initiative.

Extreme Winter Recovery Funding:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated Supervisor Houghtling signed onto a letter from Senator Jordan's office asking for the Extreme Winter Recovery Funding to be put back into the NYS 2020 budget. Per Supervisor Houghtling, it was removed in the preliminary budget (as it was last year) and last year a letter sent with a lot of towns signing on did get it put back into the budget. Hopefully this will be influential again in restoring the almost \$21,000 that we received from this funding.

Interim Voucher for Highway Grader:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated some folks know that the town did get a good deal on a grader from Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor (PLT) and Highway Superintendent, Jeff Winestock has requested that the Town Board authorize Supervisor Houghtling to submit an interim voucher to pay PLT for the grader right after closing. We have had the grader for a while and PLT would like to be paid before the 15th of April.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to pay PLT for the 2015 John Deere 772 grader in an interim voucher. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Animal Control Officer Change to Dog Control Officer – advertise vacancy:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Wes Powell has tendered his resignation as Animal Control Officer. Wes Powell has recommend that we change that position title to Dog Control Officer.

Councilmember Newton stated that DEC is more than willing to take on anything other than domestic animals. Councilmember Newton suggested advertising for Dog Control Officer.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to change the position of Animal Control Officer to the position of Dog Control Officer as of April 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Newton made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise the position of Dog Control Officer with letters of interest due by 4:00 pm on April 30th, 2020 to the Town Clerk's Office, with interviews being held on May 12th, 2020 with the time to be determined depending on the number of letters of interest received. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Meeting with NYS DOT – Update on Route 22 and 20 Paving :

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling met with the New York State Department of Transportation and learned that they will be milling and re-paving on Route 22 in Canaan but not in New Lebanon. The NYS DOT agreed to do patch paving on all of Route 22 in New Lebanon and Route 20 up the mountain as well as any other areas we tell them needs attention. They will be doing this in the spring. The NYS DOT wants to do a full mill and re-pave of New Lebanon section of Route 22 but they do not have the funding for that now.

NYS Proposed Override on Local Regulations for Solar & Wind Projects:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling was alerted by another Supervisor about proposed regulation that Governor Cuomo is considering that will override our local authority for solar and wind projects and allows the locations and regulations to be decided by a commission that the Governor would appoint. Supervisor Houghtling is strongly opposed, she does not like the State taking the power away from the Towns. Supervisor Houghtling is looking for a motion from the Town Board in support of her opposing this legislation.

Councilmember Gordon asked if they made any effort to explain the advantage of doing what Governor Cuomo is proposing?

Councilmember Newton stated that the discussion has been about creating larger solar farms and the Town has regulations that do not permit them going into certain residential areas. This proposed regulation change would prevent the town from stopping the state from putting large solar farms anywhere. Councilmember Newton stated that the ZRC has done quite a bit of work on solar already. There are three classifications of solar here in town and it has worked out good so far. Councilmember Newton stated that he would be opposed about that work and the opinions of a lot of people in town being pushed to the side for NY State to be able to put large producing areas anywhere.

David Farren, CAC Member stated that it was a lengthy process that took place to get those ordinances.

Cynthia Creech, CAC Member stated that there was a lot of town residents input, several public meetings and quite a bit of input from the community members.

Councilmember Gordon stated that it just seems like something that is almost 100% guaranteed to arouse opposition from towns.

Councilmember Newton stated that it would be an easy one for some towns that haven't done anything to work on this, New Lebanon was locally one of the first to work on a solar regulations that was adopted a couple years ago.

Councilmember Gordon stated she can't imagine why we would not object to this. Her point is just that we haven't heard the other side of this argument here, it is a little stacked.

Councilmember Trainor stated that all the planning that's been done over the past years with all of the committees, he goes along with Supervisor Houghtling.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Supervisor Houghtling mentions that it is very likely that there is going to be action at the County level anyway in opposition of this. So if the board, because of Councilmembers Gordon's concern about not much information, chose to not take action there is probably still going to be something covering us.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to oppose the proposed regulation from Governor Cuomo. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor. The motion did not pass by two in favor, two absent and one abstention.

Contract with CC Sheriff's Office & Appointment of 2nd Deputy Clerk:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that the judges would like us to contract with the sheriff to replace Wes Powell acting as constable at the court. As well as appoint Michelle Bienes as a 2nd Deputy Court Clerk for clerical. The budget would not increase with this.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to approve Supervisor Houghtling to contract with Columbia County Sheriff's Office for Court security at six hours per month to replace exiting Constable, Willard Powell. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Newton made a motion to appoint Michelle Bienes at six hours a month to serve as a 2nd Deputy Court Clerk as a rate of \$13.39 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

CCOFA Resignation & Advertise the Vacancy:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that Judy Zimmer has resigned as one of our New Lebanon reps for the Columbia County Office for the Aging. Supervisor Houghtling has received verbal interest from Sarah Conly to fill the vacancy. Supervisor Houghtling feels Sarah would be excellent but that she would like to advertise the vacancy as we have done for others. If we receive multiple letters of interest we can set up interviews.

Councilmember Gordon made a motion to accept Judy Zimmer Sabri's resignation as one of the two New Lebanon reps to the CC Office for the Aging and to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise the vacancy with letters of interest due to the Town Clerk's Office by 4:00 pm on Friday, April 10th, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mining Permit Modification – DEC Requesting to be Lead Agency Again:

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that DEC is requesting to be the lead agency on this again. There is an active mining permit in New Lebanon that is requesting a modification to their permit that involves expanding the overall amount of land mined. DEC has been the lead agency on this permit in the past and Supervisor Houghtling would like approval by the board for that to be the case again.

Councilmember Newton made a motion to appoint DEC as the lead agency on the mining permit modification. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously (with Supervisor Houghtling and Councilmember Rasmussen absent).

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

Assessor (Councilmember Rasmussen):

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that because Councilmember Rasmussen is not present, Supervisor Houghtling forwarded him an email from Kim Smith, Assessor.

*“Norman,
Just finished up exemption process. Ag audit is complete. I worked with the state to keep the level of assessment at 100% but we are falling below that according to them by a couple percent. Finishing up permits and everything else needed to create a 2020 roll.
Kimberly Smith, Assessor”*

Building Department (Councilmember Newton):

No report.

Business & Economic Development (Councilmember Gordon):

Councilmember Gordon stated the committee hasn't met yet, but they are very excited about the number of people who have asked to join. Councilmember Newton would like to consider sitting on this committee once Supervisor Houghtling is not sitting in.

CAC & Environmental Management (Councilmember Gordon):

Councilmember Gordon stated that the various members of the CAC present could better speak on this. David Farren, CAC Member stated that the committee met last night. Carole Roseman and her husband applied for Trees for Troops Grant and seem to be in position to be awarded it, one hundred trees to be planted along the stream that runs through their property. CAC Members David Farren and Steve Powers met with people coming from New Paltz for the Hudson River Estuary program, walked the property and they seemed very favorable about it. But they will be in need of volunteers to help plant

the trees.

David Farren stated they talked at length last night about Climate Smart Community and sponsoring a nature presentation again at the summer youth program.

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

Councilmember Trainor stated he attended his first meeting and he thanks Ed Godfroy and the group down at the LVPA for the presentation and the information, he learned a great deal. He was also very pleased to hear that there are four or five new recruits.

Councilmember Newton stated he would also like to thank Ed. He has the fire call report and there were 10 emergency calls and a total of 71 man hours of work done this past month. He would also like to say that now he is liaison to the fire company, he has been approached by people that talk about budget a lot. Councilmember Newton would like to put it into perspective how much it actually costs for fire protection. It breaks down to less than \$.51 per thousand dollar of home value for your yearly fire protection. So the average house in town at the average amount is about \$.28 a day for fire protection.

Councilmember Newton has looked into some costs, if we wanted to start our own fire company, turn out gear alone goes over \$9,000 a person.

Highway (Superintendent Winestock & Councilmembers Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that it is warming up now and that the roads will get worse before they get better. Obviously Highway Superintendent Winestock stays on top of them, he's been driving around and they look completely passable.

A resident stated that she wanted to point out that Thompson Lane has been unpassable for some time. County Waste has been up and down them all week but the septic company wouldn't come because they were afraid they would get stuck. She stated that this happens all of the time. Her road was supposed to get paved years ago and it didn't.

Councilmember Newton stated that he will go take a look at the road and he will mention it to Highway Superintendent Winestock.

Historian & LVHS: (Councilmembers Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stated that they are still meeting once a month. Since their last meeting it has been arranged at the end of April, they will be having first program on a Sunday having to do with the Church of Our Savior. They have been doing some collaboration with the Town Historian. The Town Historian has office hours if anyone wanted to contact her.

Justice Court/Constable (Councilmember Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stopped by and there were no issues to report.

Library (Councilmember Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stated that he had a nice conversation with the new president, Charlie Winestein and he checked with Moriah yesterday to see if there was anything we needed to know. They are introducing new tech programs.

Buildings, Parks & Recreation (Councilmembers Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that he just talked with our engineer today regarding the skate park and he got a price of approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the engineering costs to put the pad in. Still looking at locations. Our town Engineer, Paul McCreary asked possibly if we had a piece of equipment in the park to maybe do a little perk dig. He might be staking out potential locations in the park if anyone happens to see flagged stakes in the park, that's what they are for.

Councilmember Newton would also like to thank Highway Superintendent Winestock and his guys for removing the remaining trees in the park that needed to come down.

Councilmember Newton also stated that the skating rink has been removed for the season and that Peg Munves, her husband and John Trainor all helped.

Deputy Supervisor Banker stated that he was very impressed with the construction of the skate rink and the ability to take it apart as a kit.

Seniors (Councilmember Gordon & Judy Zimmer):

No report.

Volunteers (Councilmembers Rasmussen):

No report.

Project Management (Councilmembers Rasmussen):

No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APRIL:

Tuesday, April 14th~ Special Meeting @ Town Hall @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 14th ~ Regular Monthly Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7:00 pm

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Monte Wasch: Thanked the Town Board for trusting their confidence in him for the Business & Economic Development Committee. Monte stated his vision for this committee is that it will hue as much as possible to the vision that was set forth in the Town Comprehensive Plan. He wants to look at not only the economics of the town but the

character of the town and that is the kind of work the he hopes they will be doing. Their next meeting is a regular monthly meeting, the first Monday of April, April 6th, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Councilmember Trainor to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk

Draft