

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MARCH 8, 2016**

Present: Dan Evans, Councilmember
Mark Baumli, Councilmember
Kevin Smith Sr, Councilmember
Colleen Teal, Supervisor

Absent: Chuck Geraldi, Councilmember
Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jeffrey Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Cynthia Creech, Deputy Supervisor; Court Clerk;
Recreation Commission, CAC, & Zoning Re-Write
Committee Member
Rocky Brown, Ethics Board Member
Wayne Martin, Ethics Board Member
Joe Ogilvie, Recreation Commission
Katherine Levitan, Recreation Commission
Ben Wheeler, LVPA
Bud Godfroy, LVPA
Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Sharon Moon, Board of Assessment Review
Robert Smith, Planning Board & Ethics Board Member
Tammie Darcy, Tax Collector
David Farren, CAC Member
Ted Salem, Zoning Board of Appeals & Zoning Re-Write
Committee
Steve Oberon, LVHS
Michelle Bienes, SYP Director
Erminia Rasmussen, Behold
Norman Rasmussen, Behold
Bruce Shenker, Enviro. Mgt. Council Representative
Scott Larabee, Building Maintenance
Chris Dreyfus, Meals On Wheels
Judy Zimmer, Cleaner
Thaddeus Flint, Reporter for *The Eastwick Press*
Gail Heinsohn, Reporter for *The Chatham Courier*
Several members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Teal. A moment of silence was followed by the flag salute.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **February 9, 2016 Special Meeting and February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting** were reviewed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Teal, seconded by Councilmember Evans, and passed unanimously (Councilmember Geraldi absent) to accept the above noted minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Teal read the Supervisor's Report as of February 29, 2016. Supervisor Teal stated that the Annual Updated Documents for 2015 have been finished and filed with the Office of the State Comptroller and the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Evans and approved unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent) to accept the Supervisor's report.

TOWN STAFF APPRECIATION:

Supervisor Teal took a moment to appreciate the staff that works for the town, both paid and volunteer. Supervisor Teal stated that in her position as Town Clerk she knew we had some phenomenal staff but in the past 10 weeks she has learned how many more of the town staff, both paid and volunteer are exceptional. We are a very fortunate community and she extended a very hearty and appreciative thank you to all of the Town of New Lebanon staff.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Teal opened the Privilege of the Floor. Nobody addressed the Town Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Backhoe Proposal/Request:

Supervisor Teal stated that there is a significant amount of information and the Town Board members each have in their packet a spreadsheet that shows historically the highway equipment that we have owned and what has happened to each piece of equipment. This document has been worked on for a long time and she will start working on getting a re-purchase plan attached to that document. Supervisor Teal asked if anybody had any questions or concerns.

Councilmember Smith stated that when the roads were washed out the backhoe was down and it went out again the other day. He stated that we need to have a backhoe that works.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of the backhoe for the Highway Department.

Supervisor Teal clarified that the pricing is off state contract and she has verified with the State that we can do a trade in. They are offering us \$38,500 on a trade in which is above average.

Councilmember Smith stated that the screener has to go out to bid but the company that gave us the backhoe quote is willing to be the low bidder on the screener.

Supervisor Teal stated that there are 4 financing options that were presented in the price quote: 24 months, 36 months, 48 months and 60 months. The first year of

payments will be taken out of the trade in value and we will not have to make any payments until 2017. There is \$36,000 in capital reserve for equipment as well as surplus in the highway that could be used to fund the future payments on this. Supervisor Teal stated that she would like to see us do the 60 month financing because we already have funding in the budget for \$18,000 per year on another piece of equipment and this year is the last year of payments on that so we could apply that budget money toward this purchase and not increase the budget at all or use any of the capital reserve.

Councilmember Baumli asked if this is for a purchase or a lease. Supervisor Teal responded that it is for a purchase. Councilmember Baumli clarified that because the pricing is off state contract we don't have to go out to bid. Supervisor Teal responded that this is New York State bid price. New York State has already bid this and we can ride on their bids. Councilmember Baumli asked if we are comfortable with just New York State bid price or if the town wants to go out to bid on this piece of equipment and if the state still had the best bid price we could always go back to their price. He stated that we might want to look at all options and prices including other brands and not just Case backhoes. Councilmember Baumli stated that he would be more comfortable going out to bid.

Supervisor Teal asked Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent where we are at with the repair on the existing backhoe. He responded that we are still waiting. Councilmember Evans asked what was wrong with the existing backhoe and Supervisor Teal responded that it is having electrical issues. Councilmember Evans stated that he understands that we have a piece of equipment that is faulty and that the highway superintendent is requesting that it be replaced but as a consumer he sees that the request to replace this backhoe came in 4 years ago and we are at year 6 and that is comical for a machine with 2,000 hours on it and do we want to continue to use Case product.

Supervisor Teal stated that Councilmember Geraldini got some information on the average time backhoes run before they start having significant issues and it's about 5,000 hours. She has found in her research that if a piece of equipment is used consistently with the salt, the life is cut in half, or 2,500 hours. The current backhoe has over 2,000 hours which is pretty close to the average.

Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent stated that you can buy a Ford, a Cat, or a John Deere and you can get ones that are not so good right from the factory, maybe a lemon. He has had Case in the past and they have treated him very well. He has run some of those other machines that are cheaper and they are not reliable and cannot do the same things as he can with the Case and it's not comparing apples to apples. As far as putting it out to bid you could open up a huge can of worms because there are probably cheaper backhoes out there that are cheaper quality as well. He stated that he has been doing his job for a long time and if one road gets washed out because he doesn't have the proper equipment to dig the trenches and clear the culverts, it would cost the town a lot more money than purchasing the backhoe. He has been begging for a backhoe for 3 years and telling the town board that there are things going wrong with it. He has had Case equipment for years and they have been really good but it's time to

replace this one. You can't rent a piece of equipment at 2 in the morning when there is a storm and he has called around and there are no backhoes to rent right now and you have to get out there and get the pipes cleared out because it doesn't take very long for a storm to take out the roads. If you don't open the culverts up and get them going you are going to have the roads wash away.

Councilmember Baumli stated that there might be other options out there that will work and he wants to look at all the options. He agrees that we need to get a new backhoe but feels that we need to go out to bid to ensure that we get the best deal because we don't know that someone else might not sell us the exact same backhoe for a cheaper price.

Councilmember Smith stated that the screener is sitting there turning into a piece of junk and Case is willing to give us \$15,000 for it so when you take the cost of the backhoe and the trade in, now we're talking \$43,559 that we are financing instead of \$96,859. Supervisor Teal clarified that right now we are looking at the price just with the trade in of the backhoe, not the screener. Councilmember Smith agreed and added that they have promised to be low bidder on the screener at \$15,000 so we know we are getting at least that much for it and that money can go into financing the new backhoe which is bringing the cost down. Councilmember Smith asked how many times the backhoe is going to have to break down like it has in the last month leaving us without proper equipment to upkeep the roads and then we are renting equipment which costs a lot of money. He feels that it is breaking down too much and we need to buy a new one.

Councilmember Evans stated that he understands that this is a lemon piece of equipment, but we are going to get a new one and put it back in the salt yard which makes the life only 2,000 or 2,500 hours and then we will be sitting here 4 years from now with the same electrical problems from the salt. He suggested fixing the existing backhoe and leaving it up in the salt yard to do the work needed up there and then purchasing a new one to do the culvert and road work needed that doesn't get exposed to the salt. He stated that we are looking at a \$100,000 piece of equipment that the town needs to replace every 4 years and maybe we should look into a lease option or other options to prevent having to spend so much money for such a short life expectancy.

Councilmember Baumli stated that buying a \$100,000 loader that you know is only going to last you 4 years doesn't make sense and instead you could buy a cheaper loader knowing that it is not going to last that long anyway. Supervisor Teal asked if the cheaper version will still operate when the Highway Superintendent needs it to because you are talking about public safety and the roads being passable by school buses, fire trucks, ambulances and commuters so reliability is very important for this piece of equipment. She has spoken with other Highway Superintendents as well as county and state highway departments and they have stated that this purchase is very necessary and reasonable and that Jeff is the lowest cost per linear mile in the county for his budget so if we talk about having 2 backhoes and storing one down here we would need to expand the size of the highway garage.

Councilmember Baumli reiterated that he agrees that we need to replace the backhoe but he would like to go out to bid to ensure that we are getting the best price. Supervisor Teal asked if we go out to bid do we want to wait all the way to the April meeting or do we want to have a special meeting. It was agreed that they would hold a special meeting.

Councilmember Smith amended his motion to approve the purchase of the new backhoe with a trade in of the existing backhoe for \$38,500 and using option #4 with 60 month financing. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Smith – Aye
Supervisor Teal – Aye
Councilmember Evans – Nay
Councilmember Baumli – Nay
Councilmember Geraldi – Absent

The motion failed.

Supervisor Teal and Attorney Tuczinski discussed the dates for going out to bid on the backhoe. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that the deadline for it to go out in the paper is Tuesday at noon for publication that Thursday so the earliest the bids can be published is Thursday, March 17th. Supervisor Teal suggested there be a day when the backhoe being traded in be available for inspection by interested bidders. Attorney Tuczinski suggested March 24th be the day for inspection and March 31st be the date bids must be received by giving ample time for people to receive the bid notice. A special meeting was set for Monday April 4th at 6pm for the town board to make a decision regarding the bids received and the backhoe purchase.

Supervisor Teal asked Highway Superintendent Winestock if we have an excavator. He responded that we do not. Supervisor Teal stated that if between now and then we need to dig ditches we can't. Councilmember Evans stated that Mr. Kidney did ditches for the town with his excavator for the whole month of February. Superintendent Winestock stated that Mr. Kidney is not going to come out at 2:00 in the morning to dig ditches.

Superintendent Winestock put the board on notice that if something were to happen between now and when the town gets a backhoe and we get another storm like we did the other night it will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to rebuild the roads because you can't get in there with a loader to clean the ditches out and clean the pipes out. He stated that it really bothers him that he is not able to do his job properly because he likes the roads to be operational and it is really important to him to have the right equipment to do his job.

Councilmember Baumli stated that he is newly elected to this position and would like one month to put the backhoe out to bid so he can say to the taxpayers of this town that he tried to possibly save them some money. Superintendent Winestock stated that in one month we could lose hundreds of thousands of dollars of roads in a bad storm.

Supervisor Teal made a motion that we go out to bid with the specs on the backhoe with a trade in specifying March 24th as an inspection day on the trade in with bids to be received by March 31st at 5:00pm in the office of the Town Clerk with a special meeting to be held on April 4th at 6:00pm to make a determination on the bids. Councilmember Baumli seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Smith – Nay
Supervisor Teal – Aye
Councilmember Evans – Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Aye
Councilmember Geraldini – Absent

Tennis Courts:

Councilmember Evans reviewed the quotes received from Copeland in 2015 for patching the courts. Copeland recommended that we do not do a patch job on the courts as the damage to the courts is so bad that we could expect micro cracks on the patch job within as little as 6 weeks after patching. He presented the two bids received last year to reconstruct the tennis courts from HMA for \$85,620.00 and Williams Paving for \$86,180.00. He stated that there was quite a discrepancy with their net systems and we had asked them to provide catalog cuts of their net systems but we did not receive either of those so we cannot determine the quality of the net systems presented in the quotes. Both of these bids have been held until April 30th, 2016. One bidder stated that they had increased the cost of their bid due to the timing of installing new courts in late fall.

Councilmember Evans stated that we have the options of closing the courts, patching the courts or going out to bid to reconstruct the courts. He recommends going out to bid again to reconstruct the courts as a lot of the material costs have decreased since the last bids were submitted which might decrease the new bid amounts.

Councilmember Smith asked how many years they estimate the new courts will last. Nobody knew the answer to that and it was suggested that this be added to the bid forms. Councilmember Evans stated that the last time the courts were repaired was in 2009 and it cost around \$15,000. They were ready to be repaired again in 2013 so we only got 4 years out of that repair.

Supervisor Teal asked if there is the ability to annually seal the courts with a clear seal coat that would that extend the life of the courts or is there other maintenance that we can do to extend the life if we go with a full reconstruction of the courts. She feels that the town board doesn't have the right to say that we don't want to maintain the courts anymore as they are a town asset and it is the town board's responsibility to maintain the town's assets. Councilmember Evans stated that the Copeland website has all their products listed and that we could purchase products and maintain the courts in house. He suggested that we reach out to some local companies with the bid notices as well.

Deputy Supervisor Creech stated that the Town of Canaan used Williams Paving to build their tennis courts in 2000 and in 2015 they were still in wonderful shape. Supervisor Teal asked if they do regular maintenance on their tennis courts. Deputy Supervisor Creech responded that they washed it with a power washer and she is not

sure what else they do to maintain them. Councilmember Smith asked if there is any warranty included and requested that we specify this in the bid notice.

Councilmember Baumli asked if there is a necessity for us to have two tennis courts or if we could downsize the courts to just one. Supervisor Teal stated that when the courts were in good repair they were used all the time and she feels that if they are being used we don't have the right to say we don't want to maintain them anymore. Deputy Supervisor Creech stated that the recreation commission sent out a survey last year to gauge the usage of the courts and they got a lot of response from citizens using the courts and the school uses the courts a lot. Summer Youth Program Director Bienes stated that she uses the courts all summer for the summer camp and the high school uses the courts all school year.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to go out to bid on the reconstruction of the courts with the same specs as the last time the courts went out to bid in September 2015 and setting a pre-bid meeting for March 31st, 2016 at 10am with bids to be received in the Town Clerk's office by April 8th at 5pm and adding in a spot on the bid form for bidders to state the specifications of their warranty and the projected life expectancy and separately go out to bid on the resurfacing of the courts with the same dates and details as the bid for the reconstruction of the courts. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Smith – Aye
Supervisor Teal – Aye
Councilmember Evans – Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Aye
Councilmember Geraldini – Absent

Proposed Resolution – Cleaner Greener Community:

Supervisor Teal stated that the board had tabled a resolution last month and she has drafted another resolution that she felt was more specific to the Town of New Lebanon and the board has had time to review it and the public has a copy in their packet.

Councilmember Evans made a motion to adopt the Cleaner Greener Community Resolution. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Smith – Nay
Supervisor Teal – Aye
Councilmember Evans – Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Nay
Councilmember Geraldini – Absent

The motion failed.

Historian Appointment:

Supervisor Teal appointed Kevin Fuerst as historian and John Trainor as assistant historian.

CAC Appointment:

Supervisor Teal stated that the person who was interested in the CAC vacancy is no longer able to fill it so the spot is remaining vacant for now.

Solar Arrays – Update:

Supervisor Teal stated that she has been exploring what the town can do at the town hall, highway garage and possibly the pavilion using solar panels. She stated that 5 of our building/planning/zoning staff, Cissy Hernandez, Kent Pratt, Tony Murad, Ted Salem and Greg Hanna, attended a training in solar legislation. She wants to see the town get some legislation on the books that defines whether we allow solar arrays or not. There are a lot of solar companies looking for locations and as of now we do not have anything on the books which means it's not allowed. It is something she would like to see us consider bringing in but wants to be cautious doing it as all the abutting towns are not allowing it and she doesn't want to be the only place in the area that allows it. She stated that to protect our beautiful views and vistas, screening will be critical. Our zoning re-write committee is currently working on this. There are also some draft plans that the state is coming out with that if we enact, there may be some financial incentives to us. Supervisor Teal stated that the schools are eligible for free solar installation through a program called K Solar and she reached out and shared the information with the public school as well as the private schools in town.

NL Farmer's Market:

Supervisor Teal stated that she checked with the town's insurance company and there is no problem with the town allowing the farmer's market to use the park. She contacted the little league and there is no conflict with the little league schedule. To her knowledge the park is still not their first choice so there is no more needed to be done at the moment. She stated that there are some gaps in our sign law as we have nothing that accounts for one day events or seasonal events such as the farmer's market or the school craft fairs. We have nothing in our current sign law that allows them to put up signs so we might want to look at making an accommodation in the sign law for these types of events.

Councilmember Baumli stated that some concerns have been brought up to him from people in the community about the farmer's market being held at the park. One concern is the safety of the road and entrances in and out of the park on route 22 and pedestrians crossing back over the bridge which has no railings on it to attend the market. Another concern is the vendors selling their products for a profit in the park which turns the park into a commercial piece of property. A third concern was for the residents who live around the park and increasing the traffic and the volume of activity in the park. He stated that these are just things that we would need to be aware of if we do move upon this request.

Deputy Supervisor Creech stated that the traffic in and out of the park and safety of the roads and bridges would not be any worse for the farmer's market than it is for little

league and the traffic and disturbance to the neighbors would likely be less than it is for little league.

Cemetery Work:

Supervisor Teal stated that Sharon Moon had asked the town board last month for permission to continue to do work on the cemetery on County Route 5. Supervisor Teal stated that there are a number of qualified and trained members of the community that have been working on the cemeteries. Supervisor Teal stated that there has been some concern with how the cemetery on County Route 5 has been handled. You do not want to dig up and erect the fallen stones but the work is much more subtle and sometimes the best thing to do is to re-cover the stones. Sharon Moon asked who Supervisor Teal has been talking to for this information. Supervisor Teal responded that she has been talking to people in other communities who have done this work as well as at the county level and some of the people who are locally involved. Supervisor Teal asked that if work is to be continued on the cemetery on County Route 5 that the stones do not get moved and to be sure that the work is being done in a way to preserve it historically. Supervisor Teal stated that she would put Sharon Moon in touch with someone who can guide her in how to do the cemetery work in a way that preserves it historically.

NEW BUSINESS:

NLCSD Senior Class Program Request:

Michelle Bienes addressed the board and read the following letter submitted to the board.

On behalf of the New Lebanon Class of 2016 I am requesting funding for supplies to re-paint the park equipment, plant a garden, paint a picnic table and supply a plaque for class recognition. In the past, the graduating class placed their handprints in cement in the sidewalk adjacent to the school. There is no longer space for this annual tradition to continue. I have been working with Supervisor Teal to create a new school tradition. We would like to bridge the gap between the school and community. Our proposition is to annually have a picnic table supplied by the town for the graduates to design. Attached to the table would be a plaque commemorating the class. The class would also paint the existing fence, sprinkler and swing sets, along with cleaning up the playground, basketball court and surrounding areas. We would also like to plant a flower garden. We would like this program to become an annual tradition.

Supervisor Teal stated that we could take one of the picnic tables that is already at the park and the school has requested that the seniors be able to take their picnic table to the school for the year and then return it to the park at the end of the school year. Michelle Bienes said that she doesn't think it would go over \$500 for all of the supplies.

Councilmember Smith asked if students would need to sign a waiver to participate in the program. Supervisor Teal stated that if they are over 18 they can sign the waiver and if they are under 18 their parents would need to sign a waiver.

Supervisor Teal made a motion to authorize this program as an ongoing program with supplies not to exceed \$500 each year. Councilmember Evans seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Smith – Aye
Supervisor Teal – Aye
Councilmember Evans – Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Aye
Councilmember Geraldini – Absent

Uke & Brew Festival:

Supervisor Teal stated that she was approached with an idea for a ukulele and local brew festival and she asked our Recreation Commission if they would consider sponsoring this event. She has spoken with the insurance and there are no concerns about the event being held at the park but with the brew piece of it, the vendors would need to provide the appropriate beer or liquor licenses which our insurance company would review. It will be scheduled for Sunday, August 28th from 1:00 pm until either 5:00 pm or 6:00 pm. Supervisor Teal stated that this is another area where there are issues with our sign laws not having provisions for a one day event in place.

Park Playground Install:

Supervisor Teal stated that she wants to schedule the park playground install for the weekend of May 14th & 15th with a rain date of May 21st & 22nd. She would like to gather some volunteers to help with this project. We need to coordinate with Columbia County Department of Health because of their requirements for our public park and the summer youth program. The insurer said they are going to defer to county on the placement of the playground equipment because their requirements are so much more rigorous. She would like to plan a community day at the park, sort of a ribbon cutting for the new playground equipment sometime in June with a pig roast and some local musicians.

Newsletter:

Supervisor Teal stated that she needs board authorization to reactivate the bulk mailing permit or reapply for it. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that if we move quickly we can reactivate permit #8, our old permit, for the annual fee of \$225 or we can apply for a new permit and pay the application fee of \$225 plus the annual fee of \$225. She stated that if the board wants to reactivate permit #8 they would need to approve the payment of it on an interim voucher because the time for reactivation will have expired by the next regular board meeting.

Supervisor Teal stated that the last time a newsletter was sent it cost around \$350 for each mailing to 1600 households but postage has gone up since then. Councilmember Evans asked if there is a way to get feedback as to what the gains are from the newsletter. He stated that it would be cheaper to put the newsletter on the website for people to read there. Councilmember Smith stated that not everybody has a computer. Supervisor Teal stated that there is a lot of people not getting the information when we only put it out electronically. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that she and Supervisor Teal were invited to speak at the last senior's meeting and the number one thing they requested was to have the paper newsletter back.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to pay the \$225 reactivation fee for our bulk mailing permit #8 on an interim abstract to be approved at the April meeting and the cost of the first mailing. Councilmember Baumli seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Smith – Aye
Supervisor Teal – Aye
Councilmember Evans – Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Aye
Councilmember Geraldini – Absent

Historian: Room & Computer:

Supervisor Teal stated that she would like board authorization to give the vacant room upstairs to the Historian and provide a desk and chair that we have in the building and set up the former town clerk's desktop computer in that room for him.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the room upstairs, the extra desktop computer and any excess furniture the town has to be used by the Historian. Councilmember Baumli seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent).

Youth Committee:

Supervisor Teal stated that she would like to look into setting up a youth committee. It would be a committee comprised of high school students with an adult that would function as a facilitator and guide them in their meetings. The recreation commission would oversee them. Their objective would be to come up with recommendations and ideas for events and programs that they would like to see the town having for them. Once they come up with an idea they would bring it to the recreation commission who would help them get it implemented. She asked if any board members had any concerns before she moves forward with this idea. No concerns were expressed.

911 Emergency Services Towers:

Supervisor Teal updated the board that both Rensselaer and Columbia County are needing to improve their telecommunications towers as they switch from low band radio frequency to high band. She has spoken at length to both Mark Lisivida, Rensselaer County deputy fire coordinator and Rob Lopez, Columbia County 911 emergency communications coordinator. There has been some talk between the two of them about sharing a tower. Rensselaer County submitted a tentative application but with Columbia County on it. They are looking at about 185 feet which is extremely tall for what we like to look at and significantly taller than our current tower. Additionally to fill the gaps created by the hilly terrain, Columbia County may be looking for more than one tower. She reached out to the consultant to advise that regardless of how the applications come in, this needs to be viewed as one project because they rely on each other. Rensselaer County does have a site in their county but their community isn't thrilled to have them there so they are looking to our town for a possible location. She advised that we keep all of this in mind so that we don't end up with 4 or 5 towers or a couple of 185 foot towers. Since they are 911 services that we need to do for our residents she wants to look into it but with our eyes open.

Attorney Referral:

Supervisor Teal requested board authorization to have the town attorney draft three proposed laws.

Supervisor Teal stated that one request came from the Building Department on derelict/abandoned/foreclosed properties. If we are allowed to enact legislation that requires specific steps for the property owners or financial institutions that will assist us in staying on top of the maintenance on abandoned and foreclosed and foreclosing properties. We have had a couple that took us years to figure out who was responsible for the maintenance since there were so many transfers among the financial institutions and in the meantime we had unsafe conditions and unmaintained properties. This legislation would make it easier to track who is responsible for the maintenance when the properties are not being properly maintained.

Supervisor Teal stated that around 2012 the state passed legislation that allows us to consider a bid that is not the lowest bid if there is a quantifiable added value on that bid. It is very specific and enacting the legislation would give us more options in the bid process.

Supervisor Teal stated that the kenneling fees at the Columbia Greene Humane Society have changed and she is asking to have our local law adjusted to match those fees.

Councilmember Baumli made a motion to authorize the attorney to look into drafting proposed local laws on derelict/abandoned/foreclosed properties, value added contracts, and dog law amendment for kenneling fees. Councilmember Evans seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent).

Policy Review – Personnel:

Supervisor Teal stated that there are 3 policies that the board should be reviewing annually, personnel, investment and procurement. Rather than trying to look at them all at once, she has given all the board members a copy of the personnel policy to look over and address any changes that the board wants to implement at the next meeting. After personnel is done, they can look at the next one.

Computers – surplus:

Supervisor Teal stated that the town has 3 laptop computers that we no longer need. The cost to wipe each laptop clean is \$76.50. She is looking for the board to authorize the wiping clean of each laptop and declare them as surplus to go out to bid.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to declare the 3 laptops as surplus and have them cleaned and put out to bid. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Assessor (Councilmember Evans):

No report.

Building Department (Councilmember Geraldini & Councilmember Baumli):

Supervisor Teal stated that we have the CEO/ZEO combined monthly report.

CAC & Environmental Management (Deputy Supervisor Creech):

Deputy Supervisor Creech stated that they are continuing with the preliminary work on the natural resources conservation plan. David Farren stated that they are working on an open source geographic information system called PGIS and Cissy Hernandez, Building Department Administrator, was able to load it onto the planning department computer and for the first time they were able to put parcel outlines on top of topographical lines on top of arial photos. This was a first for the town.

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency (Councilmember Smith):

Councilmember Smith stated that this month the report he received from LVPA included the number of calls received, number of people utilized and number of hours put in. It also lists a cumulative for the year for all of this data. He stated that if anybody wants a copy of the reports they can get them from him.

Highway (Councilmember Evans & Councilmember Smith):

No report.

Historian & LVHS: (Councilmember Baumli):

Councilmember Baumli stated he attended the last board meeting of the LVHS and one thing that came up was the upcoming 200th anniversary celebration for the town. He requested that this go on next month's agenda for the town board to discuss.

Steve Oberon stated that LVHS has some upcoming programs. One is a wide angle study of one of the more important houses of West Lebanon, Bob Jones house. They are looking at everything about the building as well as the people who lived there and the genealogy and history of the building as far as what happened there. They are trying to document it all, present a program about it and have a display that the public can look at. Part of it is because this is a very interesting house and part of it is a case study to show what you can do with an old building if you own one or know about one. They are also going to offer a tour of portions of Olana that people don't get to see on the regular tours. They are also going to finish the rededication of the Mohican blessing fountain by putting up signage to give people an idea of what happened there. They are also going to celebrate the life and the legacy of Mary Elizabeth Bates who was a very important pioneering woman in the late 19th century and she is buried on Lebanon Mountain unfortunately without a stone marking her grave so one of the things they are going to do is get a stone to mark her grave.

Sharon Moon stated that the Heritage Center will be holding a grand opening at some point in the next few months. They will be re-opening in the Valley Plaza next to the Post Office. They are looking for volunteers to help paint the new space.

Justice Court/Constable (Councilmember Geraldini):

No report.

Parks & Recreation (Supervisor Teal):

No report.

Seniors (Councilmember Baumli & Phyllis Hulbert):

Town Clerk Houghtling stated that bins will be available at the Town Hall from March 14th through March 31st to drop documents that need to be shredded. The bins are provided by County Clerk Holly Tanner through a program called “Keeping Identities of Seniors Safe” which is provided at no cost to the taxpayers. Anybody wishing to use these bins would stop by the Town Clerk’s Office during open hours to fill out a form for document shredding.

Town Assets, Buildings & Property (Supervisor Teal & Councilmember Gerald):

No report.

County Updates:

Supervisor Teal stated that there is a resolution proposed before the whole board to raise the age of children who are incarcerated in adult prisons by excluding the 16 and 17 year olds from adult prisons and only allowing people age 18 and up to be incarcerated in adult prisons. In human services, Supervisor Teal has reached out on a county level to see if there are programs in place that bring together our youth and our elderly populations as that is something she would like to see happen. Also they are looking to replace a van that provides transportation services for veterans in the county. In public safety there is a lot of information coming in on a sparkler law. Most of the abutting counties allow the sale of these items and there is a lot of revenue being lost in our county however people in public safety are saying that they are not safe and they do not want us to approve the sale of sparklers. Supervisor Teal attended the County Economic Development Corporation public planning strategy session last Friday. They are going through a lot of restructuring. The industries that we have the most of in Columbia County are agri-business (for example craft brew and wineries), technology, tourism and creative economy. Columbia County is the third highest in the Country for a creative economy which is defined as design, media, visual arts, handcrafted products, performing arts, heritage and preservation. They are talking about Regional collaboration with Berkshire County, Greene County, Albany County, and Rensselaer County. There was a lot of talk about some of the things we need to overcome such as taxes, labor pool, infrastructure, rural poverty, underemployment, aging population, drawing and keeping younger population, developing a pipeline to education, training & employment, affordable housing, county wide planning, strategic planning, collaboration both regionally and locally, data on second home owners, quality of life, character of life, creating a defined identity, better signage, and better cohesion throughout the county.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday, April 4th is a Special Meeting of the Town Board at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.
Tuesday, April 12th is the Regular Monthly Meeting at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

ABSTRACT No. 12D of 2015 AMENDMENT:

Supervisor Teal stated that last month the board approved Abstract #12D from 2015 general. The bills that the board actually reviewed and approved totaled \$3,017.67.

The abstract that was prepared had a typographical error on voucher #416 in the amount of \$30.00. She is asking the board to approve the abstract as corrected to total \$3,017.67.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the abstract as corrected. Councilmember Evans seconded that motion. The motion was approved unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent).

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Amendment # 3 of 2016:

General Fund:

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$14,246 | from A-3060 (State Aid: Records Management) |
| \$14,246 | to A-1460.41 (Records Management: Contractual Expense) |
| \$639 | from A-1620.4 (Buildings: Contractual Expense) |
| \$639 | to A-1620.2 (Buildings: Equipment) |

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Baumli, and approved unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent) to approve the above noted amendment to the 2016 Budget.

AUDIT OF BILLS:

**General Nos. 52 through 82, in the adjusted amount of \$78,837.75; and
Highway Nos. 11 through 23, in the amount of \$15,010.68;
As listed on Abstract # 3 of 2016, dated March 8, 2016.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Evans, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and approved unanimously (Councilmember Geraldini absent) to pay the above noted claims from their respective accounts.

OTHER:

Ethics Board member Robert Smith stated that the Ethics Board has asked Town Clerk Houghtling to notify all members of a meeting to be held on Monday, March 21st at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. He also requested that any time an ethics complaint comes in all members of the Ethics Board be notified.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Bruce Shenker addressed the town board stating that Colleen made a really good resolution that seems very uncontroversial and asked Councilmember Smith and Councilmember Baumli why they voted no to the proposed Cleaner Greener Community resolution. Councilmember Smith stated that he thinks it's something that the town can help people with and show them the way but he does not feel that the town should dictate to people that own their property. Councilmember Baumli agreed. Bruce Shenker stated that he does not see anything in the proposed resolution that says the town is dictating to anyone to do anything. He has arranged for a speaker and will have a climate forum at the Library on April 19th at 6:30pm. Councilmember Evans clarified that the Cleaner Greener Community Resolution was a different resolution than the two presented at last month's town board meeting.

Rocky Brown addressed the town board asking the availability of the new backhoe purchase. He stated that you can buy a backhoe for less money but it might not be

available for 4 months or you can spend a little more for a backhoe that is available right away. Supervisor Teal stated that they would stipulate availability in the bid notice. Rocky Brown also stated that the tennis courts are used by a lot of people but the roads are definitely used by more people and it's the same amount of money but we seem to be throwing money at a tennis court but can we afford that luxury when we need to have roads to get around.

Wayne Martin addressed the Highway Superintendent and asked if we have a backhoe we can use in case of an emergency. He said no. Wayne Martin asked the town board if the town can be assured that we can have one at our disposal in case of an emergency. Supervisor Teal stated that there are none available to rent. He stated that he feels very uneasy about not having a backhoe that works in case something happens as it is spring in the northeast. Councilmember Evans stated that we have an agreement with neighboring towns that in an emergency we can possibly borrow their equipment. Highway Superintendent Jeff Winestock stated that if we have flooding the neighboring towns will have flooding as well.

Chris Dreyfus addressed the town board stating that she would like us to get the word out to more residents that we have a website with a lot of information available for people. Supervisor Teal stated that we have an email blast that goes out to residents with important information, meeting minutes, notices etc. and you can get on the email blasts by submitting your email address to the Town Clerk's office.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Councilmember Evans to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling
New Lebanon Town Clerk