**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MEETING OF**

**THE NEW LEBANON TOWN BOARD**

**HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

**Present: Colleen Teal, Supervisor**

*Draft*

**Kevin Smith Sr., Councilmember**

**Chuck Geraldi, Councilmember**

**Absent: Dan Evans, Councilmember**

**Mark Baumli, Councilmember**

**Dan Tuczinski, Town Attorney**

# **Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk**

**Others Present: JJ Smith, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging**

**Cynthia Creech, Deputy Supervisor, Court Clerk,**

**Rec. Commission, CAC & ZRC Member**

**Amanda Purcell, *The Register Star***

**Several members of the Public**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Supervisor Teal called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**TOWN HALL BREAK IN*:***

Supervisor Teal stated that the first order of business is to discuss a reward. The Town Attorney has sent everything. We can offer an award. It is something that the Investigator had asked about. The law is pretty specific. We can offer an award on a misdemeanor not to exceed $1,000 for information that leads to the detection, arrest, and conviction of a person or persons. If it is a felony, it cannot exceed $25,000. This is a felony but the recommendation is up to $1,000. She asked if there is any concerns from the Town Board members. Councilmember Smith stated no.

Supervisor Teal made a motion authorizing the Town Clerk to proceed with the Investigator to offer a reward not to exceed $1,000, subject to the recommendation of the Investigator, for any information leading to detection, arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the break in and thefts at the Town Hall on the night of 9/12/17 or early morning of 9/13/17. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Geraldi – Aye

Councilmember Smith – Aye

Supervisor Teal – Aye

Councilmember Evans – Absent

### Councilmember Baumli – Absent

### Supervisor Teal stated that the Investigator has requested that any reward being offered go through him first. She requested that any information regarding a possible reward not be published until after the Investigator releases that information.

### Supervisor Teal made a motion authorizing the Town Clerk to work with the New York State Police and provide information as needed to cooperate with their investigation of this incident and to work with our insurance company to provide them whatever information is needed to keep the process moving to restore the Town Hall to the pre-incident condition. Councilmember Geraldi seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Geraldi – Aye

Councilmember Smith – Aye

Supervisor Teal – Aye

Councilmember Evans – Absent

### Councilmember Baumli – Absent

### Supervisor Teal made a motion authorizing the Town Clerk to proceed as needed to get the offices of the Town Hall secure including, but not limited to, replacement of the fireproof filing cabinets, securing access to various offices and rooms at the Town Hall, replacement of cash boxes and damaged furniture, etc., for those items that will be reimbursed by insurance proceeds not to include the purchase or installation of any additional or new security measures except as outlined below: installation of stops on all windows, and obtaining quotes on security cameras and alarm systems, upgraded doors and windows, and any other quotes needed to upgrade the security here at the Town Hall. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Geraldi – Aye

Councilmember Smith – Aye

Supervisor Teal – Aye

Councilmember Evans – Absent

### Councilmember Baumli – Absent

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

### Jagat Pandey stated that being a member of the New Lebanon community he commends the Town Board on their quick decision in this situation and he would like the general public to say something about this. The Town Board made quick decisions and it was very good for the Town.

### Amanda Purcell, reporter for The Register Star, stated that she knows we are currently limited with the police investigation underway but is there anything that can be released at this time about what specifically was taken. Supervisor Teal stated that we cannot discuss that at this time. She knows the New York State Police had released some information and we are going to leave it to them to release what they can. There is an active investigation and we do not want to compromise that at all. Amanda Purcell asked if there is anything she would like to say to the immediate members of the community who might be concerned about what might have happened. Councilmember Smith stated that we would love the community to reach out to us if they know anything. Supervisor Teal stated that she would like the community to be assured that the situation could have been much worse. Most of our procedures were very good which mitigated the situation. We are looking at the procedures that we can change. One of the things that we have talked very specifically about, not the full Board but the staff interior, is being careful not to sacrifice service because we are afraid. We don’t want to go that route because then they win. We are not willing to give them that win. Amanda Purcell asked if the Town Hall is open for business as usual. Supervisor Teal stated that we were closed for one day and now we are back up and running. Supervisor Teal stated that there was no personal information whatsoever that was compromised, no computers were compromised, and no bank accounts were compromised.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Teal and seconded by Councilmember Geraldi to close the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling

New Lebanon Town Clerk