

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

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

Absent: Mark Baumli, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk

Others Present: Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Bud Godfroy, LVPA
Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Cynthia Creech, CAC Member & ZRC Member
Peg Munves, CAC Member
Robert Smith, Ethics Board & Planning Board Member
Ted Salem, ZBA Member & ZRC Chair
Steve Powers, CAC Member
Eugenia Browning, LVPA
Judy Zimmer, NL Rep to CC OFA & Cleaner
Robert Gilson, CAC Member
Tegan Cook, Planning Board Member & Rec Commission Chair
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Environmental Management
Herb Jones, Prior Park and Buildings Superintendent
Several members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Interim Supervisor Robertson. A moment of silence was followed by the flag salute. Interim Supervisor Robertson pointed out the emergency exits.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **October 8, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting; October 7, 2019 Budget Workshop; October 11, 2019 Special Meeting; October 16, 2019 Budget Workshop; October 17, 2019 Budget Workshop; and October 21, 2019 Budget Workshop** were reviewed. Interim Supervisor Robertson requested the following edits to the minutes: on page 5 of the October 8, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting that Safe at Home be capitalized and on the minutes of the October 11, 2019 Special Meeting add in the word "into" to read "enter into an agreement". Town Clerk Houghtling stated that on the October 7 and October 16 Budget Workshop minutes she accidentally put "Regular Monthly Meeting" in the title and would like to amend them to read "Budget Workshop". A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved

unanimously (Councilmember Baumli absent) to accept the above noted minutes as edited for the 4 with suggested edits and as typed for the other 2.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

Interim Supervisor Robertson provided the public and TB members with a copy of the Supervisor's Report as of October 31, 2019. She read the following aloud:

Deposits:

Judge Byrne = \$9,308.00

Judge Nevers = \$7,244.00

Town Clerk = \$2,747.65

Summer Youth Reimbursements = \$0.00

Tax Collector = \$0.00

Interest – Multifund = \$591.43

Interest – Operating = \$3.40

Interest – Payroll = \$6.12

Total Deposits = \$19,900.60

Disbursements:

Abstracts = (\$45,949.71)

Payrolls = (\$61,237.49)

Total Disbursements = (\$107,187.20)

Accounts at Bank of Greene County:

Operating Account = \$9,163.04

Multifund Account = \$1,713,392.15

Escrow Account = \$10,353.81

Trust & Agency Payroll Account = \$43,971.45

Petty Cash = \$950.00

Total Cash Balance = \$1,777,830.45

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Smith and approved unanimously (Councilmember Baumli absent) to accept the Supervisor's report as typed.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:

Interim Supervisor Robertson presented a certificate of appreciation to Herb Jones and stated: "Herb, I would like to present to you, for all of your work that you have done. All the hard work that you did to help maintain the parks and anything else we asked you to do, we would like to present you with this certificate of appreciation, presented to Herbert Jones by the New Lebanon Town Board. Dedicated and distinguished service while serving the Town of New Lebanon. Thank you so very much for everything."

SAFE AT HOME:

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that Joyce Thompson has postponed the Safe at Home presentation until next month due to the bad weather. The presentation is adjourned until the December 10 meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Tegan Cook turned in a proposed layout for the sign the board had discussed previously and a cost proposal. She stated that the Recreation Commission met and approved the expenditures for the signs out of their budget.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of the two proposed signs in the amount of \$73.01 to be paid out of the Recreation Commission budget line with the Town exempting itself from its zoning laws. Councilmember Newton seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Truck:

Councilmember Smith stated that we put the 1999 International highway truck out to bid again and the top bid was \$1,975 and they asked for a counter offer. He stated that he talked to Highway Superintendent Winestock and he wants to counter at \$4,000.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to make a counter offer of \$4,000 on the bid received for the 1999 International highway truck. Councilmember Newton seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Schedule the LVPA contract public hearing:

The following amendment to the 2019 LVPA contract was proposed:

Fire Protection Agreement – Amendment

THIS AMENDMENT, made this ____ day of November, 2019, applies to the agreement that was made the 11th day of December, 2018 between the TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF

NEW LEBANON, Columbia County, New York (hereinafter, the "Town"), and LEBANON VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION INC., of the Town of New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York (hereinafter, the "Association").

On page 2, section 3 of the above referenced agreement it states: "if the Association's actual operating expenses for fiscal year 2019 are less than \$129,500.00, the Association shall, on or before February 28, 2020, deposit into the Restricted Contingency Account an additional amount equal to the difference between \$129,500.00 and the Association's actual operating expenses for fiscal year 2019."

The following changes are being made to the above referenced statement by way of this amendment: "if the Association's actual operating expenses for fiscal year 2019 are less than \$129,500.00, the Association shall, on or before February 28, 2020, deposit into the Truck Capital Reserve Account and the Equipment Capital Reserve Account an additional amount equal to the difference between \$129,500.00 and the Association's actual operating expenses for fiscal year 2019. The split between the two capital reserve accounts shall be determined by the Association so long as the total amount going into the accounts equals the difference between \$129,500.00 and the Association's actual operating expenses for fiscal year 2019."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals this day in the year first above written, and the Association have caused its corporate seals to be hereunto affixed and these presents to be signed by duly authorized officers of the day and year first written above.

Councilmember Smith made a motion authorizing Interim Supervisor Robertson to sign the proposed contract amendment to the 2019 LVPA contract. Councilmember Newton seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Newton made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the proposed 2020 LVPA contract for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 6:55 p.m. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Town emails:

Town Clerk Houghtling stated that the board had authorized her to set up town email accounts for all board members. The new town emails are all up and running. In the near future she will distribute the new emails to be utilized for all town business. She is just waiting for everyone to get logged into their new accounts. She asked if we should set up town email accounts for the park and building maintenance superintendent, the NL Rep to the CC Office for the Aging and the NL Rep to CC Environmental Management. The town board asked the town clerk to set up a town email for the NL Rep to the CC Office for the Aging and the NL Rep to CC Environmental Management but not for the park and building maintenance superintendent.

Columbia-Greene 2020 Contract:

Town Clerk Houghtling stated we received the proposed contract with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society for 2020. There are no changes from the 2019 contract.

Councilmember Smith made a motion authorizing Town Clerk Houghtling to sign the contract for 2020 with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society. Councilmember Newton seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Proposed zoning changes from the ZRC:

Ted Salem, ZRC Chair, stated that this is a comprehensive review of all the definitions in the code. They also defined terms in the use table that were not previously defined. He asked Attorney Tingley if he can absorb these definitional changes into the current local law he is working on without a significant delay. He isn't sure without looking it over. The ZRC would like to submit the proposed changes to Attorney Tingley for him to look over and either incorporate into the current local law he is working on or to prepare a separate local law to be adopted after.

Councilmember Newton made a motion authorizing Ted Salem, ZRC chair, to send the proposed changes to Attorney Tingley. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Free store:

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that as marvelous and wonderful a contribution the free store is to the town, it really has been a lifesaver and a godsend to many people, but she really feels strongly that it needs to move to a larger space so that it can be better accommodated for by the people in the town so they don't have to keep coming here and hauling upstairs because the original agreement was that if individuals came to use the free store they would go to the town clerk's office and the town clerk or deputy town clerk would run upstairs, bring down several items, whatever the person was looking for and that is kind of humiliating and could cause great discomfort for people to have to say "do you have a shirt". She doesn't think she would want to do that. She is putting out there that if anyone knows of a space in town that someone could donate as a tax write off and also for the storage of materials because the volunteer group has been phenomenal also in switching out seasonal, just like a department store, where you go from the summer clothes to the winter clothes and back and forth. And the bags of clothes are stored up in the attic and to her that is a little bit concerning because of spontaneous combustion, we don't need to have any kind of problem or, who knows, mice chewing through something that could create a bigger problem for us. So it's not so much the work that Town Clerk Houghtling has done and what Cissy, our building inspector, has worked on at looking up proper codes and all that. It seemed to be totally on the up and up with both of them that all the work put together, putting all the shelves in, she strongly believes in her heart, and she doesn't really expect that anything will come of it, but it needs to go someplace else other than upstairs in the town hall. Too many times families go up there and the kids are up there and they close the door so they're not making a whole lot of noise and they're apologetic, which they don't have to do that, but it could be a problem that if something fell off the shelf or if a kid tripped and fell down the stairs or some elderly person did. A senior citizen complained to her on the way out the door a few weeks ago that her fingers got stuck in the railing coming down the stairs and she thought that's not going to be too good because if their fingers get stuck and they've already taken a step down, to have them trip. She is not really thinking that that's a good decision to maintain that where it is so that's the biggest reason why she was looking to have the free store just be moved some place and all the volunteers that have helped to maintain it can help to maintain it in it's new home somewhere.

Tegan Cook stated she would love to get involved in this as we work a lot together already. Her question would be in moving it to a new location is the town willing to financially invest in it. Her biggest concern is insurance. If the free store were to go to a different location the town would need to cover insurance on the new site. Once it moves out of the town hall you are looking at a whole different situation. That is something the town would have to think about before making a decision. If the town moves it out of the town hall it's not going to be simple, cheap and easy as it is now because it's in a spare room at the town hall.

Councilmember Smith stated that he doesn't think legally we can. It is not on town property, they aren't going to allow us to insure it. He stated that it is controversy, it is a good thing, he helped build it. When the agreement was made to have the free store it was spelled out directly how it was going to run. No one was going to go upstairs, someone from the clerk's office was going to bring everything downstairs for the people. That is the way it's worded in

the minutes when it was approved because remember at first there was a delay. He stated his only concern is insurance because if a kid falls down the stairs, that is his concern with it is just the liability of it. Cynthia Creech stated doesn't the town has liability insurance.

Town Clerk Houghtling stated she would like to clarify the record. In 2017 it was in the minutes that it would be simply a storage space up there and everything would be down here and that was due to ADA compliance. Shortly after that she spoke with the person from the state about ADA compliance and asked if she brought stuff down just for people who couldn't make it upstairs is that considered ADA compliant and they said as long as you are making alternative arrangements. There is a letter in every town board member's packet from Cissy Hernandez, CEO and ZEO. Cissy Hernandez double checked just recently with the state because it was recently questioned by a member of the public. Town Clerk Houghtling apologized for not coming back to a board meeting a month later and stating in the record that the only reason people were not going up to the free store was for ADA compliance and it has now been figured out and people can go up there. She has put signs up upon recommendation of the state that states if you can't make it upstairs we can make alternate accommodations. CEO/ZEO Hernandez also looked into safety with the state and building codes. Everything has a green light. Everything is perfectly compliant with ADA, with building code, with fire inspection. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that she would love for the free store to have more space, that would be a wonderful thing, but you also have to remember about staffing. Right now it is here in the town hall and it is open and accessible to the public 32 hours a week whenever the town clerk's office is open because everything is free and we don't need a staff member upstairs. If you move it to another location you now need somebody to staff the free store. As far as liability goes, we have a green light from the insurance company, if the town board would like it in writing she can get it in writing. The insurance company who covers the town has said there is no problem, there is no increase in insurance expense to cover the amount of traffic going upstairs to the free store. All of the bases have been covered and check into.

Councilmember Smith stated once again, it boils down to communication. He stated Town Clerk Houghtling knew a month later and he is surprised because we have gone through stuff on and off that she didn't just come back and say, look, a week later I found out it was all right so the board didn't have that knowledge. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that she will take responsibility for not coming back to the board with the new knowledge. She stated that she would hope on communication if the board had a concern they would have come to her sooner than 2 ½ years later and said hey, I'm concerned, you said it was a storage room. She stated that Councilmember Smith knew people were going up there, this wasn't a surprise that he found out a month ago. If he had a concern he also could have come to her.

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that her sister works in the Bronx and there is a woman who runs a similar free store arrangement and every single Saturday they take the clothes that have been put in storage and they bring them into an open space room and they set them up and they have a day that people can come in, especially on a Saturday when people tend to have more free time and they can pick out their clothes or shoes or toys, whatever but it is set up with little to no aggravation and it has been a successful event. She stated that is also

a possibility because she has an issue with private people going up and down the stairs. She stated that going up and down the stairs when the Supervisor's office was up there was not a fun thing for her. It is something that she is putting out there as another possibility that the town board could consider, get racks, set them up and yes it would be a difficult thing to do but if you get it organized and have it on Saturdays or Sundays, it is quite possible to still have it work and be safer.

Supervisor Teal's Tree in the Park:

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that she should have also included Kevin and Jeannine's trees. She would really like to see those trees moved to a different spot so that the children can have more yard space to run around and play without having to be concerned that they are going to run into a tree. When she was a kid they did that a lot, in the summertime during the summer programs and even when there was no summer program and the wading fountain was going like crazy, that was a space, that whole grassy area and they could play tag or duck duck goose. She thinks the town could think of another place to put those trees and she knows that Colleen's tree was put there because of the swing set but 10 years or 20 years from now it's not going to have much of an impact.

Councilmember Smith stated that it is the wrong time of year to move them now so it will be the next board's decision. Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that it's usually late fall that is best to move a tree. She stated that she really thinks the town needs to take into consideration the children, and plant the trees somewhere else.

Contractor/contracts and prevailing wage:

Councilmember Smith stated that there was a FOIL request and a complaint put in to the Department of Labor about the way the town does business. He stated that it was our belief and all of the contractors that up to a certain monetary amount it wasn't prevailing wage but as it turns out if someone comes in and literally changes a doorknob, they get paid prevailing wage. Everything is prevailing wage so Randy Hatch will no longer do any work for the town because of prevailing wage, workman's comp, disability, all the employers fees go through the roof. He stated that we are going to be in a pickle with that. We were at least able to get the water in the park shut off using Randy as a consultant and Councilmember Newton was nice enough to do the work for that but come this winter if the furnace goes out we are looking at someone in Pittsfield or Albany and it has to be a company that pays prevailing wage and they can't get paid until they prove that they paid prevailing wage.

Councilmember Newton stated that if we are lucky enough to find owner/operators, a small furnace repair person, can do an exemption and they don't have to pay themselves prevailing wage. Councilmember Smith stated that the Department of Labor only can go back two years so with Ward Hatch Mechanical it only ended up being about \$3,200 but moving forward it will all be much more expensive. He stated that even our fuel delivery guys have to be paid prevailing wage.

Town Clerk Houghtling asked Councilmember Smith if he found a company yet that pays

prevailing wage that does furnace repair so if the furnace goes out we have someone to call. Councilmember Smith stated that he is working on it. He stated that he does have a plumber lined up.

Narcan Training:

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that we need to get the Narcan training set up somehow. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that it was held at the town hall last week. Interim Supervisor Roberston asked when was he here that she missed him. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that it was held last Friday from 10-12 and she got 3 Narcan kits for the town hall, one for the court, one for the town clerk's office and one for the supervisor's office. Councilmember Smith stated that he wishes he had known about it. Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that you have to be trained to use it. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that it has instructions in the bag and she was allowed to sign them out for the town hall and she can show them how to use it. Interim Supervisor Roberston stated that this opioid epidemic is so bad and Berkshire County last weekend had 10. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that originally they wanted to schedule the Narcan training for November 1st and she asked that they bump it a week back to November 8th so it could go in the newsletter. It was well advertised through the newsletter, email blast, town website and a poster at the town hall and there was a great turnout. Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that Town Clerk Houghtling should have sent her a text or called her, she would have come.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

Assessor (Councilmember Rasmussen):

No report.

Building Department (Councilmember Baumli):

No report.

CAC & Environmental Management (Councilmember Rasmussen & Bruce Shenker):

Bruce Shenker stated that one of the things they have been talking about a lot is waste reduction and movement towards a polystyrene ban in the county. It is something that they can just recommend to the County Board of Supervisors. Some of the other counties like Dutchess County and Albany County have done that and it eventually might become statewide. Another thing they are talking about is locally composting. He stated that they are also trying to make the Natural Resource Inventory more widely available. There is a copy at the library and at the town clerk's office if anyone wants to read it, any of the Planning Board members. He stated that there is a renewable energy and sustainable living fair on Saturday at Sage College in Albany. There will be lectures and speakers. This is the 4th year and it has grown quite large.

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency (Councilmembers Smith & Baumli):

Councilmember Smith stated that he appreciates how far we have gotten ahead in these last 4 years with the LVPA. It is a pleasure working with the LVPA and he is glad everything is in 100% the right direction.

Highway (Superintendent Winestock & Councilmembers Smith & Newton):

Councilmember Smith asked Highway Superintendent Winestock if there is any update on the highway truck. Highway Superintendent Winestock stated it should be arriving any day. Councilmember Smith asked if he ordered the big one and Highway Superintendent Winestock stated yes. Councilmember Smith stated a little more research has to be done but there is a used grader. Highway Superintendent Winestock stated that Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor has a used 2015 John Deere Grader. It is all wheel drive, it has 2,700 hours on it, and it's very reasonable and he is just throwing that out there because we had talked about putting some money aside for a grader down the road and this happened to come around and the board has done a lot this year for the highway department but it is a great deal. Councilmember Smith stated that he will go over with Highway Superintendent Winestock this week because it doesn't hurt to look. He stated that this truck that we are getting in soon is paid for and the big truck that we are ordering will also be paid for.

Councilmember Smith stated that they are going to just buy the cover for the outdoor fuel tank and he and Councilmember Newton will put it up. Highway Superintendent Winestock stated that he did have trouble getting fuel out of it the other day

Historian & LVHS: (Councilmembers Baumli & Rasmussen):

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that on December 2nd the LVHS is having their annual meeting at 5:30pm at the community hall of the Catholic Church. Please come and bring a potluck dish to share and enjoy the evening. She is trying to get a program or speaker to come but she is not sure if that is going to happen.

Justice Court/Constable (Councilmember Newton):

No report.

Parks & Recreation (Councilmembers Smith & Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that the water close up went fine. The hydrant in the kids pool had already frozen and broke. He stated that there is a budget amendment in here for \$2,000 for picnic tables but they are very expensive. He ended up buying the plans for them and would like to buy the lumber and build them in house.

Councilmember Smith stated that we have the money put away for the fence. Unfortunately we have to pay prevailing wage to have the fence done so it isn't getting done this year. There is \$8,000 put away for that. He thinks that some of that money we should be redirecting to get the tools that we need to do the jobs such as the snake to clear the drains in the park each year when we shut the water off so that we can do them in house. Councilmember Newton stated that we will also be looking at a different class of employee than we have right now. We will be looking at someone that needs to be able to do this type of maintenance but we will also have to pay more for that position. Some things like furnace service and repair we will still have to go to an outside company but a lot of the other stuff will need to be done in house.

Seniors (Councilmember Baumli & Judy Zimmer):

No report.

Town Assets, Buildings & Property (Councilmembers Smith & Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that Randy Hatch had already ordered a new hot water heater for us now they can't install it. They did deliver it so we will install that in house as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DECEMBER:

Tuesday, December 10th ~ Public Hearing on proposed 2020 LVPA Contract @ Town Hall @ 6:55 pm

Tuesday, December 10th ~ Regular Monthly Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7:00 pm

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Budget Amendment #9 of 2019:

General Fund:

\$40 from A-1990.4 (Contingency)
\$2,000 from A-7140.41 (Pavilion Roof/Fence)
\$40 to A-1110.4 (Justice Court – Contractual Expense)
\$2,000 to A-7110.2 (Parks – Equipment – for picnic tables)

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

AMEND ABSTRACT #10 OF 2019:

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that we voided voucher #349 because the county paid it. We now need to amend the abstract from the last meeting.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to amend abstract #10 of 2019 from \$23,434.05 to \$32,464.05 as was approved at the Town Board meeting on 10/8/19 to adjust for voucher #349 being voided due to payment from the county on this invoice. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

AUDIT OF BILLS:

**General Nos. 375 through 376, in the amount of \$3,568.22;
As listed on Abstract No. 10A, dated November 12, 2019.**

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**General Nos. 377 through 409, in the amount of \$29,902.73; and
Highway Nos. 119 through 132, in the amount of \$48,482.67; and
SF-1LFPA No. 4, in the amount of \$32,375.00; and
Escrow No. 10, in the amount of \$200.00;
As listed on Abstract No. 11, dated November 12, 2019.**

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Erminia Rasmussen suggested that we do what Councilmember Newtons suggested and hire a maintenance employee that can do many of the jobs that need doing in the park and buildings to avoid the issue of prevailing wage.

Judy Zimmer stated that as far as Interim Supervisor Robertson's idea for the free store, in theory it's a nice idea but practically speaking you would have to have a lot of people and it would be a lot of work to set up and take down each weekend. It seems like a lot of work. She stated that as far as the trees in the park, they were not just randomly planted where they were planted, they had the goal of offering shade for children and she

believes that is an important thing for children to have and if we were to do research she would imagine that there would be more children hurt on the actual playground equipment than running into a tree. She stated that she would love to have shade when she takes her grandchildren to this park in the summer it is really hot so we have to consider what the purpose of the trees were. Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that it was pretty hot when she was a little kid running around but it was still a wide open space. Judy Zimmer stated maybe the shade is for the parents and grandparents. Judy Zimmer stated that as the cleaner of the town hall she uses her personal time to go through the recycling and remove staples as they jam up the recycling machines. She requested that town departments rip off the corner with the staples before putting papers in the recycling bins.

Robert Gilson asked if people can donate money to the town for the tools needed for park and maintenance staff to be able to do the work needed. Councilmember Smith stated that people can volunteer their labor. Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that she is pretty sure people can't donate the money. Town Clerk Houghtling stated she believes that people can buy the tools and then donate the actual tools to the town.

Ted Salem stated that this Saturday at the library from 1 – 2:30 pm there will be a celebration of the release of a farm booklet that was created by a team of some residents, Cynthia Creech, Sharon Powers, Shelley Salem and himself, that is a byproduct of the NL-200 celebration. They put a lot of work into and they have 600 pamphlets that are free and they will also have them at the town hall, post office and library after the celebration for people to pick up.

Interim Supervisor Robertson stated that State Comptroller DiNapoli's report on disability employment trends stated that if you know somebody who is living with a disability or caring for a loved one, please encourage them to visit the NYable website or call 1-855-5NY-ABLE to learn more about opening up an account to help them. She stated that Miles Tucker from the economic development committee in Columbia County, reported that Columbia County had the lowest unemployment rate of any county in September.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Councilmember Newton to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling
New Lebanon Town Clerk