

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MAY 12, 2020**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember
John Trainor, Councilmember (In attendance but unable to comment or vote)

Recording Secretary: Marsha “Marcie” Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Brian Fitzgerald, Town Accountant
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Environmental Management
Hazel “Cissy” Hernandez, CEO/ZEO
Cynthia Creech, Deputy Court Clerk, CAC, ZRC
Ashley Saviano, Deputy Town Clerk
Steve Powers, CAC
Peg Munves, CAC
Robert Gilson, CAC
Ted Salem, ZBA, ZRC Chair
Tammie Darcy, Tax Collector
Michelle Bienes, SYP Director, Building Dept. Clerk, Assessor’s Clerk & 2nd Deputy Court Clerk
Monte Wasch, Business & Economic Development Committee Chair
Judy Zimmer, Cleaner
Sharon Powers, Business & Economic Development Committee
Michelle VanHorn, Reporter, *The Eastwick Press*
Several members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Supervisor Houghtling. Supervisor Houghtling noticed all that the meeting was being recorded. A moment of silence was held followed by the flag salute. Supervisor Houghtling asked all in attendance of the meeting to mute their phone except for the Town Board and the Town Clerk. The meeting was held online and via phone at:

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/uzp-yubn-byp · Up to 250 participants

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/uzp-yubn-byp

Phone Numbers

[\(US\)+1 405-701-9383](tel:+14057019383)

PIN: 946 889 397#

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **April 14, 2020 Special Meeting** and the **April 14, 2020 Regular Meeting** were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Supervisor Houghtling.

Roll Call Vote:

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

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

Since this was an online meeting the Supervisor's Report as of April 30, 2020 was available to the public via the Town Clerk's email and the Town website and the Town Board was emailed the Supervisor's Report by Supervisor Houghtling. A motion was made by Councilmember Newton to accept the Supervisor's report as typed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has not received any emails in advance of the Town Board meeting starting. If anyone does have anything for Privilege of the Floor to email it to her at supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or text it to her at 518-505-1535 and she will read it at the second privilege of the floor at the end of the meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Supervisor Houghtling stated no Budget Amendment this month, but we need to amend Budget Amendment no. 4 of 2020 dated April 14, 2020, there was an entry error.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the \$2,650 moved from A-3210.4 to A-3120.1, should have been moved from A-3120.1 to A-3120.4.

Supervisor Houghtling made a motion to amend Budget Amendment No. 4 of 2020 dated

April 14, 2020 to move \$2,650 from A-3120.4 to A-3120.4 and seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

AUDIT OF BILLS:

2020:

Amend Abstract No. 4 dated April 14, 2020;

Edit Voucher #133 on the abstract from \$1,008.00 to \$1,098.00, this was correct on the voucher but entered wrong on the abstract.

Edit total amount of Abstract No. 4 from \$18,559.29 to \$18,649.29.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling and seconded by Councilmember Gordon to amend Abstract No. 4 as listed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

General No. 142 in the amount of \$365.28;

As listed on Abstract No. 4A dated May 12, 2020.

General Nos. 143 through 169, in the amount of \$8,830.89;

Highway Nos. 44 through 52, in the amount of \$30,986.91;

Escrow Nos. 4 through 5, in the amount of \$375.00;

Capital No. 2, in the amount of \$3,000.00; and

SF_LVPA No. 2, in the amount of \$52,375.00;

As listed on Abstract No. 5 dated May 12, 2020.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Trainor -

Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

Estimated Revenue Decreases and Expenditure Cuts:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that in light of the pandemic we are facing some pretty severe revenue decreases in our expected revenues in our budget. Supervisor Houghtling stated that at this time it is very hard to tell how much it will be, in a best-case scenario the State and the County are estimating a 20% loss in revenues such as sales tax, court fines and fees and state funding, etc. In a worst-case scenario, they are estimating 40% on those same revenue lines.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town Board has been tasked at looking where expenditures can be cut. At the April Town Board meeting the Town Board decided to reach out to all of the department heads to see what they could cut from their budgets.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that a spreadsheet was provided to the public via the Town Clerk's email and the Town website and the Town Board was emailed by Supervisor Houghtling that has both the expenditures and the estimates 20% and 40% revenue loss.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that with the proposed cuts by the department heads, we are at a total savings of \$123,000.00 providing that summer camp does not happen, which has not been decided yet. If summer camp happens then that savings amount will be reduced by about \$50,000.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that every department head came back with cuts in their budget with the exception of the Highway Department. The Highway Department is over 50% of our expenditures. Supervisor Houghtling stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock has stated that legally it is his budget and he can spend it. Supervisor Houghtling stated legally that is correct, but she tried to explain that we are looking at a very limited revenue source this year and potentially next year as well. Supervisor Houghtling stated that this could potentially harm the highway budget next year, but the Highway Superintendent Winestock does have the legal right to make that choice for his department. She stated that we cannot raise taxes in these times and with decreased revenues we are left with less money than expected for 2020 expenditures. If we have \$5 for the highway budget for 2020 and 2021 and Superintendent Winestock spends \$4 in 2020, that only leaves \$1 for the highway budget in 2021 with no way of increasing the revenues to increase that \$1.

Supervisor Houghtling stated the town accountant, Brian Fitzgerald and Councilmember Rasmussen made the spreadsheets that were available to the public via the Town Clerk's email and the Town website and the Town Board was emailed by Supervisor Houghtling that included the original adopted budget before COVID19 happened, where our current amended budget was as of April 30, 2020.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that for the Highway Department we had to do two columns, one with CHIPS funding and one without. Supervisor Houghtling thinks that for CHIPS we are either going to get it or we are not. Supervisor Houghtling stated that if Highway Superintendent Winestock moves forward with CHIPS and we do not get the funding that we will be out \$108,000, but this is his right to decide.

Supervisor Houghtling asked if Superintendent Winestock understands that if we do not receive the CHIPS reimbursement but he has spent the CHIPS money that depended on that reimbursement, he will need to find that money in the highway budget somewhere. Councilmember Newton stated that Superintendent Winestock understands that the money would need to come from his budget if CHIPS funding is not received.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that on the general side of the budget the revenues go from about \$900,000 expected to about \$776,000 if we lose 20% of revenue and to about \$665,000 if we lose 40% of revenue.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that after the department head cuts in their budgets, we may have to take about \$300,000 out of our unexpended which would leave our ending fund balance as low as \$166,000 which is not a number that Supervisor Houghtling is comfortable with.

Councilmember Newton stated that he spoke to Highway Superintendent Winestock regarding the CHIPS and based on a conference call Highway Superintendent Winestock took part in with the other highway supers and the county highway super, since the CHIPS funding was already budgeted for the year it will be awarded on a first come first served basis. There is a possibility that the town may not receive anything, but Highway Superintendent Winestock hopes that if we get ours in as soon as possible, we may receive the funds.

The Town Board members held discussion that this is all unknown and dependent on how long we are working under these conditions. The board agreed that we have already made some good budget cuts and that the town staff needs to continue to run their offices being fiscally conservative.

Highway Backhoe Request:

Councilmember Newton stated that in last years budget we put \$50,000 aside for the backhoe. Highway Superintendent Winestock was contacted by Case, it is a state contract and it would be \$49,475.00 and the trade from our old backhoe. Highway Superintendent Winestock is requesting that we still consider purchasing the backhoe despite the COVID19 crisis.

Councilmember Newton stated that he was hoping to sell some surplus highway equipment to put into the revenue for the highway department.

Supervisor Houghtling asked if Councilmember Newton had made any progress with the

highway inventory. Councilmember Newton stated that he has the information provided by the Town Clerk, we have some highway equipment that can be sold.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she is not comfortable spending \$50,000 right now with everything going on with COVID19, if Highway Superintendent Winestock had agreed to cut his budget in other places, it might be a different conversation. Supervisor Houghtling stated with such large cuts in revenue, she is just not comfortable.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that until she sees an inventory with an expected life of each vehicle and a replacement plan, she is not comfortable approving any purchases.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that beyond what the board can legally do, when times are tough in a company, every department and every division is asked to contribute to savings. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that buying the backhoe under these current circumstances is something that should be postponed until next year.

Councilmember Gordon agreed on waiting to purchase the backhoe. Councilmember Gordon stated she wanted more clarification on what is in the inventory.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that it will have all of the information about the vehicle or equipment we own and have a replacement plan in place so that the town will be able to start putting funds aside for a piece of equipment that is nearing its life expectancy.

Councilmember Newton stated that to be clear these are called Asset Management Plans; they are the current inventory and the life expectancy as well.

Councilmember Newton stated that the \$280,000 the board transferred from general funds was for the backhoe and the large truck. Councilmember Newton stated that unfortunately the large truck is being assembled for us right now, we are already bound in a contract. Councilmember Newton stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock is good about keeping the hours off of the equipment that is very expensive to replace and he makes a point of only buying single axle large trucks.

Councilmember Newton stated he talked with Highway Superintendent Winestock, he said obviously he could make the existing backhoe work but it will be worth that much less when we go to repurchase this. Hopefully the state contract stays open, maybe in six months or in the last quarter the town board can revisit it and hopefully we the town board will have a better grasp on what the budget is.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Hall Employees Working in the Building and Safety Measures:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town Hall is still closed to the public and will remain closed to the public until Phase 2 is released by the Governor. Supervisor Houghtling stated she did reach out to clarify what Phase we fall under and it is Phase 2.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that when the board held their special meeting in March, the town board decided to close the Town Hall to the public and the board did make a motion to pay the town employees if they were not able to work from home, which is essentially the court staff. Shortly after the NYS Unified Court System sent a memo that court clerks were not to work in the building and they were to still get paid.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we now have received a memo from the NYS Unified Court System that they are able to return to the building practicing all of the safety precautions. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the court has requested a plastic divider between the court room and the rest of the town hall. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the court staff would enter through the handicap entrance, they would have the kitchen, the courtroom, their offices and their own bathroom.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the rest of the town staff have been doing as much work from home as possible, but that the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and herself do have to come in often but try to stagger our hours. Supervisor Houghtling stated that we would all use the main entrance and set up a mini kitchen area by the Building Department entrance.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Michelle Bienes was appointed as the 2nd Deputy Court Clerk and has not really been working those hours due to the current situation, Michelle has offered to take care of turning off the alarm system and set the alarm system for the court staff.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that wearing masks in the Town Hall is something that has to be decided upon. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she wanted to create a committee to assist in the work safe policies, etc.

Councilmember Gordon volunteered to work with Supervisor Houghtling.

Councilmember Newton stated that he already discussed building the partition with Donnie Sears. Councilmember Newton stated that in regard to wearing masks he thinks we should follow the guidelines set in place by the Department of Health, if you can't keep a six foot distance you should wear a mask, if in the same office you should wear a mask, but he doesn't know if it is necessary to have them on all of the time.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated he thinks we should follow the guidelines from the experts.

Councilmember Gordon stated she didn't really know what the guidelines are, before she forms an opinion, she would like to see what the existing guidelines are.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Councilmember Newton summed them up pretty well, if you are in the building with another person and not able to keep a six feet distance then you need to wear a mask. If you are sitting in your office by yourself you don't need to

wear a mask.

Councilmember Gordon stated that in the Town Clerk's office there could be two people working in the same room, even though six feet apart, they could be sitting there for several hours, there is a high risk of infection.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she agrees with Councilmember Gordon, and that the memo from the court system stated that if there is more than one person in the office, they should wear a mask. Supervisor Houghtling stated she thinks that if you are in any shared spaces or in an office with another person you need to wear a mask. The rest of the board agreed with this.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling and seconded by Councilmember Newton that Councilmember Newton and Donnie Sears work on putting a partition up between the bathrooms to create separate work spaces between the court staff and the rest of the town hall staff with Michelle Bienes working with the court staff directly regarding scheduling and the alarm system to be paid at fifteen minute increments each time she comes over to do the alarm and that every employee in the town hall wears a mask when they are either in a public shared space such as the bathrooms, hallways, copy room or if they are in an office with another town employee and to specify that if they are in an office by themselves with their door shut they may take their mask off.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the motion that the town board made back in March only authorized her to pay employees that couldn't come in because of a higher order and couldn't work from home. The order came out from the NYS Unified Court System late Thursday night.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling and seconded by Councilmember Gordon to pay the Court Clerk and Deputy Court Clerk for the hours which she has been paying them from last Friday through tomorrow end of day and that they can start work back in the offices on Thursday morning after we've had time to put the partition up and let all town employees know about the new mask policy.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Trainor -

Absent

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Councilmember Gordon offered to help with the policy for reopening, Michelle Bienes also volunteered to help. Supervisor Houghtling stated she would be in touch with them to come up with a policy that follows the guidelines being put out by the CDC and OSHA. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she will try to have this going in about two weeks for the June Meeting agenda.

Decision to Cancel Summer Camp or Not:

Supervisor Houghtling stated the county has requested an executive order to not allow summer camps to the Governor's Office, that request was denied. Supervisor Houghtling stated the county has put out a strong recommendation that towns do not hold summer camp, but it is not, not allowed.

Summer Youth Program Director, Michelle Bienes stated that because the county is recommending no summer camps as much as she hates to not have it, she would hate to have anyone get sick, she feels it is in the best interest of the children. Michelle stated that it is hard to keep safe distances and in the event of rain they are all under the pavilion. Michelle would like to know other thoughts but thinks that we need to make a decision sooner than later so that parents can make plans.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that obviously this is a hard decision to make and that she knows parents depend on summer camp and that the kids want to see their friends, but that if the Columbia County Department of Health is strongly recommending against it, we need to take that into consideration.

Councilmember Newton agrees and he thinks that there is a good possibility that the quarantine and safety protocol goes farther than this week.

Summer Youth Program Director, Michelle Bienes stated they have cancelled school and dealing with little kids and keeping masks on is tough and keeping disinfected, it is all a tough situation.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that he thinks we should air on the side of caution and make a decision tonight that we aren't having camp and if by some chance things improve, we can revisit it.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she thinks it is very unfortunate but that she agrees with the others that it is too risky.

Councilmember Newton stated that he agreed and that he'd like to point out that the new bathrooms probably won't be completed by the time summer camp needs to start.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling and seconded by Councilmember Newton to cancel the Town of New Lebanon Summer Camp for the 2020 season with the possibility

of revisiting it later in the summer if things drastically change.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the other thing that needs to be discussed is the salary of the Summer Camp Director, it is an appointed position that is salaried, she was appointed January 2nd, 2020 at our organizational meeting.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has spoken to the town attorney and legally we do still have to pay her unless we furlough her. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she personally doesn't want to furlough any of our employees. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she had a conversation with Michelle Bienes and she will let her speak more to it, she obviously depends on that income.

Summer Youth Program Director, Michelle Bienes stated obviously she won't be putting in the same hours that she would if camp was in session but she has plenty of things to do to put in the hours for the salary such as revamp the program policy, the files in the vault scanned, clean the storage at the pavilion and any other projects that come up, she doesn't want to get paid for nothing.

2020 Retirement Resolution:

Supervisor Houghtling stated this is really a formality, employees have submitted their calendars of hours worked or their recertifications that their hours haven't changed from the last time they submitted it.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did have some questions from multiple employees and board members about the standard work day. Supervisor Houghtling stated that obviously most of us don't work a six-hour work day, most of us work an eight-hour work day. Retirement gives the town the option to do a six or eight hour work day, at the end of the day it doesn't actually matter because the calculation to come up with that days per month is multiplied by the standard work day to come up with the full amount of hours.

TOWN OF NEW LEBANON

RESOLUTION #16, 2020

STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION FOR 2020

May 12, 2020

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board,
held at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 Route 22, New Lebanon,

New York, duly called and held on the 12th day of May 2020, the following Resolution was put forth for enactment:

Proposed by Supervisor Houghtling
 Seconded by Councilmember Gordon

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Lebanon Town Board hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)	Not Submitted
Elected Officials						
Highway Superintendent	Jeffrey Winestock	6	1/1/2020 – 12/31/2023	No	33.17	
Town Supervisor	Tistrya Houghtling	6	1/1/2020 – 12/31/2021	No	25.92	
Town Clerk	Marsha Robertson	6	1/1/2020 – 12/31/2023	No	27.0	
Town Justice	Jessica Byrne	6	1/1/2018 – 12/31/2021	No	3.18	
Tax Collector	Tamara Darcy	6	1/1/2020 – 12/31/2023	No	3.46	
Appointed Officials						
CEO/ZEO/Building Dept Administrator	Hazel Hernandez	6	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	No	39.04	
SYP Program Director	Michelle Bienes	6	1/1/2020-12/31/2020	No	48.0 *2mos/yr	
Assessor	Kimberly Smith	6	10/1/2019-9/30/2026	No	9.89	

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted "Aye" or "Nay" for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Aye
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye

Councilmember Newton -

Aye

Councilmember Trainor -

Absent

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: May 12, 2020

Federal Funding Letter of Support Ask from AOT:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she sent the board an email from The Association of Towns asking our federal government to include smaller municipalities in the next funding package that is put out. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the way the package passed last time you had to have over 500,000 residents in your city in order to qualify, and out of the 933 towns in New York, including our town, only two are eligible under the direct funding under the CARES Act. The Association of Towns is calling for the next stimulus package to include funding for the local municipalities, which are really going to take a hit on our revenue sources. Supervisor Houghtling stated there is a resolution and a letter, she would like to do both.

Councilmember Gordon asked what the difference is between the resolution and the letter?

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the resolution is in more detail. They basically have the same key points; the letter includes a little more information about New Lebanon and how the funding is needed here.

Councilmember Gordon asked who the letter goes to?

Supervisor Houghtling stated the letter goes to our elected Federal officials, Mr. Delgado would be our representative.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she pointed out before that the letter mentions water and sewer infrastructure.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did remove that from the letter and sent out a new version of the letter.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the letter and the resolution call on Mr. Delgado, Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, all of our federal representatives for our district.

Town of New Lebanon

RESOLUTION #17, 2020

CALLING FOR DIRECT FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MAY 12, 2020

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held via video and teleconference, duly called and held on the 12th day of May 2020, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by Supervisor Houghtling

Seconded by Councilmember Gordon

CALLING FOR DIRECT FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, the federal government recently enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 601 of the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) provides \$150 billion fund for states, tribal government and units of local government with a population in excess of 500,000 people; and

WHEREAS, less than one-half of 1 percent of municipalities in the entire United States meet this population threshold and are thus ineligible to receive direct funding from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, of the 933 towns in New York, 931 towns are not eligible for direct funding under the CARES Act, including the Town of New Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, towns provide essential services to the 9 million New Yorkers town residents, including, but not limited to, ambulance, police, and fire protection services, building and code enforcement and highway maintenance, and have continued to do so throughout the ongoing health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has created significant financial stress for local governments in New York as an estimated \$2 billion in sales tax revenue has been lost, as well as other sources of revenue such as permit fees, justice court fines, and mortgage recording tax; and

WHEREAS, the depletion of different revenue sources for local governments, combined with lack of funding, will result in reducing essential services or shifting the cost onto real property taxpayers, many of whom are experiencing their own financial stress;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Lebanon calls upon United States Congressional Representative Antonio Delgado, Senator Charles Schumer, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, to support federal funding related to the coronavirus pandemic that is directly delivered to all municipalities, regardless of population size.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted "Aye" or "Nay" for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Norman Rasmussen

Aye

Councilmember Deborah Gordon	Aye
Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling	Aye
Councilmember Jesse Newton	Aye
Councilmember John Trainor	Absent

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: May 12, 2020

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Councilmember Gordon to send the letter and the resolution to United States Congressional Representative Antonio Delgado, Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The motion was approved unanimously (with Councilmember Trainor absent).

New Letter of Interest for Business & Economic Development Committee:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we can scratch this agenda item, she received an email today from Shawna Fitzsimmons who had submitted her letter of interest, that things have changed for her with her job, she is pulling her letter of interest at this moment but is hoping to be able to join at another time.

Raspberry Plant Donation at Shatford Park:

Councilmember Gordon stated in continuing the project that was started by the last town board in the Shatford Park she has raspberry plants and she would like to find some good homes for them. Councilmember Gordon spoke to Doug Post and he said he was willing to offer his services to till up a strip of land alongside of the creek that runs parallel to Route 22, south of the building that Tony Murad owns down to the bridge.

Councilmember Gordon, her daughter and anyone else that wants to volunteer and dig up the plants and bring them to the park and replant them.

Councilmember Newton stated that if they are well contained it shouldn't be bad. He will talk to Donnie Sears about it, but he doesn't see a problem with it. Councilmember Newton stated that we'd want to keep them back from the bank a bit because the bank is still eroding.

Councilmember Gordon stated her thoughts were to put them along the bank.

Councilmember Newton stated that he doesn't think it will last without any repair to the bank.

Councilmember Gordon stated that they are basically unkillable, if they grow into the lawn they can be mowed. They need to be cut back once a year and she is willing to volunteer to do.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she thinks it will be nice to have raspberries to pick

and eat. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she will have Councilmember Newton, Donnie Sears and Councilmember Gordon coordinate to make this happen.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilmember Newton stated no committee report but he wanted to comment that he has a lot of calls and questions, both the owner of the store and his wife are both fine, they were in contact with someone who did test positive for the virus, they presented with some symptoms but they are all doing well. Councilmember Newton stated that he didn't have any symptoms at all. Councilmember Newton stated that both his wife and Bobo Weber did requested to be tested but were not able to be tested.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that lack of tests is probably the biggest problem that the county is facing right now. It is hard to have an accurate count and tracking of numbers when we can't test people who are symptomatic. The county did receive a large donation and were able to purchase our own kits from a private vendor and that is why we had the testing at Columbia Green, they tested 100 people, if the numbers are going up it is likely due to the ability of testing now.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she was invited to be on a new committee for the county, The Columbia Comeback Committee, they had the first meeting yesterday. It is basically wanting to make sure that business have what they need in place when they are allowed to reopen. We need to make sure we are doing it properly and making sure that they have the PPE that they need. They are having a really big issue with Barnwell Nursing Home, unfortunately the county doesn't have any control over nursing homes, the state department of health that oversees them. On a county level they are really trying to advocate for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JUNE:

Tuesday, June 9th ~ Regular Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall @ 7:00 pm

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Houghtling checked her email and phone text messages and there were no requests for privilege of the floor. Supervisor Houghtling stated she had received a few emails but that none of them were privilege of the floor related, she thanked Bob Gilson for volunteering for the committee to safely re-open the town hall because he has a skillset that will help with that.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk