

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
HELD ON MARCH 29, 2021**

**Present:** Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor  
Jesse Newton, Councilmember  
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember (online)  
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember (online)  
John Trainor, Councilmember

**Recording Secretary:** Marsha “Marcie” Robertson, Town Clerk (online)

**Others Present:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The special meeting was called to order at 5:16pm by Supervisor Houghtling.

The meeting was held virtually with members of the public being able to view the meeting at the following link:

[https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new\\_lebanon\\_ny](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny)

**SET SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING:**

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town Attorney recommends that if Councilmembers Rasmussen and Gordon are comfortable with it, that we hold the meetings at the LVPA, where we won't have to have online because we won't need to live stream the meetings, because that is only required when we are not open in person to the public, similar to a Planning Board meeting. Supervisor asked both Councilmembers Rasmussen and Gordon if they are comfortable with this?

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that he will be away, he can do remote but not in person.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she is okay with it.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she didn't think they should proceed without all of the Town Board members present. She stated that the second option would be to hold the meetings at the Shatford Park Pavilion, providing that the weather is conducive to meeting there. The pavilion allows for in person, remote and live streaming.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that another option would be to install internet at the LVPA.

The LVPA is open to having internet installed.

The board members had discussion about the concerns of weather interfering with the meeting at the pavilion.

Supervisor Houghtling proposed that they schedule the meetings for the LVPA and between now and the time of the meetings, the board authorizes her to work on getting internet installed at the LVPA to allow Councilmember Rasmussen to attend remotely and if that doesn't work out, the worst case would be that Councilmember Rasmussen will not be able to attend the meetings. The board agreed with this option.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to schedule a Special Meeting of the Town Board on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 7:30pm at the New Lebanon Fire House, 523 US Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125 for the purpose of considering and possibly acting on the matter of the removal of a member of the Planning Board and Board of Ethics. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to schedule a Public Hearing on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 7:30pm at the New Lebanon Fire House, 523 US Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125 in the matter of the removal of Robert Smith from his position as a member of the Planning Board and as a member of the Board of Ethics. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town Attorney recommends that at the April Town Board meeting, they consider entering an Executive Session and inviting the attorney into Executive Session to discuss the procedures moving forward. Supervisor Houghtling will add this to the April meeting agenda.

Councilmember Newton stated that he had hoped that this situation wouldn't have come to a Public Hearing.

Councilmember Newton stated that at the March meeting they discussed the possible donation of property. There has been some confusion with exactly where this piece of

property is. He has discovered that it is primarily a wooded lot with wet lands on it. Councilmember Newton stated that he thinks the board should revisit this donation with more clarity of exactly where the land is located and what it consists of.

The Town Board had discussion and agreed that Councilmembers Newton and Trainor will go and actually walk the property and Supervisor Houghtling will do research with regard to the taxes owed and flood maps, etc. This will be discussed further at the April Town Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to adjourn the meeting at 5:29pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen-	Aye
Councilmember Gordon-	Abstain (computer was frozen)
Supervisor Houghtling-	Aye
Councilmember Trainor-	Aye
Councilmember Newton-	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson  
New Lebanon Town Clerk