

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF  
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

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

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

**Others Present:** Steve Powers, CAC Member & CSC Chair  
Sharon Powers, BEDC  
Monte Wasch, BEDC Chair  
Peg Munves, CAC & CSC & BEDC Member (Online)  
David Farren, CAC Chair  
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging (Online)  
Ed Godfroy, LVPA  
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Env Mgmt Council  
Christine Dreyfus, MOW  
Ted Salem, ZBA & ZRC Chair  
Bob Gilson, CAC & CSC Member  
Members of the Public

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor Houghtling. A moment of silence was held, followed by the flag salute. The meeting was held in person at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22, New Lebanon, NY 12125 and live streamed for the public at:

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

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the **October 12<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop, October 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, October 19<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop, October 21<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop, October 27<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop, November 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing (CRS Contract), November 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing (LVPA Prelim Budget) and November 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing (Town Prelim Budget)** were reviewed. A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously to approve the minutes as typed.

**FINANCIAL:**

***Supervisor’s Report:***

Since this was an in person and live streamed meeting the Supervisor’s Report as of October 31st, 2021 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 Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

In addition to an in-person privilege of the floor, Supervisor Houghtling will read all comments, questions and concerns emailed to [supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com) during the meeting. Supervisor Houghtling stated she did not receive any emails.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:**

Supervisor Houghtling stated that unfortunately the recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation could not be present at the meeting.

Supervisor Houghtling announced that John McLaughlin has recently retired from the Highway Department. He served for over thirty years as a dedicated employee and he will be missed. She stated that the good news is that he will be coming back on a part-time, on call basis as Highway Superintendent Winestock needs him. She stated that she wanted to acknowledge his dedication and his years of active service to the Town.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT #10 OF 2021:**

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town Clerk’s office needed a new printer that wasn’t budgeted for. We did underbudget printing and mailing, we did budget more for next year. The newsletter was also underbudgeted. The furnace for the Highway garage wasn’t budgeted for, there will be another bill for that once it is installed. The electronics recycling made two separate trips to pick up because there was so much to recycle, we were invoiced in two separate invoices. The state retirement came in a little higher than expected.

**General Fund:**

\$ 5,666.00	from A-1990.4 (Contingency)
\$ 249.00	to A-1410.2 (Town Clerk - Equipment)
\$ 1,000.00	to A-1670.4 (Central Print & Mailing)
\$ 204.00	to A-1670.4 1(Newspaper)

\$ 2,638.00 to A-5132.2 (Garage – Equipment)  
\$ 314.00 to A-8797.4 (Climate Smart – Cont. Exp.)  
\$ 1,261.00 to A-9010.8 (State Retirement)

**Highway Fund:**

\$ 935.00 from DA-9060.8 (Hospital & Medical Ins.)  
\$ 935.00 to DA-9010.8 (State Retirement)

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

**AUDIT OF BILLS:**

**2021 BILLS:**

General Nos. 406 through 407, in the amount of \$5,434.16;  
As listed on Abstract No. 10A dated November 9th, 2021.

General Nos. 408 through 439, in the amount of \$86,325.59;  
Highway Nos. 114 through 124, in the amount of \$44,374.33; and  
SF-1 LVPA No. 4, in the amount of \$37,052.50;  
As listed on Abstract No. 11 dated November 9th, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Houghtling.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

***Highway Asset Management Plan:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock handed in mileage and hours for all of the highway equipment. She will enter it into a spreadsheet and hopefully meet with Councilmember Newton and Highway Superintendent Winestock to discuss which pieces of equipment he feels need to be replaced and in what order.

**Skatepark:**

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the skatepark will not happen this fall. She asked Councilmember Newton to get a price to move the skatepark from its current location to behind the new bathrooms for storage and wrap it to winterize it.

Councilmember Newton reported that he needs to rent a telehandler to move the pieces which is \$400 a day and \$165 for delivery. The poly to wrap it is \$64.99 per roll and four rolls are required. He will need \$160 for assorted wood and staples. The total comes to \$985.

Supervisor Houghtling reported that she did get an update from the engineer, in summary there is some minor damage here and there on some of the wood but it is not beyond repair. As long as there is a solid foundation, it can be reassembled by volunteers.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to authorize Councilmember Newton to spend up to \$1,000 to move the skatepark equipment behind the new bathrooms and winterize it for storage. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Highway Furnace:**

Councilmember Newton reported the old furnace was removed today and is behind the highway garage. The new furnace is in place and they were beginning the installation this afternoon.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to declare the old highway garage furnace as surplus and dispose of it accordingly. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Appointment of SYP Director:**

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we went out for letters of interest for a new Summer Camp Director and they received one application. The Town Board interviewed her; they were impressed. The applicant is interested in both the Program Director and the Camp Director position.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to appoint Kristyn Kreutziger as Program Director and Camp Director for the 2022 Summer Camp season. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

***Request to Change the Start Time of the December Regular Meeting:***

Town Clerk Robertson asked the Town Board to consider delaying the start time of the December 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to allow her to attend her daughter's high school Winter Concert.

Councilmember Newton asked if the Deputy Town Clerk would be back to work by then?

Town Clerk Robertson responded that she didn't know that for sure. According to the time frame of when she went out and being out for at least twelve weeks, that would fall towards the end of December, then no, she would not be back to work by then.

Supervisor Houghtling commented that it is possible but there is no guarantee.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that if they do change the time of the meeting, it will have to be noticed to the paper ahead of time.

The Town Board agreed to amend the start time of the December meeting.

***Introduction of Introductory Local Laws #3, #4 & #5:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town Board got some recommendations from the ZRC that were sent to the town attorney to compile into Local Law format. SEQR forms have been completed for all three proposed local laws and Public Hearings will need to be set before the December meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton to introduce Introductory Local Law #3 of 2021, to authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 therefor as prepared by the Attorney for the Town, to authorize the Town Supervisor

or her designee to make such referrals thereof as are required by law, and to set a public hearing thereon for December 14th, 2021 at 7:30pm at the Town of New Lebanon Town Hall. 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 Councilmember Newton to introduce Introductory Local Law #4 of 2021, to authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 therefor as prepared by the Attorney for the Town, to authorize the Town Supervisor or her designee to make such referrals thereof as are required by law, and to set a public hearing thereon for December 14th, 2021 at 7:35pm at the Town of New Lebanon Town Hall. 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 Councilmember Newton to introduce Introductory Local Law #5 of 2021, to authorize the Town Supervisor to execute the Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 therefor as prepared by the Attorney for the Town, to authorize the Town Supervisor or her designee to make such referrals thereof as are required by law, and to set a public hearing thereon for December 14th, 2021 at 7:40pm at the Town of New Lebanon Town Hall. 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

***Amend Start Time of Regular 12/14/2021 Meeting:***

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously to amend the regular monthly meeting in December, to be held

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:45pm and to ask the Town Clerk to notice the newspaper and all other avenues.

***Schedule Year End Meeting:***

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously to schedule the Year End meeting on Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm.

***Chatham Rescue Squad Contract for 2022:***

A motion was made by Councilmember Trainor, seconded by Councilmember Gordon and approved unanimously to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to enter into the 2022 contract with Chatham Rescue Squad.

***2022 Budget Adoption:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we have held our Public Hearings on the budget, no changes have been proposed by the Town Board, however she wanted to bring to the attention of the Town Board and the public that a 414 Initiative was passed by the voters of New Lebanon on the ballot on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to increase the library budget from \$135,000 to \$155,000. The library budget is not something that the Town determines or has any say over, it is solely the discretion of the voters to decide what their budget shall be and it did pass by the voters.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the Town can't pull from their unexpended to balance that budget to a zero-tax increase. To be clear to any taxpayers, they as a board have a zero-tax increase, that was their goal, they accomplished that goal. However, there will be a tax increase overall for the additional \$20,000 in the budget for the library.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to take the Preliminary Budget and modify it by adding \$20,000 to the library total to increase that to \$155,000 and with that one edit, adopt the Preliminary Budget with that one edit as the 2022 Final Budget for the Town of New Lebanon. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***2022 Contract with Columbia-Greene Humane Society:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated there are no changes from the 2021 contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to sign the 2022 contract with the Columbia-Greene Humane Society.

***2021 Mortgage Tax Update:***

Supervisor Houghtling reported that the town budgeted for \$35,000 total in mortgage tax to be collected for 2021. The Columbia County Clerk's office informed her that the town's mortgage tax collected for six months in 2021 was \$47,313.45. If that trend were to continue, we would be about three times more than what they budgeted for mortgage tax.

***2022 Appointments:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she would like to propose a new method of annual appointments and to see what this board thought of it. If agreed, then they would invite the incoming board members to be a part of the upcoming annual appointments. Currently the process is to go to the incumbent board or committee member that has a term renewing and if they are interested in continuing, they are reappointed. She agrees that the incumbent does carry a wealth of knowledge and could very well be the best applicant, she has heard from residents that there are never vacancies because the same members continue year after year.

Supervisor Houghtling proposes that when a person is up for reappointment, the incumbent if interested in continuing, interviews with any new applicants.

Discussion was held by the Town Board members and some committee and board members present at the meeting on the proposed change to the appointment procedure.

Monte Wasch, BEDC Chair commented that he believes that there should be a distinction between boards that have statutory responsibility and boards that do not.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the BEDC and the CSC do not have statutory responsibilities.

Discussion continued with the Town Board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to go out for letters of interest for potential vacancies in the following positions: Board of Assessment Review, Town Engineer, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, CAC, Board of Ethics, New Lebanon Representative to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Council, New Lebanon Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council, Summer Youth Program Health Director and Recreation Commission with letters of interest due to the Town Clerk's office by December



17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm and interviews to be held with the incoming Town Board members present on December 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. 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

***2022 Mobile Home Park Licenses:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated they received a recommendation from the Building Department. The Building Department has received applications and fees for the 2022 Annual Mobile Home Park License Renewals from all six mobile home parks: Adam's Crossing, Hanson's, Shaker Flats, Shaker Meadows, Sherman's and Ski Lodge. The inspections were conducted in May of 2021. Based on the results of the inspections, Jeff Hattat, CEO, recommends approval of the 2022 Mobile Home Park License renewals for all six parks.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to approve the 2022 Mobile Home Park license renewals for Adam's Crossing, Hanson's, Shaker Flats, Shaker Meadows, Sherman's and Ski Lodge mobile home parks. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

***Highway Pressure Washer:***

Supervisor Houghtling stated that at the previous meeting, Councilmember Newton brought up that the Highway Department pressure washer needed to be replaced. Councilmember Newton got three quotes: Zoro for \$7,429.99, Pittsburgh Spray Equipment Co. for \$9,222.00 and Country Squire Supply LLC for \$5,881.00.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to accept the quote from Country Squire Supply LLC for an HSE-3504-010 pressure washer in the amount of \$5,881.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Trainor -  
Councilmember Newton-

Aye  
Recuse

**COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

***Assessor (Councilmember Rasmussen):***

Councilmember Rasmussen stated no news to report.

***Building Department (Councilmember Rasmussen):***

Councilmember Rasmussen stated no news to report.

***Business & Economic Development (Councilmember Gordon):***

Monte Wasch, Chair reported the updated business directory went out with thanks to the Outreach and Marketing sub-committee.

A Town resident, Meredith Cohn, is organizing a Small Business Saturday at the Roaring 20's Brewery, November 27th, from 12Noon to 5PM. Board Chair Wasch requested that the Town Board endorse and support this proposed event, and that we plan to continue this tradition in succeeding years.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously to support and endorse a Small Business Saturday on November 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 5:00pm at the Roaring 20's by community member Meredith Cohn.

Chair Monte Wasch made the following statement to the Board: "My intention is to resign the BEDC Chairmanship at the end of this year. I have held this chair for two years, did my best to launch the Committee's workplan and am gratified to see the progress we've been able to make — the Committee members deserve all the credit for their hard work."

"I intend to remain on the Committee as a member, and hope, with the approval of the Board, to retain my positions on the Planning Board and the Board of Ethics."

"It is my hope, now that the BEDC and the Board have supported future work on the creation of a New Lebanon Local Development Corporation, which can raise funds from government, foundation, and private sources for the purpose of furthering economic development in our Town, to work on this project in 2022. I would welcome the participation of any members interested in this project."

***CAC & Environmental Management & Climate Smart Task Force***

***(Councilmember Trainor):***

**David Farren, CAC Chair:** The CAC thanks the Town Board for approving our 2022 budget request. We'll have our work cut out for us. It's important to note that a large amount in the budget depends on receiving a grant that we hope will be awarded shortly. The grant amount would reimburse the town, reducing the actual amount expended.

The NYSACC (New York State Association of Conservation Commissions) held its annual meeting during the third week of October via Zoom. I was unable to attend but Peg Munves did for two of the three days (the third day offered tours in the lower Hudson Valley). Although this is a statewide organization, the program was oriented towards the lower Hudson Valley. Many state office holders attended and the upcoming Conservation Bond Issue was a focus.

We had a good Zoom session this afternoon for our Critical Environmental Areas project. The team is making progress. I attended the last Planning Board meeting and distributed draft justifications to every member for both the Warm Spring and cool ravines. We will request that the Town Board include an update on the CEA project on your December agenda.

**Steve Powers, CSC Chair** reported the following:

- Climate Smart Resiliency Planning application that the Town Board approved in the last meeting has been submitted and we will hear back from the Cornell Extension program soon as to the schedule of work that they will perform.
- The Repair Café on Oct 23 was a big success and the CSC thanks all those on the Town Board who volunteered and all the residents who volunteered. A hundred items were brought in for repairs which is probably 100 that have been kept out of landfills. Just as important, in our view, was the sense of community that it inspired and a fun action that will be repeated here and throughout the county.
- We now have 50 signups for Community solar in NL and pursuing more.
- The Battery recycling program continues with boxes in 6 locations and 300lbs recycled. As Tistrya mentioned, we got a 2<sup>nd</sup> bill from E-waste for the additional pickup and the total electronics recycled on Town Cleanup Day was 9,159 lbs.!
- EV Charging station update- it's almost done!
- Our Cornell student is working on potential grants for a LVPA water tower project.
- We have applied for a \$5000 Grant from NYSAR (NY State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling) for bike storage & a \$30,000 three-year grant from Cornell.
- We are collecting coffee grinds from local restaurants and taking them to the Community Garden for Composting.

Free Store has a ton of clothes and we are trying to generate more interest to have folks visit it and take stuff home.

120 bikes refurbished or repaired to date with more requests and donations coming in each week.

Jesse, we may be able to get a NYSERDA grant for the heat pump you mentioned that the town garage requires. I'll talk to you later.

We are planning a Dec 1 banquet to thank the CSC volunteers and would like to request that the balance of our allotted budget or \$277 be applied towards that. Do we need a vote?

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously to authorize up to \$277 for the CSC to hold a thank you banquet for all of the volunteers.

**Bruce Shenker, Environmental Management** reported that they received many congratulations on the Repair Café. The County Climate Smart is starting the solarized program, it is a lot more red tape so it's been slowed down. The coordinator, which was funded, that money was rejected by the County Supervisors. On the County level things have slowed down some and become a bit frustrating.

Supervisor Houghtling stated to clarify, it was not rejected by The Board of Supervisors, it never got to a vote at The Board of Supervisors. The CLC offered the County \$170,000 to fund a coordinator position for the County Climate Smart Task Force and the powers that be at the County declined the offer and did not even bring it to the rest of the Supervisors for a vote. Supervisor Houghtling has asked that it go in front of the full board of Supervisors for a vote, however, the CLC at this point is not interested in giving the funding anymore.

Bruce Shenker reported that there is a pilot program in conjunction with a company called Bromax where they will be composting at Chatham and Copake transfer stations starting soon. Recycling bins will be placed in County buildings, a big step up.

He thanked the Town Board for the declaration supporting the feasibility study on the Shaker Swamp, he has completed the application for a grant. They held an event at the Roaring 20's and were able to show Ted Timrek's video to the head of the Darrow School, he was very impressed.

***Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency (Councilmembers Newton & Trainor):***

Councilmember Trainor read the following activity summary:

8 Emergency Calls, 2 Drills and Training, 4 Other, 70 People and 223.44 Man Hours.

***Highway (Superintendent Winestock & Councilmembers Newton):***

Councilmember Newton stated that we pretty much covered everything in this meeting.

Supervisor Houghtling brought up the roads inventory that is due by December 9<sup>th</sup> and asked Councilmember Newton to remind Highway Superintendent Winestock.

***Historian & LVHS: (Councilmembers Trainor):***

**LVHS:**

Councilmember Trainor reported that he met with the Historian a few times and with some other members. The board is still in communication but all of their activities including the October meeting have been cancelled.

**Historian:**

Councilmember Trainor reported that Bitsy didn't submit a report this month.

***Justice Court/Constable (Councilmember Trainor):***

Councilmember Trainor stated no report.

***Library (Councilmember Trainor):***

Councilmember Trainor reported that Michelle is doing a great job keeping people informed. Supervisor Houghtling added that the 414-initiative passed.

***Buildings, Parks & Recreation (Councilmembers Newton):***

Councilmember Newton stated that there is not much to report. They are going to be finishing the winterization in the park, no public bathrooms until spring.

There is a Purple Heart Community sign to recognize Veterans which will be going on our town sign. This is held up because Park Superintendent Sears is out on medical.

Supervisor Houghtling added in regard to Veterans, there is a letter if anyone is interested in signing, it is asking the school board to reconsider giving Veterans a tax exemption. We are the only school in Columbia County that does not give an exemption to the Veterans.

***Seniors (Councilmember Gordon):***

Mary Young presented the minutes from the 10/15/2021 County meeting:

**OFFICE OF THE AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR  
MEETING ON OCTOBER 15, 2021**

On October 15, 2021, the OFA Advisory Council opened its meeting at 1:06 P.M. via Zoom. Fifteen (15) attended, see names at the end of the report, inclusive of OFA Staff and Advisory Council members.

**Welcome:** Joyce opened the meeting online and welcomed those present, there is not a quorum so no business can be voted on, discussion and update were completed.

**Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed.

**See attached Agenda**

**Old Business:**

- a. **Slate of Officers:** The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2022 – 2024 President: Stephen King, Vice President: Joyce Thompson, Secretary: Mary Young.

No nominations from the floor so elections will be held at the November meeting with new officers starting in April 2022.

- b. **Personal Care Aides:** Kevin reports that 2 have been hired so far and a third is working on the application process. The goal is to have the aides start the last week in October 2021, starting with the clients who have been waiting the longest. Various scheduling programs are being reviewed and the Healthcare Consortium has agreed to

meet with us regarding a scheduling program. Joyce suggested calling COARC as they do this type of care as well in their programs and may be able to give direction and or help.

- c. **HEAP:** HEAP has opened for new applicants on 10/1. There are already 244 applicants from the previous year who are requesting to continue the program. Application assistance is available from OFA and the Health Care Consortium.

**New Business:**

- a. **SENIOR SCOOP:** The fall issue has been sent out and is available on the Web site as well. There are lots of pertinent articles that can help seniors know about programs and events. A copy will be sent to all the local libraries, towns, and community web sites.
- b. **MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Steve Van Denburgh from the Healthcare Consortium reported that this program started today and runs until December. He suggested that all seniors look at their present program and review their 2020 and 2021 needs and see if they were comfortable with how they were covered. There are a lot of new benefits available this year and seniors need to review the programs available to see which one benefits them the best. Assistance can be had through OFA and Health Care Consortium. Kevin will send open enrollment information to all Town Clerks and ask them to put the information on their Town Web site.
- c. **SENIOR STARS PROGRAM:** The SENIOR SCOOP has an article in it about the program. Last year 40 seniors were assisted with the program as well as all MEALS ON WHEELS clients. OFA tries to obtain a useable gift that the senior would not otherwise be able to have. Donations are being accepted, money and items.
- d. **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:** A copy of the rules for riding was in the agenda email and was reviewed by Kevin. At this time there is only one van due to an accident, another has been ordered but pick up time is unknown. To request a ride, call 518-828-4258 and follow the prompts. Shopping trips are being organized and the schedule can be found in the SENIOR SCOOP. For a ride to medical appointments call 518-822-8820.

e. **Reports:**

**DSS:** See above

**DOH:** No representative present

**NEW YORK CONNECTS:** Steve reiterated the importance of seniors doing a Medicare review of their current program and reaching out for help if needed.

**HUMAN SERVICES:** No representative present but Kevin reports that someone will be joining with us soon.

**Council Members:**

**LIZ CHAPMAN:** asked about the status of the new building. Kevin reports that OFA is working with a design architect and is applying for grants for funding from the COVID monies the County received. The building would be in the Commerce Park in GHENT with a kitchen, dining hall/community room, offices and possibly more. He will keep us appraised.

**New Lebanon:** Mary reported that the Town Climate Smart Committee in conjunction with committees from other towns is having a REPAIR CAFÉ on 10/23 at the New Lebanon

Firehouse. People with skills are offering their services to fix peoples appliances, or other items. Full list of services available is in the flyer or newspaper article. This is open to everyone.

**Hillsdale:** SAFE AT HOME program is occurring today.

**CHATHAM:** North Chatham Day is occurring 10/16, this is a community day.

**NORTHERN COLUMBIA COUNTY NEIGHBORS:** They have a ride share as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:52pm. The next meeting is 11/19 at 1pm. Kevin will find out if it can be in person.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Young, Secretary

Attendees: Joyce Thompson, Mary Young, Clayton Andrus, Wendy Fieser, , Steve VanDenburg, Kevin McDonald, Sally LaValle, Carol Hegeman, Elaine Vogel, Susan Hotaling, Amy Anderson, Lisa Deleeuw, Pat Odell, Liz Chapman, Patti Moskaluk

Mary Young gave the following report:

Personal Care Aides: Seniors in New Lebanon area can sign up for assistance by contacting the Office of the Aging in Hudson and if you are interested in being an aide contact them as well.

New Lebanon Seniors continue to meet twice a month. They had a trip in the end of October for leaf peaking. They are helping with the Christmas Gift giving program in town. They are having a Christmas dinner at White Stone Café. Any Senior is welcome to join us at 1pm at the New Lebanon Fire House to meet others and have fun.

***Volunteers (Councilmember Rasmussen):***

Councilmember Rasmussen reported that there were two volunteer requests this month that were filled quickly. He thanked the volunteers.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Councilmember Rasmussen at: [nrasmussen@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:nrasmussen@townofnewlebanon.com).

***Comparison Committee (Councilmember Trainor & Gordon):***

Councilmember Trainor stated that he and Councilmember Gordon still need to get together. Nothing to report at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

***NOVEMBER:***

***Friday, November 19th, 2021 – Fall Festival @ 4-7 pm at NL Jr/Sr High School***

***Saturday, November 20th, 2021 – Thanksgiving Dinner Drive Through @ 4-6 pm at NL Jr/Sr High School***

***DECEMBER:***

***Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm – Special Meeting, Tax Collector & Judges***

***Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm – New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School Winter Concert at Shatford Park Pavilion***

***Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30 pm – Public Hearing LL#3 at the Town Hall***

***Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:35 pm – Public Hearing LL#4 at the Town Hall***

***Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:40 pm – Public Hearing LL#5 at the Town Hall***

***Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:45 pm – Regular Town Board Meeting at the Town Hall***

***Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm – Year End Meeting at the Town Hall***

***Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm – Special Meeting, Interviews for multiple boards***

**JANUARY:**

***Saturday, January 1st, 2022 at 10:00 am – Swearing in of newly Elected Officials***

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

**David Farren:** David said he knows that the CLC is once again doing the community grants, his understanding is that Ted Salem applied for the town last year. We were not awarded a grant last year. David wanted to know if the town had a strong feeling about who from the town should be applying to CLC for that grant?

Supervisor Houghtling responded that she sent it out to anyone that she thought might be interested and if somebody is to let her know.

David Farren stated that Hillsdale was given one of those grants by the CLC and they have come up with a nice flyer that they are going to be printing and handing out to anyone who is intending to build a home with advice on smart conservation awareness and they did participate in the making of that brochure. This is countywide so it is something that New Lebanon can use as well.

**Christine Dreyfus:** Chris asked what the Comparison Committee is?

Supervisor Houghtling explained that the Comparison Committee was formed to compare different departments across Columbia County to see where we compare cost wise, busyness of the offices, are there things that other towns might be doing that are good ideas for New Lebanon, are there things that New Lebanon are doing really well that we could share with other towns. The Compensation Committee compared town positions and salaries and hourly rates to see how New Lebanon is paying their employees compared to other Towns similar to our Town.

**Monte Wasch:** Monte asked if the board wanted to say something about David Grover?



Supervisor Houghtling responded yes, we lost a hero in the music world and a friend. David Grover played at our Music in The Park every year that we had it. He was very good friends with Linda Worster, they played a lot of music together. David Grover has been playing at the New Lebanon Library for many years. David Grover passed away suddenly in a car accident and it is a tremendous loss to all of the people and communities that he has touched in his life.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we should have held our moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting in honor of David Grover. Another moment of silence was held for David Grover, his family and everyone who loved him.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

***Respectfully submitted,***

Marcie Robertson  
New Lebanon Town Clerk