

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF  
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2022  
HELD ON JUNE 14, 2022**

**Present:** Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor (6:59PM)  
Britt Buckenroth, Councilmember  
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember  
John Trainor, Councilmember  
Marianna Anthonisen, Councilmember

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

**Others Present:** Jeffrey Winestock, Highway Superintendent  
Tony Murad, ZBA Chair & ZRC Member  
Sharon Powers, IT Website Support & BEDC Member  
Ed Godfroy, LVPA  
Steve Houghtling, LVPA Chief  
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging & Traffic  
Safety  
Peg Munves, CAC, CSC & BEDC Member  
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Env Mgmt Council & CSC  
Member  
Members of the Public

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:57 pm by Councilmember Buckenroth. The meeting was held in person at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22 North, New Lebanon, NY 12125 with members of the public also being able to view the meeting at the following link: [https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new\\_lebanon\\_ny](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny)

A motion was made by Councilmember Anthonisen, seconded by Councilmember Gordon and approved unanimously with the exception of Supervisor Houghtling who is absent at this time to have Councilmember Buckenroth run the Public Hearing in Supervisor Houghtling's absence.

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:**

Town Clerk Robertson read the following public hearing notice aloud:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 3 of 2022  
TOWN OF NEW LEBANON**

## COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon on June 14th, 2022 at 6:55 p.m. at 14755 Route 22 North, New Lebanon, New York, 12125 regarding the adoption of Introductory Local Law No. 3 of the Town of New Lebanon for the year 2022. Introductory Local Law No. 3 of the Town of New Lebanon for the year 2022 would abolish the elective office of Superintendent of Highways and establish the appointed office of Superintendent of Highways for the Town of New Lebanon. This local law will be subject to mandatory referendum and if the local law is adopted, all registered New Lebanon voters will get the opportunity to vote on this proposal before it takes effect.

Copies of said proposed Local Law are available for review at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of New Lebanon, 14755 Route 22 North, New Lebanon, New York, 12125 and the proposed local law can be viewed on the town website at [www.townofnewlebanon.com](http://www.townofnewlebanon.com).

Participation by the public will be in person at the New Lebanon Town Hall. Those not attending in person who wish to comment on the proposed local law can email in advance of the meeting to [supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com](mailto:supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com) and all comments will be read at the public hearing and entered into the record.

Marcie Robertson, Town of New Lebanon Town Clerk  
5/16/2022

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilmember Buckenroth opened the floor to public comment and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak regarding Introductory Local Law #3 of 2022 or has any comments that they would like to put on the record.

Supervisor Houghtling arrived to the meeting at 6:59pm.

**Jeffrey Winestock, Highway Superintendent:** He stated that he has been the Highway Superintendent for close to forty years and he was curious why this is coming about to change the position from elected to appointed. He stated that he ran most of his term on two-year terms until it was recently change to a four-year term. He stated that he understands that there have been comments made by the Supervisor that he will be retiring at the end of his term in 2023. He stated that he has talked about it and his dreams are to retire but he is not sure that he is going to. He stated that even if he does retire, he doesn't think that it should matter if he is there or not, he believes that the towns people should have the opportunity to replace him or reelect him. He doesn't understand that after all of these years why it is important to change his position from elected to appointed, he thinks that the people should be able to vote on something like that.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she received two emails regarding Introductory Local Law #3 of 2022 and she read the following into the record:

Email one:

*I would like to express my strong support for LL3.*

*I am grateful to Jeff Weinstock for his many years of faithful service to the town. We are all fortunate to have benefited from his efforts to maintain our roads.*

*Now that Jeff has announced his retirement, however, I think it's the right time for us to change the position of Highway Superintendent to an appointed position. I say this because the primary responsibilities of the Highway Superintendent are technical in nature.*

*The most important factor in choosing the next HS should be, "does he or she know how to maintain the roads of NL?", not "is he or she the most popular person willing to stand for election?"*

*I would like our town board to select the most qualified, not the most popular person, for the job.*

*Finally, I believe the HS should also be responsible for managing the park maintenance. The tasks involved are closely related to those currently assigned to the HS and it makes much more sense to assign them to the HS than to have the Town Supervisor manage them.*

*Thank you,  
Norman Rasmussen*

Email two:

*Good morning,*

*I'm sorry to be missing tomorrow night's board meeting. I wanted to send this email and would like it to be included in the records that I strongly support LL3.*

*I believe it's time our town changed the position of Highway Superintendent to an appointed position. The town will benefit from this and it will have the opportunity to better manage what is expected from such an appointed position.*

*Thank you,  
Erminia Rasmussen*

Supervisor Houghtling asked if there was anyone else in attendance that would like to speak.

**Ed Godfroy:** He asked that if this goes to a vote, who is qualified on the Town Board to set the criteria and the requirements for the new appointed Highway Superintendent and if they have to hire someone what is that going to cost the

taxpayers to hire someone, to write the job description and make sure that the applicant actually has the qualifications.

**Supervisor Houghtling** responded that they did create a job description for the Highway Superintendent even as an elected position. She stated that it is mostly set by state statute. If the Highway Superintendent were appointed it would be similar to our Assessor, CEO, ZEO and it would be the full Town Board of five that would interview, ask the relevant questions and choose a candidate based on qualifications.

**CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING:**

All persons desiring to be heard and having been heard, a motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 7:04pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Buckenroth-	Aye
Councilmember Gordon-	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling-	Aye
Councilmember Trainor-	Aye
Councilmember Anthonisen-	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson  
New Lebanon Town Clerk