

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MARCH 12, 2024**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Steve Powers, Councilmember
Susan Tipograph, Councilmember

Absent: Elizabeth Kroboth, Councilmember
Craig Skerkis, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha (Marcie) Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Josh Young, Planning Board & QOL Member, Shaker
Preservation Com., & BEDC Chair (6:25pm)
Sharon Powers, IT Website Support, BEDC & QOL Com.
Member
Peg Munves, CAC Co-Chair
Margaret Robertson, Historic Railroad Comm. Member
Jim Carroll, Planning Board & ZRC Member
Peter McCagg, Highway Superintendent (6:20pm)
Tammie Darcy, Tax Collector
Norman Rasmussen, Deputy Supervisor
Erminia Rasmussen, Outreach & Marketing Com Member
Robert Long, SYP Camp Director & Community Center
Coordinator
Samantha Long, PZ Clerk
Abbie Shoobs, Recreation Commission Chair (6:36pm)
Rocco Cowan, Col. Cty. Dept. of Public Works
Brendon Becker, P.E., Lamont Engineers, P.C.
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Supervisor Houghtling. 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

A moment of silence was held, followed by the flag salute. The emergency exits were pointed out.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **November 14, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting, December 12, 2023 Public Hearing on Intro. LL#8 of 2023, and December 12, 2023 Public Hearing on Intro. LL#9 of 2023**, of the Town Board were reviewed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to approve the three sets of minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor's Report as of February 29, 2024 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 Powers to accept the Supervisor's report for February as typed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE:

Rob Long, Community Center Coordinator provided the Town Board and the public with an update on the Community Center. He reported they have started doing the sign in sheets and for the month of February they had 110 people who signed in. Rob feels that this number will improve with better weather. The first week in March they have already had 40 people sign in. Ping pong is a big hit, they have two tables. There is now a computer with internet access for use. A local Girl Scout Troop came in February for their meeting and spent additional time there. Several parents who have come to the center expressed interest in having a yoga class, Rob will be discussing it with them.

Rob encourages everyone to spread the word around to as many people as they can that there is a Community Center. He has been in contact with the WBH PTA to coordinate functions with them. He is also coordinating with the Food Club at the High School to do a free community dinner that the kids will prepare, tentatively to be held on May 2nd, 2024 and June 13th, 2024.

Councilmember Tipograph commented on the new sign, it looks great and is noticeable when driving by.

Supervisor Houghtling thanked the Columbia County Sign Shop for making the sign and Jesse Newton, Country Squire for getting the hardware and hanging the sign.

Councilmember Powers stated he came one night and the entrance to the Free Store was not open from the parking lot, you had to go around the other way. He wonders why that was?

Rob Long, responded when the Community Center is not open, there is an attendant for the Free Store. When the Community Center is open, they keep that side closed and the main back door is open. People can come in, check in with him and get directed to the Free Store. This allows Rob the ability to know who is coming in and out.

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 during the meeting.

Marcia Mayer: Marcia spoke regarding the safety on County Route 5. This year, there have been several accidents. Walking on the road is very dangerous. The road is heavily traveled on Friday nights and Sundays and they are not abiding by the speed limit. Marcia stated, she has asked for rerouting of the GPS and was told that it is impossible. Marcia suggested lowering the speed limit and was told that it has just been done. Marcia suggested possibly speed bumps.

Rocco Cowan, C.C. Dept. of Public Works: Rocco stated, Marcia asked him to attend the meeting. He suggests trying the GPS rerouting because it is often suggested to travel over County 5. He stated, the County has everything properly marked for signage. He thinks the biggest problem is people not obeying the speed limit signs. Rocco reported that he did a poll one day traveling on County 5, out of the 27 cars that passed by him, 21 of them were out of state and 15 of the had ski tops on their cars. The GPS suggests that route because it may be a hair shorter but the road itself does not support all the extra traffic. He stated on March 27th, there is a traffic safety meeting with the state where they are discussing the intersection of 295 and County 5.

Supervisor Houghtling: Supervisor Houghtling stated, a year or two ago, the Town Board made a request to lower the speed limit, to bar large trucks that were not doing deliveries, through traffic. She stated, she will take time to investigate the GPS rerouting. Supervisor Houghtling suggested that Marcia Mayer, Mary Young, Rocco Cown, and herself meet to research and go over possible options. New Lebanon and Canaan Town Boards both made requests at the same time for the entire County 5 and she is not sure where they ended up.

Mary Young: Mary replied to Supervisor Houghtling, it got cancelled. They did the study, they reduced the speed limit from 55mph to 45mph, did a traffic study afterwards and they feel it is appropriate. You must go slower to lower the speed limit and there is no way to make people go slower. Mary stated, years past they did try the GPS reroute and it was unsuccessful. Mary stated the traffic is crazy right now due to 22 being closed. Speed bumps are not an option on roads that need to be plowed.

Jim Carroll: Jim spoke regarding Introductory Local Law #1 of 2024, Self-Storage Units. He emailed several changes to the Town Board. He made suggestions on Table 1, area and bulk regulations, special permits, setbacks, and links. Jim does not think there needs to be a special permit for an expansion of a self-storage facility, it is already there for the existing. If no special permit is required, there is no way to enforce this setback of 100ft. However, there is a site review and if the information is added directly into the table, then it can be applied via the site plan review. If it only referenced in the special permit section and no special permit is required, then you cannot apply it anywhere. He requests that the 100ft. setback on all side be put directly into the schedule 1 area and bulk regulations.

Supervisor Houghtling: Supervisor Houghtling asked for clarification. She sent Jim's first two emails to the Town Attorney; they are making a slight edit before introducing the local law regarding Jim's first email. The attorney gave feedback on Jim's second email, that it is covered. Is there a third email that she did not see. Jim responded, yes. Supervisor Houghtling stated, she can forward to the attorney but she does not see the board on the spot making changes to the drafted local law but there will be a new introduction and then a public hearing.

Mr. Muadin: Mr. Muadin spoke regarding harmful effects of wireless radiation related to cell towers. Mr. Muadin stated the town must protect residents through the largest possible setbacks from the property line, preserve Planning Board review of co-locations that meet the definition of eligible facility so that notice requirements will be retained. Mr. Muadin stated that these and all other decision points should be publicly explored by the full Town Board in a forum which allows public comment before protections and safeguards are removed from the code. He stated, all decisions should be reached and finalized through a public discussion and vote of the full Town Board.

Supervisor Houghtling read an email from **Dorothy Dooren:** Dorothy wrote regarding telecommunications code for the town.

Specifically, what accommodations can be made by the Town under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or otherwise for those of us in Town with electromagnetic hypersensitivities (EHS) and microwave radiation syndrome and people who may want to avoid exposure to emissions from wireless facilities as a precautionary measure?

Can opt-out measures be provided in a local code in the same way that property owners can opt out of "smart" meters?

I am not aware that the issue has been addressed to date. Attorney Campanelli's draft includes a section on "ADA Accommodations." However, no details are provided.

Is it technically feasible to block signals from a wireless facility to a particular location – a home or school?

I have a number of health conditions stemming from exposure to agent orange in Vietnam more than 55 years ago, including EHS. I react to emissions from wireless facilities at levels

an average person would tolerate without difficulty. Symptoms include extreme fatigue, brain fog, ringing in ears, insomnia, anxiety, and headache. If a 5-G facility were placed on a utility pole near my house on Route 20 where such facilities are likely to be placed, my home for over 40 years would be uninhabitable for me.

I have spent a great deal of money and time retrofitting my house to accommodate my war injuries. I would have to sell my house, find another affordable house – if that is even possible in this housing market – and retrofit that house again.

I am president of a nationwide telephone support group for people with the same sensitivities that I have. None of us was born this way.

*Ultimately the Town must craft regulations so residents can enjoy the benefits of wireless services while avoiding unnecessary adverse impacts on us.
Thank you, Dorothy Dooren*

Supervisor Houghtling: Supervisor Houghtling stated, she let Dorothy know and for the public, the town is working with Attorney Campanelli, he came highly regarded by Mr. Muadin and others. Attorney Campanelli is guiding the town through the process, there will absolutely be public input, we are not there yet.

**PRESENTATION – WASTEWATER & MUNIWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY
GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE TOWN – REQUEST FROM JOINT CAC &
BEDC COMMITTEE ON WASTEWATER FOR TB TO VOTE ON
PROCEEDING WITH THE STUDY:**

Supervisor Houghtling stated, Brendon from Lamont Engineering is here to give a brief overview.

Peg Munves, CAC Co-Chair gave a brief timeline. She stated, wastewater can bring a lot of interest and misinformation to it. They know from doing their due diligence that the Supervisor asked them to do, that many people on the business corridor wanted a feasibility study. Nineteen out of twenty-five that they spoke to in 2022, said yes, they wanted a feasibility study. This has been talked about for years, but they do not have information, the feasibility study will do that. They are not advocating for anything one way or another, they are just information seeking. Before July of 2022, the co-committee with BEDC and CAC were tasked at asking people who own businesses along the 20/22 corridor if they were really interested in a feasibility study being done and nineteen of the twenty-five said yes. The committee presented the letter with signatures to the Town Board and asked to be able to conduct a feasibility study for potential wastewater and municipal water. They found RCAP Solutions, a non-profit consultant for rural towns and they helped the committee craft a request for proposal (RFP) for a feasibility study. The Town Board voted unanimously to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with RCAP Solutions to get the study written up. In 2023, the Town Board voted unanimously to publish the final RFP, go out for bid to engineers and they interviewed five firms, recommended to the board to select Lamont Engineers and they agreed to help write the grant to the state for the

feasibility study at no charge. In June of 2023, Lamont was selected, the grant got written, and submitted in July of 2023.

Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers commented that he hopes one of the reasons that the town selected them was because of their background with submitting funding applications, and they do mostly water, wastewater work projects mostly for small rural communities. They submitted for two different grants so that they could piggyback off the match of each other. One grant was to NYS Environmental Facilities Corp., which funds wastewater and the other was for Empire State Development which is a general feasibility study that would also cover a water, wastewater component. Brendon reported that they got both grants. They have secured funding to do approximately \$55,000 worth of an engineering feasibility study and it will cost the town \$2,800 as a match. This was very successful funding they were able to go after. Assuming the Town Board is good with proceeding with those grants, they would pass a resolution to move forward with those grant contracts and then Lamont would start doing the investigation to see if there is a need for wastewater. Through the discussions of the project, they also recommended looking at a water system. Maybe the ground conditions are good enough for the wastewater systems if they did not have the issue with the wells being within the proximity of the septic systems. Maybe that is an alternative option, that there is a municipal water system to eliminate the concerns with the wells and maybe the existing lot sizes and septic systems are sufficient. They will be looking at both options. The options that they present with a possibility of economic growth, if you have a water system, you then have the availability of a fire system. That opens the growth to a building that needed a fire sprinkler system that would not normally be able to come into New Lebanon if that was not available.

Brendon stated, first steps are meeting with all the players and people within the town to see what the interest is, the needs are, and start doing some investigation if there are failed systems or insufficient wells.

Councilmember Powers asked, what the time frame of the study is?

Brendon responded, they would be looking to get it complete approximately this time of next year, 2025. Currently, the process of the project would be they do their engineers report, they do some initial investigations, make some recommendations to the board as far as what they think would be a viable project if there is one. He stated, they would probably identify different service areas. Once they make that determination, they would go to the next steps of doing a map plan and report, where they would identify a district and possibly set up a water or sewer district, which would then get them in line for submitting funding applications for the actual implementation funds. He stated, they want to be ready for that by June of next year. The current funding that is available for those projects is much more than there ever has been in previous years, it is a good time to do this. The town is in a good position to get as much grant money as possible to potentially do a project if there is a need for one. The focus is the center of New Lebanon, they will also look at the possibility of New Lebanon Springs and in between as options, because maybe they can address some issues with connecting the school to a municipal system. This is all stuff that they plan to bounce around and look at and see what makes sense.

Councilmember Tipograph stated, she does not know yet what she thinks about the actual water system but she is in favor of information. This seems like they should go forward with getting the information and then the board can make informed decisions about what to do, the costs, etc. and have a public conversation about all of that.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she is in favor of the feasibility study. Her understanding of the nineteen of the twenty-five who signed, until they know what the costs are, how do they say yes. She stated, to be clear to the public, the only people that pay for it are the people who are linked into it. By law, the costs can only be burdened by the people who link into it.

The board and Brendon continued with further discussion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tipograph to authorize the Town Supervisor to work with Lamont Engineers to accept the Engineering Planning Grant from NY State Environmental Facilities Corporation and the Empire State Development Planning Grant not to exceed a total project cost of \$56,000, and the Town's share not to exceed \$3,000 for a feasibility study. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

Supervisor Houghtling stated, for next month she will prepare the budget amendment. It will look like a \$56,000 expenditure coming into the budget and a \$53,000 revenue from grants coming into the budget. The up to \$3,000 piece, they need to figure out where it is coming from. Her suggestion is ARPA funds, they designated ARPA funds through the BEDC to support local businesses, which is most people who want this study to be done. Supervisor Houghtling stated, she believes there is at least one project that the BEDC has ARPA funds allocated for that is likely not to move forward in the timeframe necessary. ARPA funds must be contracted by December of 2024, spent by December of 2025. They do not need a motion for this, she wanted to check with the Town Board. She stated, her proposal would be to ask the BEDC to find this in their ARPA budget and they can then vote on it.

Supervisor Houghtling stated for the public or anyone watching, that the two Town Board members that are absent, had all of this ahead of time and she did receive any input they had. They are not moving forward on things without them present.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 OF 2024:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they need a fence up at the pit on Old Post Road. The Highway Department will install themselves. Because it is a town property, Supervisor Houghtling proposed putting the transfer into the town buildings and property .2 account.

General Fund:

\$ 1,600.00 from A-1990.4 (Contingent)
\$ 1,600.00 to A-1620.2 (Town Buildings & Properties – Equip.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Powers to approve the above noted budget amendment #3 of 2024 as typed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

AMEND ABSTRACT #2 OF 2024:

Supervisor Houghtling reported that we had to void a \$25.00 check that was on General Abstract No. 2 of 2024.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to amend abstract No. 2 of General Fund 2024 bringing down the total amount from \$29,488.03 as previously approved, down to \$29,463.03. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

AUDIT OF BILLS:

2024 Bills:

Highway No. 21, in the amount of \$5,021.94:
As listed on Abstract No. 2A dated March 12, 2024.

General Nos. 82 through 121, in the amount of \$66,573.30; and
Highway Nos. 22 through 39, in the amount of \$72,193.31;
As listed on Abstract No. 3 dated March 12, 2024.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, committee reports as received to her office by Friday afternoon were sent out to the public and the Town Board. She asked if any board members had any questions or need for clarification on any of the committee reports?

Supervisor Houghtling asked the committee chairs that are present, do any of the committee have any further updates or action that is needed by the Town Board?

Peg Munves, CAC: Peg reported, they had a potential new member interested to join the CAC but this has had to be tabled at this time.

Josh Young, BEDC: Josh reported, the BEDC unanimously voted to do a survey of all businesses in New Lebanon both electronically and by mail. The BEDC is looking for board approval to do this. Their best estimate for the cost of printing and mailing would be under \$500 and they did not previously budget for this.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to authorize the BEDC to do a business survey and expend up to \$500.00 for printing and mailing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph,

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

Introductory LL#1 of 2024 – Self Storage Units:

Supervisor Houghtling, read the one revision in the Introductory Local Law that was different from the one that was sent out to the public. No one on the board had any questions or concerns.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to recognize the introduction of Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024, as last revised March 12, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

A motion was made by Councilmember Tipograph to classify the enactment of Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024 as a Type I Action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, to declare that the Town Board, as the only involved agency, shall be the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and to authorize the Supervisor to execute the Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form as prepared by the Attorney for the Town. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

A motion was made by Councilmember Powers to authorize the Supervisor to refer Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024 to the Columbia County Planning Board pursuant to NY General Municipal Law 239-m and to the Town Planning Board pursuant to Town Code 205-15 (B).” The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Powers, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to schedule a public hearing on Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024 for April 9th, 2024, at 5:45 p.m., to be held at Town of New Lebanon Town Hall and to authorize and direct the Town Clerk to publish and post notice thereof as required.

BEDC Resignation:

Supervisor Houghtling reported, she spoke to Chuck Gerald, he did take the training. She stated, she talked him into joining the BEDC when she formed the committee and he has not really been involved. He is not an email person, he did not officially send a resignation, but he told her on the phone that he is fine to be removed from the BEDC.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to remove Chuck Gerald from the BEDC.

Letter of Interest for Playground Design Committee:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Powers, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to appoint Peter McCagg to the Playground Design Committee.

Letters of Interest for Summer Camp Health Director:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, we did not receive any letters of interest. It is a required position; we cannot run camp without it. We will have to go back out for letters of interest.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to go back out for letters of interest for the Summer Camp Health Director and ask the Town Clerk to use the same notice minus the part about needing to live in town, with letters of interest due to the Town Clerk's office by April 5th, 2024 at 4:00pm, and have the Town Clerk notice the paper.

Letters of Interest for Outreach & Marketing Committee:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, no letters were received.

Letters of Interest for Recreation Commission:

Supervisor Houghtling reported, they received one letter of interest from Joanne Amlaw.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to appoint Joanne Amlaw to the vacancy on the Recreation Commission to expire 12/31/2024.

Letters of Interest for CAC:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, being tabled.

Pharmacy MOU – Update Dates for Opening:

Supervisor Houghtling, reported they entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the pharmacy. The original MOU said the pharmacy had twelve months from the signing of the MOU to open or the town could request our \$40,000 in ARPA funds back. At the last monthly Town Board meeting, the Town Board authorized the Supervisor to apply for Congressional Funding through a Congressional Earmark to potentially cover up to \$600,000 or \$700,000 of the pharmacies needs to be able to open here in town. That funding, if it becomes available is 2025 funding.

Supervisor Houghtling took the original MOU, made changes, and added a paragraph at the end whereas the company needs more time to secure the necessary funding for construction and build out and the Town has applied for federal funding for this project which, if awarded, would not be available until the beginning of 2025.

Supervisor Houghtling also added that we wish to continue to work together, and now we are going to say within twelve months of signing this amendment, which is twenty-four months from signing the original MOU.

Although this MOU looks like a resolution with its whereas wording, it is an MOU that was passed by a simple motion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tipograph to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to sign the amended MOU regarding the pharmacy project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Councilmember Powers - | Aye |
| Councilmember Kroboth - | Absent |
| Supervisor Houghtling - | Aye |
| Councilmember Tipograph - | Aye |
| Councilmember Skerkis - | Absent |

Quality of Life Committee:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she is adding this in now, she forgot to mention during committee reports. The QOL Committee had two requests of the Town Board, they are not official requests because they did not have a quorum, they are a six-member committee and the only had three presents. Of the three in attendance, it was unanimous, they would like the board to consider is to have a public meeting where the pharmacist would come out and give a presentation and a business model and allow for questions from the public. If the board is okay, the Supervisor will work with the pharmacy staff to organize a date that works for the board. Maybe sometime after the April monthly meeting. The board in attendance agreed.

The town received the Pro-Housing designation that allows the town to access funding that was set aside for pro-housing communities. The Town Board could take next steps if they wanted. She feels it is important to hear from the public on what type of housing they think is the most important. She has heard that senior housing is really wanted. They would like to have a public input meeting and have Chris Brown, Housing Coordinator from the County. He is very knowledgeable on the topic. The board in attendance agreed.

Tennis Court Bathroom Renovations:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, being tabled.

Highway 284 Agreement:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, there was a zero missing under general repairs #1, instead of \$175,00, it should be \$175,000. Spelling corrects of Thomson Lane to Thompson Lane.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to accept the Highway 284 Agreement as proposed, adding a zero in #1 and adding in a P in #2 in two places, and authorizing everyone to sign it. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Powers - Aye
- Councilmember Kroboth - Absent
- Supervisor Houghtling - Aye
- Councilmember Tipograph - Aye
- Councilmember Skerkis - Absent

Highway Surplus Equipment – Bids Received:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they received one bid for the 2011 F550.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to decline the bid received from Andrew Sandstrom, Lebanon Springs Excavating. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Powers - Aye
- Councilmember Kroboth - Absent
- Supervisor Houghtling - Aye
- Councilmember Tipograph - Aye
- Councilmember Skerkis - Absent

Councilmember Tipograph added, Pete informed them that the bid was too low, and it would be worth it to go out to auction for this.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to authorize Peter McCagg to work with Auctions International to put the 2011 Ford F550 truck out via bid, and authorize hm to set whatever minimum bid or parameters he feels necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Powers - Aye
- Councilmember Kroboth - Absent
- Supervisor Houghtling - Aye
- Councilmember Tipograph - Aye
- Councilmember Skerkis - Absent

Supervisor Houghtling told Peter McCagg, Highway Superintendent that he can work with Auctions International on the time line. Typically, we have bids due the Friday before the monthly Town Board meeting. If the April meeting is too soon, you do have authorization to work directly with them on when bids are due, what the minimum bid should be, etc.

Supervisor Houghtling asked Highway Superintendent McCagg if he wanted to work with Auctions International on the other items that were on the bid notice that no one made any bids on. Highway Superintendent McCagg asked her what his options are, does he have to sell the surplus? He asked if no one buys any of the listed surplus items, what does the Town do with them? Supervisor Houghtling responded; she did not know but she would like to try to go back out to bid one more time.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling authorizing Highway Superintendent McCagg to work with Auctions International on; one stainless steel Fisher X-Blade snow plow, one used hot water pressure washer, one like new 2017 FERI mower model #LE18U0D – Serial #85925, and one new 10ft. wing plow, and for Highway Superintendent McCagg to have the authorization to set whatever parameters he feels necessary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:	
Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

Highway Garage:
Supervisor Houghtling stated, being tabled.

Highway Request for West Lebanon Property:
Supervisor Houghtling stated, being tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:
Policy Review – Social Media Use Policy and Firearms & Dangerous Weapons Policy – Table to April:
Supervisor Houghtling stated, being tabled.

CLC Request for Letter of Support:
Supervisor Houghtling stated, the CLC is working with West Family LLC and EZ Farm to apply for a NYS Department of Ag and Markets Farmland Protection Implementation

Grant Application to protect land owned by West Family LLC and leased to EZ Farm for agroforestry with a permanent conservation easement. They received a map of the area they are talking about and a draft letter that they are looking for the Supervisor to sign.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tipograph, seconded by Councilmember Powers, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to sign a letter from the Town to Mr. David Behm, Farmland Protection Program Manager, to express the Town's strong support for the grant application being submitted by the Columbia Land Conservancy to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for the purposes of development rights on lands that are owned by West Family LLC and leased to EZ Farm.

Little League Agreement for 2024:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, there are no changes other than the date that the agreement was made which will become March 12th, 2024 and the dates April 1st, 2024 to the end of games, and the email contact for Nassau Shatford Youth.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tipograph, seconded by Councilmember Powers, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to authorize Supervisor Houghtling sign the agreement for the Little League.

Columbia Greene Workforce Program for SYP – Agreement for 2024 Season:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, this is something that we use every year for the Summer Camp. It helps to offset costs; they pay some of our councilors whose families are income eligible.

A motion was made by Councilmember Powers, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to enter into the Worksite Agreement with the Columbia-Greene Workforce NY for our Summer Camp Program.

Court Clerk Resignation:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they have received a letter of resignation from the Court Clerk, Mark Baumli effective May 15th, 2024.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and

Skerkis, who are absent, to accept Mark Baumli's letter of resignation effective end of day, May 15th, 2024 or sooner if they staff a new Court Clerk sooner.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, at their Special Meeting, the Town Board authorized a Deputy Court Clerk upon consent of both Judges. They did not receive the consent of the judges, so the Deputy Court Clerk position is now again unstaffed. Supervisor Houghtling stated, she feels strongly that they should go out for letters of interest for both of those positions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tipograph, seconded by Councilmember Powers, and approved unanimously except for Councilmembers Kroboth and Skerkis, who are absent, to go out for letters of interest to state anybody interested in either the Court Clerk or Deputy Court Clerk position to submit a letter of interest, along with a resume, even if you have recently submitted such paperwork for either of these positions. New Lebanon's policy for employment will be followed and past letters of interest and memo from the judges and past interviews will not apply and must start over again, with letters of interest due by 4:00pm on April 5th, 2024 to be submitted to the Town Clerk's office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

APRIL:

Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at 5:45pm- Public Hearing – Intro. LL#1 of 2024

Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at 6:00pm- Regular Monthly Meeting

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 during the meeting.

Meg Robertson: Meg gave an update on the Railroad Depot. The oversight committee has been discussing various things to do with the property. Fencing to mark out where the Corkscrew Rail Trail goes, possibly installing a chain-link fence. Surveyed to see if there is mold, asbestos, or lead in the building.

Peg Munves, CAC: Peg announced that the CAC's upcoming event on March 16th, 2024 has been postponed to a later date.

Joanne Amlaw: Joanne asked what the status was with the brick building across the street on the corner of Route 22 and Main Street? Supervisor Houghtling responded; the fencing came down without authorization. Jeff Hattat is working on this, unfortunately we are getting a lot of responses. The building is for sale.

Mr. Muadin: Mr. Muadin spoke again regarding telecommunications.

Supervisor Houghtling: Supervisor Houghtling announced that she received a phone call from Senator Hinchey personally. She explained that she and Steve Powers have been working for two or three years to try to get funding to close the landfill on Old Post Road. She stated, when Mike Benson was the Town Supervisor, the town entered into an agreement with the County that the town would get \$625,000 from the County and closing the landfill became the Town's problem.

Steve Powers as CSC Chair and Supervisor Houghtling worked together to let them know that the town cannot possibly come up with the over \$2Million that it will cost to close the landfill. The agreement with the county designates that \$625,000 as 30 years of maintenance and oversight after the landfill has been officially closed. They have met with Assemblymember Barrett and Senator Hinchey separately for three years before they go into their state budget asking for a line in the budget to close the landfill. She stated, there is DEC funding to close these landfills but we are around number four on the list.

Senator Hinchey informed Supervisor Houghtling that she got \$2.25Million, in the senate one house budget for Town of New Lebanon landfill closure. This still must pass through the Governor's budget.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, the \$625,000 is in the town's bank account and can only be used for the landfill.

Steve Powers: Steve reported, the town is under a consent order from the 1980's from DEC to close the landfill. They could have been fining the town every year that it is not officially closed.

Meg Robertson: Meg added, that out of eleven towns in the county, they had an agreement with each other that all the towns would close each other's landfills. When it got to New Lebanon's there were issues and the town got passed over.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm.
The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Kroboth -	Absent
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Absent

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk

Draft