

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
HELD ON MARCH 8, 2024 REGARDING THE DEPUTY COURT CLERK  
POSITION**

**Present:** Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor  
Elizabeth Kroboth, Councilmember  
Steve Powers, Councilmember  
Craig Skerkis, Councilmember  
Susan Tipograph, Councilmember

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

**Others Present:** Member of the Public

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The special meeting was called to order at 2:02pm 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](https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to enter an Executive Session at 2:02pm to discuss medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person/corp., or matters leading to said dismissal, removal, promotion, appointment, employment, discipline, demotion, or suspension. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Supervisor Houghtling announced, for anyone watching the live stream, the board will be back out and the hope is that they will act when they come out.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to exit the Executive Session at

2:52pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kroboth.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Skerkis stated, there is a town policy, Resolution #21 of 2019, Employee Appointment Policy, through discussion the board discovered that the board and the judiciary of the town were not strictly adhering to this policy. He wanted to apologize to the constituents that they dropped the ball. The board members are all new. In the future, if there are changes to appointments to be made, they will be doing them in accordance to this policy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kroboth to appoint Elizabeth Angello as Deputy Court Clerk at an hourly rate of \$16.22 per hour for up to five hours per week for the remainder of 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Supervisor Houghtling opened to discussion.

Councilmember Skerkis commented, they had discussion about this situation with the staffing of the court, Deputy Court Clerk position and it is challenging. They have not found the exact correct fit for this position. They had an excellent candidate who has a lot of legal experience but not much on the court experience. The individual that they have appointed, although they could not commit to that the Thursday position, they think they have a work around. The person is the Court Clerk for two other courts in our county.

Councilmember Kroboth commented, they had a very qualified candidate who lives in town. The current Court Clerk is new to the position and not experienced in court matters. The chosen appointment for Deputy Court Clerk has court experience and she can assist our current Court Clerk to get up to speed on things he needs to know. It was a difficult decision, but her experience in the court led the board to choose Elizabeth Angello as their appointment.

Councilmember Tipograph commented, she agrees with Councilmembers Skerkis and Kroboth, they decided based the circumstances and needs of the court at his time. This was not a rejection of any candidate; this was taking the best candidate at this time for the situation.

Councilmember Skerkis stated, during the adherence to the policy he described. There were two candidates who submitted their applications in a timely fashion. It was not

the exact fit that they sought but because of the individuals actual court experience, it seemed like the best choice.

Supervisor Houghtling asked Councilmember Kroboth to consider amending her motion, at the very end to add in upon the written consent of both Judges. She realized that they do not have the written consent for this candidate. Councilmember Kroboth agreed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kroboth to appoint Elizabeth Angello as Deputy Court Clerk at an hourly rate of \$16.22 per hour, up to five hours per week for the remainder of 2024 upon the written consent of both Judges. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Skerkis, to adjourn the special meeting at 3:01pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

Marcie Robertson  
New Lebanon Town Clerk