

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

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: Josh Young, Planning Board & QOL Member, Shaker
Preservation Com., & BEDC Chair
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 (7:16pm)
Monte Wasch, Board of Ethics, Planning Board, BEDC,
Shaker Preservation
Ted Salem, ZBA Member & ZRC Chair
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging & Traffic
Safety
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Env Mgt Council, CAC & CSC
Member
Peter McCagg, Highway Superintendent
Tammie Darcy, Tax Collector (6:28pm)
Adelia Moore, CSC Member (6:33pm)
Ed Ullman, Non-profit Pharmacy
Greg Madden, Non-profit Pharmacy
Michael Tucker, President CEDC
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:01pm 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 **January 2, 2024 Annual Organizational Meeting, January 9, 2024 Special Meeting (Interviews), January 9, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting, January 12, 2024 Special Meeting (Interviews), and January 12, 2024 2023 Annual Audit Meeting**, of the Town Board were reviewed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skerkis, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph and approved unanimously to approve the five sets of minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Amended December 2023 Supervisor’s Report:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she typically reviews her Supervisor’s reports when she gets them but she was too busy in the beginning of January with new board members and a new highway super. Supervisor Houghtling reported that during her audit they found an error in the December 2023 Supervisor’s report that the Town Clerk fees were incorrectly given to Judge Nevers. This was corrected and there is an amended Supervisor’s Report as of December 31st, 2023.

Supervisor’s Report:

The Supervisor’s Report as of January 31, 2024 and the amended December 2023 Report were 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 both the Supervisor’s reports for January 2024 and the amended December 2023 as typed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Skerkis.

Roll Call Vote:

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

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Supervisor Houghtling presented a certificate of appreciation to Phyllis Stoller for her many years of service to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). She has been a member of the ZBA since 2010, her committee wrote that Phyllis has always been a voice of reason with sympathy to the needs of applicants while always mindful of the interests of the town.

PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

Supervisor Houghtling read the Black History Month Proclamation into the record with the suggested amendment incorporated.

Throughout the month of February each year, we recognize and celebrate the contributions of African Americans to this country, and we acknowledge and appreciate their achievements. From February 1 through March 1, 2024, in honor of Black History Month.

African Americans have played a central role in U.S. history. Carter G. Woodson, who in 1915 founded ASNLH (Association for the Study of Negro Life and History), now ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History), sought to preserve such history and to promote Black American achievement. Not until 1976 was Black History Month officially recognized by then President Gerald Ford.

Our collective town history must encompass all citizens, past and present. Remember Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., certainly, but also recognize those who were / are less fortunate, are / were less renown, but nonetheless belonged / belong to this, our collective community. Resist anything that lessens African Americans. We are better than that - we must do better. Let our legacy be one that aligns ourselves with our neighbors - all of our neighbors, and be good stewards of the history of all who inhabit our county.

Given under my hand at the New Lebanon Town Hall, New Lebanon, New York this 13th day of February in the year 2024.

***Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
New Lebanon Town Board***

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to enter an Executive Session at 6:06pm to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person, corporation, or matters leading to said dismissal, removal, promotion, appointment, employment, discipline, demotion, or suspension. 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

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to exit the Executive Session at 6:14pm. 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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Houghtling went over the rules for 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.

Kristine Cotton: spoke in response to comments on Facebook regarding the Supervisor’s salary and full versus part-time. She feels it is a mute issue at this time.

Monte Wasch: spoke as a member of the Planning Board in response to email communications received from a member of the public regarding telecommunications. He urges the town to rely on verifiable information only on this topic.

Abbie Shoobs: spoke in favor of the Supervisor and the work that she does.

Peter McCagg: presented the Highway Department report to the Town Board.

Raymona Griffin: spoke about the need for transparency from the Supervisor position and the importance of open communication.

Mr. Muadin: spoke on microwave radiation syndrome caused by improperly sited cell towers.

Supervisor Houghtling read email privilege of the floor submissions from the following:

Rick Stall: emailed about the Supervisor position being full-time and why it is necessary.

Katie MacVeigh: emailed about the full-time Supervisor position and why it is necessary.

Daniel VanKeuren: emailed concerned that too much development change our town and the full-time Supervisor position feels unbalanced.

Nicole Hausman: emailed they do not see the reason for a full-time Supervisor, and concern for the locals point of view.

Ronald Nakovics: emailed is there a need for a full-time Supervisor?

Gretchen Van Deusen: emailed in support of less government and why the Supervisor position was changed from part-time to full-time, and what is the need for the Supervisor to have sole decision making on FOIL appeals.

John Lepage Jr.: emailed in favor of a part-time Supervisor position.

Kevin Smith Sr.: emailed regarding the full-time Supervisor position and if it is fiscally responsible, and the Supervisor being the head of HR and FOIL appeals officer and believes it to be unethical and a conflict of interest. Feels the Supervisor has too much authority over town committees, etc.

Bill Banker: emailed against a full-time Supervisor position, the Supervisor appointing friends to positions, and a need to cut back on spending.

Alannah & David Jaquish: emailed why the town needs a full-time Supervisor.

Tom Gerety: emailed in support of the Supervisor, improvements she has made and the need for the position to be full-time.

Norman & Erminia Rasmussen: emailed that now is not the time to question a budget that was previously passed, table this discussion until the 2025 budget process

takes place, and suggested that a new board member listen more and talk less to learn how the process works

Saskia Hitchcock: emailed about the Supervisor position being full-time versus part-time and the difference in salary, duties, and why was it changed. Not in favor of all of the proposed projects, the bullet proof doors for the Town Hall, or low income housing and storage units. Suggested surcharge for the EV.

David McGinness: emailed about living in a small town and behaving neighborly even in moments of disagreement, being kind and respectful to one another. Negative attacks against individuals does not serve the community. Thanked volunteers, elected officials, and the Supervisor for their work.

Adelia Moore: spoke in person in favor of a full-time Supervisor position and all of the work that Supervisor Houghtling does that would not be possible if the position were not full-time.

Supervisor Houghtling continued on to read email privilege of the floor submissions from the following:

Hollis Reh: emailed in support of the Supervisor, improvements she has made and the need for the position remain full-time. Concerned that a reduction in Supervisor hours will have a negative impact on the town.

Aliza Winestock: emailed questioning why Councilmember Skerkis's agenda items are singled out on the agenda, in support of putting full-time Supervisor position back to part-time, and looking for more explanation on the pro-housing.

Adrienne Allen: emailed in support of reverting the Supervisor position back to part-time for the 2025 budget review.

Joanna Ezinga: emailed in support of keeping the Supervisor position full-time.

Elizabeth Poreba: emailed in favor of a full-time Supervisor position and all of the work that Supervisor Houghtling does, she goes above the definition of full-time.

JoAnna Phillips: emailed with questions regarding pro-housing, and the Supervisor position.

Councilmember Steve Powers: spoke regarding the Supervisor's salary and hours, he learned at training that per NYS law, the Town Board cannot reduce the salary or the hours of the Supervisor or any other elected official during their elected term. He stated, a local law would have to be enacted and a mandatory referendum would have to be organized to make any change. If the Town Board was unhappy with the terms of employment, the time to reevaluate that is in the budget process in October 2025. He stated, an elected officials hours is totally up to the person involved. According to NYS law, they can set their own hours. He stated, we should be happy that our Supervisor is committed to working as hard as she does.

Councilmember Craig Skerkis: spoke regarding the discussion of the Supervisor position, he stated that this is not an attack on Supervisor Houghtling. He noticed a lot of people are either attacking Supervisor Houghtling or attacking him. He stated,

the question he has is that for decades the Supervisor position has been a part-time position, right now we have a full-time Supervisor and there is a terrible imbalance of power between the board and the Supervisor executive branch of this government. He stated, he has a problem with the FOIL appeal officer being the Supervisor, it was always the board that looked at appeals. He stated, the Town Board members are liaisons to the many committees, selected and appointed by the Supervisor to be liaisons, but the monthly reports go to the Supervisor. He stated, he knows they cannot do anything about that this year but before they know it, it will be budget season. Councilmember Skerkis stated, there was a lot of great commentary from people in support of Supervisor Houghtling and he applauds her for all of the hard work.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #2 OF 2024:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, these were all discussed at the last meeting except for the \$2,000 for highway engineer, \$2,000 for Planning Board training, and \$4,000 for Planning Board Engineer, and a request from the CSC to bring \$1,220 into their budget for mileage reimbursement for a volunteer who brings the compost to Chatham. The County does not transport the compost from the recycling center to Chatham.

General Fund:

\$ 7,220.00 from A-003917 (Appropriated Fund Balance)

\$ 1,220.00 to A-8797.4 (CSC – Cont. Exp.)

\$ 2,000.00 to A-8020.42 (PB – Cont. Exp. - Training)

\$ 4,000.00 to A-8020.43 (PB – Cont. Exp. - Engineer)

\$ 2,000.00 from A-003917 (Appropriated Fund Balance)

\$ 2,000.00 to A-9901.1 (Transfer to Highway Fund)

Highway Fund:

\$ 2,000.00 from DA-05031 (Transfer from General Fund)

\$ 2,000.00 to DA-1440.4 (Highway – Cont. Exp. - Engineer)

A motion was made by Councilmember Skerkis to approve the above noted budget amendment #2 of 2024 as typed. 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

AUDIT OF BILLS:

2024 Bills:

General No. 31, in the amount of \$404.27:

As listed on Abstract No. 1A dated February 13, 2024.

General Nos. 32 through 81, in the amount of \$29,488.03; and
Highway Nos. 4 through 20, in the amount of \$27,901.44; and

Escrow Nos. 1 through 2, in the amount of \$2,739.30; and
SF-1 LVPA No. 1, in the amount of \$57,075.50:
As listed on Abstract No. 2 dated February 13, 2024.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

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?

Councilmember Tipograph, Historian liaison: after the Historian submitted her report she notified Councilmember Tipograph that she wrote 2023 in her report when it should have 2024.

Josh Young – SPC: Josh reported that the committee is asking the Town Board to direct a working group to establish a Mount Lebanon Historic Zone, including boundaries focused on historic lands along Darrow Road, require property owners to meet sensible and practical design standards including making reasonable efforts to preserve the historic buildings and landscape, to offer property owners expanded uses to generate the income necessary to meet these standards and make these efforts, and to charge the Planning Board with administering these conditions.

Supervisor Houghtling responded that their recommendation is that the board extend a moratorium that does not exist. Josh replied, that they would like it put back in place or be recreated. Supervisor Houghtling, stated that Darrow has committed to run for another year, they can only do a moratorium for twelve months or an extension of six months. She stated, at a prior public input session there was a lot of public input and this is not going to be a quick process. The purpose of the moratorium is that there is an urgent need, such as a building being demolished and she is not currently aware of one at this time.

Councilmember Skerkis commented, he thought they had already discussed this and had decided that there is nothing to do. He stated, the Abode is good, Darrow School is good, he does not feel that government needs to get involved at this moment. Supervisor Houghtling responded, that was the consensus at that time prior to the incoming Board members taking their seats on the board. She commented, that was her as the Town Supervisor meeting with the incoming board members to bring them up to speed on things. Now in public as an elected board, they are revisiting that

conversation. Supervisor Houghtling stated, that she still feels that way and it sounds like Councilmember Skerkis still feels that way too.

Councilmember Kroboth asked Josh Young, Shaker Preservation Committee (SPC) Chair if he feels that there is an imminent threat right now? She stated, she has similar concerns as Supervisor Houghtling and does not want to use up the twelve months now, if they can wait to put a moratorium in place at a time when they really need it. Josh Young, SPC replied that he thinks starting the working group sooner than later is more important than reestablishing a moratorium.

Councilmember Tipograph stated, she agrees about waiting on the moratorium, they can start it in five or six months if they think that something is going to happen, and then they have the twelve months to do it. She stated, she has asked for something specific to discuss, she believes in preservation but what does it mean in terms of what the town should do, the cost, where the money would come from, who's going to do it, etc. Josh Young, SPC replied they SPC has heard that and they have offered what they have done as a result. They now have a set of goals that will guide the committees work, and next steps forward.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she thinks they are good on the moratorium. With regard to the working group, she has a clarification to Ted Salem, ZRC Chair and Shaker Preservation because this report stated that the ZRC also voted to approve this statement. Ted Salem, ZRC Chair responded no, there was no vote taken, he is not sure where that came from. Ted stated, he believes he is reflecting the views of the ZRC Committee but not via a vote at a ZRC meeting.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, at the last public meeting that was held, she had thought they already formed a working group and the SPC and the ZRC are that working group and the board had tasked them to respond the public's questions and need for clarification from that meeting. Then they would hold another public session to address their concerns.

Josh Young, SPC replied that the committee thinks it is important for everyone to understand that there is a balance between preservation and uses that can support that preservation.

Ted Salem, commented that the ZRC has been looking for guidance from the Town Board as to policy. Once the Town Board communicates what they are looking for then the ZRC and the Shaker Preservation Committee can meet together.

The board, Ted, and Josh continued further discussion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Powers, seconded by Supervisor Houghtling, and approved unanimously to approve the "Goals for Preserving Mount Lebanon" that was approved by unanimous vote of the Shaker Preservation Committee on Wednesday, January 31st, 2024. **See below

***Approved by unanimous vote of the Shaker Preservation Committee on Wednesday, January 31, 2024*

Goals for Preserving Mount Lebanon

The Importance: The Shaker buildings and their surroundings along Darrow Road on Mount Lebanon constitute a unique historical treasure for the Town of New Lebanon. In 1965, this local treasure, a Historic District known as the Mount Lebanon Shaker Society, was recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Then it earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and on the New York State Register of Historic Places in 1980. These are the official lists of our Nation's and our State's historic places worthy of preservation. The Shaker buildings and their cultural landscape provide a matchless insight into the Shaker way of organizing their community into "Families." Mount Lebanon has the remnants of five families: the North Family, the Church Family, the Center Family, the Second Family, and the South Family.

The Urgency: New Lebanon is still in the fortunate position to boast of this important legacy. But many of the buildings of the five Shaker Families have been barely maintained, and most of the owners of the properties are now under immediate financial duress. The cost of maintaining older structures like these Shaker buildings is an extremely expensive endeavor. Coupled with other factors, such as the COVID 19 crisis and its aftermath, we have reached a time when one or more of the owners may be forced to sell the whole or parts of their property, potentially resulting in sprawling residential development under the current zoning law for the area.

Our Goals: Our goals are consistent with the Town of New Lebanon's Comprehensive Plan. It emphasizes fostering our rural character, scenic beauty, natural resources, and cultural and historic heritage. Moreover, it specifies that we shall, "Preserve, make accessible, and if appropriate adaptively reuse historic resources, properties, and structures within the Town, in particular those associated with the Town's Shaker heritage."

Therefore, we encourage the Town of New Lebanon, with community input and support, to improve its zoning laws, to create other appropriate regulations, and to undertake other appropriate efforts that reflect the following nine goals:

- (1) Protect, preserve, and rehabilitate the Shaker buildings and architecture.*
- (2) Protect, preserve, and rehabilitate the Shaker cultural landscape, including the family clusters, ruins, fences, hitching posts, stone paths and walls, and other character-defining features.*
- (3) Protect and preserve the undeveloped lands, including the fields and woods, while understanding that achieving these goals may entail accepting limited and respectful development.*
- (4) Put the Shaker buildings and land to use in ways that are consistent with certain Shaker values that have enduring appeal, including simplicity, quality, community, hospitality, equality, and innovation.*
- (5) Keep the Shaker buildings, landscape, and lands reasonably accessible by the public.*
- (6) Share the history we've been fortunate to inherit with our own community and visitors.*
- (7) Avoid chemical pollution and minimize excess noise and light pollution.*
- (8) Maintain easy access through Darrow Road to nearby residential roads.*
- (9) Revisit these goals over time to ensure each one is appropriate and to consider adding new ones.***

Steve Powers, CSC Chair: Steve reported that the CSC has approval for the Cornell Grad Student who helped the town attain the silver level. She went over the hours for the project, it is an additional \$333.00 and he is looking for Town Board approval to pay.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skerkis to amend the contract from a not to exceed \$2,500 to a not to exceed \$2,833. 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

OLD BUSINESS:

ZBA Appointment:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph and approved unanimously to appoint Meghan Knoll to the ZBA with a vacant term to expire 12/31/2028.

Deputy Court Clerk Appointment:

Supervisor Houghtling, stated this is being tabled.

Introductory LL#8 of 2023 – Self Storage Units:

Supervisor Houghtling reported that she and Councilmember Powers came to an agreement between the two of them between the existing Introductory Local Law, making a few changes and sent it to the remaining Town Board members two weeks prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any questions due to the time sensitivity of the law and the moratorium. They did get feedback from the Town Attorney on questions that they had.

Councilmember Skerkis commented that he is not prepared to move on this because it is very involved and he has concerns that he would like to look into. He stated, he did not think there was a storage unit queued up and ready to go and no rush for storage units.

Supervisor Houghtling replied, there is an urgency, there is an existing storage unit that is queued up, and the day the moratorium expires, they will be submitting an application. She stated, the timing was made clear to the board and this was sent out two weeks in advance. If there were any questions, they were to be asked so that they had time to address them. She feels this is important to get adopted before the moratorium expires.

Councilmember Kroboth commented, she agrees with asking the Town Attorney to add a provision that if it is an existing storage unit, they are subject to the screening.

Supervisor Houghtling replied, that is the proposal. She then reviewed the proposal for the remaining Town Board members.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to send the amendments as prepared by Councilmember Powers and herself to the Town Attorney to prepare into Introductory

Local Law format to be introduced at the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Letters of Interest Received for Playground Design Committee:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they received two more letters of interest.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Skerkis who voted no, to add Casey Lambert and Hannah DeLisle-Stall to the Playground Design Committee.

A conversation was had regarding the legal definition of what a Recreation Commission should be tasked with and the current Recreation Commission and what they are actually responsible for doing.

New Town Website Proposal:

Supervisor Houghtling reported we have a new website. She stated, at the last month's meeting, Councilmember Powers as Sharon Power's husband recused himself and left the room and the Town Board entered into a contract with Sharon Powers for website maintenance for the new website at a flat rate for Sharon do perform all of the required maintenance.

Supervisor Houghtling reported, she attended a training that discussed General Municipal Law, Article 18 Conflicts, and the recusal cannot cure the conflict. According to what was learned at training, that contract for maintenance may or may not be accurate, that contract was null and void, and it did not get entered into according to what Association of Town told her. No action needs to be taken if the contract is null and void. The town has a preexisting contract with Sharon Powers from before her husband was on the Town Board. You are allowed to continue preexisting contracts. The old contract is on an hourly rate, the maintenance billing will be on the old contract.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that in a brief conversation with the Town Attorney, he estimated 1-2 hours of research, and he felt there could be a potential caveat. Supervisor Houghtling stated, she feels strongly, between the potential conflict with Councilmember Kroboth working for Darcy Construction and the website conflict, she would like to definitively know the answer from the Town Attorney.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to approve the Town Attorney, Jon Tingley up to 4 hours to look into the two GML – Article 18 potential conflicts and get the town a definitive answer in writing that the board can with regarding whether

they actually are conflicts or whether they can recuse and continue on these votes.
The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Town Hall Security:

Supervisor Houghtling reported, at the last meeting, each Board member was tasked at speaking to each department they worked with in the Town Hall, all of the employees seemed okay with the front door getting unlocked with no added security measures at this time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Powers, seconded by Councilmember Kroboth and approved unanimously to unlock the doors during business hours.

Summer Camp Rates & Discussion:

Councilmember Tipograph, reported last month there was a proposal for what the rates were going to be for the New Lebanon Summer Camp. There were questions raised about the deficit of the cost to the taxpayers between the revenues that were taken in and the expenses of running the camp. They were asked to look at other towns to see what their policies and fees were. Councilmember Tipograph looked at New Lebanon and twelve other towns in Columbia County. New Lebanon was the most expensive camp in the county. She continued to report on the information she gathered.

**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
RESOLUTION # 9, 2024
SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM FEES
February 13, 2024**

At the Regular Monthly Meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22, New Lebanon, New York, duly called and held on the 13th day of February 2024, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by Councilmember Tipograph
Seconded by Councilmember Powers

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM FEES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the New Lebanon Town Board hereby establishes the following rates and fees for the eight-week Town of New Lebanon Summer Youth Program:

Early Registration Fees (*discounted 20% if final payment is received by June 5th*):

Resident (Town taxes paid to New Lebanon):

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1 child	\$384/season
2 children	\$576/season
3 children	\$706/season
4+ children	\$802/season

Local Non-resident (Town taxes not paid to New Lebanon, School taxes paid to NLCSD):

1 child	\$810/season
2 children	\$1,200/season
3 children	\$1,620/season
4+ children	\$1,920/season

Non-resident (Town taxes not paid to New Lebanon; School taxes not paid to NLCSD):

Per child	\$1,620/season
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Registration Fees:

Resident (Town taxes paid to New Lebanon):

1 child	\$600/season
2 children	\$900/season
3 children	\$1,102/season
4+ children	\$1,252/season

Local Non-resident (Town taxes not paid to New Lebanon, School taxes paid to NLCSD):

1 child	\$1,013/season
2 children	\$1,500/season
3 children	\$2,025/season
4+ children	\$2,400/season

Non-resident (Town taxes not paid to New Lebanon; School taxes not paid to NLCSD):

Per child	\$2,025; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a weekly fee option is available that is the relevant season cost divided by 8 and multiplied by 2. Discretion is given to the Summer Camp Director as to how many weekly enrollments are allowed with a first come, first serve basis.

Applications must specify what week they are signing up for. It is the right of the Summer Camp Director to refuse any weekly enrollments based on overall enrollment and staffing levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, these fees are due at the time of registration and they are non-refundable, unless the Town of New Lebanon cancels the Summer Youth Program prior to the program commencing for that season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the fees for participation in other on-site and off-site programs and field trips will be determined by the Camp Director based on the cost of the program/field trip; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the registration fee(s) will be reduced by 10% for the children of Town of New Lebanon employees.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted

“Aye” or “Nay” for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Steve Powers	Aye
Councilmember Elizabeth Kroboth	Aye
Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling	Aye
Councilmember Susan Tipograph	Aye
Councilmember Craig Skerkis	Aye

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: February 13, 2024
Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk

Telecommunications Update – PB or TB Review:

Supervisor Houghtling, stated the outgoing Town Board wanted Telecommunications under the new code, which they are working on with Attorney Campanelli to fall under the Planning Board. She stated, the board felt strongly that the Planning Board knows SEQRA and reviews such as this, the Town Board does not. Before moving forward with paying any more time to developing it, she wanted to make sure that this new Town Board agrees.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kroboth, seconded by Supervisor Houghtling, and approved unanimously that the applications go to the Planning Board.

Volunteer Firefighter Exemption:

Supervisor Houghtling reported, no actions needs to be taken.

Summer Camp Health Director:

Supervisor Houghtling reported last year's health director notified her that she cannot do it this year. The position requires a valid nursing license. Supervisor Houghtling stated, there may need to be a budget amendment for this position. Year's back the position was held by an individual who volunteered their services, the last individual held the position in trade for no charge summer camp for their child.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Skerkis, and approved unanimously to go out for letters of interest for Summer Camp Health Director, with letters of interest due March 8th, 2024 by 4:00pm.

Pro-Housing Communities Designation:

Supervisor Houghtling reported New Lebanon was one of the first twenty municipalities to be designated a pro-housing community. This allows us to apply for funding that NYS set aside to help municipalities increase housing stock through programs such as NY Main St, NY Forward, and more. This could potentially help us draw a developer to want to build in NL as we do not have a lot of curb appeal without infrastructure such as water and sewer. Supervisor Houghtling explained in greater detail what this designation could mean for New Lebanon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pharmacy Funding Through Congressional CPF (Used To Be Called Earmark):

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she has been working with the pharmacy, Congressman Molinaro, Senator Gillibrand and the CEDC to help access federal funding, initial letters of interest are due by 2/28. The Congressman feels that the strongest application is for the Town to be the applicant. Similar to the Congressional earmark we received for broadband, the municipality would apply for help filling a healthcare access gap and then contract with the pharmacy to provide the services and receive the funding to make it happen. The CEDC can help with the administration and heavy lifting as they did with the broadband funding.

There was further discussion held with the Town Board members and Mike Tucker, President of the CEDC.

A motion was made by Councilmember Powers to authorize the Supervisor to apply on behalf of the town for the CPF funding. 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

Policy Review – Social Media Use Policy and Firearms & Dangerous Weapons Policy:

The Town Board held discussion regarding the Firearms & Dangerous Weapons Policy. Supervisor Houghtling will reach out to the HR Attorney to draft an amended version of the policy.

The Town Board held discussion regarding the Social Media Use Policy. This policy review was tabled.

Highway 284 Agreement:

Tabled.

Highway Truck Repair Estimate:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, the prior Town Board had previously approved up to \$15,000 or \$20,000 to repair what was thought to be a broken engine. The Highway Superintendent brought the truck somewhere else that can fix the truck for \$5,021.94, and this vendor would like to not wait until the March meeting to have the invoice paid.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skerkis to authorize the Supervisor to sign the estimate and to pay on an interim voucher when the work is done. 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

Highway Equipment Surplus & Bid Request:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, the Highway Superintendent has five pieces of equipment that he would like declared surplus and go out to bid.

A motion was made by Councilmember Skerkis, seconded by Councilmember Powers, and approved unanimously to declare the following five highway items; one used 2011 Ford F550 VIN# 1FDUF5HTXBEA25937, with a stainless steel dump body, one used 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 surplus and authorize going out to bid via the newspaper, with bids due on or before March 8th, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Highway Garage:

The Town Board started discussion for a new or renovated highway garage. This would be a long-term project. The Town Board has already set up a Capital Fund for town buildings that could be designated for this project if and when it happens.

Highway Request for West Lebanon Property:

Highway Superintendent McCagg discussed that he would like to have a satellite sand location for the winter closer to the west end of town. He feels that it would be beneficial to the residents, less wear and tear on the town highway equipment, and less time spent for labor. He is considering a property on County 9. The board held discussion and all agreed for the Supervisor to first reach out to Association of Towns.

Resolution for Traffic Safety Study:

TOWN OF NEW LEBANON

RESOLUTION #10, 2024

REQUEST TO CONDUCT A SAFETY STUDY AND SPEED STUDY ON ROUTE 20 NEAR THE LEBANON VALLEY SPEEDWAY

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 NYS Route 22, New Lebanon, New York, duly called and held on the 13th day of February 2024, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by Councilmember Tipograph
Seconded by Supervisor Houghtling

CALLING ON THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NYS DOT) TO PERFORM A SAFETY STUDY AND SPEED STUDY ON ROUTE 20 NEAR THE LEBANON VALLEY SPEEDWAY IN NEW LEBANON, NY

WHEREAS, an accident occurred in 2023 on Route 20 near the Lebanon Valley Speedway in which a vehicle struck and killed 2 pedestrians, and

WHEREAS, since this is a US Route, the Town of New Lebanon has no discretion nor authority over traffic safety measures, maintenance or upkeep of this road, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation has full authority and discretion regarding this section of road, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon would like the New York State Department of Transportation to conduct a safety study at this location to determine if there are extra safety measures that could be put in place, and

WHEREAS, the needs of this location vary based on whether or not the Lebanon Valley Speedway is operating and therefore the Town sees a need for the New York State Department of Transportation to conduct 2 safety studies, one when the track is in operation and one when the track is not operating.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon does hereby call on the New York State Department of Transportation to conduct 2 safety studies on Route 20 near the Lebanon Valley Speedway with 1 safety study to be conducted when the track is in operation and 1 safety study to be conducted when the track is not operating.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted “Aye” or “Nay” for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Steven Powers	Aye
Councilmember Elizabeth Kroboth	Aye
Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling	Aye
Councilmember Susan Tipograph	Aye
Councilmember Craig Skerkis	Aye

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: February 13, 2024
Marcie Robertson, Town Clerk
Town of New Lebanon

Removal of Committee Members for Lack of Required Training:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, the town has a required annual training for both workplace violence and sexual harassment. There are four volunteer committee members and two highway employees who are part-time, on-call that did not complete the training. Supervisor Houghtling reported that she spoke to the highway employees today, they are interested and never got the memo. They will be given another month to complete the required training.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she spoke to the volunteer committee chair, Josh Young of the BEDC and the Shaker Preservation Committee and the members who have not completed the training are not active members of these committees. A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Skerkis, and approved unanimously to remove Mitch Kelleher, Jack Lancto, and Steve Abramson from the BEDC and Jerome Shereda from the SPC due to the lack of required training.

Tennis Court Bathrooms Renovation – Engineer Quote & Go Out to Bid:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, this is something that the outgoing Town Board voted for renovations. Supervisor Houghtling gave a recap of what was discussed prior to the new Town Board members. The board agreed to table this item and the board members look over the existing bathrooms.

Existing Splash Pad Renovations – Go Out to Bid:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, the outgoing Town Board had approved the engineer, Paul McCreary to do designs to renovate the existing splash pad

and is prepared to have the bid documents to the Town Clerk by February 23rd.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph and approved unanimously to go out to bid on the renovation of the existing splash pad, with bids due on or before April 5th, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Outreach & Marketing Committee – Go Out For Letters of Interest:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they are a busy committee and would like more members.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Skerkis and approved unanimously to go out for letters of interest for people wanting to join the Outreach & Marketing Committee with letters of interest due by March 8th, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Recreation Commission Letter of Interest:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, there are currently two vacancies and have received one letter of interest.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Powers and approved unanimously to appoint Kimberly Favre to the Recreation Commission with a vacant term to expire 12/31/2030.

CSC Resignations & Resolution Reducing Number of Members:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they have received two resignations.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Kroboth and approved unanimously to accept the resignations from Deborah Gordon and Winfried Fuchshofen from the CSC.

**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
RESOLUTION #11 2024
RECREATION OF THE CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held in person, duly called and held on the 13th day of February 2024, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by Supervisor Houghtling
Seconded by Councilmember Tipograph

RECREATION OF THE CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Town of New Lebanon took the Climate Smart Communities Pledge in February of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Town established a Climate Smart Communities Task Force in 2020 with 11 members that included members of the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council, the NL Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council, a member of the Town Board and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Town received 2 resignations in 2024 from the Climate Smart Communities Task Force and the Task Force recommended that the Town decrease the membership of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force to 10 members, leaving 1 vacant seat instead of filling both vacant positions; and

WHEREAS, the NL Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council and 3 members of the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council have agreed to serve on the Climate Smart Task Force with the NL Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council serving as the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator and a member of the Town’s Conservation Advisory Council serving as the Chair; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Communities Chair position shall serve as the single point person to serve as liaison among the governing body and chief executive and shall have a commitment to local climate action, good communication and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to motivate volunteers and the ability to manage relationships among elected officials, municipal staff and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Communities Chair position shall serve as liaison among task force members and chair all climate smart task force meetings and shall have a commitment to local climate action, good communication and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to motivate volunteers and the ability to manage relationships among volunteers.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon hereby reestablishes the Climate Smart Task Force with the following members and positions:

- Bruce Shenker – CSC Coordinator and NL Rep to CC Enviro Mgt Council
- Steve Powers – CSC Chair, elected Town Board member and CAC Rep
- Robert Gilson – CAC Rep
- Elizabeth Poreba – Member of the Public
- Cathy Wilkerson – Member of the Public
- Adelia Moore – Member of the Public
- Kristine Cottom – Member of the Public
- Frieda Pearce – Member of the Public
- Julie Fraad– Member of the Public
- Open Vacant Seat – Member of the Public

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted “Aye” or “Nay” for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Steven Powers	Aye
Councilmember Elizabeth Kroboth	Aye
Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling	Aye
Councilmember Susan Tipograph	Aye
Councilmember Craig Skerkis	Aye

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: Feb 13, 2024
Marcie Robertson
Town Clerk
Town of New Lebanon

DEC Request to be Lead Agency on SEQRA Review in Teal/Brent Sand Pit Application for a Modification:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they received an email from DEC requesting to be the lead agency. In her experience they have always been the lead agency, they are more knowledgeable about potential environmental concerns.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Powers and approved unanimously to allow the DEC to be lead agency on the Teal/Brent sand pit application with them including the CAC for input.

COMPLETION OF COURT AUDIT:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, they started the Court audit and there were documents that they were unable to locate. Supervisor Houghtling reported, she reached out to the prior Court Clerk and she responded, she printed the reports each month if there were errors and then she shredded them after she took care of it. Before the audit, she would print the most recent report for audit. Nothing in the procedure had changed, she was not there to prepare for the audit, and she normally would have had that report printed.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, moving forward, the new Court Clerk now knows that those reports need to be kept. She stated, they looked back since she was the Clerk, nothing was on record. Per Supervisor Houghtling, the prior Court Clerk reported that after each audit, she would shred those reports. They are supposed to be kept on file for six years.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, on the Court audit, for the question asking if information is reported timely to T-Sled, they will have to answer unknown, because they have nothing to go by. On the question asking are the reports from T-Sled to the Court maintained and utilized, they will answer no. The other questions pertaining to T-Sled reports will be answered unknown.

COUNCILMEMBER SKERKIS'S AGENDA REQUESTS:

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she did this agenda item this way because she does not typically get a slew of agenda requests from Town Board members. She stated, she makes the agenda collaboratively with the Town Clerk. She

commented that Councilmember Skerkis has had a list of agenda items for both meetings to date, so she is giving him his own section to talk about. Members of the board commented that some of these items have already been addressed in the meeting.

Councilmember Skerkis reported on his agenda item requests.

1. Review Supervisor change in job from part-time to full-time.

Councilmember Skerkis commented he wants to be clear that this is not an attack on Supervisor Houghtling. He is aware that she does a lot. His main concern is the imbalance of power. Councilmember Skerkis stated, his request is not to reverse the full-time status, he would like to better understand it and the need for it. He stated, back in November of 2023, at a meeting he had asked what the difference was and if the job was getting done when it was a part-time Supervisor. A prior board member told him the job has changed. Councilmember Skerkis stated, now he is here on the board and he is asking again, what has changed? He stated, the statutory requirements for the Supervisor have not changed. What has changed? He stated, it is not a witch hunt, people are writing in and asking because they want to know what has changed.

Supervisor Houghtling replied, she thought she compiled an email to the entire board with a ton of documentation.

Councilmember Skerkis replied, thirty documents and all of which, the job description for the Supervisor was the statutory requirements. He stated, there was no change from 2020 that he saw.

Councilmember Tipograph commented, the statutory stuff may not have changed but the work that is being done by the Supervisor's office in her mind has changed. She does not feel this is a productive conversation to have at 9:20pm.

Councilmember Skerkis, replied of course not, it was clearly designed to be that way.

Councilmember Skerkis, replied part of the problem, no disrespect to him, he asks for certain discussion to have, all of which she is happy to have in a productive and forward looking way. She needed more clarification from Councilmember Skerkis on some of his agenda items and then she thinks they can have important conversations on ethics and such in a way that is productive and intended to resolve the problem in a way where they all feel like participants in a collegial governance of the Town of New Lebanon.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, she would ask Councilmember Skerkis what he is looking for. Because, when she sent her retirement calendars, you will see a lot more than the statutory requirements such as grant application, working on getting a pharmacy, attracting businesses, working on town emergency situations as needed, and these are things that other supervisor do not do and these are things that are not statutorily required. If he is looking for a list of things that she does that are not a statutory requirement, she is happy to provide that. She thought what she provided the board is what they were looking for.

Councilmember Skerkis, replied he knows and appreciates that. The question that he has is, the many things that she does outside of the statutory requirements of the position, do they want to pay for that.

Supervisor Houghtling responded, that is a totally different question.

Councilmember Skerkis, replied that is the question. He is being asked by people what exactly is going on. We are getting grants for many different things, he personally thinks a lot of money is being spent. He discussed what rural means to different people from different backgrounds. He stated, rural to him means less government, it does not mean a lot of grants. New York State is the number one highest taxed state in the nation, he has a problem with that. He would love for New Lebanon to be a guiding light of conservatism and how to get it done without spending a bunch of other people's money. He stated forever the supervisor was part-time, now it is full-time and he'd like to know if it is necessary. He does not think he is alone.

Supervisor Houghtling replied, to clarify, those timings match up perfectly. You cannot reduce any elected officials salary mid-term, her term is up 12/31/2025. She stated, his question is not is the supervisor sitting around twiddling her thumbs, his question is do we want all of these grants and all of these things. Councilmember Skerkis replied, exactly. Supervisor Houghtling continued, there is no conversation for this board to have. The board that is in office November of 2025 that adopts the budget for 2026 will then make the determination do they think getting of these grants and everything is worth it and that board can then make that decision. She stated, the people get to have a say too, because that is also when she is up for election. She stated, she ran on being a full-time Supervisor, bringing a community center, things for our young people, enhancing our business, and everything that she is working really hard on right now she ran on and got elected on. She stated, if next year in November, the majority of the voting public says that is not what they want anymore, then they get that say at the polls. The budget is not

adopted until after the election because then the board can make necessary changes to the budget based on the winning candidate of the position and what they plan to do with it, keeping it full-time or changing it to part-time.

Councilmember Kroboth commented, that they need a job description that encompasses everything that Supervisor Houghtling is doing in her full-time roll. If in the future she were to not run again or a new Supervisor were to be elected, they should have a description of what full-time looks like for that position versus the legal statutory requirements that would be done by a part-time supervisor.

2. Review FOIL Appeal determination from town board to solely supervisor per Dec 12 2023 meeting. There are so few of these, I will move to reverse this decision.

Councilmember Skerkis stated, he feels the whole board should look at FOIL appeals. He wants to change the appeal office from just the Supervisor back to the entire board as the appeal officer.

Supervisor Houghtling replied that the change was adopted by a local law, the only way to change it would be again by a local law. She further explained that when the town got its first FOIL appeal and she contacted the Town Attorney, he was confused that it was the town board. It is called a FOIL Appeal Officer. An officer is not a board, it is an individual. She stated, in every other town, the FOIL Appeal Officer is one person, most often the Supervisor. Attorney Tingley strongly recommended that the board change it from the board to the Supervisor. Supervisor Houghtling stated, any time we get a FOIL appeal, it is the attorney that prepares the decision. She asked about this in training and she was told the attorney could be the appeal officer, he prepares it anyway. If they decide to do anything different, there will be the cost of a new local law.

There was discussion held and clarification made on FOIL and what an appeal is based on. It was agreed to table this.

3. Municipal ethics training from Sarah Brancantella shows potential violations currently with supervisor and bookkeeper positions. It removes a check and balance.

Councilmember Skerkis stated that he did not attend this training but the information was given to him from Councilmember Powers. He stated, he looked it over and talked about the topic of subordinate and that one position cannot be subordinate to the other, you cannot be the boss of yourself. He is asking if the Supervisor can be her own bookkeeper.

Supervisor Houghtling responded, you cannot be your own bookkeeper. She stated, she used to have a bookkeeper, the Supervisor appoints that bookkeeper. If the Town Board creates a bookkeeper position, it is only the Supervisor that appoints them. She stated, she cannot appoint herself as the bookkeeper. Councilmember Skerkis stated, he thought she just did. The Supervisor responded, no the town eliminated the position of bookkeeper and took the salary of the bookkeeper and brought it into the Supervisor. Councilmember Skerkis stated, his concern was not about the money, it was about if they were in violation. Supervisor Houghtling responded, they are not in violation.

4. Social Media policy IV C.1. Needs review.

This was discussed prior in the meeting and tabled.

5. Recreation Commission - per 2004 establishment, is this intact?

Councilmember Skerkis stated, they have talked a little about the Recreation Commission and they are going to discuss it further and either marry the law to the situation or modify the law.

Supervisor Houghtling responded, that she, Councilmember Skerkis, and Abbie Shoobs, Chair will get together and go over it.

6. Committee purpose- review the purpose of the committees, which are mandatory, which are new creations? What is the directive from the board as a deliverable?

Councilmember Skerkis stated, there are a lot of committees, and he is curious, there is a mission statement in place for many of them. If the board is tasking the committees with projects, like tonight with Ted Salem, ZRC they need some deliverables and a timeline in place to prevent things from going on forever without real concrete completion timelines.

Councilmember Tipograph stated, that was the agenda item of Councilmember Skerkis's that she understood the least. She asked if he wanting to re-look at all of the committees.

Councilmember Skerkis replied, maybe this already exists. Case in point the Outreach & Marketing Committee, what is the necessity for that committee, what is the deliverable, what are they asking that committee to do for them. He commented, having been in business himself for a long time, work will expand to fill the time allowed. Why does the government need to be involved in that?

Councilmember Tipograph responded, the problem she has with that, part of the function in her mind of what the committees serve in this

community is to get the power of the hundreds of volunteers in the town that do work. There has to be some form to do it in. There are a million things that people do, if you want to make it more clarified then you have to talk to the committees and look at what they are doing, do they want them to expand. She stated, the committees in her mind are the lifeblood of the town because it involves hundreds or people, which is what is most exciting to her about living here. She stated, it started during the food giveaway during the pandemic, all of these people came out and did all of these things that helps to empower the population of New Lebanon to participate in the civic community life of this organization. She does not have a problem with trying to better define what the committees are doing, but not to challenge the committees to stop doing work, even if it is not the most productive, they are engaging people in doing work to support a community that they care about and love.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, most committees have a mission statement that the Town Board has approved.

CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS TRAINING:

The Town of Canaan and the Canaan Fire Company are planning to offer a Citizens Preparedness Training in the spring to their residents and they want to invite New Lebanon to co-sponsor the event.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Tipograph and approved unanimously to co-sponsor the Citizen Preparedness Training that the Town of Canaan is putting on and advertise to our community accordingly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MARCH:

Tuesday, March 12th, 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.

Margaret Robertson: Meg gave an update on the Historic Railroad Depot Committee. No toxicity of the building has been performed.

Jim Carroll: Jim spoke on the action plan that is within the Comprehensive Plan and who is maintaining the updates. He also commented on job descriptions.

Raymona Griffin: Raymona acknowledged the Supervisor having to read all of the privilege of the floor emails. She commented that the thought of a new board member being told or expected to shut up and listen is very rude and disrespectful.

She also commented about the go fund me for the pharmacy. Raymona also asked questions regarding the Supervisor bookkeeper position.

Peter McCagg: Pete asked question regarding the splash pad project and the start date of the project. He also asked about who maintains the park equipment and is it being done. He spoke about living in a rural community and being independent.

Kris Cottom: Kris spoke about rural community.

Josh Young: Josh commented that he likes the idea of minimizing concrete in the park.

Mr. Muadin: Mr. Muadin went over the emails and the attachments he has submitted about cell towers and microwave radiation poisoning.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the meeting at 9:54pm. 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

ADDITIONAL EMAIL PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Houghtling stated there were emails that came in at the end of the meeting for privilege of the floor. The meeting has already been adjourned but Supervisor Houghtling stated them into the recording.

JoAnna Phillips: JoAnna commented on the Supervisor's salary.

Rick Stall: Rick commented on the bookkeeper position and the salary.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk