

Assessor

Exemptions –

Reminder all exemption renewals and new exemptions are due by March 1, 2025

Assessments -

Each year the Assessor and the State go through a pre-decisional process in regards to the Level of Assessment and upcoming equalization rate. As you may remember, I attended the Jan. Board meeting to discuss small yearly changes to the assessments to maintain 100% level of assessment. The decision was made to do our best to keep assessments current in between the Reassessment years. Because we were only off by a couple of percentages, we were able to keep the level for the 2025 roll at 100% with no overall changes. However, there will be a need to make small changes next year to keep up. Currently, the office is working on all the work needed to produce the 2025 roll.

The assessor will be in attendance at the March 7th Seniors Meeting to discuss any tax related questions that the Seniors have.

Building Department

No report

Business & Economic Development

No report

Outreach & Marketing

No report

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC:

Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSP2) - The CAC has paused tests for a couple of months and will get back to it soon - to date we have done 148 tests. The CAC is working with DWSP2 office on next steps and keeping the plan up to date. Reminder that testing is 100% voluntary by residents. We are interested in information on anything concerning residents, like things that have been buried or dumped uphill/upstream from their wells. Please reach out to nlcac.munves@gmail.com to get on the water testing list

Joint BEDC and Conservation Advisory Council Wastewater Feasibility Study -

The joint BEDC and CAC committee on Wastewater and Muni water is finalizing a draft survey that is for all participating property owners. This will help assess more in depth

concerns on waste and water issues along the business corridor and surrounding streets as needed. For the study, Lamont Engineers will use water test results along the business corridor to get a better picture of water quality and concerns. Feasibility study is in progress and the next steps are on this month's agenda.

Open Space Inventory (OSI) - The NL CAC is working with the newly created County Conservation plan and our OSI will be folded into that; more info to come

Trees for Tribs - CAC volunteers will continue to monitor trees in 2025 and we will work with the Rec Committee to see if we can get more volunteers. Town Board Member Amlaw met with Mr Zema last summer and shared that he recommends leaving tubes on for a while longer since most of the tree trunks are not strong enough yet to withstand wind etc. Note that this has 0 to do with having tubes on for too long, as many have commented to us. The tubes do a great job of allowing light and rain in. The plants themselves are just small right now but are growing a lot.

Stream Erosion in Shattford Park - We are getting an assessment in order to make the best recommendations we can make to the TB about fixing the erosion. DEC's Christine Vanderlan is helping us by sharing information on other projects like this one as well as funding sources. We hope to have information for the Town Board by April if not earlier.

The Conservation Advisory Council is Bill O'Neill, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Donald Lamonaca, Bruce Shenker, and Bob Gilson. NOTE: Meeting time has moved - we meet on the second Monday of the month at 5PM now.



CSC:

The heat pumps that we received a NYSERDA grant for are now installed at the Community Center. The battery backups which we also received a grant for will be installed soon inside the building and the solar panels will be put up on the roof as soon as the weather permits.

LVPA Chief Stephen Houghtling has graciously volunteered to assess and potentially repair the existing backup generator at the Community Center. Once repaired, the generator will be linked to the battery backups to provide a continuous power supply if an outage lasts for days.

The CSC Battery recycling program has collection boxes in 5 locations in town and to date has recycled 1301 lbs of batteries that would have gone into landfills otherwise.

The water tank that the CSC assisted getting a grant for in the new Firehouse is finally being delivered in the next few weeks. The tank is a rain harvest type which involves using drainage from the Firehouse roof to supplement the other sources including the well and nearby stream. Last Fall's drought has reinforced the need for a storage tank to ensure there is sufficient water to fight multiple fires simultaneously.

The CSC plastic recycling program has taken in 763 lbs since we started collecting. Thanks to all residents who continue to bring their clean plastic film to the box at Town Hall.

EMC:

No report

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency

Fire Calls and Activities – January 2025

- 1/2/2025 Alarm Activation 1 person .11hr
- 1/4/2025 Alarm Activation 6 people 2.16hr
- 1/7/2025 Mutual Aid 4 people 18hr
- 1/13/2025 Drill 7 people 14hr
- 1/17/2025 Alarm Activation 4 people 4.08hr
- 1/18/2025 Standby 2 people 0hr
- 1/18/2025 Mutual Aid 6 people 6hr
- 1/19/2025 AAPI 4 people 1.48hr
- 1/20/2025 Alarm Activation 2 people .18hr
- 1/20/2025 Drill 5 people 10hr
- 1/23/2025 Alarm Activation 3 people 1.5hr
- 1/28/2025 Mutual Aid 4 people 10.36hr
- 1/30/2025 Electrical odor 4 people 1.12hr
- 1/31/2025 Alarm Activation 2 people 2.18hr

54 people & 71.17 hours

- Mutual Aid- 3
- Standby-1
- AAPI-1

- Alarm activation – 6
 - Indoor electrical odor-1
- 12 alarms**

- Drills – 2

Highway

No report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

No report

LVHS:

No report

Justice Court

No report

Library

No report

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

Buildings:

No report

Parks:

No report

Recreation Commission:

No report.

Seniors

The advisory council has met and is continuing to work on the survey. The executive group will meet with Nina and develop some committees to help with her work. New members were introduced from Canaan and Kinderhook.

The New Lebanon Seniors are meeting once a month for January and February on the third Friday with soup and sandwiches. They played bingo in January and will be doing so again in February. Starting in March they will meet twice a month with speakers at the meetings or programs. Trips start in April. The event coordinator has joined with event coordinators from other Senior groups to plan

more trips and to decrease the cost. To see the event calendar and other information on the Lebanon Valley Seniors Facebook page and the Senior section on the New Lebanon web site.

Traffic Safety

Projects for 2025 by the State and County highway departments are being discussed and reviewed. NYSDOT is looking into speeding and parking issues at the Love's Truck Stop, be aware of new signage. The State DOT will be addressing the potholes on RT 20 by the elementary school. I will be giving the principal at the elementary school some new ideas for traffic safety education from AAA. The County Highway supervisor is joining other supervisors to meet with Governor Hochul regarding her plan which provides for state highway funding but no funding for state and local roads which comes through the CHIPS program and others. California has withdrawn their Carbon Act, and it is expected that New York will follow which will allow municipalities to purchase vehicles without emissions requirements. Election of officers were held, and the present officers were reelected.

Volunteers

No report

Quality of Life

No report

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

I am pleased to report that the ZRC has submitted two proposals to the Town Board for its consideration. The first is a series of zoning recommendations, anchored by a more formal proposal for zoning changes for the new Central Commercial zone. Also included in this package are proposals related to refining the definition of a cemetery and related regulations; and other miscellaneous fixes.

The second proposal represents telecommunications code changes, drafted by the attorney retained by the board, Andrew Campanelli. After a period of inactivity, members of the ZRC met with him to continue adapting the draft to the town's specific situation. We have obtained from him possible dates for a community forum. To maximize resident involvement in that forum, the draft should be posted online. I anticipate that the committee will be engaged into finalizing these recommendations, following board and resident input, into local law format. When that is completed, the committee will pivot to updating the town comprehensive plan, as directed by the board.

Community Center/Free Store Update

The entire Community Center saw approximately 920 people walk through its doors for the month of January. The breakdown is as follows:

Free Store	537
Game Room	211
Jam Session	12
Red Cross	24
Seniors	75
Town Q&A	60

Many thanks to the new volunteer crew at the Free Store. It's been a couple of weeks and I think we all have a good rhythm and system going. Our new co-coordinator is working out beautifully. She's so friendly and engaging and everyone really likes her. We are very lucky to have her representing us. New things are always happening at the center. We've made a "cozy corner" in the main dining room with couches and a chess table for those who want to hang out but not in the main game room itself. It's a nice place to sit back with a cup of coffee and a book while still being in the mix of things. Come check it out!

The first of the monthly acoustic jam sessions was held on the 16th. I highly recommend you drop in and enjoy this unique event. It is a joy to hear live music there. The Seniors had a very well attended meeting with soup, sandwiches and Bingo. We are using the big TV to display the Bingo board and we look oh so professional now. It was a fun time!

The Red Cross has informed me that they had a very successful Blood Drive. They collected 24 units and they had a goal of 25. Thank you to everyone who gave blood. We have another one on March 15 and I'd love to have them exceed their goal this time. So, if you can, please sign up. There is a shortage and our help is desperately needed. The Center also hosted a Potluck and a Q&A on the Sidewalks.

We had one minor setback with a burst pipe on 1/21. We had to close the Free Store that day but we were back up and running by the next day.

February is jam packed with both private and community events. There's a special Friday night Potluck for Valentine's Day so if you're looking for something to do, whip something up and come on down! We'd love to see you!

Shaker Preservation Committee

No report

County Update

No report

Depot Committee

No report