

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP / SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Joanne Amlaw, Councilmember
Scout Metzler, Councilmember
Steve Powers, Councilmember
Craig Skerkis, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha “Marcie” Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office For the Aging & Traffic Safety
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:02p.m. by Supervisor Houghtling.

TOWN CLERK PRESENTED BUDGET:

Town Clerk Robertson presented each Town Board member with a copy of the 2026 Tentative Town Budget.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, the October 10th meeting is when the board will go line by line and review the entire tentative budget. Supervisor Houghtling gave a brief overview. She stated, normally her tentative budget is exactly as requested by the departments, which would have amounted to a 47.62% tax increase, obviously that is not going to happen. Supervisor Houghtling explained that the tentative budget presented to the town board is a 0% tax increase. She explained how she got to the 0%. Supervisor Houghtling stated, any department that she was looking to make a large change to cut something out or bring something down, she met with all of those department heads. Everyone she met with was understanding.

Supervisor Houghtling explained that any .1 account change is because either the hours were over budgeted in 2025 and the person is not actually working that many hours, she put the accurate reflection of how many hours to be worked for the 2026 tentative budget. There were a few instances that were budgeted at a prior employee’s rate that is higher than the person currently doing the job. She explained, the A-1990.4 Temp. Line is where she builds in raises because she does not set raises without the entire board deciding on it. On October 27th, is when the board will discuss everything payroll. For the purpose of the tentative budget she had the accountant calculate what it would be to give every single payroll line a 3% increase, which is the \$16,852 on budget line A-1990.4 temp. Supervisor Houghtling reported that the federal COLA is currently estimated at 2.7 to 2.8.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to adjourn the budget workshop/special meeting at 5:09pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Metzler -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Amlaw -	Aye
Councilmember Skerkis -	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk