

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2026**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Joanne Amlaw, Councilmember
Chris Patterson, Councilmember
Steve Powers, Councilmember
Susan Tipograph, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha (Marcie) Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Jim Dawson, Outreach, Marketing & Communication
Committee Member
Jackie Howe, SYP Camp Director
JoAnna Phillips, Comprehensive Plan Committee Member
Darla Dobert, Deputy Court Clerk & Outreach, Marketing
& Communications Committee Member
Ron Nakovics, Comprehensive Plan Committee Member
Jim Carroll, Planning Board, ZRC & Comp Plan Member
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office of the Aging & Traffic
Safety
Ed Godfroy, LVPA & NL Rep to Emergency Mgmt.
Steve Houghtling, LVPA
Kellie McMillan, LVPA
Andrew Schrupp, LVPA
Corey Stall, LVPA
Cathy Shuhart, LV Seniors
Sharon Powers, IT Website Support, Shaker Preservation,
ZBA & Comprehensive Plan Committee Member, &
Outreach, Marketing & Communications Committee Co-
Chair
David McGinness, LV Seniors
William Shannon, LV Seniors President
Pat Metzler, Recreation Commission Member
Peter Flierl, Reporter Daily Gazette
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm 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

2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT & DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Houghtling gave a brief summary for clarification.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, no employee's payroll was cut except for a few who chose a voluntary reduction. If there is a lesser amount in the 2027 Tentative then was in the 2026 Budget, it is because that particular employee is only working the number of hours for that budgeted amount. The comptroller does not like to see budget lines not being used to their fullest budgeted amount and then put back into the budget the following year at that same inflated amount. We have to be accurate in payroll expenditures based on the actual number of hours being worked. The Court Clerk, Deputy Court Clerk, and PZ Clerk are departments that you can see a decrease in the payroll line. It is not due to an hourly rate reduction, and no hours have been cut. Supervisor Houghtling reported, she took hour's worked year to date through the end of August, divided by eight to get the average monthly hours worked, multiplied by twelve, and then added thirty to forty extra hours just in case it is a little busier next year.

Supervisor Houghtling stated it has been asked why she is cutting the highway budget. The 2027 Tentative budget presented does not cut the highway budget, it increases the highway budget from what the highway had in 2026. It is taking into account winter sand, which we need more of. What this tentative budget does not do is, it does not give an increase of \$312,000 which is what the budget request came in as from the highway department. In the mock budget that was sent out, there is a \$312,000 increase in the highway budget, the tentative budget does not do that, it is a \$15,000 increase in the tentative budget. There are no cuts being made to the highway budget.

Supervisor Houghtling explained, the public input session tonight is a new thing. The intention for tonight's public input session was to have the opportunity to hear from the public with ideas and feedback on the 2027 tentative budget before moving forward with the budget process. The Town Board listened and held discussions with those who contributed for privilege of the floor.

The following individuals spoke for privilege of the floor (POF): Ashley Saviano, Georgette Tefoe, Craig Skerkis, Darla Dobert, JoAnna Phillips, Pat Metzler, Jim Carroll, David McGinness, William Shannon, Cathy Shuhart, Corey Stall, and Michael Muadin.

In addition to the in- person and online POF, Supervisor Houghtling read emails submitted for POF from the following individuals: Susan Bues, Trina Porte, Sarah Westwind, Michael Jennings, Gary Avanzato, Nina Benvenuto, Director for CC Office For the Aging, Highway Superintendent McCagg, and Elizabeth Kroboth.

The privilege of the floor in person, online and submitted by email covered the following topics: the LVPA budget, the LV Seniors budget, the sidewalk project, the NL Community Center budget, Court staffing, the pharmacy ARPA funds, landfill monitoring, the public

water and wastewater study, the Summer Youth Program budget, suggestions for cutting non-essential programs, and only funding essentials to run the town. Many individuals commented in support of the LVPA, and the LV Seniors budgets. Many individuals also commented on cutting the LV Seniors budget or reducing it. Some individuals suggested halting on the sidewalk and water/waste water projects. Many individuals commented in support of the Summer Youth Program and possibly increasing rates to attend or having a shorter program. Some individuals commented on payroll budgeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the special meeting at 8:53pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Amlaw.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Powers -	Aye
Councilmember Amlaw -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye
Councilmember Patterson-	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk