MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 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:	**JoAnna Phillips, Comprehensive Plan Committee Member** **Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office of the Aging & Traffic Safety** **Ted Salem, ZRC Chair, ZBA & Comprehensive Plan Committee Member** **Elizabeth Brutsch, Planning Board Chair, ZRC & Comprehensive Plan Committee Member** **William Shannon, LV Seniors President** **David McGinness, LV Seniors** **Cathy Shuhart, LV Seniors** **Pat Metzler, Recreation Commission Member** **Jim Dawson, Outreach, Marketing & Communications Co-Chair** **Sharon Powers, IT Website Support, Shaker Preservation & ZBA Member, & Outreach Marketing & Communications Co-Chair** **Ed Godfroy, LVPA & NL Rep to Emergency Mgmt.** **Steve Houghtling, LVPA** **Jackie Howe, Summer Youth Program Director** **Members of the Public**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm 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 BUDGET DISCUSSION:

LV SENIORS:

David McGinness representing the LV Seniors, addressed the Town Board stating that they are good with their budget this year, they have figured out a way to make the budgeted

Draft

$6,900 work for 2027. They will still play their part with the town and they appreciate the board's efforts to balance things as much as possible. William Shannon, LV Seniors President commented, they discussed things, found ways to work it out and will do what needs to be done because there is so much that has to be done. David McGinness noted, they are 100% volunteer unlike other counties that have multiple senior centers with daily meals, crafts, trips, and more. There is nothing in this area except for the LV Seniors.

Supervisor Houghtling commented, at the last budget workshop the board agreed that the 50% budgeted amount for all nonessential organizations will be at the discretion of the group, committee, or organization on how to spend their budgeted funds in accordance with the lined out budget worksheet that was submitted.

David McGinness stated, for the record to clear up a misconception regarding comments made about the LV Seniors spending money to go to casinos. He stated, if and when they go to a casino it is to see a show and have a meal, and that is even rare.

William Shannon, announced that the LV Seniors are putting together a cookbook that they intend to sell, with the proceeds going to others, not to the LV Seniors. They are thinking proceeds made will go to the school and possibly the summer camp.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM (SYP):
Supervisor Houghtling reported, most of the public feedback she received regarding the SYP for 2027 prefers to have a full eight week program for five days a week.

Jackie Howe, Summer Youth Program Director and the Town Board held discussion on the SYP program for 2027 and the budgeting options for the program. They reviewed and discussed the proposed models prepared by Jackie and the need to increase the rates for camper attendance to the program in order to reduce the program's deficit in the town's budget. It was agreed by all to keep a five day, eight week program and increase the rates to attend.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, at the November meeting they will need to do a budget amendment to compensate Jackie for all the time she has put in working on this budget season preparations.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to make the following changes to the 2027 preliminary budget:

General Appropriations Page 10. –Youth Program (Personal Srv-Counselor/CIT) **A-7310.1,** $48,055 - **decrease** by - $6,048 to change to $42,007.

General Appropriations Page 11. – Youth Program (Personal Srv-Director) **A-7310.11,** $4,488 - **increase** by - $6,222 to change to $10,710.

General Appropriations Page 11. – Youth Program (Personal Srv-Asst Director) **A-7310.12,** $3,872 - **increase** by - $3,520 to change to $7,392.

Draft

General Est. Revenue Page 1. – **Camp & Rec Charges A-2001,** $31,501 - **increase** by - $8,499 to change to $40,000.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

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

PLANNING BOARD – PZ CLERK:
Elizabeth Brutsch, Planning Board Chair addressed the Town Board requesting additional hours for the PZ Clerk. The board discussed and agreed to the increase for the PZ Clerk hours. They also discussed the Planning Board attorney. There is still no interest even after the deadline extension for RFQs for a Planning Board attorney. Discussion was held with Elizabeth and the Town Board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to make the following changes to the 2027 preliminary budget:

General Appropriations Page 12. –**Planning** (Personal Services –PB Clark) **A-8020.1,** $3,050 - **increase** by - $610 to change to $3,660.

General Appropriations Page 2. – **Accountant, A-1220.41,** $19,800 - **increase** by - $6,400 to change to $26,200.

General Appropriations Page 12. – **Planning** (Contractual Exp - Attorney) **A-8020.41,** $5,000 - **increase** by - $5,000 to change to $10,000.

General Appropriations Page 3. – **Attorney** (Contractual Exp) **A-1420.4,** $50,000 - **decrease** by - $5,000 to change to $45,000.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

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

LVPA:

Draft

Ed Godfroy, LVPA stated, at the last budget meeting the Supervisor had commented that the LVPA was double budgeting and takes offense to that comment. Ed wanted to clarify for the record, they are not double dipping or attempting to steal money from the tow. The board responded to Ed that they never thought that the LVPA was attempting in any way to steal money from the town.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, to clarify for the record, she absolutely was not saying that the LVPA was attempting to steal money. She stated, she was going by a document that Ed provided to the town, Capital Purchasing Plan for 2027 #2. It stated, next planned equipment capital expense, interior structural firefighting gear for $12,000.

Supervisor Houghtling stated, when she asked about that at the last meeting, the $12,000, is that the same interior structure firefighting gear for $12,000 in the operating budget, and it was answered that it was. Nobody said it was intentionally put in there twice, when discussed at the last meeting it appeared in both the operating budget and the equipment capital expense on the documents provided to the town.

Corey Stall gave a presentation on behalf of the LVPA.

Discussion took place among the Town Board, Ed Godfroy, and the LVPA's Accountant.

The LVPA board in attendance met in private. Once out of their private meeting, Corey Stall reported to the Town Board, the LVPA is willing to keep the operating number at $134,024 and change the capital amount requested to $20,000. He stated, this has to be a one-time thing this budget year and with rising costs they really need to get back to the $30,000 for 2028.

Supervisor Houghtling replied, she feels that is a very reasonable compromise, she supports that and the remainder of the board agrees.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to amend the SF-Fire District line in the budget to $154,024.

(Summary of 2027 Town Budget Page 1. –SF Fire District, $146,024 - **increase** by - $8,000 to change to $154,024.)

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Powers.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Draft

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS:
Supervisor Houghtling reported, there are a few more adjustments that need to be made: social security auto populates from the payroll line, Town Hall Streams at the Community Center, and a long-term financial planner.

Jim Dawson, Outreach, Marketing & Communication (OMC) Co-Chair spoke to the Town Board regarding Town Hall Streams at the Community Center and he thinks it is best that the money for that goes into a more general budget line instead of the OMC.

Sharon Powers, Outreach, Marketing & Communication (OMC) Co-Chair also spoke to the Town Board regarding the $900 budgeted to the OMC, they are willing to forego that money and she also touched on the benefits of having Town Hall Streams at the Community Center.

Supervisor Houghtling commented, the other item is the long-term financial planner. Councilmember Powers reported, they met with a potential long term financial planner and he offered some really good ideas and gave a ballpark cost for that type of service.

Councilmember Amlaw mentioned, considering the same financial planner that the school district has used is concerning considering the situation the school is in as well. She suggested a professional qualified resident taxpayer maybe volunteering their services for this to the town.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to make the following changes to the 2027 preliminary budget:

General Appropriations Page 14. –Employee Benefits (Social Security) **A-9030.8,** $40,446 - **increase** by - $680 to change to $41,126.

General Appropriations Page 8. – Publicity (Contractual Exp), **A-6410.4,** $900 - **decrease** by - $900 to change to $0.

General Appropriations Page 5. – Cent. Data Processing (Contractual Exp) **A-1680.4,** $16,000 - **increase** by - $1,800 to change to $17,800.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tipograph.

Roll Call Vote:

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

SUMMARY:
Supervisor Houghtling gave a summary of where the budget is at this point:

Draft

- The amount per $1,000 assessed is going from $1.95 to $2.10.
- The amount to be raised by taxes increasing by $182,322 with is a 20.82% tax increase.
- The total changes made from the tentative budget to the preliminary budget are the highway department increase is $55,168; the fire company (LVPA) increase is $8,000; the general budget decreased by $-10,914; for a total increase of $52,254.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the special meeting at 7:58pm. 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

Draft