

**NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting – Monday, January 12, 2026 @ 7 p.m.**

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Mayor Toby Thomas called the meeting to order. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Thomas administered the oath of office to the newly elected council members: Steve Roeder, John Gerlak, Dawn Hess and Edward Fannin.

Toby Thomas then asked for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore.

Mike Crabbs was nominated. He accepted the nomination.

Jason Anderson made a motion to appoint Mike Crabbs as Council President Pro Tempore for 2026. Gerlak seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Crabbs, Anderson, Roeder, Gerlak, Hess and Fannin.

Also present: Marvin McCallister, Ellen Simmons, Joe Hicks, Mike Gerlak, Natalie Schulte, Suzanne Cooke, Gayle Ashbaker, Jayne Carroll, Chet Blanton, Chad Blanton, Donna Schneiter, Grace James, Susan Albaugh, Dalee Speicher, Zach Ingraham, Mike Swords, Saige Szivan, Mike Hess, Debra Farnsworth, Vicky Mack, Mark Osterland, Gerald Broeckel, Tammy Hansford, Stacy Crabbs, John Neel, Grady Lasch, John Chapin, Taylor Ingraham, Hunter Gregory, Brenna Hess, Dana Ingraham and Shawn Pickworth.

Toby Thomas asked for approval of the agenda. Crabbs made a motion to approve the agenda. Gerlak seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the December 8, 2025 zoning public hearing were then presented for approval. Crabbs made a motion to approve the minutes. Gerlak seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the December 8, 2025 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Crabbs made a motion to approve the minutes. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the December 11, 2025 special meeting were then presented for approval. Crabbs made a motion to approve the minutes. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any public questions or statements.

Chad Blanton from 69 Grant Street stood and stated he had been visited by the zoning inspector and was told his storage container on his property would need to be removed by May 31, 2026. Chet Blanton had been the zoning inspector at the time he purchased the container and he insisted that Shawn Pickworth had told him that it was fine to keep the structure on the property.

Shawn Pickworth replied that Mr. Blanton's statements were not true. According to the village's zoning code, that kind of storage container is supposed to be used on a temporary basis during

construction only. There should be a start and ending date established at the time the storage container is received.

After conversation between Chad and Chet Blanton and Shawn Pickworth, Shawn notified Chad Blanton that he could apply for a variance to be able to keep the storage container on his property. It would then be up to council to make a decision.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth shared the following report:

#### Water

- Fixed water leak on Park Ave on 12/22/2025. This was the 16<sup>th</sup> water main leak that the water department has fixed in 2025.
- Since December 1<sup>st</sup> we have pumped over 100 million gallons of water into our reservoir. We still have around 1.5 feet to go before full.
- In 2025 we were able to purchase media to top off our filters at the water plant. We are currently in the process of installing that media.
- We continue to install our new cellular water meters. We encourage anyone that receives a meter installation tag to make an appointment. Directions are on the tags.

#### Wastewater

- New London Ave. Project – Sewer Lining is completed. There shouldn't be any more activity on the project until spring.

#### Storm Sewers

- Always more work to be done updating and improving our storms. We still have a section of storms that need to be replaced that runs under the parking lots at Primetals. This will take some coordination between Primetals and the Village to make this happen. This is the last section of that old storm line between North Main that takes the storm out of town on the north end of the Village. More to come.

#### Sanitation

- No Major Issues.
- I would like to give a big shoutout to Brian Cucco and our sanitation crew for all the hard work done over the holiday season doubling up routes and putting in long days. Also, thank you to our water crews for helping out.

#### Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091. Crews have been out trying to address potholes. The streets are taking a beating over the winter. Please feel free to report any major holes to the office.

- Brian Cucco and I had a meeting with Tim Bock from OHM on final details before going to bid on the street paving project that will happen this summer. We plan on advertising for bid at the end of January through the first 2 weeks of February with a recommendation for council by the last meeting in February.

### Other

- I would like to encourage Council to hold a workshop so that we can review the downtown project that will happen this summer. I would like to review plans, timelines and what to expect during this project. We have been working on this project for around 4 years now and we are finally getting down to construction time. This project will include all new sidewalks and lighting throughout the downtown along with new paving from corporation limit to corporation limit on both State Routes 60 & 162. This will give an opportunity to the new council members and even the public to get up to speed with this project.
- I would like to welcome the new council members and I look forward to working with all of council to continue to make New London a better place to live and do business in. My door is always open and I encourage and welcome your input, ideas and vision for this community.

Toby Thomas also welcomed all of the new members of council. He stated that the department heads do such a good job that he doesn't usually have to say too much.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from police.

Police Chief Joe Hicks shared the following report.

As we head into 2026, I would like to welcome our newest council members and thank those who previously served. Looking back on 2025, I have a handful of department statistics to share. We ended the year with:

- 2,727 Service Calls
- 42 Physical Arrests
- 17 Summons
- 200 Traffic Citations

In comparison to 2024, our service calls were down by 90 calls. Our arrests were down by 5, summons were up by 4, and traffic citations were down by 4. When comparing our total numbers to 2023, our service calls were up by 69 calls. So, all-in-all I would say the police department is maintaining consistency on all fronts.

This evening, I would also like to recognize our 2025 officer of the year. That honor goes to Sgt. Zach Ingraham for the third consecutive year. Sgt. Ingraham again led the department in nearly every category. I would like to thank him for his solid work ethic and his pro-active mindset. He is always looking for ways to make the department more efficient while also improving his own performance.

Chief Hicks called Sgt. Zach Ingraham forward and presented him with a plaque and certificate of award.

I also have some additional recognitions to handout tonight. On the evening of Friday, January 02, 2026 village resident, Phil Albaugh, suffered a medical emergency, going into cardiac arrest while at his residence. Thankfully, Mr. Albaugh was surrounded by family and friends who were able to quickly summon help. Sgt. Ingraham and Ofc. Broeckel were working that evening and quickly responded. Upon arrival, the training instincts of these two officers kicked in and they initiated CPR and utilized one of our AED units.

Their actions proved vital in getting a pulse back until EMS personnel arrived and took over a short time later. We also want to thank our fellow first responders at Firelands Ambulance Service for their life saving efforts that night. We are happy to say Mr. Albaugh returned home last Thursday and is recovering.

Tonight, I would like to present both of these officers with a certificate of commendation for their life saving efforts that evening. Congratulations gentleman on a job well done.

Both officers came forward and received their commendations.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from fire.

John Chapin had emailed members of council the following activities the fire department participated in:

DATE	TIME START	TIME END	EVENT	LOCATION
12/1/2025	0620	0645	Submit SFM runs for November	Station
12/1/2025	0951	1015	Auto fire alarm, canceled enroute	5424 Eaton Rd
12/1/2025	1300	1415	New battery for scene lights, #441 by 19	Station
12/3/2025	1900	2030	Monthly meeting	Station
12/8/2025	1300	1420	Met with Red Cross, contact info, operations	Station
12/9/2025	1927	2039	2 vehicle crash	US Rt 250 & St Rt 13
12/10/2025	1700	2015	Fire chiefs meeting, HCFFA meeting	Townsend FD
12/11/2025	1324	1415	Investigate gas odor, 0 readings	2825 Fayette RD
12/13/2025	0600	1200	Pancake breakfast	Station
12/13/2025	1130	1200	Hometown Holidays Parade	Village
12/14/2025	0952	1005	Fire alarm, no fire, water leak	2 Prospect St. Rt 250 & Rome- Greenwich
12/14/2025	1441	1502	Single vehicle MVC	4 Westwood Dr.
12/16/2025	0426	0458	Smoke filled trailer, heat tape failed	3947 Prospect Rd.
12/17/2025	1001	1005	Alarm drop, canceled	Station
12/17/2025	1900	2045	Training meeting, emptied bathrooms	EMA
12/18/2025	1300	1445	LEPC meeting	26622 St. Rt. 58
12/18/2025	1729	1738	Tanker only, canceled	1960 Cresent Rd.
12/19/2025	1415	1421	Lost child, canceled	200 St. Rt. 60 S
12/26/2025	1227	1351	Single vehicle MVC	3303 St. Rt. 162 E
12/27/2025	0356	0430	Lift assist with FAS	6122 Cook Rd.
12/27/2025	1811	1906	Auto fire alarm, no fire/smoke at arrival	

12/28/2025	1622	1714	Propane odor, 0 readings with monitor	5693 Ferry Rd.
12/30/2025	0141	0201	Smoke in apartment, nothing found	Windy Acres Apt 109
12/31/2025	2033	2102	Single vehicle MVC, no injuries	St Rt 60 & Fayette

For 2025, the fire department was dispatched 127 times through the 911 system at the sheriff's office. The stats show 135 reports. This is because if another structure or vehicle is damaged or destroyed by another fire, a report must be completed for insurance and the State Fire Marshal. An example would be the house fire at 107 Third Street in which two cars, a motorcycle and the neighbor's house caught fire from the original fire. There were five reports completed for this fire, but only one dispatch.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the ambulance.

Steve Roeder shared the Firelands Ambulance 2025 Year in Review. There was a total of 823 total calls and 870 patient contacts. There were 234 calls requiring advanced life support. This is 37% of the calls received. The top calls for 2025 were General Medical (21.6%), Fall (14.1%), Shortness of Breath (7.8%), Traffic Accident (9.5%), Chest Pain (5.1%) and Stroke (3%).

Toby Thomas then called for a report from recreation.

Joe Thomas absent.

Toby Thomas then called for a report from zoning.

Mike Gerlak reported that they had just completed the last one-hour training meeting for the new IWORQ zoning software. He also noted that he had sent a few more letters out and he is continuing to pursue unlicensed vehicles in the village.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2025-40 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer to Enter into an Agreement with Croghan Colonial Bank for a Commercial Loan in the Amount Not to Exceed \$400,000.00 to Fund Construction and Improvements to the Reservoir Park & Campgrounds and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Roeder made a motion to approve the second reading. Crabbs seconded the motion. Roll call: Hess, No; Roeder, Yes; Fannin, No ; Anderson, No; Crabbs, No; Gerlak, No. Ordinance not passed.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2026-01 An Ordinance Approving and Adopting the Village Cybersecurity Policy, and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Crabbs made a motion to approve the first reading. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented Resolution 2026-01 a Resolution to Approve a Then and Now Certificate for a Purchase Made, and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading. Crabbs made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Resolution 2026-01 to be passed on an emergency measure. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call: Hess, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Fannin, Yes; Anderson, Yes; Crabbs, Yes; Gerlak, Yes. Roeder made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Crabbs seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

Mike Crabbs stated he would like to talk more about the reservoir project that had been voted down earlier in the meeting. He was not completely throwing out the project. He would just like to see the actual plans before it is approved.

Mike Crabbs then brought up the property at 5 West Washburn Street. Large trucks coming from Primetals on East Washburn are making wide turns onto St. Rt. 60. These trucks are destroying the tree lawn at 5 West Washburn. Mike Crabbs wondered if there was anything that can be done.

Shawn Pickworth agreed with Mike Crabbs that something needs to be done. Shawn assured Mike Crabbs that he and Brian Cucco were coming up with a plan to correct this problem.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

Steve Roeder stated that Shawn Pickworth had included in his administrators report that he would like to schedule a workshop.

Members of council and Shawn Pickworth discussed having a workshop to discuss the downtown project and to speak to Joe Thomas concerning his proposed renovations at the reservoir.

Different topics for the downtown project will include safety, which is the top priority, and budget. Currently, the project is projected to come in under budget. This was not the case at first. The village insisted that anything unnecessary was taken out of the plans.

The project is estimated to begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> and continue until September. There will be three phases to the project.

Mike Gerlak asked how many of the downtown sidewalks were going to be replaced.

Shawn Pickworth answered that all of the downtown sidewalks will be replaced.

Mark Osterland asked since the sewers downtown are so old if they would be replacing them.

Shawn Pickworth replied that most of the sewers in the downtown area run behind the buildings. The sewers that are in front of the buildings will be moved or replaced before the start of the project. He stated that they had used sonar as part of preparing for the work that will need to be done. He realizes there will be issues once the project gets underway.

Members of council scheduled a workshop for January 26, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Mayor Toby Thomas then discussed village committees.

The cemetery board is in need of a new board member. This member is to be appointed by the mayor with council's approval.

Toby Thomas recommended Dawn Hess be placed on the cemetery board.

Mike Crabbs made a motion to appoint Dawn Hess to the cemetery board. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Jason Anderson's term on the monument board has expired. Jason Anderson elected not to start a new term. Members of council decided they will discuss and appoint a new representative to the monument board at the next council meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

All members of council are on the police committee so no action was required.

The firefighters board requires two members of council to serve.

Mike Crabbs made a motion to appoint John Gerlak and Ed Fannin to the firefighter's board. Roeder seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The ambulance board requires one member of council to serve.

Mike Crabbs made a motion to appoint Steve Roeder to the ambulance board. Gerlak seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented the bills to be paid for approval. Roeder made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Gerlak seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for approval of vouchers 41-95 for payments dated December 30, 2025.

Steve Roeder made a motion to approve vouchers 41-95 for payments dated December 30, 2025. Fannin seconded the motion. Roll call: Hess, Yes; Roeder, Yes; Fannin, Yes; Anderson, Yes; Crabbs, Abstain; Gerlak, Yes.

Mike Crabbs made a motion to adjourn. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Nancy Howell  
Fiscal Officer

Toby Thomas  
Mayor