

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
FOR A BUDGET WORKSHOP  
HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2009**

**Present:** Margaret Robertson, Supervisor  
Bruce Baldwin, Councilmember  
Monte Wasch, Councilmember  
Karl (K. B.) Chittenden, Councilmember  
Allen Livermore, Councilmember

**Recording Secretary:** Colleen Teal, Town Clerk

**Others Present:** Jeffrey Winestock, Highway Superintendent  
Mark Sheline, LVPA President  
Ben Wheeler, LVPA Fire Chief  
Mary Young, LVPA Secretary/LVPA Ambulance Service  
William Stelling, LVPA

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Supervisor Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and the flag salute followed a moment of silence.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:**

Councilmember Baldwin noted that he would like to propose a salary adjustment for the Highway Superintendent to bring his compensation more in line with the other Highway Superintendents in the county but because of the tight fiscal situation he noted that this would not be possible. Instead,

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin to adjust the Highway Superintendent's salary to \$46,439 to begin to bring him more in line with the other Highway Superintendents and for the extraordinary work that he does.

There was a discussion noting that many of the town employees do extraordinary work; if the Highway Superintendent is not a working Superintendent it would cost more as we would need another employee or a Deputy Superintendent; all salaries should be frozen, especially elected officials, due to the economic situation; companies are not giving raises, they are making cutbacks; the businesses in this town are taking cutbacks; last year the employees' insurance was changed making it more costly for the employees, this year it is raises; everyone deserves ten percent because none of the employees are making enough but cannot do that; no raises makes for bad moral and a bad work environment; and the state of the economy means we have to keep all the salaries and wages at 2009 levels.

Councilmember Baldwin withdrew his motion since there was no second.

**LVPA FIRE COMPANY:**

There was a general discussion regarding the Fire Company budget including:

- The fire company has obtained \$191,000 in grants since 2004; these monies offset taxes as all monies received pay for items that then do not need to be

- budgeted for;
- Amount of savings held by the fire company and accounting for unused (unexpended) funds at the end of a budget cycle; unexpended balance and savings (surplus) need to be reflected in budget;
  - NFPA and OSHA requirements dictate a lot of the increased costs; and
  - Not a fundraising organization and not right to ask volunteers to spend additional time fundraising.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wasch, seconded by Councilmember Chittenden and approved (Councilmember Livermore voted Nay) to appropriate \$197,960.00 for the LVPA Fire Company for the 2010 Budget which is a zero increase from 2009.

**LVPA AMBULANCE:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wasch, seconded by Councilmember Chittenden, and approved (Councilmembers Livermore and Baldwin voted NAY) to appropriate \$164,262.00 for the LVPA Ambulance Service for the 2010 Budget which is a zero increase from 2009.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next budget workshop scheduled for Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. has been cancelled; not necessary. The next budget workshop will be held Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the American Legion Building and the Justice Court is on the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wasch and seconded by Councilmember Livermore to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Teal, RMC  
Town Clerk