

VILLAGE OF NEW LEXINGTON SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
April 25, 2018
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
6:00 PM

The Village of New Lexington met in special session on April 25, 2018 with the meeting called to order at 6:00 PM and Council President Dan Bethel presiding. Council Members present were Dan Bethel, Kathy Chute, Trent Thompson, James Welsh, Jeff Danison, Susan Goodfellow, and Susan Boyle. Also present was Village Administrator Bo Powell and Police Chief Scott Ervin. Absent was Mayor Ratliff.

Acting Mayor Bethel stated Administrator Powell would like to revoke the contract offered to Jody Bowen for pool manager. Powell stated she has not signed the contract with the Village of New Lexington yet and he was informed she has already signed a contract to manage the Crooksville swimming pool. Powell informed Council the contract for the swimming pool states the manager has to be at the pool during operation. Powell informed Council he has interviewed Monica Lollo for the pool manager position. A motion by Councilperson Goodfellow was made to enter into a contract with Monica Lollo for the 2018 pool manager. Seconded by Councilperson Boyle. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Councilperson Chute stated she was informed a fundraiser for the pool was scheduled for May 2, 2018 at Pizza Hut. Chute stated Lollo should proceed with the fundraiser. Councilperson Chute made a motion to rescind a contract to Jody Bowen for pool manager. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried. Councilperson Chute stated the Village needs to make sure the pool manager has some guidance. Councilperson Chute stated this subject did fall under the special meeting purpose.

Councilperson Thompson reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting that was held on April 23, 2018. Thompson stated the Committee discussed the contract for dispatching services. Police Chief Ervin reported to the Committee that there would be no levy on the ballot for the 911 services. Ervin stated the Village may see an increase in charges for services but not at the current time. The Committee also discussed the water pressure on W. Brown St. The Committee discussed an e-mail from Mickey Smith of Ohio First Responder Grants concerning issues with the Procurement Policy, e-mails and noncompliance with the 2015 and 2016 FEMA grants for Fire Department.

Chute stated the Village could be responsible for paying back \$750,000 if these issues are not resolved. Chute stated the information that Fire Chief Hollingshead supplied does not meet the checklist requirements. Chute stated Hollingshead was instructed by Council to do specific things that were not completed. Chute stated the records that were given to her were incomplete.

Larry Hatem asked to address Council about training. Councilperson Chute stated she did not want Hatem speaking on Fire Chief Hollingshead's behalf since this does not follow the chain of command. Councilperson Danison stated to let Hatem speak. Councilperson Chute stated Hatem could speak as a citizen.

Hatem stated the Village of New Lexington does not have a State of Ohio Fire/EMS training. Hatem informed Council the department does drills which are recorded on a spreadsheet and it is the individual who is responsible for keeping up on all training that is required of them. Hatem stated he has been asked in public if he is forging information. Hatem stated he was told Councilpersons Thompson and Chute were saying that he forged documents. Councilperson Chute stated that she did not use those words. Hatem stated he has proof of the e-mail on his phone to pass around to Council. Hatem stated he asked Chris Spencer and Mickey Smith who has to sign off on papers. Hatem informed Council that he called the FEMA help desk in Washington D.C. to get definition of authority. Hatem passed his cell phone around to Council members to see the e-mail. Councilperson Chute stated she asked for a copy of the e-mails one week after it was presented to Council and has not been able to get them. Councilperson Thompson and Councilperson Welsh stated they have also asked for copies but have not been able to get them. Chute stated Council was informed in an open council meeting by Mayor Ratliff and Fire Chief Hollingshead that everything was completed to be in compliance, but recent information states we are still not in compliance.

Councilperson Chute reported she spoke with the FEMA office and they stated no one from their office sent the e-mail. They said all phone calls are checked. They offered to hold a conference call with Council if necessary.

Councilperson Chute stated if the Fire Chief needs help in fulfilling the requirements to be in compliance with the FEMA grant, he just needs to ask for help. Chute stated this is a Federal grant and the Village cannot afford to pay the money back and also lose the opportunity to qualify for future grants.

Councilperson Welsh stated whatever documents FEMA needs, we need to get them and get this issue taken care of. Councilperson Chute stated there is no more time for any meetings; they need to get the records. Chute stated Fire Chief Hollingshead was aware of noncompliance a year ago. Chute stated it is Council's responsibility to the public to get this issue resolved. Hatem stated he did not forge anything.

Councilperson Bethel asked if Hollingshead reported to Council that the issue was resolved, did Hollingshead turn in a packet, but it did not have all the information required. Bethel stated we need to move forward. Councilperson Thompson stated the Procurement Policy was turned in, but did not have the Resolution attached to it showing Council had adopted the policy. Councilperson Bethel asked if Mickey could sit down with Hollingshead to help get the information needed. Council stated they need to start an investigation. Councilperson Chute stated she would contact the Village Law Director to discuss an investigation. Police Chief Ervin stated the attorney knows how to get the information and could buy some extra time. Hatem stated there has been five to six fire chiefs in the last few years. Hatem stated a previous Fire Chief took records with him.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion for the attorney to start an administrative fact finding investigation into the Fire/EMS FEMA related issues from top to bottom and report findings to Council and the Public Safety Committee. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes" except for Councilperson Goodfellow who voted "no". Motion carried.

Councilperson Chute stated we need to comply with the FEMA grant. Chute inquired if Council needs to have someone else take over getting the information for FEMA. Councilperson Thompson stated Hollingshead has been doing a good job and all Council agreed. Thompson stated someone should help Hollingshead. Councilperson Bethel stated if we involve attorneys it may take longer than thirty days. Councilperson Thompson stated Hollingshead is doing a good job and Councilperson Chute stated Hollingshead needs to ask for help. Chute inquired if someone from the fire department could help Hollingshead. Chute stated Hollingshead should know who in the department could help him get the information needed and should ask them for help. Councilperson Thompson stated Hollingshead should call Mickey Smith to help. Hatem verbally attacked Councilperson Chute. Chute requested Police Chief Ervin escort Hatem out of the meeting. Hatem was removed.

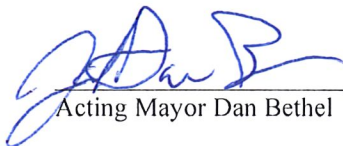
Councilperson Thompson made a motion to place Hatem on administrative leave. Seconded by Councilperson Chute. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Bethel stated Hollingshead needs to look at the list that was given to him by Mickey and if he needs help call Mickey or ask other department members for help.

Administrator Powell will inform Mayor Ratliff about the administrative leave for Hatem. Councilperson Thompson stated Mayor Ratliff is to inform Hatem of Administrative leave.

Councilperson Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilperson Goodfellow. All Council voted "yes." Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.


Acting Mayor Dan Bethel


Council Clerk Lisa Spohn