



Why Fred Newlin is **not** right for Lewiston

Supervisor Fred Newlin's Salary Increases History

Lewiston residents are wondering why Supervisor Fred Newlin is putting himself first!

Shortly after taking office, Mr. Newlin started working to enrich his salary by demanding full-time pay for a part-time job. Since he took office, he's managed to raise his salary by 77% and even tried to DOUBLE his wages.

Who is he really looking out for? Why is Mr. Newlin not considering what is in the best interests for the citizens of Lewiston? Why is he enriching himself in the worst economic times in the last 80 year?

By law the supervisor and other council positions are designated as part-time jobs without benefits. Every board member except Mr. Newlin has other gainful employment. Mr. Newlin has chosen not to take on a full-time job.

Maybe it's just easier for him to vote himself a salary increase, than to look for work like the rest of us.

Mr. Newlin claims he is working many hours, but the "word from town hall" is that he is "control freak" and an inexperienced administrator. The public record has shown that he is not able to delegate assignments. He also tends to micromanage Town staff and other board members.

Maybe Mr. Newlin needs to work a little smarter.

In 2005, after being in office for less than 18 months, Mr. Newlin secured his first large pay hike; he voted himself an increase of \$6,200.00 or about 31%.

In 2006, he was at it again; he voted himself a \$7,390 or 27% pay increase. At that time he insisted that, "... the supervisor's position has evolved from just a part-time position..." (Niagara Gazette – November 2006).

Thank heaven Mr. Newlin's plans were foiled when, "...it was determined the hike was illegally made..." (Niagara Gazette – November 2006) because he had not followed the process laid out by New York State law.

Believe it or not, he tried to add the pay raise to the budget AFTER the public hearing was conducted – big no-no. He tried to back door himself a big bonus and he got caught.

When asked why the public was not given the opportunity to debate his proposed salary increase, he stated, "...We didn't do it exactly right..." (Niagara Gazette – November 2006)



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I'd say that it was more than that - it was downright disingenuous to deceive the taxpayer by adding a pay raise after public debate had been closed. Smarting from all the bad press Mr. Newlin avoided any controversy the following year.

But then again in 2008, Mr. Newlin and his majority caucus proposed by Councilman Mike Johnson successfully pushed through a whopping 37% raise. He voted himself a \$10,000.00+ pay bonus.

To add insult to injury, Mr. Newlin now has a higher salary than a number of full-time employees that work within the Police, Clerk and Highway Departments (Town of Lewiston – Employee Salary and Total Compensation).

Even more shockingly, within the same budget, a long-time coordinator of children's programs at the Lewiston Library was cut. How can the majority caucus lead by Mr. Newlin knowingly pass a town budget that grants supervisor Newlin a 37% raise while our library is being forced to cut the coordinator of children's programs position from full-time to part-time?

The cut from full-time to part-time caused Ms Lorraine Quinn Yaeger to lose her health benefits and so, she was forced to leave the position she so loves. Ms Lorraine is an invaluable asset to our community for the tremendous work she does at the library and with our children.

I guess Supervisor Newlin and Mr. Johnson think that the Supervisor's salary is more important than the programs offered by the Lewiston Library.

How can our Lewiston town supervisor brag about the jobs he has cut from full-time to part-time while he is attempting to do the opposite with his?

Board member Ernie Palmer opposed the mid-term salary increase, stating, "... we shouldn't be significantly increasing the pay of any elected official half way through their term..." When Mr. Palmer was pressed, he stood his ground, "...Mr. Supervisor, obviously you have the support of the majority of the Board, so why don't you call for the vote..." (Town Board Meeting – October 2008). Board member Al Bax also voted against the salary increase.