

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MARCH 8, 2011
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---7:30 PM—TOWN HALL

Present: Councilmen Edward Lentz, Glen Noto, Robert Eklund and Connie Chase, Supervisor Robert Taylor, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Also: Bill and Andrea Braunius, Joe Gregory, Nancy Moen, Christina Turechek

Supervisor Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the February 8, 2011 regular meeting as written.

The Planning Board met on March 7, 2011 and recommended approval of a simple subdivision for Candace Eschler and Shannon & Adam Schoellig. After further review and discussion, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to approve Subdivision Application #02-11 for a simple subdivision for Candace Eschler and Shannon & Adam Schoellig on tax map #141.00-2-12.03.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that they survived the 2 ft. snowstorm on March 6th & 7th with one truck down because the 2004 Volvo had electrical/computer problems. He advised that he felt that Old Road Truck Repairs finally had Louie's truck fixed and they submitted a revised bill with some of the cost being covered under warranty by them.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to advertise for bids for 5000 yards of inch minus Sand, and prices per yard on crusher run, cobbles, Item 4, bank run and #2 stone to be opened at the April 12th, 2011 meeting.

Highway Bills #36 through #51 for a total of \$29,496.89 were audited and approved for payment by the Board. Supervisor Taylor paid Hwy. bill #52 for \$5,913.57 with prior Board approval.

Supt. Whitaker noted that he had not had time to review the County's Public Works Mutual Aid Plan, so we will review next month.

Town resident Nancy Moen submitted a letter from Bassett Medical Center's Board of Trustees and physicians that expresses their concerns for public health in regards to hydrofracking and the possible contamination of drinking water supplies. They support a moratorium on hydrofracking in New York State until more studies of its possible effects are completed. She also submitted copies of a road preservation law from Afton and one from Springfield where they are intending to prohibit the drilling of new gas wells in their town. Ms. Moen further advised that she has been calling residents using the voter registration list to question them about their thoughts on gas drilling and is finding that the results are running 2 to 1 against gas drilling. She noted that she had read our comprehensive plan and that we should have zoning to back it up. She also thought we should have a light and noise ordinance and submitted a copy of a noise ordinance from Windsor. The Board responded that we have a road preservation law that we felt protected us as much as possible, but we're open to new information. Our site plan law also covers light and noise issues. At the time of doing the comprehensive plan, the majority of town residents were against zoning in the Town. It is not known if banning gas drilling or heavy industry would hold up in court.

Joe Gregory questioned how much we were going to spend on a new highway barn and why we needed one. The estimated cost hasn't been determined yet since we haven't decided on any size, features, etc. Supt. Whitaker noted that the present barn was built in the 60's and has roof and structure issues. He further noted that with the bigger trucks they need more room for storing equipment, better lighting and better drains.

We received a letter from Health Officer Michael Finneran noting that he had investigated two complaints in 2010 and found both to be unfounded.

We received a copy of a letter sent to Governor Cuomo from 35 area clergy/religious leaders asking that we continue a moratorium on horizontal hydrofracking in New York State until the results of the EPA study now underway can be examined.

Consultant Alan Sorensen was questioned if we should be reviewing personal use windmills and solar panels under our site plan as they could be construed as a new land use activity. He suggested that they could be reviewed as new land use activity under site plan regulations or the Town Board could decide that they should be considered as an

ordinary accessory structure to a residence which would be exempt from site plan review. He noted that NYS Ag & Markets exempts farm operations from site plan review for small wind turbines and submitted information from Ag & Markets which could be used for a guideline if we decided to review under site plan.

Supervisor Taylor noted that the County's Shared Services Committee had met and began discussing areas where perhaps the County and Towns could work together to save money. Health insurance was one area discussed. He brought back lots of information from the Assoc. of Town's annual conference in NYC. Some contacts for engineers for a new highway barn were made and JNS was the only cell tower company set up at the conference.

Post Office officials will hold a town meeting on March 10th, 2011 at 6:00 PM to advise Garrattsville Post Office users of their future options and to get public input.

A motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #51 through #60 for a total of \$4,976.93. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #43 through #50 for a total of \$1,372.01 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Councilman Edward Lentz made a comparison chart of the three solar proposals received for a system at the highway barn. Some Board members thought the overall cost to the Town was more than they had thought it would be. We learned last week that the NYPA incentive funds through Otsego Electric were depleted to a level below what we would need for the project. The Board decided not to proceed with this project at this time. It was noted that Otsego Electric has advised that solar panels have a better return of energy than windmills in our area.

The contract from OCCA for the Circuit Rider Planner Program has been reviewed by the Board. Councilman Eklund questioned if the \$2500.00 annual fee would be prorated since the contract wouldn't be for a full year this year and if OCCA felt that the price would remain consistent over the coming years. The Board discussed the advantages of using the service which for now is only being offered to six towns. After further discussion, a motion was made by Edward Lentz and carried 5/0 to advise OCCA of our intent to join in on the Circuit Rider Planner Program, subject to our Town Attorney approving the agreement.

One proposal for doing a town wide revaluation was received from Maxwell Appraisal Service. They proposed to complete a Town-wide Data Collection/Revaluation for the 2012 tax ro11 year at a cost of \$48.00 per parcel or approximately \$50,640.00 and agreed to all the conditions in our RFP. A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to accept the proposal from Maxwell Appraisal Service to do a town wide revaluation at a cost of \$48.00 per parcel, subject to working out an acceptable contract that meets all of our specifications in our RFP.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to hire Nadine Lasher and Victor Lasher to mow the cemeteries, town hall & park and hwy. barn this season at \$11.00 per hour.

Supervisor Taylor had spoken to the firemen about taking over possession of the upper firehouse. The firemen voted not to take it over mainly because the added expense would show up on their budget and they didn't want taxpayers getting upset that they increased their budget. Supervisor Taylor will talk to them again about the issue.

Supervisor Taylor noted that the Association of Towns feels that the State will probably pass a 2% tax cap. They want it to include that it can be over ridden by a supermajority of the Town Board (4 out of 5) instead of by 60% of voters.

Councilman Edward Lentz gathered information which shows that fewer than 50% of residences in the town have access to DSL or cable. Councilman Robert Eklund gathered gas drilling articles onto a CD. He volunteered to get speakers together to have a gas drilling information meeting at the Town Hall. There is a conference at the Otesaga in Cooperstown on April 9th, 2011 from 2-4 PM on "How to Apply Local Control to Shale Gas Industrialization".

With no further business, a motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Edward Lentz and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 10:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk