

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—MAY 10, 2011**  
**REGULAR MEETING—TOWN HALL---7:30 PM**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Robert Eklund & Glen Noto, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, OCCA Rep. Tavis Austin, Also: James Denekamp, Mary Archibald, Neil Fogarty, Flo Loomis, Nancy Moen, Cecilia Schleder, Barry & Sandy Braunius, Edward Dawyot, Ed George, Joe Gregory, Tim Gerken, James Raftery, Mike Newell, Ann & Chuck Williamson, Thomas & Kathryn Riso, Ed Vincent, Kristina Turechek    Absent: Councilman Edward Lentz & Councilwoman Connie Chase

Supervisor Taylor opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:32 PM. A motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 3/0 to accept the minutes for the April 12, 2011 regular meeting as written.

The Planning Board met on May 2, 2011 and reviewed a simple subdivision for Wayne & Cecelia Schleder which they recommended for approval. After further review, a motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 3/0 to approve Subdivision Application #03-11 for Wayne & Cecelia Schleder for a simple subdivision on tax map #174.00-1-43.02. Tavis Austin also attended the Planning Board meeting.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker advised the Board that we were allocated \$122,976.01 in CHIPS funds this year. Instead of paving the entire length of Gardnertown Road this year, he proposed to pave one mile of Gardnertown Road, Morse Road and to seal Gardnertown Road extension. He will be meeting with DEC reps tomorrow to show them some of his projects. The men are hauling in material now in case the fuel prices keep going up.

We have received notice from the Federal Communications Commission that we must convert all of our highway radios to “narrowband” by January 1, 2013. Supt. Whitaker advised that our newer radios can be updated, but some of our older ones may have to be replaced. He noted that Edmeston & Burlington have gone to digital radios. He was advised to check with the County to make sure that we will be compatible with them and meet the new requirements.

Highway Bills #64 through #75, for a total of \$12,642.28 were audited and approved for payment by the Board.

Chuck Williamson advised the Board that Tsuga Links is being foreclosed on by mortgage holder Anthony Condurso. Gary Elliot will be signing over his interest in the golf course. Mr. Williamson is working out a deal to run the golf course and clubhouse. He also hopes to complete building the last nine holes. The ownership and name change will not require site plan review. The Board felt that they already approved an 18 hole golf course with Gary Elliot, so that part shouldn't require reviewing again. Mr. Williamson further noted that he would like to make it more of a recreation area, with boats for the pond, hiking trails, etc. Since that would be a new activity, it would be subject to site plan review.

Nancy Moen advised the Board that she is still looking into the health impacts, noise & light issues and insurance aspect of gas drilling. She submitted the response summary to her phone calls and mailing about hydro-fracturing/gas drilling in our community. Of 439 households in the Town, 213 were represented in the survey results (48%). The total number of opinions received was 378, with 286 against gas drilling (75%), 60 for gas drilling (16%) and 32 unsure (9%). Of 390 mailings, she received a response from 160 (41%).

Councilman Robert Eklund noted that he is still working on setting up an informational meeting, but there is a high demand for the good speakers. He thought maybe we could combine with Laurens and have it at their school. The movie Gasland will be shown on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Morris Central School.

Edward Dawyot advised the Board that he will be visiting Texas, where drilling has been going on for a long time. He will try to get some information on the pros and cons and bring the information back to the Board.

Mike Newell from Goddards Road questioned if all towns worked together on issues, seeing as other towns are working to ban gas drilling. Supervisor Taylor responded that he meets with other Town supervisors and he's on the County Gas Advisory Committee. We were originally told that all we could control with gas drilling was assessments and protecting our roads, which we have done with our Road Preservation law. We don't know if a law banning gas drilling would hold up in court and if it is what the majority of our Town residents want.

Flo Loomis felt that having a gas drilling informational meeting in our town would be good, but she thought we should do more like sending out an official questionnaire to residents. Our plan at this point is to have an informational meeting and then a public hearing on the gas issue.

James Denekamp is concerned what gas drilling will do to our assessments and property values. It's not fair to those who have worked hard to get what they have only to have their homes become worthless because of gas drilling. We haven't received any direction from the state on how to assess gas drilling sites or affected property.

Supervisor Taylor and Councilman Eklund went with other County officials to view sites affected by gas drilling in Pennsylvania. They didn't get to see all that they thought they were going to see, but gave their account of what they saw and heard from Pennsylvania residents and officials. Supervisor Taylor noted that towns weren't prepared when the gas companies moved in. There was an extra load on volunteer firemen because of the increased traffic, which meant a higher number of accidents to respond to. With the influx of gas workers there was also an increase in crime, court, and hospital use. The real estate market does well when they move in, but falls when they leave. They heard reports of barium poisoning and other well contaminations, but some advised they had no problems. The money has been flowing, but few locals benefit from it. One Pennsylvania official wished us luck and hoped that we can be more prepared than they were. There is a heavy impact on the roads, but the gas companies will fix if you can get to the right person. Councilman Noto noted his appreciation for them going on the trip to gather further information which may help out our Town.

Supervisor Taylor noted that he will be meeting with Maxwell Appraisal Service, Assessor Kathleen Chase and will ask the County Real Property Director to come to set up the details for the Revaluation. Maxwell will send out a letter to all property owners about the revaluation project, with notice of a public informational meeting to be held on June 13, 2011 at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM. They will also send a questionnaire for homeowners to complete and return to them with information about their home. We are still reviewing the ORPTS plan for maintaining the assessment roll before we sign up with them.

A resident filled out a complaint about a neighbor's dog, but was complaining because the case hasn't been to court. DCO Shawn Patrick advised that he told them he couldn't take the case to court because the description of the dog didn't match the neighbor's dog and the owner's name wasn't given in the complaint. Specific information is needed for the ticket.

We received a letter from the Independent Oil & Gas Association of New York. They stressed their commitment to using safe processes, listed gas production benefits and stated that "natural gas is the raw material of economic growth". Councilman Eklund will see if we can get a representative from their association to come to our informational meeting.

A letter was sent to the Morris Central School Board of Education and the Village Library of Morris suggesting that the Town Board would rather see a library tax as a uniform user fee than one based on assessment. A response was received from the Library advising that Education Law allows them to collect this tax, but it has to be based on assessment. It would take a change in the law to go to a user fee.

Reality Check, “a statewide youth led movement that exposes the marketing practices of the tobacco industry” sent a letter and a request for the Town Board to pass a resolution in support of their efforts to have any movie with smoking in it be rated R.

The Association of Towns, in conjunction with Cornell, is hosting a conference on “Home Rule: Preparing for Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region” on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 9:00AM to 5:00PM, in Binghamton. The registration fee is \$60.00.

We have not had a response back from JNS Towers about the proposed changes to their contract for building a cell tower on Town property. Joe Gregory has volunteered to give the Town a 99 year lease on a part of his property if it would be a better location for a cell tower. Tavis Austin noted that the Town of Hartwick is also looking into cell towers. Perhaps if we worked together it would benefit all of us. No further action has been taken on preparing an RFP for a needs assessment of the Highway Barn.

The Board discussed the duties for Tavis Austin as our “planner”. He will attend meetings if possible. If we email him the agenda he will know if there is an issue that concerns him. The Clerk will mail him copies of any applications which come before the Planning Board. He can hold training sessions with the Planning Board. It was approved to email him with “planning” questions.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 3/0 to pay General Fund bills #86 through #94 for a total of \$3,312.68. The Board also approved paying \$42.00 for post office box rent for the justice and bills of \$15,939.51 & \$273.63 for our insurance to Hughson & Benson Associates. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #79 through #85 for a total of \$6,650.13 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor’s monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Arthur Mathewson’s term on the Planning Board expires 5/31/11. He lacks one hour from the required training time. A motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 3/0 to reappoint Arthur Mathewson to the Planning Board effective 6/1/11, for a five year term. His next hour of training time will count towards this reappointment.

Residents were urged to do research, spread the news about gas drilling and come to the public meetings so that they can voice their opinions to the Town Board. With no further business, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 3/0 to adjourn at 9:16 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk