

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—AUGUST 9, 2011**  
**REGULAR MEETING---TOWN HALL---7:30 PM**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Edward Lentz, Robert Eklund, Connie Chase & Glen Noto, Clerk Charlene Wells, Also: residents Cecilia Schleder, Joe Gregory, Ed George, John Lernihan, Donald Smith, Flo Loomis, Nancy Moen, Susan Kennedy    Absent: Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker

Supervisor Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. The Board noted it's appreciation for the Clerk's fast preparation of the 7/11/11 special meeting minutes. Councilman Edward Lentz noted that his son, Ed Lentz, Jr. was not at the meeting as was listed and he would like the comments from Dennis Kelleher amended to include that he called all of those against gas drilling environmental jihads. One spelling correction was made to the July 12, 2011 minutes. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the amended minutes for the July 11, 2011 special meeting and the July 12, 2011 regular meeting.

Richard Hilary, of 537 Backus Road, submitted an application for a setback variance to 66 feet for the purpose of adding onto his existing residence. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker has approved changing the location of his driveway from in front of his residence to approximately 184 feet further down Backus Road. Mr. Hilary noted he would save excessive fill by having the variance. The Board questioned the usage of the additional space as Mr. Hilary noted that it was for living accommodations for guests and facilities to conduct his business. Mr. Hilary was not in attendance to answer the Board's questions. After further discussion, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to postpone taking action on Mr. Hilary's setback application and to refer it to the Planning Board for their review at their 9/12/11 meeting. A letter will be sent to Mr. Hilary asking him to respond to questions about the existing driveway being closed off, the amount of fill he would save and the "commercial" uses of the addition he is proposing.

Highway Bills #109 through #123 for a total of \$34,157.19 were audited and approved for payment by the Board.

Florence Loomis thanked the Town Board for taking action on the gas drilling issue and felt we were moving in the correct direction.

John Lernihan questioned if towns could get together and work as a unit to defend their local laws. Councilman Lentz thought it was a good idea, but it might not work because everyone's laws would be different.

Nancy Moen thanked the Board for taking into account the public's opinion on the gas issue.

Supervisor Taylor noted that he had talked to the State Comptroller's office twice for information on the 2% budget tax cap. They are supposed to send us the paperwork we will have to file and what items may be excluded when figuring the 2% increase.

Terry Bliss had sent an email about DELTA engineering. We can still sign on with them through the County for road analysis services. Supervisor Taylor will call Steve Mesner of DELTA to come talk to the Board.

Supervisor Taylor noted that residents should display their 911 numbers for emergency services. He received an e-mail advising that our final 2011 Equalization rate is 46.42%. The equalization rate comes from the State comparing sales to our assessments, which are from 1993. The NYSORPS website has further information on equalization rates.

Maxwell Appraisal Service will hold an informational meeting on September 26, 2011 for properties involving an agricultural exemption. The way exemptions for agricultural use of land are handled will have to be changed from what is presently being done. Joe Gregory noted that it really is a reduction in assessed value, not elimination from being assessed.

NYMIR, our new insurance carrier, came out and met with Supervisor Taylor. They will be sending out someone to look at our operations and to perform a risk management review and provide us with advice.

We received three more written comments on the gas drilling issue. Nancy Goehner (Myers Mill Rd) expressed her views against heavy industry and what it could do to our beautiful area. Jon Sammis (Goddards Rd) feels that we should not let those with “the sky is falling” attitude decide issues for the Town. The DEC knows a lot more than “Chicken Little”. Matthew & Sarah Albright (Lena Road) noted that their 200 acre parcel is under conservation easement, which prohibits gas drilling. They are against gas drilling and its negative consequences.

Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica is holding a Land Use Training Conference on Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 9:30AM to 3:00PM.

A motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #145 through #155 for a total of \$8,932.90. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #139 through #144, for a total of \$4,256.38, with prior Board approval. The Supervisor’s monthly report was submitted to the Board.

We only received one proposal, from Tectonic, for an evaluation of the Highway Barn, at a cost of \$3,800.00. The Board will review the proposal and discuss further at the August 23, 2011 special meeting. We will also try to get some information on the Burlington Highway Barn.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to pass Resolution #03 to support three bills at the State level involving Home Rule, classifying gas drilling wastes as hazardous wastes and a moratorium on gas drilling. A copy of the resolution will be sent to Assemblyman Bill Magee, Senator Jim Seward and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

The Town Board will rent two tables at the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Garrattsville Firemen’s Barbecue at a cost of \$20.00. We will hang up notices looking for a dog enumerator, as the Daily Star wanted over \$90.00 for a help wanted ad. The Butternut Valley Alliance will be holding their Harvest Festival on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> in Morris.

Lenny Melillo forwarded information from the County that beginning in 2013, fire departments will have to pay their own workers compensation insurance fees. The Otsego County Treasurers office was recently audited by the State Comptroller and they were advised that it was wrong for the County to pay this. It is anticipated it will cost approximately \$1500.00. A meeting will be held on August 18, 2011 in Cooperstown to discuss the change.

Councilman Lentz commented that the Board should get back to looking at taking action on the goals in the comprehensive plan. He would like to look into getting sidewalks in Garrattsville and a walking trail along the Butternut. He questioned if the monthly meeting agenda should be placed on the website. Clerk Charlene Wells was against doing this as the agenda is tentative and only a reminder to Board members of what items may or may not come up at the meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk