

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 6, 2011
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---7:30PM---TOWN HALL**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Robert Eklund, Connie Chase & Edward Lentz (late), Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Ed George, Nancy Moen, Donald Smith, Joe Gregory, Nancy Goehner, Lenny Melillo

Absent: Councilman Glen Noto, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 3/0 to accept the minutes for the August 9, 2011 regular meeting and August 23, 2011 special meeting as written.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker was absent, but sent word that they have been busy keeping culverts open and cleaning up after Hurricane Irene. Highway Bills #124 through #134 for a total of \$13,247.93 were audited and approved for payment by the Board.

Pauline Koren from Milford, introduced herself as a Republican candidate for our Otsego County Board of Representative position.

Lenny Melillo noted that an EMT class is beginning at the Garrattsville firehouse with 30 people attending from the area, including five from Garrattsville. The class continues two nights a week through March. He noted that during Hurricane Irene they utilized the Hwy. Dept. radio frequency since the County was overwhelmed. Lenny further noted that resident Jim Denekamp works for Delaware Engineering and has offered to share his knowledge in relation to the assessment of the Highway Barn.

Ed George complained that no information was given to the public over the radio during Hurricane Irene. With no power and no access to the internet or television, radio was the only way to receive information. Clerk Charlene Wells noted that she also felt there was a lack of information given to the public over the radio. It was suggested to send letters to the radio stations and County Office of Emergency Services about the lack of communication.

The Town Board expressed their appreciation for the over 200 man hours put in by the Garrattsville Fire Dept. responding to trees and lines down during Hurricane Irene and a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to pass Resolution #04-11 in appreciation of the Garrattsville Fire Dept.'s efforts during Hurricane Irene.

Supervisor Taylor noted that he will try to get Steve Mesner of DELTA Engineering to attend our October meeting. Attorney Tillapaugh is working on a draft law to ban heavy industry. He should have it to us by early next week. We received the paperwork from the State Comptroller's office which we will have to file showing that our 2012 budget is not over a 2% increase of last year's budget. We can pass a local law to override the 2% cap. Supervisor Taylor noted that he is working on the 2012 Tentative Budget which will be presented to the Board at the September 27th, 2011 special meeting.

Our 2011 Final Equalization rate of 46.42 is now the lowest in the County. A letter was read from Nancy Goehner of Myers Mill Road, urging the Board to get the law on banning heavy industry in place as soon as possible even if we have to get help from another attorney.

A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to pay General Fund bills #163 through #167 for a total of \$1,436.64. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #156 through #162 for a total of \$5,014.01 with prior Board approval.

The Board discussed the proposal for a needs assessment of the highway barn from Tectonic. Councilman Lentz has made suggested changes to the contract. Lenny Melillo suggested that the Board should consider looking at utilizing the cold storage barn. An office and heated bays could be added, which would spread out the equipment between two buildings. It was noted that Morris School residents just voted down

building a new bus garage for the second time. Lenny further noted that Burlington's barn is too big and not fully utilized, but Pittsfield's is a better size. The Board feels that a professional assessment of the Highway Barn will be a valuable tool if we can find a grant to help fund a new highway barn. It was decided to hold off on sending the proposed changes in the contract to Tectonic. Councilmen Edward Lentz and Robert Eklund will go and talk to Jim Denekamp and get his ideas and input on the highway barn issue before we go any further with the Tectonic proposal.

Discussion was held on working on the goals in the Comprehensive Plan. The Board decided to look for volunteers in the community to work on a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC). Councilman Lentz will work on getting a Town of New Lisbon Facebook page. He feels it would be another way to communicate with people and would reach a different audience. Discussion was also held on the need for a local enforcement officer. The Clerk will look for samples from other towns and check with the County Planning Dept.

The November monthly meeting will be changed to Thursday, November 10th, 2011 because of Election Day being on Tuesday, November 8th.

With no further business, a motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk