

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---DECEMBER 13, 2011
REGULAR MEETING---7:30 PM---TOWN HALL**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Edward Lentz, Robert Eklund & Connie Chase, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents: Ed George, Sue Smith, Donald Smith, Joe Gregory, Jim Gregory, James Denekamp & son, Mike Newell, Les & Betty Burgess, Also: Zondra Hart
Absent: Councilman Glen Noto

Supervisor Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to accept the minutes for the November 10, 2011 regular meeting as written.

The Planning Board met on December 5, 2011 and reviewed a site plan application from Les Burgess to expand his vegetable stand into a general store. They recommended approval of the project. After further review, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Edward Lentz and carried 4/0 to approve Site Plan Application #01-11 for Les Burgess to expand his farm stand (known as Foolish Farms) into a general store/farm stand, as per his submitted plans, on his property at 1364 County Hwy. 12.

Zondra Hart, who works through the Otsego County Economic Development Dept, in conjunction with the Otsego County Industrial Development Agency and Otsego County Development Corp., was present to share ideas on helping to attract business to our town. They can help with business plans, but it helps to go to them with a business plan at least started. Low cost loans (4% interest) are available. They have more flexibility than a bank does. The funding they provide usually helps with a growth phase, after the business has started up. Their goal is to help create jobs. They typically lend \$15,000.00 per job created. We should encourage residents with an idea for a business to go visit them and see what kind of assistance they can offer. The Town can also give tax breaks for new businesses starting up. Only the business portion would receive a tax break, not any residential portion. We will have to check on the details for providing a tax break for new business.

Hwy. Supt. Whitaker advised that he needs to replace two loader tires. They are the original ones that came with the loader, purchased in 2005. He anticipates the cost to be between \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00 each. Williams Tire gave him an estimate of \$1500-\$1700 each. He is still looking for more options. Hwy. employee Victor Lasher is going for an MRI for shoulder pain (possible torn rotator cuff) and may be off for 6-8 weeks if he needs surgery. Supt. Whitaker may want some help with the pickup, not plow trucks, depending on the weather. He would see about Pete Chase or Carlton Rockwell wanting to help as they have both worked for us. We received notice that our CHIPS payment is going to be transferred into our account.

Highway Bills #176 through #189 for a total of \$10,123.91 were audited and approved for payment by the Board. Supervisor Taylor paid highway bills #190 & #191 for a total of \$43,587.40 with prior Board approval.

Ed George noted that it was pretty muddy by the ditch at the back of the town hall parking area. Hwy. Supt. Whitaker will look at it and see if he can add some stone fill.

We received notice from the Otsego County Planning Dept. that they have reviewed the proposed local law #2 of 2011 and the SEQR Part 1 forms and have determined that there are no county-wide or inter-community impacts. After further review, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to pass Resolution #05-11, adopting the findings in the SEQR forms and filing a Negative Declaration in relation to adopting the proposed Local Law #2 of 2011.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Edward Lentz and carried 4/0 to adopt Local Law #2 of 2011, Protection of Rural Environment Local Law of the Town of New Lisbon. This law will be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

We received notice from Community Bank that effective January 1, 2012 we will only be receiving .15% interest on Town accounts instead of the .50% we were receiving. Supervisor Taylor will check and see if NBT can do better.

We received a letter and resume from Rima Shamieh, the new planner at OCCA, who will be working with the Circuit Rider Program. She will be requested to attend the 1/10/12 meeting at 7:30PM if she is available.

We received an email from the NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets advising that they will be focusing on municipal shelters and dog control officers to make sure they meet Article 7 requirements.

The County sent our Workers Compensation figures for 2012. Our town's portion is \$8,981.47, up from \$6,442.02 last year.

Justice Bruce Moskos provided information that all court staff, including judges, must submit to a fingerprint-based background check.

Supervisor Taylor advised that the State Comptroller's office just came and conducted a risk assessment audit. The examiner met with the Clerk, Hwy. Supt., Justice, Bookkeeper and Supervisor to examine our procedures and spot check records. She found no problems and advised that they don't send letters saying that everything is okay, only when they find something wrong.

Supervisor Taylor noted that the Gas Advisory Committee didn't vote against the home rule legislation that Senator Seward is proposing, instead they voted that it was not their place to be deciding on it and it should go to the entire County Board. Maxwell Appraisal Service will be sending out letters next telling everyone what their new assessments are. They should be holding a special meeting to explain what information they will be sending us. Supervisor Taylor noted that he is going to try a 90 day free trial with a Pitney Bowes postage machine. The Association of Towns has advised that any of the Board may attend the CPIC meetings, as they are not conducting town business at them.

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to pay General Fund bills #216 through #226, for a total of \$8,641.78. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #207 through #215 for a total of \$15,408.68 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills and balance accounts: 1. Increase A5148.1 (Service for other gov't.) by \$1000.00. Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingent Account). 2. Increase A1620.1 (Town Hall Salary) by \$3,000.00. Transfer from A1990.4 (Contingent Account). 3. Increase DA5130.4 (Machinery Contractual) by \$1600.00. Transfer from DA5130.2 (Machinery-Equipment). 4. Increase DA9060.8 (Medical Insurance) by \$12,193.00. Transfer from DA5130.2 (Machinery-Equipment).

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to authorize the Clerk, Supervisor & Bookkeeper to make any further appropriation changes and pay any necessary bills before the end of the year.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to advertise for a public hearing on the 2012 Fire Protection Contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company, Inc. at 7:00PM on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, followed immediately by the 2012 Organizational meeting and the regular January 2012 monthly meeting.

The Clerk submitted some samples of job descriptions pertaining to a local land use enforcement officer. We will have to check with the County about civil service requirements. The Clerk will pull together a final draft for the Board to review.

Councilman Lentz questioned about public access to the cemetery in Stetsonville that the Town mows. We never have had a problem getting to mow it, but we will have to see if the public has a legal access to it since you have to go through private property to get to it.

A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to send the comments on the NYSDEC SGEIS, as prepared by Councilman Lentz, to the DEC from the New Lisbon Town Board.

We have been requested to consider filing an amicus brief, in conjunction with the court case on banning heavy industry in Middlefield & Dryden. We would not become a party to the legal action, only a “friend of the court”, whereby we would show our support for the Towns’ position. Supervisor Taylor noted that he would like to have received a request for our support from the Town of Middlefield. The Board will consider doing this, pending input from our Town Attorney.

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 9:10 PM.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to close the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting at 9:35 PM.

With no further business, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to adjourn at 9:37 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk