

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD----FEBRUARY 10, 2015---7:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Joseph Gregory & Robert Eklund, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Attorney Martin Tillapaugh, Co. Rep. Edward Lentz, Residents Edward George, Lenny Melillo, Tom Riso Absent: Councilman John Pegg

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to accept the minutes for the January 13, 2015 regular meeting as written. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to accept the minutes for the February 4, 2015 special meeting as written.

The Planning Board met on February 2, 2015 and reviewed Subdivision Application #01-15 for a simple subdivision for Robert Taylor. They recommended approval of the application which was sent on to the County Planning Dept. for their review. Supervisor Robert Taylor removed himself from the Board since this was his application. He explained that he intended to sell the land to a local young man who has been using his barn. The intention is to leave the parcel as is with no further development. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 3/0 to approve Subdivision Application #01-15, pending County input, for a simple subdivision on tax map # 159.00-1-24.00 for Robert & Claire Taylor.

Highway Superintendent Bill Whitaker advised the Board that he had submitted his road sealing bills from the fall for reimbursement of \$58,739.35 through the CHIPS program. He noted that they have a lot of lumps in the sand pile. Stan Leonard has looked at the generator that was purchased from the surplus program and felt there should be no problem hooking it up. It has less than 600 hours of use on it. The check was sent out for the 2009 Freightliner truck from the surplus program and Supt. Whitaker advised the Board that it would probably be six weeks before we receive it. He is starting to look at what will be the best options for building the truck to meet our needs. Councilman Joe Gregory questioned if we would be able to get the maintenance history on the truck. Supt. Whitaker didn't think it would be very likely. Councilman Gregory questioned if the Board should just give Hwy. Supt. Whitaker the authority to purchase another surplus truck when one comes available since they go fast. Supt. Whitaker stated that he likes to have the Board's input and has no problem with calling a special meeting if one comes up again. Councilman Joseph Gregory questioned the \$1000.00 cost for a new oil pan for the 2008 Volvo. Lenny Melillo noted that the cost was not out of line for a steel pan. He noted that they rust from the inside out and there's nothing that you can do to prevent it.

Lenny Melillo noted that he was disappointed that employee benefits weren't on the agenda. He feels that we need to work on changing benefits for future employees as we need to start cutting our expenses. Clerk Charlene Wells has been working on gathering information on what other towns give in benefits. Supervisor Taylor may get some insight at the Assoc. of Towns conference. Councilman Robert Eklund agreed that we have to plan for the future and may have to make changes we don't like. Supervisor Taylor added that we may have to exceed the tax cap next year or start cutting. The Board discussed setting up a separate meeting on employee benefits, but decided to work on it at the next meeting.

Lenny Melillo advised that he found out that the Town of Turin in the Adirondacks sells permits for people to be able to ride 4-wheelers on Town Roads. He thought since people ride on our roads anyways, it could be a way for the Town to get some extra income. Councilman Joseph Gregory noted that he found some information on grants for the Fire Dept. and gave the information to Lenny.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh updated the Board on the assessment dispute with Yogi Bear Campgrounds. Even though they paid over 3 million for the campground they are contending it is only worth approximately 1 million. We have it assessed a little over 2 million. They will most likely base their claim using income capitalization. Attorney Tillapaugh has asked for certified financials as the first generalized paperwork they gave us showed they had a loss every year. He will be asking Mike Maxwell to complete an appraisal if necessary at a cost of \$2500.00 to \$3000.00. He expects that the case will go to trial in June and take one to two days, with Judge Dowd presiding.

Attorney Tillapaugh has advised that we do not have to advertise for job openings. Some towns do and some don't. Sometimes it's better to hand pick someone who will fit in good and sometimes it's better to get a bigger pool of candidates. It is totally up to the Town to decide how to handle.

Co. Rep. Edward Lentz noted that the County is looking for a 911 Coordinator. Solar City contracts are ready. They are still looking for a site, preferably a municipal property. They are still working on getting broadband to more residents. They have established a management review process with a merit pay review. Rep. Lentz advised that he is now on the Public Works Committee. The County has 470 miles of roads. They generally pave 20 miles per year. The new EMS system is supposed to start up by November 2015 and will run parallel with the current system for a year. He is still trying to get the County to chip in for the cost of the new radios which the fire departments will need. It is estimated it will cost \$800,000.00 to upgrade all 30 fire departments' radio equipment.

Proposals for a new power line are being reworked. We received a copy of NAT's amended application on a USB thumb drive. The County has filed for intervenor status and received \$45,000.00. The County Planning Dept. and OCCA are working on gathering information on how an additional power line will affect the County. OCCA has a questionnaire which we will put on our website for any interested residents to respond to. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he has concerns about the use of our roads by heavy equipment.

We received information from NYMIR that their rates will remain the same in 2015 as in 2014. Information was received from NYSEG about a discount program they have for agricultural properties. Historian Virginia Schoradt submitted her annual report to the Board. We received our new contracts from CDPHP for 2015. The final rates for 2015 are \$629.71 for single, \$1259.42 for employee plus one and \$1794.67 for family coverage.

The Board set Saturday, April 18th as Clean Up Day in the Town, with more details to be worked out. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to hold a public hearing on renewing our cable franchise with Time Warner Cable for Tuesday, March 10th, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to approve paying General Fund bills #20 through #27 for a total of \$3,986.09 and Highway Fund bills #20 through #33 for a total of \$27,599.74. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #13 through #19 and Highway Fund bill #34 for a total of \$8,446.87 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Councilman Joseph Gregory completed the audit of the Justice Court. After reviewing his findings, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to accept Councilman Gregory's audit of the Justice Court.

Clerk Charlene Wells noted that she watched a webinar from GovPayNet on their credit/debit system. She is waiting for their references that she can contact for more input. So far she has found that only the Town of Oneonta has recently started accepting credit/debit cards using a different company. If we proceeded with this, the Clerk would have to have her computer upgraded to add an additional USB port for the card reading device. She is not sure if this would only work in her office or what we would have to do to set it up so people can pay online. She will continue gathering information.

With no further business, a motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to adjourn at 9:08 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk