

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---DECEMBER 8, 2015---7:30 PM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen Joseph Gregory, John Pegg & Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents; Donald Smith, Sue Smith, Edward George, Keith Woodbeck, Barry Braunius, Flo Loomis, Lenny Melillo

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by John Pegg and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the November 10, 2015 meeting as written.

The Fire Department was called out to a beaver dam break Monday night which resulted in Lena Road being temporarily closed. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that they repaired the road damage today. He noted that residences and driveways were left in worse shape than the road. After the dam broke, water brought debris which caused the culvert to plug up. Homeowners will have to apply for permits to clean up the debris with the NYSDEC, as most of the debris and cleanup is out of the Town's jurisdiction. Supt. Whitaker noted that FEMA is now requiring permits for any work within 4000 feet of any water, which will make it harder to get any work done in a FEMA declared disaster. He noted that he has to keep track of the beaver in many places around town. With the good weather, they have been working on cutting brush. Supt. Whitaker advised Councilman Robert Eklund that he has compiled the timesheets and overtime hours and will meet with him to go over the data. The paperwork for reimbursement for CHIPS funds has been submitted to the State, for a total of \$155,797.40. This included guardrails for Bell Hill Road Bridge, the 2009 Freightliner truck purchase, and the Miller/Bardin Road paving project. By February 2016 he will submit the paperwork for reimbursement of the sealing cost of the paving project.

Flo Loomis commended the highway crew on the good job they have been doing cutting brush by hand. She felt it looked much better when done by hand than by machine like was done in Oneonta, leaving mangled trees.

Supervisor Robert Taylor advised the Board that Attorney Martin Tillapaugh ran into the attorney for Yogi-Bear Campground and that he felt it was possible that he would have an acceptable agreement with them over their assessment dispute before the end of the year. The court case has been postponed until next year. The Board agreed to hold a special year end meeting on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 to meet with Attorney Tillapugh on the campground assessment issue, the employee handbook and any other issue which comes before the Board.

Supervisor Robert Taylor reflected on his 24 years as Town Supervisor. He noted that past town officials Chuck Storer and John Turnbull had talked him into running for office in the first place. His job as the chief fiscal officer for the Town means that all monies are channeled through his office, but he can make no major decisions without the support of the Board. He thanked all town officials for doing their jobs which made it easier for him to do his job. He also thanked the public for their support over the years.

We received a bulletin from NYMIR about fleet maintenance. They can assist us in establishing a fleet maintenance program. We received a copy of the proposed changes to the Association of Towns' bylaws which will be voted on at the annual meeting in NYC in February 2016.

A letter of resignation was received from Florence Loomis from the Planning Board effective January 1, 2016 since she will be serving as Town Councilwoman beginning January 1, 2016.

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #194 through #207 for a total of \$15,559.32 and Highway Fund bills #192 through #209 for a total of \$75,576.01. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #189 through #193 and Highway Fund bill #210 for a total of \$6,540.05 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Joseph Gregory and carried 4/0 (Robert Taylor abstained) to schedule a public hearing on the 2016 Fire Protection Contract with the

Garrattsville Fire Company and the 2016 Organizational meeting for Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7:30 PM. The regular monthly meeting will remain on January 12, 2016.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that at the end of November we have a surplus in the General Fund of \$297,875.00 and a surplus of \$229,310.00 in the Highway Fund. \$184,000.00 of the surplus was appropriated to use in the 2016 budget. At the end of November in our cash accounts we had \$380,443.00 in General Fund and \$135,526.00. Any money left in the cash accounts after December 2015 bills, payroll, etc. are paid will go into the surplus funds. The 2016 Final Budget, at a total of \$1,116,446.00 is approximately \$30,000.00 less than the 2015 Budget. The 2016 tax rate is at \$6.72, the same as the 2015 tax rate. Supervisor Taylor noted that the Town is not in bad shape compared to some other towns, but future budgets will continue to get harder to stay within the tax cap.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to make the following appropriation changes to balance accounts in the Highway Fund: 1. Increase DA 5112.2 (Improvements-Equipment & Capital Outlay) by \$33,209.45. Transfer from DA 5130.2(Machinery-Capital Outlay). 2. Increase DA 5130.4 (Machinery-Contractual Expenditure) by \$22,100.00. Transfer from DA 5142.4 (Snow Removal-Contractual Expenditure).

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by John Pegg and carried 5/0 to authorize Town Clerk Charlene Wells to attend the 2016 Annual NY State Town Clerk Assoc. Conference in Saratoga Springs in April 2016.

Councilman Robert Eklund thanked Flo Loomis for her years of service on the Planning Board and suggested that we replace her with Robert Taylor who already knows our comprehensive plan and regulations. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 (Robert Taylor abstained) to appoint Robert Taylor to the Planning Board effective January 1, 2016. Supervisor Robert Taylor thanked the Board for appointing him to serve on the Planning Board which means he will be able to continue serving the Town and continue his work with the Association of Towns. He noted that it is not very usual for a small town to have such representation at such a high level in the Association of Towns.

Councilman Robert Eklund thanked Supervisor Robert Taylor for getting him involved in politics in 2006. He has been impressed by how well the Board has worked together over the years. He noted that he will miss not having Robert Taylor and Connie Chase on the Board next year and thanked them for their years of service to the Town.

Councilwoman Connie Chase thanked Board members and the public for their support over the years, which have included some tough issues, such as fracking. She thanked Flo Loomis for her upcoming service on the Board. She reminded all Board members that they are elected to serve the whole town, not their own personal agendas or "coffee shop" agendas.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells presented Supervisor Robert Taylor with a certificate commending his 24 years of service and Councilwoman Connie Chase on her 9 & 1/2 years of service.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker thanked Supervisor Robert Taylor for all of his patience and help. Tom Riso advised that he had some recommendations for the heating in the highway storage building ready and needs to go over the ideas with Supt. Whitaker. Hwy. Supt. Whitaker noted that hwy. employee Barry Brauinus is working on drawings for the ceiling and partition in the storage building and getting engineer approval for the building permit.

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the floor for final public comment. Tom Riso wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a peaceful New Year.

With no further business, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by John Pegg and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

