

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—FEBRUARY 14, 2017---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

PRESENT: Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilmen Joseph Gregory, John Pegg & Robert Eklund, Clerk Charlene Wells, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Edward George, Tom Riso, Robert Taylor, Daniel Morehouse, Earl Smith, Sue Smith, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Lenny Melillo

Supervisor Timothy Miller opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the January 10th, 2017 Organizational meeting, public hearing and regular monthly meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he feels our sand pile is holding up despite the icy weather, but he has used a lot of salt. He added that they are happy with the way the 2009 Freightliner is working. He asked the Board to consider getting a new pickup to replace the 2009 pickup and to start a program of getting a new pickup every two years and selling the old one. They would have a three year bumper to bumper, 36,000 mile warranty and if we sold after two years it would still have a year left on the warranty and good resale value. He would like to get a 350, one ton single wheel with a flatbed dump. He feels that would be more useful to him and they could reuse the dump feature on several future trucks. By buying a new pickup every two years we wouldn't have to do the costly repairs like we did on the 2009 pickup. The 2013 pickup has 52,000 miles on it. Councilman Robert Eklund questioned why the change from the usual five year replacement to a two year replacement. He would have to see what a new pickup would cost and what we could anticipate getting for a used one. Supervisor Timothy Miller suggested that the capital planning committee could look into the cost of buying and selling pickups every two years and also look into alternative energy vehicles. Supt. Whitaker will get the specs ready for the kind of pickup he wants and get some preliminary estimates.

The NYS DOT is planning on the replacement of the culvert on St. Hwy. 51 near the intersection in Garrattsville for July 2017. They originally were going to do one lane at a time and put up a stop light. They have changed their plans to putting in a one piece culvert so they plan on closing the road from July 10th through August 4th, 2017. The planned detour route will be Co. Rt. 12 to Co. Rt. 14 to Co. Rt. 16, approximately 12.5 miles. Supervisor Miller had talked with them about the change in plans because the fire/ems vehicles would have a longer response time due to the detour. Lenny Melillo has also talked with them and they agreed to put in an emergency lane for the ambulance only. They will park one firetruck on the other side of the project for the duration of the construction. The Board discussed the need for good signs during the construction time to keep big vehicles from using short cuts on Parker Road, Bell Hill and Myers Mill Road. Lenny added that the contractor is responsible for posting detour signs. Councilman Robert Eklund suggested seeing if we could put up a sign by the brewery on St. Hwy. 51 directing campers going to Yogi Bear Campground to utilize Walters Road. Supervisor Timothy Miller added that we could put up signs for one lane bridges and weight limits closer to St. Hwy. 51 so maybe we could keep big vehicles from going onto the shortcuts. Councilwoman Flo Loomis added that the Town shouldn't have to pay for signs for the NYSDOT's project.

Supt. Whitaker got an estimate from Hill's Truck Repair in Mt. Upton for two truck tarps/systems installed for \$3,265.00. This was cheaper than the previous estimate from Cook Brothers. The installation includes wiring which Hwy. Supt. Whitaker didn't feel they wanted to do. Councilman Robert Eklund questioned what it would cost to just have to replace the tarps if they are torn. There was no cost given for that, but Lenny Melillo added that he has tarps that have been on his trucks over 15 years. It's usually operator error that causes damage to the tarp. Supt. Whitaker would have them done this spring on the two Volvos. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5/0 to accept the price of \$3,265.00 from Hill's Truck Repair in Mt. Upton for two tarps/systems to be installed on the two Volvo trucks this spring.

Michael Halpin has requested a setback variance to 55 feet for the purpose of building a garage on his property. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert

Eklund and carried 5/0 to approve a setback variance to 55 feet for Michael Halpin for building a garage on his property at 591 County Hwy. 14.

Tom Riso noted that he didn't recommend Bell Hill Road be used as a Rt. 51 detour route due to the hill and the one lane bridge. It would not be the official detour route, but many would use it as a shortcut route.

Edward George commented that perhaps the Town should consider leasing pickups if we only wanted to keep them for two years. He would have liked to make his comment while the Board was discussing the truck issue, not to have to wait for the open to the public section. Councilwoman Flo Loomis agreed that if a resident has something to add to a discussion and raises their hand they should be able to address the Board on the issue being discussed at that time rather than having to wait until later in the meeting. Supervisor Timothy Miller felt the meeting was for the Board to discuss things and wants the public to wait for the "open to the floor" section of the meeting.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy provided some grant information for the Board. She noted that the County is doing the Community Event Grant again with an application deadline of February 28th. She added that the Town of Hartwick was also discussing the buying/leasing/flipping options of obtaining new vehicles. The County has also been looking at leasing options, but no talk on alternative energy vehicles. We did receive a letter from Otsego County Hwy. Supt. Bill Mason accepting our shared service agreement. Councilman Robert Eklund questioned if the County was looking into ways to share services. Co. Rep. Kennedy responded that she has not seen any information or details on ideas. Councilwoman Flo Loomis suggested that the County should be committing money to the SPCA every year.

The Board reviewed the revised draft of solar farm regulations. They were simplified and decreased from 6 pages to 4 pages. Supervisor Timothy Miller noted the minimum lot size was put in as 5 acres. Councilwoman Flo Loomis would like to attend the solar farm informational session at the Assoc. of Towns Conference before finalizing our regulations. Councilman Robert Eklund asked Planning Board Chairman Dan Morehouse what the planning board's main intent was for the regulations. Chairman Morehouse responded that they see solar farms as a good way to earn money, but wanted to protect landowners and the Town. They don't want to see landowners left with problems cleaning up a site if the solar company goes bankrupt and possibly even lose their land over it. Robert Taylor added that after the solar farm is no longer useful they didn't want the landowner stuck with the cleanup expense and they don't want to see them left abandoned around town. Supervisor Miller noted that the Town would require a special use permit which would renew annually and Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso would have duties involving monitoring the sites. A bond and plan for removal would be required. Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested they should have to mow around the site to help prevent fires. The solar company must provide training on fighting fires at the site at no cost to the Fire Dept. Councilwoman Flo Loomis noted that asking for underground electric as much as feasible probably wouldn't be cost effective. It was agreed to change the minimum lot size to 6 acres. We have not heard back from Attorney Tillapaugh on the last draft so we will wait for his input.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso advised that he gave 8 properties with changes to the assessor to revalue. He will do whatever the solar farm site regulations require him to do.

Supervisor Timothy Miller advised that Mirabito will be putting in a propane tank and Suburban Propane will come and get their tank at the Town Hall. Census 2020 has starting looking for information and contacts. He noted that he has been working with Lois Ballard of Gates-Cole Insurance in Morris about taking over the Town's insurance. We have had a few issues with Hughson & Benson with getting our policies and getting some of the endorsements done. Overall, John Ryland has always shopped around and gotten us the best deal he could. After discussion, the Board decided that we should get renewal options from both and see who gets us the best deal.

Councilman Joseph Gregory submitted a written statement of his thoughts for the Capital Planning Committee. Councilwoman Flo Loomis noted that she has been looking at grants. She suggested that we should decide what we are interested in because grants can be time consuming. Preliminary projects might be a salt storage building or more funding for senior citizens. Supervisor

Miller suggested that the committee should make a list of possible projects and recommend the best ideas to pursue. He asked that the committees meet and report back to the full board next month.

We have received the signed Volunteer Stewardship Agreement back from the NYSDEC for the hiking trail development in the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest. A work day will be set up in May or June to get the trail cleared.

Supervisor Miller noted that a representative from the Otsego IDA will be coming to our March meeting to discuss their grant application they have in for improving Broadband in the County. The Town's Annual Update Document (AUD) to the State Comptroller is almost complete and will be submitted by the end of the month. The new flooring and carpet from the Justice Court grant will be installed this week in the office end.

Councilman Joseph Gregory submitted his audit of the Supervisor's office. After review, a motion was made Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the audit of the Supervisor's office done by Councilman Gregory. He noted he saw no problems.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #27 through #47 for a total of \$4,337.78 and Highway Fund bills #14 through #32 for a total of \$17,686.14. General Fund bills #21 through #26 and Highway Fund bill #33 for a total of \$8,541.60 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

The NYS Retirement System has advised us that we need to update our standard work day and reporting resolution for each new term for those covered by it. (Highway employees have time sheets & punch cards and the hwy. supt.'s position is considered a 40 hour week salaried position so they don't have to be included). A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5/0 to pass Resolution #02-2017 establishing a standard work day as 8 hours and the number of days reported to the NYS Retirement System for the Supervisor, Town Clerk/Collector, Bookkeeper, Assessor and Town Historian. The form must be posted for 30 days and then submitted to the Retirement System.

Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested he would like someone to get information on Capital Planning at the Assoc. of Towns conference. It was noted that the Town of Butternuts was leasing trucks so they might be a source of information on leasing. Tom Riso noted that our road crew has done a good job this winter. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk