

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—FEBRUARY 9, 2016—7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Councilwoman Florence Loomis, Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilmen John Pegg, Joseph Gregory & Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy (& her niece), Residents Keith Woodbeck, Barry Braunius, Sue Smith, Donald Smith, Edward Lentz, Melissa Doyle, Ray Gorton, Tom & Kathy Riso

The meeting was opened by Supervisor Timothy Miller 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 Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the January 12, 2016 regular monthly meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that the 2009 Freightliner is in the shop and they should be contacting him soon to go up and look at the plow equipment set up. He also noted that he has to go to the DEC in Rotterdam about setting up a disposal site for spoils from disaster events. We must have this in place if we want to be able to get future FEMA funds for disaster situations. Supt. Whitaker further advised that he had submitted the paperwork for CHIPS reimbursement for the shoulder work & sealing of Bardin Road for \$30,226.28. They have been cutting brush during the milder winter days. In order to get a county building permit to finish work in the storage building, we needed certification that the rafters could hold a ceiling. Instead of paying an engineer approximately \$4000.00, Supt. Whitaker is having someone come out from Morton Buildings who will provide the needed information at a cost of \$508.00.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5/0 to advertise for sealed bids for up to 5000 yards of sand, and prices per yard for Crusher Run, Item 4, Bank Run, Cobbles and #2 Stone to be opened at the March 8, 2016 meeting. It was noted that we may get better prices this year with fuel costs being down. We also make out better than some towns because we have two pits competing for our business.

Edward Lentz commented that when we were fixing up the highway garage and sealing the roof on it we talked about doing an annual inspection of it to keep up with repairs. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker agreed that it was a good idea and since he has two members on his crew with carpenter experience, he will have them do a look through the garage to see if anything needs our attention. We should also contact Upstate Sprayfoam to come inspect the roof this spring/summer.

Ray Gorton asked the Board if he would be able to do the seasonal mowing job of the cemeteries and building grounds again this year. There were no complaints about his job performance last year. Councilman Robert Eklund thought maybe others would be interested in the job and we should wait and advertise. Councilwoman Flo Loomis thought if he'd done a good job in the past and he wants to plan his upcoming season, we should make a decision. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 4/0 (Councilman Robert Eklund abstained from voting) to hire Raymond Gorton as our seasonal mower at \$11.00 per hour.

Melissa Doyle told the Board that she has been working on the Town's Facebook page adding items and getting an increase in comments. She would like to add as much Community news, emergency information, the meeting agendas, etc. and would like everyone to get her any information to add on.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised the Board that there is a County Community Grant Program which has funding for groups that are planning an event that will help attract tourism. The deadline to apply is February 29th. She will email us grant details. She also noted that she is working on a Family Farm Day in Otsego County like is done in other counties. Farmers would offer tours and set up self-guided tours for people to visit.

Kathy Riso sent a letter from the New Lisbon Citizens explaining how they spent their 2015 funds. She added that they have approximately 18 members and have had 17 paying others join them

on their outings. She noted that the group appreciates the Board's support and that socialization is very important for seniors. She reminded us that the Town Hall is a County Meal Site on the 3rd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. The senior group meets at the Town Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month, after the meal.

Supervisor Timothy Miller advised that when Stan Leonard came up to install a relief valve on the water system, he noted that our cold water storage tank has a broken bladder. He has provided an estimate of \$1100.00 to replace the cold water tank and put in the relief valve. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5/0 to accept the estimate of \$1100.00 from Stan Leonard to replace the cold water storage tank and put in the relief valve required by the Code Office.

There is a lunch meeting on February 11th at Noon about grant funding opportunities put on by the Mohawk Valley Economic District. The US Census Bureau sent notice that they will be sending a survey to complete in a few weeks. Time Warner has not yet connected a Wi-Fi Hot Spot. A representative from NYMIR will be coming on February 25th to complete a risk assessment. Supervisor Miller noted that he will also be meeting with John Ryland about our insurance package.

Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that he still has not connected with Martin Tillapaugh about continuing as our Town Attorney. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that we do not have to have one, but we should and we definitely should make a decision by next month. Councilwoman Flo Loomis added that we should consider someone else if we get no response from Attorney Tillapaugh. Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested sending a registered letter. Supervisor Miller advised that he will try harder to connect with him and will try to go see him.

We received notice from the NYS DOT that they will be doing two culvert replacements on St. Hwy. 51 this season. They will do one by the Morris/New Lisbon town line and one near the four corners in Garrattsville. They will be setting up temporary traffic lights during the construction time.

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund Bills #29 through #46 for a total of \$6,830.80 and Highway Fund Bills #24 through #39 for a total of \$12,406.67. Supervisor Miller paid General Fund Bills #23 through #28 and Highway Fund Bill #40 for a total of \$7,760.44 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Supervisor Timothy Miller received an email on January 15th about a Tax Freeze Credit that had to be applied for a few days later. We had to verify that we stayed under the tax cap and did not pass an override law. In checking with the Assoc. of Towns and State Comptroller's office, they both advised that we would need to void our 2015 local law to override the tax cap by passing a new law to repeal the law. We may or may not be eligible to get our residents a tax credit. Besides repealing the tax cap override law, we also may need to file an Efficiency Plan. Proposed Local Law #1 of 2016, a local law to Repeal Local Law #1 of 2015 and Reinstate the Tax Cap Limits Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C, was drafted from samples sent to us by the Assoc. of Towns and sent to all Board members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5/0 to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 on proposed Local Law #1 of 2016, a local law to Repeal Local Law #1 of 2015 and Reinstate the Tax Cap Limits Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C.

Councilwoman Flo Loomis advised the Board that she would be willing to get the water tested at the hwy. garage at an approximate cost of \$80.00. She thought that if the water tests okay we wouldn't have to buy drinking water and if it's not fit to drink we should have it posted not to drink the water. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to authorize Councilwoman Flo Loomis to get the hwy. garage water tested at a cost of approximately \$80.00.

Discussion was held on the propane for the Town Hall stove. We have to pay Suburban Propane a \$50.00 lease fee for the tank since we don't use much propane, usually only one delivery per year. When checked in the past Norton's Gas was about the same cost. If we purchase our own tank, we

could pick our supplier, but we would also have to be responsible for having the tank tested. Another option would be to switch to an electric stove. Councilwoman Flo Loomis stated she would look into this issue more for the Board.

Councilman Robert Eklund questioned whatever happened with our Employee Handbook. It was sent to the Town Attorney in August 2015. Hopefully Attorney Tillapaugh completed reviewing it and we can get his comments on it so the Board can officially adopt it.

Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested that the Board needs to start thinking of how we are going to make cuts before the next budget season starts. He suggested that with the minimum wage eventually going to \$15.00 per hour, it will be hard to maintain the park/playground area and we should consider cutting out those items. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that if the Board is going to reconsider the elimination of a full time highway employee come spring, they will need to have some information from the Hwy. Superintendent at least two weeks before the April meeting.

Councilwoman Flo Loomis conducted the audit of the Town Clerk/Collector's office on January 26, 2015 and submitted the audit documents for the Board to review. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the audit done by Councilwoman Flo Loomis of the Town Clerk/Collector. Councilman Gregory will be doing the audit of the Supervisor's office and Councilman Eklund will be doing the audit of the Justice's office.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells asked the Board if they wanted the meeting agenda to be posted on the Town website and Facebook page. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to authorize the Town Clerk to post the tentative meeting agenda on the Town website and Facebook page. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that we had not set up any parameters for the Facebook page. He doesn't want to see negative feeds, which means it would have to have constant monitoring. In an election year, all sides would have to have equal opportunities.

Edward Lentz commented that we should switch to an electric stove instead of gas. He added that most towns are in the same budget situation we are in. He suggested that we should try to avoid knee-jerk reactions and just cutting everything. We need to find a way to get more revenues for the Town by bringing in more business and economic development. He added that we need to address the problems long term and come up with ways to make our town more attractive and help to improve our budget situation that way. Councilman Robert Eklund commented that we have added some things such as Foolish Farms, Butternuts Beer & Ale, Butternut Golf & Recreation, The Painted Goat, etc. We need to find ways to attract more businesses like these and look at all ways to increase revenues, maybe even a housing development.

Melissa Doyle noted that she had some ideas for adding activities and would like to go over Facebook ideas with the Board. Sue Smith suggested that she talk to Brian Ryther to see if he is planning on doing a Maple Tour Day again this March.

Land Use Officer Tom Riso noted that he had no report for the Board this month. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Supervisor Timothy Miller and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk