

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 14, 2014---7:30PM PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen John Pegg, Joseph Gregory & Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, County Rep. Edward Lentz, Residents Keith Woodbeck, Don Smith, Edward George, Rich Brimmer, Tom Riso, Sue Smith, Donald Smith

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the Public Hearing on the 2015 Preliminary Budget at 7:30 PM. The state imposed tax cap allows us only to increase the amount to be raised by tax by 1.56%. Surplus funds were used to amend the 2015 tentative budget to reduce the increase to approximately \$10,000.00. Supervisor Taylor noted that while we have enough fund balance to do this this year and probably next year, it will be uncertain after that. Without surplus funds to carry over, we will have to decrease the budget or pass a local law to override the tax cap in future years. The lawsuits by Yogi Bear Campground and Meadowvale Campground could result in lowering our overall town assessment total which could impact the tax rate.

Tom Riso commented on the \$40,000.00 increase the Garrattsville Fire Company has advised the Town that they will need to continue operating. He noted that he had nothing against the fire dept. but he felt that the increase should be gradual rather than such a big increase all at once. He also felt that our general fund & highway fund surpluses should not be used for the fire district, as this money should be raised as needed from taxes. He noted that any exemptions only apply to the Town & County tax, not the fire district. Tom also felt that we should have a reasonable reserve as we never know when we will have an emergency situation arise. He also commented on the suggestion made last meeting that the money for the Senior Citizens be cut. Tom advised that his wife Kathy is the treasurer for the Senior Citizens and that all funds are properly accounted for. He noted that there were 16 seniors who went on the boat tour, with half of them never being on a boat before and they all had a great time. He felt that \$450.00 is such a small part of our million dollar budget and should remain for the Seniors.

Keith Woodbeck spoke for the Fire Company and noted that the increase is needed because they will be paying for a new truck, upgrading radios to meet the new County standards and other mandates they must meet. All of their equipment must be certified, which means increased cost. They try to save as much money as they can, but feel that the \$40,000.00 increase is needed for them to stay in business. Supervisor Robert Taylor and Co. Rep. Edward Lentz met with the Fire Company on Monday to discuss their needs. Supervisor Taylor noted that the \$40,000.00 unanticipated increase was a blow to the budget because we have to include the fire district cost in our allowable increase because it is a contract. It was further noted that the fire company also responds to trees & wires down and flooding calls which helps out the Town. Ed George commented on how it was years ago before the Garrattsville Fire Company began and we would have to wait for other towns to get notified of an emergency here. The new truck they are going to purchase is a bare bones truck and they will be outfitting it with some of their existing equipment. After the truck is paid for it will be time for a new ambulance, so the costs are ongoing. Councilman John Pegg noted that while the \$40,000.00 increase seems like a lot now, it probably won't be the last increase we will see. Keith Woodbeck added that the more regulations the state puts on the local fire department and emergency squad, and the less people who are volunteering, it is uncertain what the future will bring.

With no further comments on the 2015 Preliminary Budget, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 14, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL

Present: same as above

The regular monthly meeting began at 8:15 PM. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes as written for the September 4, 2014 regular meeting and September 30, 2014 special budget meeting.

The Planning Board met on October 6, 2014 and reviewed Subdivision Application #02-14 for a simple subdivision for Christine Cozzolino. The Planning Board recommended the application for approval; however, they felt it could be done as a boundary line adjustment since it is being purchased by the land owner across the road. Clerk Charlene Wells was at the meeting and afterward she called County Planning Dept. Director Karen Sullivan to discuss the issue. Ms. Sullivan recommended that this should be done as a subdivision as the six acre parcel is being cut out of the middle of the parcel and it would be stretching it to call it a boundary line adjustment. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to approve Subdivision Application #02-14 for Christine Cozzolino for a simple six acre subdivision on tax map 174.00-1-28.00, noting no adverse environmental impacts. Ms. Cozzolino also received Planning Board approval to consider the 30 acres she wants to sell to adjoining property owner David Rines (tax map #174.00-1-27.15) as a boundary line adjustment, needing no further review.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that the paving and sealing projects are completed. He has to do the paperwork to submit to the State for our CHIPS reimbursement. Supt. Whitaker wanted to respond to a comment made last month that the excavator sat for a week while we were renting it. He had planned projects that he estimated would take three weeks. When it is rented for three weeks you get a free week. He advised that it did sit idle for two days when the guys got called to help Laurens, two days when they helped Hartwick and a half day because of a flat tire. He advised that he got all of the projects done that he had planned to do (except one culvert that he did not have a permit for) plus four additional culverts they had found to need replacing. He did not keep track of the number of hours that it was used. He was happy with the amount of work that was completed with the excavator. Supt. Whitaker added that he feels we have a great crew that takes pride in their work and he cares about public safety. Donald Smith noted that to rent an excavator with an operator would cost approximately \$1500.00 per day. Supervisor Robert Taylor added that during the summer months employees take vacation time so we may only have a crew of two at many times. Supt. Whitaker has had Gus help out when he was short a man and is going to have him help with the cement floor.

Supervisor Robert Taylor advised that he and Co. Rep. Edward Lentz met with the Garrattsville Fire Company on Monday to review their budget and need for increased funds this year. Co. Rep. Lentz is trying to get the County to provide some funds for the radio upgrades.

The Hwy. Garage roof has been completed by UpState Sprayfoam. Upon inspection, there were a few areas that need to be fixed and they haven't finished the inside spray insulation yet.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that the upper firehouse phone wasn't working and he finally got through to Verizon to schedule a repair call. Sue Smith noted that our phone service isn't good here and wondered what we can do. We have called Verizon in the past and they always say our lines meet the minimum requirements. Residents should file complaints with the Public Service Commission.

In the last Town Topics magazine there was an article on videotaping and it stated that an individual can't place cameras, but the Board can approve using them. Justice Bruce Moskos has had security cameras installed at the town hall/court through funding from the Justice Court Grant Program. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Joseph Gregory and carried 4/1 (Robert Eklund against) to authorize the use of security cameras at the town hall and court office.

In order for our senior meal site to remain open, at least 12 people must attend. Meals are on the 3rd & 4th Wednesday's of the month at 12:00 Noon. People need to call in at least the day before at 547-6454 to register. The suggested donation is \$3.50. It is a good way for seniors to socialize.

Mirabito is holding a Fuels Summit on November 19, 2014 in Binghamton. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he plans on attending a seminar with the State Comptroller's office in Oneonta on October 21, 2014 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

The US Army Corps of Engineers sent notice that Bertha George's proposal to stabilize the streambed along her property at 4275 St. Hwy. 51 in Garrattsville will be covered under general permit number 13.

We received a letter from Joseph Anniello from the Town of Plainfield concerning the TV tower in Burlington. FOX station WFXV has an analog transmitter on that tower; however the tower has not been operating since August. He requested help in getting the tower fixed so people could pick up the FOX signal again.

The Board audited the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #181 through #191 for a total of \$52,623.28 and Highway Fund bills #169 through #181 for a total of \$18,923.22. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bill #180 for a total of \$100.00 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 5/0 to reappoint Carol Lernihan to a new five year term on the Board of Assessment effective October 1, 2014.

Councilwoman Connie Chase commented that she had received many calls on how nice the new blacktopping was at the Town Hall and how nice the refurbished entrance sign was. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to send a letter to Bill Burdick thanking him for his work done on refinishing the Town Hall entrance sign. Mr. Burdick advised that he had some supplies left, so he will work on repainting the Highway Dept. sign.

Supervisor Robert Taylor questioned what ideas the Board members have for the upcoming year for projects. He also questioned what they felt their job should include.

With no further business, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Joseph Gregory and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk