

## **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 30, 2014---7:30 PM SPECIAL 2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET MEETING---TOWN HALL**

Present: Councilmen Joseph Gregory, John Pegg, & Robert Eklund, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Supervisor Robert Taylor, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Edward Lentz, Residents Mert Hull, Rod Brimmer, Keith Woodbeck, Ed Lentz Jr., Katie Eklund, Karin Gann, Schulyer Gann, Don Smith, Jim Denekamp, Lenny Melillo, Tom Riso

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the special meeting at 7:30 PM. The 2015 Tentative Budget was presented to the Town Board as prepared by Budget Officer Robert Taylor. Based on a \$101,694,000.00 assessed value, the tentative rate is \$10.12 per thousand. The 2014 tax rate was \$6.59. This year's total amount to be raised by tax can't be increased over 1.56% of last year's amount or we would have to pass a local law to override the tax cap. A 15% increase was budgeted for health insurance, a 1.5% increase in salary for hwy. employees was figured in and a \$40,000.00 increase for the Fire Dept. was included. All bonds will be paid off this year. County Representative Edward Lentz suggested that we should use some of our estimated \$500,000.00 surplus funds to lower the amount to be raised by tax.

The Board reviewed the items contained in the budget. Councilman Joseph Gregory made a motion to cut the Town Councilman salary in half to \$700.00 each. The motion was seconded by John Pegg. Councilman Joseph Gregory & Councilman John Pegg voted in favor and Councilman Robert Eklund, Supervisor Robert Taylor and Councilwoman Connie Chase voted against the motion to decrease the councilman salary to \$700.00. The motion failed 3/2, so the councilman salary was left at \$1400.00 each. Supervisor Robert Taylor asked Tom Riso to go through the Town Hall and see what repairs might need to be addressed this year. He noted that we should paint inside this year and the ceiling in the large room needs some attention. He thought we should replace the old blacktopped area around the building with concrete to seal up the cracks and keep the water running away from the building. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he planned on sealing the old blacktop with the new paving. Lenny Melillo agreed that this would be best to have one continuous surface. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that we should have some funds available for emergency repairs that may come up. The Town Hall repair category was decreased by \$15,000 to \$10,000.00. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that the upgrades to the hwy. storage building can be done in phases.

Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested we should cut more as he gets calls from residents complaining that taxes are too high. He suggested that we should cut the senior citizen funding as not many seniors take part and most can't afford to drive to senior citizen meetings. He also felt we could cut the playground funds as not many utilize the playground at the town hall. He questioned about the Hwy. Supt. getting medical insurance as he is an elected official. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that we have always given medical insurance to the Hwy. Supt. as it is a full time position. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker has saved the Town money over the past years by not taking the medical insurance as he was covered under his wife's policy. She has retired, so he now has insurance through the Town.

Because of the problems with the newer trucks, Supt. Bill Whitaker wants to purchase surplus army trucks and upgrade them to be plow trucks. He is on a waiting list to get them. The Board suggested that if we get two army trucks, we only upgrade one to make sure it works out to be what we want before we do a second one. The loader and grader should be okay for ten years or so. We are spending more money on repairs and the cost for materials and fuel keep increasing. All Board members agreed to increase the use of surplus funds to reduce the amount to be raised by tax.

Fire Company President Lenny Melillo advised that the increase of \$40,000.00 they requested will be ongoing. They are going to purchase a new truck in 2015 and after that is paid for it will be time to purchase a new ambulance. Repairs on older equipment have been costing them more money. They have to have a dependable fleet to be able to answer calls. The new County EMS system will mean that they have to get new radios. The only option to accepting the increased cost of the contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company would be to put out for bids for fire protection/emergency services and see if any other towns would want to cover our town.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to adopt the revised 2015 Tentative Budget as the 2015 Preliminary Budget and to hold a public hearing on it at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, prior to the regular monthly meeting. Councilman Gregory noted that he felt the Board could do better at cutting the budget.

Bills were audited by the Board. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Joseph Gregory and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #174 through #179 for a total of \$14,090.54 and Highway Bills #157 through #167 for a total of \$61,035.08. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #168 through #173 and Highway Fund bill #168 for a total of \$7,225.50 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

With no further business, a motion was made Robert Eklund, seconded by John Pegg and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk