

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 4, 2012—6:30 PM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Edward Lentz, Robert Eklund, Connie Chase, Glen Noto (late), Clerk Charlene Wells, Attorney Martin Tillapaugh, Delaware Engineering reps James Denekamp & Mike O'Reilly, Also: residents Ed George, Jim Gregory, Joe Gregory Absent: Hwy. Supt. Whitaker

Supervisor Taylor opened the regular monthly meeting at 6:30 PM. He noted that the Board was happy with the results of the highway barn analysis and that they felt that Delaware Engineering followed what we asked for in our RFP. Delaware Engineering representative Mike O'Reilly, who worked on our project, noted that he has done several hwy. barn projects. Overall the condition of our present barn is poor, but structurally okay. He estimates it's lifespan to be five to ten years. The roof is deteriorating, we have a lot of air leaks, the furnace is not efficient, the septic is questionable because we don't know what's there, etc. Because of the type of building it would be hard to put on an addition to meet our space requirements. If we decided to build a new hwy. barn he suggested that it would be best to situate it on the same site to save some expense. He estimated that demolition of the present barn would cost approximately \$50,000.00 and we would have to check for asbestos. It would take 4-5 months to build, so we would have to do it during good weather seasons. A new building would have better insulation, radiant heat, better space utilization, etc. Having to pay prevailing wage costs increases the total cost, which will only keep going up. He also noted that it is cheaper to go with a rectangular shape over a square shape. They would be available to help us design plans, bid it out oversee the entire project, etc. There are no known grant opportunities at this time.

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2012 regular monthly meeting as written.

Highway bills #120 through #127, for a total of \$65,722.07 were audited and approved for payment by the Board.

Councilmen Edward Lentz and Robert Eklund reported on their meeting with Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker about the problems with the new "used" truck. The Board felt that they were advised that the truck had been totally inspected before the purchase. They discussed three options with Hwy. Supt. Whitaker: use as is for now, raise side walls to give more sand capacity or replace entire dump box. Councilman Lentz noted that since there were concerns about the truck being automatic, it should be put on the road now so that the driver can get used to handling it. Since the sander that came with it is usable, it was suggested that we just utilize that for now. Councilman Eklund noted that they suggested that we should use as is for a season to make sure we are happy with the truck before we even consider putting on a new dump box. The Board also discussed having others look at any future used equipment we may be interested in.

We received one sealed bid for the 1980 Oshkosh we advertised for sale of \$7,100 from Richard Moller of Jefferson, NY. A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to accept the bid of \$7,100.00 from Richard Moller, subject to Hwy. Supt. Whitaker's approval.

Ed George questioned if Hwy. Supt. Whitaker was still intending to seal High Street this year.

Attorney Tillapaugh has been working on three laws for us: one to change the date of grievance day, one to increase the aged exemption and one to authorize a business tax deduction. We need to get the impact of increasing the senior exemption from Assessor Kathleen Chase. Attorney Tillapaugh will get drafts to the Clerk to forward to the Board for review. Councilman Lentz questioned if we could limit the kinds of business that would be eligible for the exemption.

In regards to the petition from MB Campground to have their assessment lowered from \$2,033,400.00 to \$1,126,744.00, Attorney Tillapaugh advised that he has filed paperwork to deny. He noted that we will probably have to hire someone to do an appraisal of the property and try to find an agreeable amount or go to trial. We should move along with the process which could take up to 3 years to settle, but then we would get hit with three years of adjustment at once. MB Campground filed last minute with the assessor to have their assessment lowered. They did not come in to go over their

assessment with her and they gave no reasons or comparisons, just that it was their opinion that they were over assessed. The Board of Review took no action because they did not prove their case.

The Clerk questioned Attorney Tillapaugh if it would be legal for her to put a dog census mailing in with the January tax bills and he advised that other towns put in additional materials and that he saw no problem with it. If we did a mail dog census at the same time of sending tax bills, we would save the majority of the postage cost.

We received notification that we were approved to get a \$3,000.00 Preserve NY Grant Program award. This would go towards the cost of having Jessie Ravage complete a Reconnaissance Level Survey of historic, architectural and cultural resources of the Town. The Town would have to put in additional funds. We would have to submit a copy of a contract with Jessie Ravage to do the work. A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to accept the \$3000.00 Preserve NY Grant award and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract on behalf of the Town.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that the skylights on the hwy. barn roof were leaking during a recent rainstorm. The Board had no objections to Lou Colburn fixing them on town time. Fred Hall looked at the Town Hall roof and advised that he didn't feel the attic overheating was the problem. He thought it was just normal wear of the shingles. He estimated it would cost \$11,000.00 if we put new shingles over the existing ones or \$17,000.00 if we tore off the old ones and replaced with new ones. It was also discussed getting the cost of putting on a metal roof, which has a longer life expectancy. In accordance with our purchasing policy we will have to get three estimates for the roofing repair job.

The Board will meet on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 to start working on the 2013 Budget. Attorney Tillapaugh was asked to draft a local law to exceed the 2% state mandated increase limit in the event the Board feels it will be necessary.

Assessor Kathleen Chase is still trying to work on getting her required training credits. She is not allowed to take classes she has already taken and she feels that many don't apply to us. Since she doesn't have a personal credit card, Supervisor Taylor has authorized her to use the town credit card for the classes she signs up for. Upon her completing and passing the courses, the State is supposed to reimburse us for the cost. The Board all suggested that since her job is on the line, she should take anything she can to get her credit hours in.

The Dog Control Officer has submitted a 2013 budget request for a salary of \$4000.00. The Clerk will check with surrounding towns to see what they are paying for this position.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #181 through #188 for a total of \$669.57. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #177 through #180, for a total of \$4,495.89 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Councilman Glen Noto questioned if we can pass a local law that makes it so the process of "eminent domain" in regards to private interests can't happen in our town. Attorney Tillapaugh will look into this matter.

Councilman Robert Eklund noted that he was impressed with all of the firemen, but especially the young people who have joined in the ranks. He would like to send a letter of appreciation, which he will draft and circulate for the Board to review.

Councilman Edward Lentz reported that the NYS Solar Initiative would not work for the hwy. barn as it is looking for projects using over 50 KW. He is still looking into solar grants. He will check with Otsego Electric to see if they are going to have the same kind of grant program they had before.

Councilwoman Connie Chase thanked all of the Board members for coming out and helping at the Town's tables at the Firemen's Barbecue.

The Clerk updated the Board on the progress made with the playground upgrades. The hwy. dept. brought in a load of pea gravel. Bob Wells has been helping do the work needed. Two new swings have been put up, with the middle one left out. The fire pole was dug out and moved over five inches to

meet the new code. A Plexiglas circle was placed in the spot where the cracked bubble was. The "protrusion" was pushed in near the steering wheel. The worn top links of the tire swing chain were removed. We are looking for new pins to put in the top swivel of the tire swing. We can't find any different type of bracket for the tube slide. To replace the metal slide would cost over \$700.00, but it would still be hot as it's in direct sunlight. The Big Toys Company has plastic end caps for \$7.50 each, but we are looking for a cheaper alternative. A sign needs to be placed on the play set saying it's recommended for ages 5-12.

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

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk