

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 9, 2018---7:30 PM—TOWN HALL  
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman John Pegg, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Edward George, Tom Riso, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Donald Smith, Mert Hull, Lenny Melillo, Earl Smith

The Public Hearing on the proposed 2019 Preliminary Budget was opened at 7:30 PM. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that we can have up to a 4.19% increase because we have carryover we didn't use in previous years. The Preliminary budget has a 2% increase of \$13,754.00 over last year's budget. We can use more fund balance to drop the increase to 1% (\$6,945.70 increase) or to a 0% increase. He anticipates we will have a fund balance of \$245,526.00 in General Fund and \$285,634.00 in the Highway fund at the end of the year and has figured \$130,309.00 from the General Fund in the budget. He did not use any of the Highway fund as he would like to use some towards another new truck. Lenny Melillo commented that we really need to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> new truck. He added that it was better to have a small 2% increase now than to have a larger increase in the future. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker added that he didn't want to see all of the highway funds used as we need a reserve for emergencies and for paying CHIPS project bills while we wait for reimbursement. With no further comments, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 7:47 PM.

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---OCTOBER 9, 2018**

Present: same as above

The regular monthly meeting opened at 7:48 PM. The September 11, 2018 minutes were corrected to read that Highway Employees attended the Deferred Compensation Plan meeting in Morris, not Supervisor Lentz. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the amended minutes for the September 11, 2018 regular monthly meeting and the minutes for the September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 special budget meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that the 1997 International truck will be sent out for annual service and then the 2001. Upstate Sprayfoam has advised that they plan on coming out in the next few weeks to fix the bad spot on the Highway Garage roof. The highway employees will begin to utilize the new daily vehicle inspection sheets. He will be going out to Viking to see the new truck and go over the plans to set it up with plow equipment. There is an issue with some of the deck boards on Turnbull Bridge. Water has been setting on the deck and a few of the boards need replacing. Lenny Melillo noted that the water needs to be diverted away from the bridge deck so it doesn't set there. The culverts on Card Road are in and he plans on renting a machine to finish four culverts. They will be sealing Gregory and Gilbert Lake Roads tomorrow. It was discussed that the 04 & 08 Volvos might be kept for the winter season only since we have done so many major repairs on them. Donald Smith noted that he did not recommend that they sit idle for half of the year as we would then have electrical issues. He recommended that if we keep them they at least be used on a limit basis all year.

Edward George questioned what ever happened to the army surplus generator that Hwy. Supt. had planned on using at the Hwy. garage. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that he had Stan Leonard convert it for use, but they could not get it to regulate itself. No one else is interested in trying to fix it. Supt. Whitaker advised that we could surplus it and get money for the power unit it has. The 4400 watt generator we have for the town hall is too small if we had to operate as an emergency shelter. Stan Leonard has suggested that we would need at least an 8000 watt, and probably a 10,000 watt generator would be best. Ed George also noted that we need a new flag for our flagpole at the four corners in Garrattsville. Lenny Melillo noted that it is hard to pull the flag up & down and maybe the pulleys need attention. He will see if Austin McEnroe will bring down his power lift so they can check out the pulleys. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to purchase a new flag.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that the County is going ahead with new programs and hiring additional personnel in the public defender's office. NY State is supposed to reimburse the cost for this. The County is looking at contracting with a foreclosure company to handle tax delinquent properties. The County currently adds one year to the two year state mandated length of time before a property is sold at tax auction. They estimated it to cost about \$365.00 per parcel and the company would do all of the required mailings and searches for owners and it would serve as a buffer for the County with residents. Co. Rep. Kennedy noted that she attended the NYS Association of Counties conference. She attended sessions on Board of Election security, land banks and climate trends/weather events. She was voted to serve on their Board which will mean extra meetings for her. The County is working on their 2019 Budget and she is predicting a small tax increase, under the 2% tax cap. They are projecting an increase in sales tax for the year. Edward George asked Rep. Kennedy about the County's solar project in Laurens. She advised that it is up and running, but they have had a few problems. The meter was installed backward and for a period of 6-8 weeks key components weren't working. Hopefully all of the kinks are now worked out. Co. Rep Meg Kennedy noted that she is working on a new project, a Community Energy Strategic Plan. First they will establish a leadership team comprised of two Otsego County Board members, one person from OCCA, one person from the Town of Oneonta and one person from the City of Oneonta. Then they will get 10-12 people together to help identify an energy vision for the County, establish where we stand now in regard to energy supply and look forward to formulate plans for the future. They are deciding whether or not to hold open meetings at this point. An EMS task force is being established, led by County Rep. Ed Fraziere. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he will be willing to help out with this as it is an issue for us.

Mert Hull of the Garrattsville Fire Company gave their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report. They had 9 fire calls including a mutual aid structure fire, 5 trees down (4 town roads, 1 county road), 1 MVA, 1 unknown fire and 1 search which got cancelled. They put in 70 hours on calls and an additional 503 hours on meetings, work nights, drills and training. Lenny Melillo gave the EMS report. They have been able to man up for 40% of their calls. They have had 44 patient calls and 22 non-patient calls. He noted that they don't have many people joining the fire dept. or squad partly because of the training time involved. A basic fire class is now over 100 hours and the Dept. of Health keeps making training requirements harder. The 2019 Budget was received from the Garrattsville Fire Company and they are requesting an additional \$3,000.00 to cover the mandated requirement that they provide cancer coverage for all interior firefighters.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso advised that he has been working on three additional properties with improvements and will be looking for more projects as the leaves come off. The County website was shut down as the County was hacked. The music fest will be held at the Butternuts Brewery over the weekend. They don't anticipate the number needed to obtain a permit but they have provided a certificate of insurance with the Town as an additional insured. We received notice that the Association of Towns annual meeting will be held February 17-20, 2019 in NYC.

The Highway repair account is out of funds again and a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$30,000.00 from the highway fund balance into account DA 5130.4 (Machinery-Contractual Expenditure). The Assessor's contractual account also needs additional funds to cover bills. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$38.92 from A1355.12 Board of Review Personal Service to A1355.4 Assessor's Contractual Expenditure.

The bills were available for the Board to review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pay General Fund Bills #182 through #192 for a total of \$6,589.84 and Highway Fund Bills #151 through #164 for a total of \$150,206.40. General Fund bills #177 through #181 and Highway Fund bill #165 for a total of \$8,157.37 were paid with prior Board approval.

The Board discussed the options for 2019 medical insurance plans for highway employees. The guys have met and discussed the option of going to the HRA plan with MVP. Supervisor Lentz had received answers to their questions from Kevin Morse. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept

the MVP Silver HRA option from MVP for employee medical insurance for 2019. The costs are \$587.06 for single, \$1,174.12 for employee & spouse and \$1,673.12 for the family plan. The employees have been contributing 10% of their premium in the past. The Town will have to set up a separate account with the deductible amount of \$29,600.00, which is not included in the monthly premiums. Each employee would draw out of this (for doctor visits, prescriptions, etc.) until they use up their deductible amount. Kevin Morse had noted that many towns change to a fixed employee contribution instead of a percentage when they switch to a HRA plan. If we leave it at 10% of their premium the amount the employees contribute would be less than last year and the Town would be covering the entire deductible amount. With the HRA plan the employees will have no copays, so less out of pocket expenses. Councilman Robert Eklund felt we should just stay with the 10% of their premium since the Town stands to save money by going with the HRA plan. Councilwoman Flo Loomis added that maybe we should come up with a fixed rate based on what they pay this year. Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson suggested that since they will have less out of pocket costs, maybe we should split the difference between a percentage and fixed rate. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 1 Nay (Councilman Robert Eklund) to come up with a fixed amount for the employees to contribute to their monthly medical insurance premium somewhere in between what a fixed rate would be and what the amount would be if they contributed 10% of their monthly premium.

Supervisor Edward Lentz asked the Board to review their 2019 Preliminary Budgets. They can decide if they want from a 0 to 2% increase by how much we use of our fund balance. The final budget will be adopted at the November meeting.

New York State has advised that we need to adopt a new Sexual Harassment Policy that meets their new standards. The Board will be sent copies of the proposed text to review for adoption at the next meeting. We will all have to have training on the new plan, but it is not sure who we will be able to get to provide the training.

We have received a quote from Stan Leonard to change the overhead lights in the highway garage to LED overhead lights which will be more energy efficient and increase brightness. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to hire Stan Leonard to replace the existing highway garage overhead lights with LED lights at an estimated cost of \$2,875.00.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he is working on finishing the new contract that Attorney Martin Tillapaugh had drafted for the annual contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company. The Town Board and Fire Department members met on this last year, but never finished the process.

Lenny Melillo commented that he was against changing the policy of having the highway employees contribute 10 % of the premium for their medical insurance. Tom Riso noted that if the new HRA plan will be a benefit to both the employee and the Town, the Board should consider that. Any money left in the deductible account at the end of the year would mean less that would have to be put in next year. Supervisor Lentz noted that he will get the figures together and the Board can revisit the issue next month.

Tom Riso questioned the County's security plan for the communication tower since it was reported that someone had hung dead rabbits on the tower. It is fenced in, but the gate hasn't been locked. Maybe the County should be reviewing their policy and keep the gate locked. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy will pass the information on to the County.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:32 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

