

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JUNE 14, 2011---7:30 PM**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Robert Eklund, Edward Lentz, Connie Chase & Glen Noto, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Also: Ed George, Sue Smith, Donald & Jennifer Smith, Joe Gregory, Ed Dawyot, Marietta Giles, Cecilia Schleder, Andrea Denekamp, John Braunius, Barry & Sandy Braunius, Nancy Goehner, Neil Fogarty, Flo Loomis, Nancy Moen, one other gentleman, Barb Monroe

Supervisor Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the May 10, 2011 regular meeting as written.

Neil Fogarty requested a setback variance to build a storage building on his property on Gross Road. He advised that he already has a gravel pad where he wants to place the building and with his parcel being only 1 & ¼ acre, he would like a variance to 35 ft. His neighbors have no problem with the location and there is a tree buffer between where the building will be and the road. Hwy. Supt. Whitaker advised that there would be no sight distance problem. After further review of his application, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Edward Lentz and carried 5/0 to approve a setback of 35 feet for Neil Fogarty for the purpose of placing a storage shed/building on his property at 119 Gross Road, tax map #206.00-1-16.82.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that they are prepping Morse Road, Gardnertown Road, Gardnertown Spur and a bit on Gross Road for paving with the CHIPS funds. They have hauled in most of the needed paving stone and are hauling in the winter sand. Pete Chase has logged in the past five months of bills in a vehicle maintenance log. Supt. Whitaker noted that we might want to consider replacing our old 1960 Oshkosh truck with a better four wheel drive vehicle. It will no longer pass inspection and slips out of gear. Supt. Whitaker decided not to attend the hwy. supt. school in Ithaca because he felt they were too busy for him to take off the time.

Highway Bills #76 through #94, for a total of \$51,384.92 were audited and approved for payment by the Board.

Florence Loomis questioned when the Board was going to schedule an informational meeting on gas drilling and if we actually needed to have one since the information on gas drilling has been available now for a long time, there have been lots of meetings all over and people should know how they feel on the issue by now. She felt that we need to get moving on this. Supervisor Taylor noted that our Town Attorney, Martin Tillapaugh does not feel that we could enforce a local law banning gas drilling. Flo noted that there were other attorneys who felt it would hold up in court. Councilman Ed Lentz felt that if it was not enforceable, it might at least give us some leverage with the gas companies.

Barry Braunius noted that he would like to see the Board pass a local law to prohibit gas drilling. John Braunius was concerned with the health risks associated with gas drilling when not everyone can afford medical insurance. Sandy Braunius is worried about what gas drilling could do to our land and property values. Cecilia Schleder would like the Town Board to consider sending letters of support for the home rule and moratorium bills that are currently stuck in the NYS Senate. Marietta Giles agrees with the others that we have to do something to prohibit gas drilling. Joe Gregory noted that the possible income would be helpful in paying taxes and for health insurance. Donald Smith noted that if the Town decides to ban gas drilling, it should not prohibit other heavy industry such as gravel mines. Sue Smith stated that we shouldn't waste time on a law that won't hold up in court. Ed Daywot reported on his visit to Texas where he saw gas wells in a residential area and spoke of what he learned from the drilling representatives. Nancy Moen also encouraged the Board to get moving on the gas drilling issue since most people have made up their minds by now.

Edward George noted that the NYSDEC has issued a ticket for burning garbage to a resident who has habitually violated the no burning garbage law.

Barb Monroe from Milford introduced herself as a candidate for our County Representative. Current representative Steve Fournier is not going to run again.

We received notice from the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Service that our 2011 Tentative Assessment Rate is 46.42, up from 43 last year. George Cade sent a note advising that he was disappointed that we did not consider him for doing our revaluation since he did the last two. We never got a proposal from him in response to our RFP. NYS DOT sent notice that anyone using state highways for events must now get a permit. They must show how they will handle traffic, show that they have made arrangements for emergency services and must have the required amount of insurance in order to get a permit. They also sent criteria for obtaining a permit to erect temporary signs or banners over state highways.

County Treasurer Dan Crowell sent an email on shared services. He requested information on our fuel usages and health insurance costs. Our total usages from 7/10 through 6/11 were: Fuel Oil—2145.5 gallons, Kerosene---3,041.3 gallons, diesel (includes winter mix)---16,466.5 gallons and Unleaded gas---2,881.9 gallons. We should have the option to join in on the County fuel bid if it is better than our bids.

Approximately 60 people attended the meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 where Maxwell Appraisal Service explained their procedures for doing our revaluation. They will gather the data, review sales in the Town and come up with property values, send everyone a letter on what their new assessed value will be and hold meetings with individuals who don't agree with their new values. They urged everyone to stay involved with the process.

A motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #106 through #117 for a total of \$1,290.79. Supervisor Taylor paid bills #95 through #105 for a total of \$22,244.13 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to advertise for bids for fuel oil, kerosene, unleaded gas, diesel, winter mix diesel and service contracts on four furnaces to be opened at the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 regular meeting.

Councilman Edward Lentz advised that he was working on the final changes to the contract with JNS towers when they advised him that they have decided to change their policy to not take on new towns unless there already is a carrier company who is interested in the tower. We could put out the RFP again, but JNS was the only company who responded. The Assoc. of Towns sent information that if the Town owns the tower it would be tax exempt. After further discussion, a motion was made by Glen Noto, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to authorize Councilman Edward Lentz to contact AT&T & Verizon and see if they would be interested in coming on a tower here if we put one up. We will consider putting out the RFP again after we see if a carrier is interested.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to approve the draft RFP for a needs assessment for the Highway Barn as prepared by Councilman Edward Lentz and to advertise for RFP's to be returned to the Town by July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services plan to keep our revaluation up to date was discussed. Supervisor Taylor spoke with Megan Reed at the department and she advised that they will give us \$10.00 per parcel to keep it updated by doing one fourth of the Town per year. After further discussion, it was decided that we need some more information on it, so Town Clerk Charlene Wells will e-mail the other Town Clerks to see if any other towns have joined in on the plan.

We have signed up with Innovative Playground Services to do an inspection of the playground equipment for a cost of \$375.00. They apologized for not making it here last year. Town Hall Custodian Willard Lasher has volunteered to replace the skylights on the pavilion in the Town Park which was okay with the Town Board.

The Town Board decided on holding a special meeting on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for the purpose of gaining public input on the hydrofracking/gas drilling issue. Residents will be given up to three minutes each to express their opinion either for or against hydrofracking/gas drilling in the Town of New Lisbon. Anyone not able to attend the meeting or not wanting to speak at the meeting may send their written comments in advance of the meeting to the Town Clerk.

The Board discussed sending letters of support to State representatives on the Home Rule & Gas Drilling Moratorium bills which are held up. Since not everyone has read these proposed bills, it was decided to first get drafts to review before agreeing to send support letters.

Councilman Robert Eklund has received a proposal from Greenplan, Inc. to provide a detailed Land Use Analysis of how gas drilling could affect our Town at a cost of up to \$5,000.00. They could also help us draft local laws and SEQR paperwork. They provided this service to the Town of Middlefield. It was discussed to see if we could get a copy of the analysis they did for Middlefield to look at and to get Tavis Austin's thoughts on the proposal.

The Board decided to rent two tables, for a cost of \$20.00, at the Garrattsville Firemen's Barbeque on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> to hand out Town information.

With no further business, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk