

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---FEBRUARY 14, 2012**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL---7:30 PM**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Edward Lentz, Robert Eklund & Connie Chase, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Ed George, Sue Smith, Joe Gregory, James Gregory, Lenny Melillo, Chastidy & Tara Baker  
Absent: Councilman Glen Noto

Supervisor Taylor opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. Councilman Eklund requested one change in the minutes from January 10, 2012. Clerk Charlene Wells felt that she could not change what was said, but would clarify the statement in question. A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to accept the amended minutes for the January 10, 2012 public hearing, organizational meeting and regular monthly meeting.

Highway Supt. Whitaker advised that Tri-County Communications has checked our radios and they will be able to be upgraded to meet the requirement that all radios be on narrowband by 2013. The Fire Company portable radios will have to be upgraded as they will not be compatible. The loader needs two new tires. The present ones on the front will go on the back. The ones from the back may be able to go to the auction in the spring. He got prices of \$1600-\$1700.00 from Williams tire, \$1300. from Monser, \$7000. from a company in Binghamton, \$5400. from Titans and \$1923. from McCarthy. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to purchase two new loader tires from Williams Tire & Auto at a cost of \$1600.-\$1700.00 each.

Councilmen Edward Lentz and Robert Eklund met with Hwy. Supt. Whitaker about a new truck. Supt. Whitaker feels that we need this type of truck for driver safety and productivity. They will meet again to discuss finances and specifications. Highway Bills #19 through #31 for a total of \$14,044.67 were audited and approved for payment by the Board.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he would like to advertise for materials. He wants to get the same amount of sand as last year (because of increasing fuel costs) even though we should have some left. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to advise for bids on 5000 yards of Sand, and prices per yard for Crusher Run, Item 4, Bank Run, Cobbles, and #2 Stone, to be opened at the March 13, 2012 meeting.

We received a written Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement from the Town of Laurens pertaining to the highway department. Supt. Whitaker noted that in the past we have had a verbal agreement to help each other out. The Board decided to have the Town Attorney review the agreement before signing.

Lenny Melillo advised that 2013 will be a different year for the Fire Dept. Because of the required changes in the radios, they will have to upgrade and probably downsize the number of radios. The Fire Dept. has discussed taking over the utility payments at the upper firehouse as the Supervisor had suggested might happen. The Fire budget will have to be increased approximately \$7,000.00 to cover this change. Lenny requested that the Town continue to pay for the phone since we pay less than half of what they would have to pay. They also will have to pay for their Workers Compensation coverage. They are waiting to find out how much that will be. Even though they do many repairs themselves, the cost for repairs is increasing. Air packs will have to be serviced by an authorized service every year. There will be a shortened length of time for air bottles. All of these changes will mean an increased Fire Department budget in 2013. They have ordered a new brush truck from a Canadian outfit which will cost \$70,000-\$80,000.00. Lenny further suggested that we may want to consider spray foaming the block walls of the upper firehouse as an insulating factor. The driveway will be fixed with gravel instead of paving for now. The EMS class going on will finish March 6<sup>th</sup>. They will have 3 new squad people. Lenny noted his appreciation for the help the town crew gives the squad during daytime calls. The Fire Department is in good shape membership wise, with some younger members now.

The New Lisbon Senior Citizens submitted a list of how they spent their 2011 funds. There will be an all day session on gas drilling at the Assoc. of Towns meeting in NYC on Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>. If anyone wants to attend they can just pay a registration fee for that day.

Supervisor Taylor commended Councilmen Edward Lentz and Robert Eklund for the work they do with the Butternut Valley Alliance. He had attended their meeting on mussels held at the Town Hall and found it most educational.

OCCA planner Rima Shamieh met with Supervisor Taylor and Planning Board Chairman Dan Morehouse to discuss what they wanted her to do for the Planning Board. She will do a class on wetlands at their April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Two representatives from the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services, Meighan Reed and Steve Peluso were at the Town Hall on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to discuss our revaluation project. Also attending were Otsego County Real Property Tax Director Hank Schecher, Rich Maxwell, Assessor Kathleen Chase, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Supervisor Robert Taylor and Town Clerk Charlene Wells. They advised us on what needs to be done concerning this reval and what the assessor will have to comply with over the coming years. Assessor Kathleen Chase will have to learn how to use the RPS computer program. Rich Maxwell held a community meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to explain what the impact notices will tell us and to answer questions. If your new assessment is approximately 2.5 times your old assessment, your taxes should remain steady. The impact notices should be out by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Assessor Kathleen Chase is taking an online course worth 30 credits.

Otsego Express has combined with ARC and established a new bus route. It leaves Hartwick at 6:50 AM, is in Garrattsville at 7:10 AM, New Lisbon at 7:20 AM, and Morris at 7:25 AM. It then goes to Gilbertsville and Otego and arrives in Oneonta at 8:20 AM. People can then get on Oneonta Public Transit buses. It heads back at 3:10 PM and would be back in Garrattsville at 4:05 PM.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to pay General Fund bills #27 through #43 for a total of \$9,704.55. Supervisor Taylor paid general fund bills #20 through #26 and highway bills #32 & #33 for a total of \$9,493.38 with prior Board approval.

Sue Smith provided a name & phone number for an individual who does playground inspections which the Town Clerk will check out. Councilman Glen Noto was not present to report on the information he got from Cooperstown School about who they use and if they would inspect ours.

The cost for custodial services at the town hall has been increasing partly due to increased usage, but also because individuals and/or groups using the building are not cleaning up after themselves sufficiently, so the cleaner has to come in before the next usage scheduled and clean up. After discussion, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to add an amendment to the Town Hall building rules that if the Town Hall Custodian does not feel the building has been cleaned up properly after a usage, the person or group who booked the building will be charged a \$25.00 clean up fee.

The job description for a local land use enforcement officer and the questions the Board had were forwarded to Attorney Tillapaugh, but we have not had a response from him yet.

Supervisor Taylor noted that he has not contacted local contractors about the highway barn because he feels that if we do find a grant opportunity, we will need a professional assessment to show that our repair or replacement needs are real. After further discussion, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to update our RFP and readvertise for RFPs for an evaluation of the Town Hwy. Barn. Supervisor Taylor will bring copies of the RFP to hand out at the NYC conference.

The Supervisor and Town Clerk met with DCO Shawn Patrick in January to discuss the Board's concerns of handling calls and required paperwork. They were satisfied with his responses to questions and advised him that he could continue until the February Board meeting when the full Board would review his appointment. We have received no complaints from residents or the shelter so far this year. After further discussion, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to appoint Shawn Patrick as Dog Control Officer until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at which time his job performance will be reviewed again by the Board. They further requested that he submit monthly reports of his activities.

A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to appoint Dora Cooke as Court Clerk effective January 1, 2012.

A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Edward Lentz and carried 4/0 to authorize the Clerk to attend the New York State Town Clerk Association annual conference in Saratoga April 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

We previously had an agreement with the Otsego County Planning Board to eliminate the referral of subdivisions with fewer than 10 lots and less than 50 acres and site plans with new construction under 2500 square feet. They have sent us a new referral agreement which the Town Board completed and which will be sent back to the County Planning Department for their signature.

The Board reviewed the various resolutions that will be voted on at the Assoc. of Towns annual meeting. The complete text of these resolutions may be able to be found on the Assoc. website at [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org).

Councilman Edward Lentz noted that when he reviewed the information about the real property tax exemption for business property it sounded like it was an automatic exemption. We had previously been advised that we would need a local law to authorize it. We will check with Attorney Tillapaugh on this issue.

Councilman Lentz noted that OCCA is following up with the DEC to see who has permits for dumping waste in the Butternut Creek. We don't want to see pollution here like has occurred in the Unadilla River. Councilman Eklund noted that the Assembly has passed legislation and sent it on to the Senate to categorize industrial waste as hazardous waste. He will forward information on this by email.

With no further business, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to adjourn at 9:25 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk