

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JANUARY 14, 2014 REGULAR MEETING—TOWN HALL—7:00 PM

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen Robert Eklund, John Pegg & Joseph Gregory, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Ed Lentz, Also: Tom Riso, Sue Smith, Donald Smith, Jim Gregory

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:32 PM. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes as written for the December 10, 2013 regular meeting and the January 7, 2014 public hearing and organizational meeting.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that the loader has been having problems when there's half a tank of fuel, it stalls. A technician looked at it and thinks it's the primary lift pump. Parts have been ordered and hopefully this will solve the problem. The two new garage doors and openers are up and working okay. Supt. Whitaker noted that he has been renting a small backhoe at \$2000.00 a month while our backhoe was out of service and until the loader is fixed. Councilman Robert Eklund questioned if we were getting our money's worth out of it or is it mostly sitting. Supt. Whitaker advised that he can use it to load trucks and has used it to open tubes.

Richard Dennis has submitted an alternative estimate for repairing the highway garage roof. He thought the R value was minimal with the foam coating. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted he was in favor of fastening the roof down better. The Highway Building Committee will meet at 3:00 PM on Tuesday January 21st to review Richard Dennis's proposal and report back to the Town Board next month.

Co. Rep. Ed Lentz advised that the County has received an \$800,000.00 grant to expand broadband utilizing existing towers in the County. He felt it would not bring a very significant increase in service, so they will have to continue looking for better options. The Public Safety Committee is looking at the impact the new County EMS communication system will have on local fire departments. With varying needs of departments, the Committee may recommend that money be given to help each dept. offset the cost of upgrading to the new system. The County Board will be asked to consider applying for intervenor status in the proceedings for a possible new line along the Marcy-South path. There is early discussion on setting up a solar site by the Meadows. The County Board voted against the raises it had budgeted for dept. heads, but the committee has voted to bring the issue back to the full Board. There are two choices left in the search for selling the Manor. The County will be getting out of MOSA by the end of April. They have put out an RFP for managing the two transfer stations, including hauling waste materials. Co. Rep. Lentz noted that the two other towns in his district, Milford and Hartwick had tax increases of 36% (Hartwick) and 9% (Milford).

Councilman Robert Eklund noted that the BVA might file for intervenor status in regards to the power line proceedings. Supervisor Robert Taylor advised that he has contacted the Supervisors of the seven towns that are affected if they choose the Marcy South Path (Richfield, Exeter, Burlington, Laurens, Otego, Oneonta and us) to see about getting together and meeting with an official from NAT and discussing working together on the issue.

Supervisor Taylor noted that the town hall phones were out of service for several days last week, but were fixed on Saturday. He had trouble getting hold of Verizon so he contacted Assemblyman Magee's office who intervened. Allstate is sending a check for \$1570.00 to cover the repairs to the damage in the Supervisor's office.

Historian Virginia Schoradt sent a letter and annual report for her activities in 2013. There will be a presentation on NY Shale Gas Potential on Friday, January 17th from 7-9 PM in Oneonta. NYMIR, our insurance carrier, has requested a rate decrease from the NYS Insurance Dept.

The Town Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund Bills #1 through #20 for a total of

\$14,626.00 and Highway Fund Bills #1 through #21 for a total of \$29,126.08. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #240 through #242 for a total of \$299.22 with prior Board approval.

Supervisor Taylor reminded the Board that the Justice, Clerk/Collector and Supervisor's offices needed to be audited using the state's suggested format. Connie Chase will review the Supervisor's books, Robert Eklund will review the Clerk/Collector records and Joseph Gregory will review the Justice office. Supervisor Taylor suggested that the reviews should be done prior to the February meeting so that reports can be given to the full Board.

Councilman John Pegg was asked to join Councilman Robert Eklund on the Highway Committee to work with Sup. Bill Whitaker. A goal has been to come up with a maintenance program to record costs of repairs and to establish a schedule for equipment replacement. Councilman John Pegg noted that when he worked in New Berlin they had a computer maintenance program. He will find out if they still have it and if it's something we could utilize.

Barb Monroe from Milford has booked the Town Hall for a meeting on the power line issue for Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 PM. We do not know what her agenda is.

Councilman Robert Eklund has received information on Hartwick's cleanup activities and will get it to Sue Smith for the next CPIC meeting.

Councilman John Pegg questioned if we could save money by switching to a cable phone instead of through Verizon. We currently pay approximately \$140.00 per month for five phone lines from Verizon through a state contract. It is doubtful that Time Warner Cable will be able to match that, but we can check.

With no further business, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk