

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—APRIL 14, 2015---7:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen Robert Eklund, John Pegg & Joseph Gregory, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Edward George, Sue Smith & Donald Smith, Ins. Agent John Ryland, OCCA Planner Danny Lapin Absent: Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the regular monthly 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 March 10, 2015 regular meeting as written.

Insurance Agent John Ryland was present to review our insurance package which expires in May. This will be our fourth year with NYMIR. They have kept their rates steady with our premium only increasing \$700.00 over the past four years. (Increase also includes additional equipment). Our building coverage is blanket coverage at replacement cost. In reviewing the auto policy we noted two old pickups we no longer have which will be deleted. Supt. Bill Whitaker will be asked to review the listing to make sure no other items should be deleted, such as the old Oshkosh. Councilman Robert Eklund asked if we were lacking in any type of coverage. Agent John Ryland advised that he felt we were covered well. We could add additional liability under an umbrella policy for up to \$4,000,000.00 coverage at an estimated cost of \$3000.00 to \$4000.00. Discussion was held on how an employee getting a DWI on his personal time affected our rates. Mr. Ryland advised that commercial insurance is not the same as personal insurance and we were never surcharged for this. He suggested if something happened during working hours, our insurance carrier might be concerned.

We received four bids for sand/gravel with prices per yard as follows:

Company	Sand	Crusher Run	Item 4	Bank Run	Cobbles	#2 Stone
Burrell's Excavating	\$4.50	\$10.00	\$4.50	\$3.75	\$5.75	\$11.00
Seward Sand & Gravel	\$4.80	\$5.75	\$4.00	\$2.75	\$4.25	\$4.80/\$8.00
Parker Excavating	\$6.75	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$4.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Barrett Paving Materials	NO BID	\$17.25	\$11.33	NO BID	\$15.75	\$15.00

After review of the bids, a motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by John Pegg and carried 5/0 to accept the bid of \$4.50 per yard for Sand from Burrell's Excavating of Norwich (St. Rt. 80, Pittsfield pit), to accept the bids of \$5.75 per yard for Crusher Run, \$4.00 per yard for Item 4, \$2.75 per yard for Bank Run, \$4.25 per yard for Cobbles and \$4.80/\$8.00 per yard for #2 Round/Crushed Stone from Seward Sand & Gravel of Oneonta (St. Rt.80, Pittsfield pit), to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to utilize materials from Parker Excavating in Mt. Vision when working in that area of town due to the cost of traveling to the Pittsfield pits, all subject to the availability of the materials, the quality of materials and any further input from Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker who was absent from the bid opening.

OCCA Planner Danny Lapin was present to discuss the possible overhead transmission line being proposed by NAT for along the Marcy South corridor. He noted it would travel 40 miles through Otsego County affecting 7 towns including New Lisbon. He noted that New Lisbon has the most affected properties and that our Comprehensive Plan is against the power line concept. NAT would obtain an 80 to 105 foot right of way to set up new towers and lines. A decision on which proposal the State picks is expected in September. The other proposals are along the Hudson. OCCA is working to show the bad environmental effects of the proposed line and its' effect on landowners. NAT has been good as far as sharing information and is willing to come meet with the Town Board. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he has met with other Supervisors of the affected towns and NAT and they are proposing to give towns \$100,000.00 per mile that the line travels through their town. We can also assess the line, but the value goes down over the years. Mr. Lapin noted that OCCA is working to protect agricultural land. NAT would be willing to set poles to accommodate crop land as much as possible and is proposing giving double the crops value over three years for agricultural land they would use for the line. The poles are normally 100 to 140 feet tall, but could be 180 to 190 feet tall. NAT has said the poles could be used for carrying internet service and they would lay fiber and work with companies on that. This would benefit those within 4 to 5 miles of the proposed line. OCCA would prefer not to see the line come here, but in

case this route is chosen, they will do what they can to see that all impacts are handled the best they can be. Mr. Lapin noted that anyone who has any comments or questions on the proposed power line may contact him at OCCA (547-4488). Supervisor Robert Taylor noted our appreciation for all of the work that OCCA is doing for the Town in regards to the proposed power line project.

Ed George commented that the blacktop around the town hall held up well through the harsh winter. There are a few low spots perhaps Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker could check out.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that the Supervisor's monthly report that he gives to the Board each month shows the amounts spent to date and the fund balances. Looking toward the future, we will have to decide if we want to continue to use the surplus to reduce taxes until its gone, or cut spending or increase the tax rate over the 2% by passing a local law to do so. Supervisor Taylor asked the Board to review the report and we will discuss what direction we should take next month.

Supervisor Robert Taylor submitted the 2015 Legislative Program of the Association of Towns containing 13 resolutions which the Association will promote this year to help towns. He will be going with others from the Assoc. of Towns to Washington, DC to meet with Congressman Chris Gibson and others at the end of the month.

We received two more notices from the Public Service Commission pertaining to the proposed power line project. We received notice from the Town of Laurens that they are holding a public hearing on their Draft Comprehensive Plan on 4/13/15 at the Laurens School.

A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #54 through #72 for a total of \$3,549.05 and Highway Fund bills #48 through #63 for a total of \$14,164.26. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #47 through #53 and Highway Fund bills #64 through #66 for a total of \$15,590.68 with prior Board approval.

No organized cleanup was set up for the planned Clean Up Day on Saturday April 18th. All are urged to spread the word and ask residents to clean up along their roads to help improve the look of the Town.

We haven't heard anything further from David Whalen on our Time Warner Cable franchise renewal. He did provide us with a chart showing that we could charge from 1% (\$866.38) to 5% (4,331.88) for a franchise fee. We have not heard back if they would consider providing us with our two internet sites as a franchise fee. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that we don't want to see a franchise fee charged back to those who pay for the services of Time Warner.

Councilwoman Connie Chase received a copy of Edmeston's 37 page recently completed employee handbook. They worked on it for a year, as some sections require the Town to make decisions and others are state or federal requirements of employment. We can also check with the Assoc. of Towns to see if they have any samples. It will be a big job to go through each section and suit it to our needs. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory and seconded by John Pegg to not hire anyone until we get an employee handbook completed. Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilman Robert Eklund and Supervisor Robert Taylor voted against the motion citing that we don't know how long it will take to draft an employee handbook and we may have some unplanned reason to need to hire a new employee. The motion failed by a vote of 2 for and 3 against.

Councilman John Pegg did a review of the Supervisor's office using the State Comptroller's guidelines. After review, a motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept Councilman Pegg's review of the Supervisor's office.

Ed George questioned if the military surplus generator was ready to use. He also wondered if the bulldozer had been started up and used yet. We have not received any word on the status of the military surplus truck we purchased or its arrival date. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker has advised it is in his plans to work on the concrete floor in the storage building this year.

With no further business, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk