

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---APRIL 8, 2014
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL---7:30 PM

Present: Councilmen John Pegg, Joseph Gregory, Connie Chase and Robert Eklund, Supervisor Robert Taylor, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Attorney Martin Tillapaugh, Co. Rep. Ed Lentz, Residents: Tom Riso, Ed George, Cheryl & Edward Bohn, Gus Pfeiffer, Sue Smith, Donald Smith

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the March 11, 2014 regular meeting as written.

Seward Sand & Gravel submitted the following bids for materials from the Rt. 80 Pittsfield site: Bank Run Gravel---\$2.75 yd., Item 4---\$4.00 yd., Cobbles---\$2.75 yd., Sand---\$4.80 yd., Crusher Run---\$5.00 yd., #2 Round---\$4.80 yd., and #2 Crushed---\$8.00 yd. Parker Excavating & Gravel Co. submitted the following bids for materials: Bank run gravel---\$4.00 yd., Item 4---\$7.00 yd., cobbles---\$7.00 yd., #2 stone---\$7.00 yd., sand---\$6.75 yd., and crusher run---\$9.75 yd. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept the low bids on all materials from Seward Sand & Gravel. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that he also can utilize the County's bid prices from Burrell's site in Pittsfield. He feels they have cleaner sand material. Also on some jobs, depending on the location, it can be cost effective to utilize Parker's site for materials. Sometimes certain pits can be out of materials. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to utilize other material locations when it is cost effective to do so.

No bids were received for the old drill press. One bid of \$200.00 was received from Bill Whitaker for the old two wheel trailer. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by John Pegg and carried 5/0 to accept the bid of \$200.00 from Bill Whitaker for the old two wheel trailer. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he is going to get all of the scrap items together and have scrap dealers come in and give us bids on the pile.

The highway crew did an inventory of missing road signs and about 20 signs have been ordered as replacements. They are almost done drawing in our paving stone. Supt. Whitaker noted that part-time employee Gus Tafel has concrete knowledge and can help put in the cement floor in the storage building. The highway building committee is supposed to go look at sites where Upstate Spray Foam has done roofs. They will have to meet and decide what we should be proceeding with next.

Councilman John Pegg and Supt. Bill Whitaker went and looked at a few trucks. Walton has a low mileage military truck they purchased for \$4000.00 and are outfitting it with plow equipment. Their total cost will be approximately \$90,000.00. A new truck will cost approximately \$200,000.00 so Supt. Whitaker is interested at looking into getting a military truck and outfitting it for our needs. He would be looking to replace the 1992 truck which has 131,000 miles on it and needs an oil pan, clutch and has frame deterioration. He is going to work on an equipment list that includes the age, condition, and estimated replacement time for our equipment.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh discussed a Best Value Law, which would allow us to take other than the low bid if it was in our best interest. He will get several drafts for the Board to review. The Business RoundTable is working on making a brochure of businesses in Town. Supervisor Robert Taylor thought that the cost to do this should not come from the Town but from the Businesses. Attorney Tillapaugh advised that we should not use tax payers' money to benefit businesses. The 4-H Group has asked permission to hold a dog obedience class at the Town Hall Park. Supervisor Taylor was concerned about the increased liability for the Town. Attorney Martin Tillapaugh noted that the national 4-H organization should have insurance and we could require a certificate of insurance with the Town as a named insured. He felt that \$500,000.00 of insurance would be sufficient, but we could set what values we want. He noted that Cooperstown has a park policy with rules for usage which he will get a copy for us to review. We will have to hire an appraiser to do an appraisal of Yogi-Bear Campground before our fall 2014 court date. Attorney Tillapaugh noted that there are three ways to determine an assessed value: market value, income based or building cost minus depreciation. Yogi-Bear Campgrounds wants their assessment lowered based on their income from the property. If their assessment gets lowered by the

Court we will have to reimburse them for part of the past years taxes they paid, as will the County and Morris school district.

Ed George noted that he would like to see a town map on the website. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that we should be getting \$88,000.00 in FEMA funds. Most is for work done already, but he will have a few culverts to change.

Co. Rep. Ed Lentz advised that he is holding a public forum in Milford on April 24th. He will set one up for Hartwick and here at a later date. No wage increases for County managers has been approved yet. Xandra Hardt resigned and Sandra Mathis is head of the IDA. Casella has been chosen to operate the two County transfer stations. The tipping fee amount is being discussed with options from \$49.00 to \$65.00 per ton. Sue Smith reported that CPIC will sponsor a town wide road side cleanup for the weekend of April 26th & 27th. The Clerk will get garbage bags if anyone wants to pick them up from her. Bagged trash may be left near road intersections for the Hwy. dept. to pick up (call & let them know where it is) or people may bring and drop off at hwy. garage. CPIC's next meeting will be April 29th at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that they have been having a dispute with the NYS Tax Dept. over withholding payments made in 2011. They overpaid by \$600.00, but the figures were put in the wrong places. The tax dept. was given verbal permission to move the figures to make it come out right, but Supervisor Taylor is not sure if they will do that or send us a refund and then bill us for what we owe them. Attorney Tillapaugh noted that the NYS tax dept. has an ombudsman we should contact for dealing with problems with them. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/1 (Joseph Gregory against) to authorize Supervisor Taylor to hold a refresher safety driving class for the Highway Dept. employees.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that we budgeted funds to get the Town Hall driveway and parking area paved this year. It would make it easier for plowing & sanding and there would be less ice as we could use salt. There would be fewer potholes for people to trip in and less mud being dragged into the building. Tom Riso noted that many of the senior citizens don't like coming in the winter because of the icy conditions. Councilman Joseph Gregory stated that he is against spending money to pave the driveway & parking area. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that if we did it he would like us to keep it maintained so it wouldn't be a constant expense. Councilwoman Connie Chase and Councilman John Pegg thought we should get estimates and see what it would cost before we make a decision.

New Wave Energy Corporation of Buffalo, NY sent information on providing us with a no obligation analysis of our utility rates. The Association of Towns provided a copy of their 2014 Legislative Program. They are working on revisions to the AOTSNY bylaws and will take comments and proposals through April 30th. NYMIR is holding their annual meeting on May 2nd. They are sponsoring a Dig Safely NY Presentation on April 30th at the Herkimer County Office Building. We received a letter from North America Transmission advising us that they are reviewing their proposed routes in accordance with the Governor's request for an expedited review and approval process for lines that are built in existing rights-of-way. The Public Service Commission sent more information on those seeking intervenor status. OCCA has been approved for \$65,000.00. There is a Pipeline Safety program on May 15th at 5:30 PM at the Foothills in Oneonta.

A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund bills #65 through #73 for a total of \$5,353.25 and Highway Fund bills #56 through #69 for a total of \$17,694.76. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #61 through #64 and Highway Fund bill #70 for a total of \$7,218.55 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

The Board approved having the Town Clerk advertise for applicants for the lawn mowing position like she did last time on the website and in the Pennysaver. The Board will review the candidates next month.

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

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk