

## NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---AUGUST 12, 2014---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Councilmen John Pegg & Joseph Gregory, Supervisor Robert Taylor, Clerk Charlene Wells, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Attorney Martin Tillapaugh, Residents Cecelia Schleder & Tom Riso

Absent: Councilman Robert Eklund & Councilwoman Connie Chase

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by John Pegg and carried 3/0 to accept the minutes for the July 8, 2014 regular monthly meeting as written.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that our Final 2014 Equalization rate is 112.6. He and Assessor Kathleen Chase compared the recent sales to our assessments and most were fairly close, with the exception of one which was way off, which could have affected the rate. There have been changes to how we figure the tax cap. If we do a cooperative project we may be able to get a refund for residents, but Supervisor Taylor thought it would only amount to approximately \$30.00 per resident.

The Association of Towns is presenting a new proposal for a Municipal Cooperative Utility Purchasing Program. There would be no cost for the Town to join in and it would be handled by ProStar Energy Services. We might see a 10% saving in our electric bills. The Association of Towns is looking for towns to serve as "lead towns". Information was given to Board members to review and the issue will be discussed next month.

County Representative Edward Lentz was absent but submitted his report to Supervisor Taylor. He noted that the County has started work on the 2015 Budget and he would like to see a salary increase for department managers. He would also like to see more sharing of the bed tax funds. The county needs to budget funds for two more EMS towers and he would like to see money to help fire departments purchase new radios which will be required for the new system. The sale of the Manor should be completed by the end of the year. Waste management is not costing the County money now so maybe the user fee can be reduced. The County is getting "exclusivity payments" from the Oneida Indian Nation which may amount to up to \$350,000.00 per year. Co. Rep. Lentz hopes there will be no County tax increase and maybe a small decrease in 2015.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that they have been busy replacing culverts while he has the rubber tired excavator rented. This piece of equipment allows them to get to places our other equipment can't. They have also found several other culverts that needed replacing while they were mowing. He felt after this effort they will have a good handle on our culverts, with only several big ones on Goddards and Parker Roads needing replacement. He will work on our surplus scrap after the road projects are done, as he is still adding to the pile. After finishing the culvert work he will get the town hall ready and schedule the paving projects.

Supt. Whitaker noted that Councilman Robert Eklund had questioned him on the cost of our hauling in sand and stone versus paying to have it hauled in. Supt. Whitaker noted that they do the hauling in between seasons and we get back some hauling cost in our CHIPS reimbursement for the stone hauling. He advised that it would cost us \$4.00 per yard to have sand hauled in or \$48.00 for a normal 12 yard load. The CHIPS truck rate is \$65.00 per hour. A normal round trip to get a load of sand is approximately ¾ of an hour, which would cost us \$48.75 per 12 yard load. By hauling sand ourselves Supt. Whitaker noted that he gets to control the quality of the product. He is waiting for figures from Hanson Aggregates for figuring the stone hauling.

We were served notice that MB Campground (Yogi-Bear) and Wayne & Cecelia Schleder (Meadowvale Campground) have filed petitions with the court against their assessments.

The NYS Dept. of Labor sent information on educational programs on Public Employee Safety. The Mohawk Valley Economic Development District will be holding a luncheon on August 22, 2014 at Noon to discuss grant opportunities. The Town of Laurens sent notice of a public hearing on their Draft

Comprehensive Plan. There will be a Democratic Primary on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from Noon to 9:00 PM for the positions of Governor, Lt. Governor and Assemblyman.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh discussed the pending case with MB (Yogi-Bear) Campground over their assessment. The Court will schedule a pre-trial date where we will exchange appraisals and he will ask for IRS copies of their tax returns. He assumes they will use an income capitalization approach. He will ask Mike Maxwell do an appraisal based on this approach. The school district, county and town will have to pay back taxes if the assessment is lowered. Attorney Tillapaugh noted you can only go back three years. He further advised that we could review and try to work out an agreement with Meadowvale Campground after the Yogi Bear case is settled if we want instead of waiting for the three years to add up.

The Board audited the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by John Pegg and carried 3/0 to pay General Fund bills #140 through #152 for a total of \$3,372.13 and Highway Fund bills #131 through #148 for a total of \$51,554.30. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #134 through #139 and Highway Fund bill #149 for a total of \$7,302.85 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Councilman Joseph Gregory stated that it was his intention not to accept the allotted salary for his position and he would like it donated to the Garrattsville Fire Company. Supervisor Robert Taylor advised if he waived the salary it would go into surplus funds and if he wants to donate it to the Fire Co., then he should accept the salary and make the donation himself. After further discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Gregory to donate his \$1200.00 annual councilman salary to the Garrattsville Fire Company. The motion was seconded by John Pegg. With Councilmen Joseph Gregory and John Pegg voting Yes and Supervisor Robert Taylor voting No, the motion failed 2/1.

With no further business, a motion was made by John Pegg, seconded by Joseph Gregory and carried 3/0 to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk