

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—DECEMBER 16, 2014---7:30 PM---TOWN HALL  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING (Rescheduled from December 9, 2014)**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen John Pegg, Joseph Gregory & Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Edward Lentz, Vicky Lentz, Ed George, Tom Riso

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. The original meeting and public hearing on the cable franchise were cancelled on December 9, 2014 due to the bad weather. The public service commission requires the cable public hearing notice be given at least two weeks in advance. They will not allow one week notice since the cancelled meeting, so the public hearing on the cable franchise will have to be rescheduled for another meeting. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the November 11, 2014 regular meeting and November 25, 2014 special meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that most of the missing or damaged road signs have been replaced. He has a few to put up. Some required new posts, which means he has to wait for the underground crew to come mark the areas. He further advised the Board that he has submitted the paperwork from the last declared disaster with FEMA. Some of the work still has to be done, including placing heavy stone to prevent erosion and a 5 foot culvert on Pegg Road. He noted that this culvert gets plugged up, but the landowner won't let them maintain it.

Supt. Whitaker was hoping he had a truck from the federal surplus program, but it didn't work out this time. He is interested in getting a 15,000 watt John Deere diesel generator for \$1000.00 from the surplus program. Our current 5000 watt generator won't run everything at the Hwy. Garage. He checked with Stan Leonard and was advised that the 15,000 watt generator would run everything at the Hwy. Garage. Supt. Whitaker asked that anyone who has a question or problem relating to his jurisdiction come to him directly. He tries to handle any issues one on one with the residents. If he doesn't satisfy them, they should then direct their complaint to the Town Board. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that he encourages residents to bring their complaints to the Board meetings.

Councilman Joseph Gregory asked about using a soil binder to help cut down on the wear of our roads. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he is not familiar with a soil binder. He uses magnesium chloride for dust control, which also helps stabilize roads, but costs approximately \$20,000.00 per year. They have been using crusher run material which has held up better over the past years. He noted that different areas require different mixes of materials. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that Hwy. Supt. Whitaker has never overspent his budget in all his years as highway superintendent. He has heard from other towns that they have superintendents who always spend over their budgets. Superintendent Bill Whitaker felt that they got a lot of work done in 2014, but it was plagued by equipment repairs.

Co. Rep. Edward Lentz noted that the County has adopted a budget. He was not on the budget committee, but he did attend their meetings. He advised that there was a small decrease in the tax levy. The bed tax money distribution was not changed this year, but Co. Rep. Lentz hopes that it will change by the next budget to give percentages back to towns based on how much their town generated. The Solar City solar project is progressing. They are still looking at possible sites and hope to have a contract ready in January 2015. Councilman John Pegg questioned whether a feasibility study had been done to see if we get enough sun to make a solar project effective. Co. Rep. Lentz advised that one had been done and it was felt it would work here and provide 80-90% of the County buildings' consumption. He noted that he had no luck in getting the County to provide money to fire departments to upgrade their radios which will be required when the new EMS system is in place.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that a representative from a Worker's Compensation Company will be at the next Supervisor's Assoc. meeting to see if there would be any interest in towns purchasing their own coverage. We are presently covered under the County plan. He asked Co. Rep. Ed Lentz if he could locate a County law on workers compensation. We received a list of the resolutions that the Association of Towns will be presenting at the annual conference for members to vote on.

We received a renewal contract from Pittsfield Veterinary Clinic for 2015-2016. It is the same as the current contract with the exception of several of the fees increasing. The clinic has done a good job working with DCO Liz Fish and tries to get all stray dogs adopted out, which saves us money. After further review, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Joseph Gregory and carried 5/0 to accept the renewal contract for shelter services for 2015-2016 from Pittsfield Veterinary Clinic and authorize the Supervisor to sign on behalf of the Town.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to approve paying General Fund bills #213 through #233 for a total of \$18,341.22 and Highway Fund bills #202 through #220 for a total of \$44,855.69. General Fund bills #208 through #212 and Highway Fund bill #221 for a total of \$7,129.07 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to make the following appropriation changes to balance 2014 accounts:

1. Increase DA5112.2 (Capital Improvements) by \$1,795.82. Transfer from DA 5130.2 (Machinery Capital Outlay).
2. Increase DA5130.4 (Machinery Contractual) by \$36,000.00. Transfer from DA5130.2 (Machinery Capital Outlay).
3. Increase SL-5182.4 (streetlights) by \$31.78. Appropriate from Streetlight Unexpended (surplus) funds.
4. Increase A5010.4 (Hwy. Supt. Contractual) by \$209.33. Transfer from Contingent Acct. #A1990.4.
5. Increase A5132.40 (Hwy. Garage Repairs) by \$37,934.00. Appropriate from General Fund Unexpended (surplus) funds.
6. Increase A9010.8 (State Retirement) by \$1,321.00. Transfer from Contingent Acct. #A1990.4.
7. Increase A9060.8 (Health Insurance-Hwy. Supt.) by \$11,728.64. Transfer \$2,469.67 from Contingent Acct #A1990.4 and \$9,258.97 from A1620.42 (Town Hall Repairs.)

The 2015 Organizational Meeting and the public hearing on the 2015 Fire Protection Contract will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The regular monthly meeting will remain on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:30 PM. We will hold off on scheduling the public hearing on the cable franchise until the February 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to waive holding a year end meeting and authorize the Supervisor, Clerk and Bookkeeper to review and pay any necessary bills that come due before the end of the year.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he felt it was the Town Board's role to not only deal with current issues, but to look towards the future. Ideas he had for goals for 2015 include reviewing our 2008 Comprehensive Plan, using the historic survey we had done to establish a historic district, working with the Fire Company to control costs, setting up a highway equipment maintenance log, looking into solar energy, helping the County push for broadband to all residents and to look at reviewing how land is assessed so that it is more based on the actual land, not just the number of acres. Councilman Robert Eklund felt that helping the fire department and controlling fire protection costs was the most pressing issue. Maybe the Town could hire a grant writer to help find grants to pay for fire equipment. It was determined that the fire company was not eligible for the grant that Councilman Joseph Gregory had found. Councilman John Pegg noted that Morris is having problems getting enough people to man their equipment. Councilman Joseph Gregory added that it should be our goal not to be dipping into our reserves. He also felt having a part time mechanic could save us money. Supervisor Taylor asked the Board to consider these and any other ideas they have so we can set our 2015 goals at the next meeting.

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