

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JUNE 10, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL---7:30PM

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen Joseph Gregory & John Pegg, Clerk Charlene Wells, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Residents Ken Tilley, Tom Riso, Donald Smith, Sue Smith, Ed & Cheryl Bohn, Nancy Goehner & Carl Veneziano, Absent: Councilman Robert Eklund

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to accept the minutes for the May 13, 2014 regular monthly meeting as written.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker advised the Board that there is another problem with the loader. The technician came out to check it out last week and thinks it may be that one of the hydrostatic motors is failing. They are hoping the transmission is okay. If they have to pull out the transmission, they will have to pull off the cab which will mean a lot of labor and a big bill. He also noted that he has rented a machine at \$3,000.00 a month while ours is out for repairs. We have always done all of recommended oil changes and preventative maintenance on the loader since we got it.

Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that he felt he got a lot out of the Highway School he attended in Ithaca. He said there were about 800 in attendance. One thing he noted was that there were a lot who complained about their crews and/or town boards and he felt lucky that we don't have those problems here. A culvert failed and Blue Jay Hollow Spur Road has been temporarily closed. Supt. Whitaker felt it would cost approximately \$5,000.00 to fix. He may be able to get some FEMA funds for the repairs. He could take photos of the damage and proceed with the repairs and keep track of time, materials and equipment in case we can get FEMA funds. He noted that he will have to apply for a permit from the DEC before he can replace the culvert. He can temporarily backfill it for now while he's waiting for the DEC permit. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to go ahead and make repairs to the culvert on Blue Jay Hollow Spur Road by first backfilling as a temporary fix and to get the permits and materials necessary for a complete fix. We received a CD with our 2013 Bridge Inspection report done by the NYS DOT. None of our bridges need any immediate work. Bell Hill Road Bridge had a safety flag because there were no signs warning of a one lane bridge, which Supt. Bill Whitaker noted he had just installed.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that we have a veterans' honor roll in a glass display case that we should do something with. It is currently just sitting in the planning office. Councilwoman Connie Chase will ask her husband, Pete Chase if he would look at it and see if he could do repairs and mount it somewhere in the Town Hall for us. We received notice from the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services that our 2014 Tentative Equalization rate is 112.60, up from 107.08 last year. A lot of towns in the County increased or stayed the same. Since sales are used to compare with assessments, it would seem that sale prices are down across the entire County. Supervisor Taylor suggested we should have the assessor look at our equalization rate for her input.

The historic resources survey we had completed last year can be used as a basis for establishing a historic district. Supervisor Robert Taylor questioned if anyone was interested in working on that. Councilwoman Connie Chase noted that she recently spoke with Glen Noto and he might be the one to talk to about doing this.

We received a letter from NYMIR thanking the highway department for attending their Drive To Survive Seminar. We received a \$100.00 donation from the Cornell Cooperative Extension for using the Town Hall in 2013. There will be a law clinic for seniors at Elm Park Church, Oneonta on June 12, 2014. The NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets sent information about proposals for Farmland Protection Implementation Projects. Projects have to be submitted by July 14, 2014 to be considered.

A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by John Pegg and carried 4/0 to pay General Fund bills #99 through #116 for a total of \$19,621.79 and Highway Fund bills #93 through #111 for a total of \$13,852.39. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #96 through #98 for a total of \$1,608.32

and Highway Fund bills #112 & #113 for a total of \$26,286.45 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

The Board approved advertising for fuel bids. The bids will be opened on Wednesday, July 2nd, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Supervisor's office so we can figure the amounts using last year's usage totals for the Board to review and select a bid at the July 8, 2014 regular meeting.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh submitted a local law, Best Value Procurement for the Town Board to consider. This proposed law would allow the Town Board to accept other than the low bid if there were valid reasons and it was in the best interest of the Town. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 4/0 to hold a public hearing at 7:30 PM on July 8, 2014 on Proposed Local Law # 1 of 2014, Best Value Procurement.

We received an email from the Town of Hartwick Biomass Action Committee about a grant they are applying for to study the feasibility of making and growing materials for wood pellets in Otsego County. They are looking for letters of support to help in their grant application. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Taylor and carried 4/0 to authorize the Supervisor to send a letter of support for this grant project. The information they gather could provide income ideas for the County.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh reviewed the contract with the County for getting a recycling bin and saw no problem with it. He suggested that we could set up a local law with penalties for violating the conditions of the recycling bin. The County suggests that we should have the bin open one time during the week and have someone monitor the use of the bin, since we would have to pay for the entire bin as garbage if anyone throws in garbage instead of recycling. Our residents can dump off recyclables at any of the towns where the County bins are located, such as Morris, Hartwick and Pittsfield/Burlington. The only suitable location we have for a recycling bin would be at the highway garage, but that could be a conflict during the winter months if the trucks were going in and out during the recycling bin hours of operation. Clerk Charlene Wells noted that after we closed our transfer station due to problems and increasing cost it was decided that residents would have to either hire a private contractor to take trash & recyclables or take their own trash/recyclables to the Oneonta or Cooperstown transfer sites. Part of the reason that the Town decided to get out of the garbage business was that to collect tax money to cover the cost is by assessment, not by how much garbage a person produced. If most people have a garbage hauler or take their own garbage to the transfer station she questioned the need for a recycling bin that could cost taxpayers money. After further discussion, it was decided to put the information on our website about when the other town's recycling sites are open and to have residents contact Town Board members or the Clerk if they feel they would utilize a recycling bin in our town.

The wastewater treatment plant in Cooperstown has a roof done by UpState Spray Foam that is going to be looked at. We haven't heard from Upstate yet this year, but we signed the contract with them last year after the Hwy. Building Committee felt it was a good option and we didn't receive any other quotes from the roof RFP. Councilman Joseph Gregory thinks we should replace the tin roof as it would last longer than the spray foam coating is warrantied for. Tom Riso noted that the spray foam option will also be addressing the insulating factor which a new tin roof wouldn't. Supervisor Robert Taylor felt that the Town Board voted last year to accept the quote from Upstate Sprayfoam and we had to stick with it. We can discuss at budget time setting up a capital fund for the eventual highway garage replacement.

The town attorney, Martin Tillapaugh approved the contract with Auctions International. If we use their service there would be no cost to the Town and it would mean our surplus items would most likely reach a bigger audience. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by John Pegg and carried 4/0 to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Auctions International for using their online auction service for selling surplus Town items.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he felt we were not working on any new items this year and wondered if any of the Board had any ideas. With no further business, a motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by John Pegg and carried 4/0 to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk