

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JUNE 13, 2017---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilmen Joseph Gregory, John Pegg and Robert Eklund, Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Edward George, Tom Riso, Edward Lentz, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Art & Nancy Mathewson, Sue Smith, Donald Smith

Supervisor Timothy Miller opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to accept the minutes for the May 9, 2017 regular monthly meeting as written.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker apologized to highway employee Earl Smith for passing along the initial diagnosis from Vantage Equipment that the grader's transmission problems were caused by operator misuse. After further review of the computer data, it was determined that it was not the operator's error. The grader was only run on the high gear for short periods of time, which should not have caused it to generate enough heat to destroy the transmission. We received no warning light of the overheating because of the short durations of time according to Vantage. They have submitted a proposal to put in a new transmission, with a 3 year warranty for a total cost to us of \$12,904.30. (Parts-\$36,021.47 plus Labor-\$4,662.00 minus \$27,779.17 policy adjustment=\$12,904.30) Councilman Joseph Gregory commented that when the grader is run at highway speeds it causes friction, which causes heat. He suggested that if we agree to fix the grader we should not use the high gear. Supt. Whitaker noted that they also informed Vantage that we would also want the satellite monitoring feature which he thought was a \$125.00 to \$150.00 per year fee if we agreed to fix the grader. Councilman Robert Eklund thought that we should have received a high temperature warning and questioned if we could leave the computer screen on the temperature function. Supt. Whitaker added that the other items they monitor, such as oil levels are on a different screen. Councilman John Pegg added that with the problems we've had with the Volvo grader's transmissions there must be a design flaw. Leaving the grader out of the high gear was suggested as the best option to avoid future problems. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to accept the repair estimate from Vantage Equipment to have the Volvo grader's transmission replaced at a cost to us of \$12,904.30. Councilman Eklund would like to know if the warranty is transferrable if we decided to sell the grader. He further questioned the service bill which was submitted again this month. Besides servicing a machine that was having problems, and they didn't have all the equipment to do the requested diagnosing, he wondered why we are paying for overtime for the technician. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that when they service it, they drain all of the fluids which takes time and they are usually here all day. The technician's travel time is part of our cost. Options of renting or leasing a grader were discussed. Supt. Whitaker noted that we are renting a grader for about \$5,000.00 a month. He can't get all the grader work done in just a few months and he feels we really need to have a grader for all of the emergency situations that come up all year long. Councilman Joseph Gregory commented that we could get a military surplus grader and if it breaks just get rid of it. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that most of the surplus military graders were old and wouldn't meet today's OSHA requirements and wouldn't be dependable.

Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that the value of the 2008 Volvo would be approximately \$70,000.00 to \$75,000.00 after putting money into it. The dealer advised that they sold a 2005 for \$75,000.00, but after the money that they had put in it they only made a profit of \$115.00. Another dealer advised they sold a 2003 with a sander for \$39,000.00. Our 2004 Volvo is in the shop with starting problems. He noted again that he doesn't want to get rid of the 2008 Volvo until we have a replacement planned. The Board needs to consider if they want to try to establish a replacement program like Tim Hunt from Cazenovia showed them. Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested that maybe we could start with the pickup being replaced every few years and see if our costs work out before trying with the large trucks. Supervisor Timothy Miller felt we had too many expenses this year to do much and we should budget to

outfit the second military truck next year. Supt. Whitaker noted that he is looking for a bed liner for the new pickup and then he will put the salter in it from the old pickup. The 2009 pickup has some issues but is in use. A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to declare the 2009 Ford pickup as surplus and to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to put it for sale with Auction International in "as is" condition. Hwy. Supt. Whitaker noted that he was happy with Carbone, as they delivered the new pickup to us and gave us 30 days to pay.

Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he has some big culvert projects, 8 foot by 50 and 60 foot and he anticipates each project would be a two day job. Two are on Lena Road and one is on Evans Road. Because of the anticipated cost, we will have to prepare RFPs for the culvert projects. Supt. Whitaker noted that he has applied for the DEC permits. He plans on them going under his CHIPS program. He had wanted to add Gilbert Lake Road to his CHIPS program this year, but with an estimate of \$104,000.00 it will have to wait. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to get the RFP's ready and put out for the two Lena Road culvert projects. Councilman Robert Eklund suggested that we need to see if the County would assist us with the Evans Road culvert project since it impacts a County road. If the County supplies some equipment and men, we might not have to do an RFP for the Evans Road culvert project. After further discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to get started with the RFP for the Evans Road culvert project, but first talk with County Hwy. Supt. Bill Mason to see if they will assist us with the project.

Edward George commented that maybe we should get a dump trailer for the new army truck so we would have a trailer to move equipment ourselves. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that he had thought of that. Tom Riso commented that the amount of increases added to the assessment roll covers the cost of finding the additions. He further noted that he will miss working with Assessor Kathleen Chase who knew her job well.

On the issue of the county/town shared service project, joint purchasing may be the highest item on the idea list. The County already is partnered with Onondaga County. Tompkins County has done a healthcare consolidation which Otsego County could use as an example if a county wide health care plan was considered. The County did not seem interested in a consolidated assessing idea. There was no mention of road work as a shared service idea. Anyone with ideas should let Supervisor Miller know. It had been noted before of getting a flat rate if we did County roads which would be better for budgeting. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that having an additional 20 miles of roads to plow/sand puts a strain on our men. We don't have a second shift like the County does. The County wants their roads done first, so ours would have to be put off. Supt. Whitaker also noted that we use larger sand, which he won't change just because the County likes finer stuff.

NYS Route 51 in Garrattsville will be closed July 10th for the culvert replacement which is expected to be completed by August 4th, 2017. The detour route will be Co. Hwy. 16 to Co. Hwy. 14, to Co. Hwy. 12, back to St. Rt. 51. The Clerk will put a notice on the website and Supervisor Miller stated that he will contact Yogi Bear Campground.

Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that the Justice is getting new entry rugs through the Justice Court Grant Program. There was no interest from the Board in adding "Town of New Lisbon" on the rugs for an extra fee of \$375.00.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to pay General Fund bills #106 through #119 for a total of \$1,406.92 and Highway Fund bills #90 through #108 for a total of \$79,267.25. General Fund bills #99 through #105 and Highway Fund bill #109 for a total of \$8,086.79 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Councilwoman Flo Loomis advised that she had attended a meeting of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District. She felt they were a very organized outfit that could help us turn ideas into acceptable grant categories. There was no meeting of the Capital Planning Committee. Councilman Joseph Gregory suggested that we should have Upstate Spray foam come check out the highway garage

roof as this was part of their proposal. He suggested we should have someone do an inside inspection of the garage. After further discussion, Councilman Gregory agreed to contact Rich Dennis to see what he would charge to do an inspection of all of our buildings. The Fire Contract Committee met and started working through the new draft contract prepared by Attorney Martin Tillapugh. Their next meeting will be on July 31st, 2017.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy updated the Board on the IGA and government efficiency. The towns of Worcester, Decatur, Maryland & Westford are doing a grant to consider the feasibility of consolidating and/or sharing services. It would be helpful if the Soil & Water office had a person to work with all towns in relation to stream work. The Solid Waste Dept. has been working on a farmland protection plan which is up for public comment. County Rep. Kennedy will talk with Co. Hwy. Supt. Bill Mason about working with the Town on the culvert replacement on Evans Road. Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that he had been asked about possibly letting a tower for the 911 system be placed behind the Town Hall. He has not heard back from the County, so Meg will check on that issue.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to advertise for bids for #2 Fuel oil, Kerosene, Diesel, Winter blend Diesel, Unleaded Gas, Propane (including tank) and service contracts on four furnaces. Two pricing options will be requested and bids will be opened at the July 11, 2017 meeting.

Assessor Kathleen Chase died unexpectedly on May 24, 2017. She had been our assessor since 1994 and our only sole assessor since we switched from elected assessors. She will be greatly missed. After talking with county and state officials in Real Property, Clerk Charlene Wells reported that it was suggested that we look for a certified assessor, rather than start with someone without any training. Daniel Maxwell who had worked with Kathleen doing a revaluation in Milford and will be starting a revaluation in Morris has offered to step in and serve as a temporary assessor for us while we conduct a search for a new assessor. We have official documents which need to be certified by the assessor by July 1st. Per NYS a temporary assessor can serve for six months. After further discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to appoint Daniel Maxwell as our temporary assessor at the same rate of pay as budgeted (\$8900.00 annual salary). A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to send a letter to all certified sole assessors in Otsego County to see if any of them would have any interest in taking on assessing duties in the Town of New Lisbon.

We need a person to serve on the Board of Assessment Review. A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 ayes/0 nays to have the clerk put a notice on the website and in the newspaper community news section that we are looking for a volunteer.

Supervisor Timothy Miller suggested that Local Law #2 of 2017 adding solar regulations be adopted as drafted. The public hearing was held May 9, 2017. After further discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 1 Nay (Robert Eklund) to adopt Local Law #2 of 2017, a local law adding standards and review requirements for Solar Energy Farms to the existing Town of New Lisbon Site Plan Review Law previously adopted as New Lisbon Local Law #1 of 2011. This law will be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Saturday, July 1st, 2017 will be the day for working on the walking trail in the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. All volunteers welcome.

Edward George advised the Board that he had filed a complaint with the NYS Dept. of Health about rats which have showed up since someone new moved in with animals into Garrattsville. Supervisor Miller will pass the information along to our Health Officer, Chris Brooks. Edward Lentz commented that he would have liked to see some of his suggestions and corrections made in the solar energy farm regulations before the Board adopted them.

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to adjourn at 9:17 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

