

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 10, 2017---7:30 PM
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET---TOWN HALL**

Present: Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilmen John Pegg, Joseph Gregory & Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Attorney Martin Tillapaugh, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Stacey Kazacos, Edward George, Tom Riso, Earl Smith, Donald Smith, Willard Lasher, Allison Lasher, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Donald Smith, Pete Chase, John Bugyi, Lenny Melillo, Ed Lentz, Amy McKinnon, Nancy Mathewson, Marilyn Sabourin, Bruce Moskos

Supervisor Timothy Miller opened the Public Hearing on the 2018 Preliminary Budget at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos gave a brief overview of the budget and noted that there is no tax increase, but the Board has to make a final decision on highway equipment for next year.

Edward Lentz noted that the tax rate is actually down a few cents from last year. Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos advised that he kept the amount to be raised by tax the same as last year and with an increase in our total assessment, the actual rate is lower than last year. Edward Lentz added that with our previous unexpended balance and this year's unused funds, we could be sitting on a \$700,000.00 unexpended balance. He stated that school districts can only keep 4%, the County aims for 17% and he thought we should only keep 25%. He suggested that the Board should have a plan for the unexpended balance to lower taxes, set up a reserve, etc. Lenny Melillo questioned why we were planning on getting a loan and paying interest for a new truck when we could use our own money. Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos noted that it could be an option, with the Board still having to make a final decision on equipment in the proposed budget.

With no further comments from the floor, a motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to close the Public Hearing at 7:45 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 10, 2017---REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Present: same as above

The regular monthly meeting opened at 7:45 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes as written for the September 12, 2017 regular meeting and September 26, 2017 special budget meeting.

Temporary Assessor Daniel Maxwell has advised that he would step down and let our new choice take over. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to appoint Pamela Dyn-Gohde to serve as our Sole Assessor for the term which expires 9/30/2019. She will hold office hours on Wednesdays from 4-6 PM, except for Town Board meeting weeks, when she will be in that Tuesday from 5:00-7:00 PM. She will take phone calls at home on her days off from her full time job. (Office—607-965-8381, Home—607-547-5068).

The Planning Board met on October 2, 2017 and reviewed and recommended approval on Subdivision #04-17 for a simple subdivision for Dean Marble. The application was also sent to the County for review since the parcel is on Co. Hwy. 11 and in an agricultural district. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to approve, subject to County input, subdivision application # 04-17 for a 34 acre simple subdivision on tax map #207.00-1-23.00 for Dean Marble on County Hwy. 11, finding no adverse environmental impacts.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker reported that the 2009 Pickup on Auctions International is up to \$4200.00, over the \$3500.00 reserve we put, but the winch is lower than we wanted and the person who had said they wanted it now doesn't want it for \$1200.00 because there have been others going for less than that. The Board suggested we wait and see the final results on Friday, but suggested we should get rid of the items. All the culvert work has been completed and the paperwork will be filled out for getting our CHIPS reimbursement. Supt. Whitaker noted he may be able to use some of our stone

hauling expense also. He plans on doing Gilbert Lake Road and some other big culverts with our 2018 CHIPS funds.

Discussion was held on driveway culverts. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that we are reimbursed for the cost of new ones by the landowner, unless they have their contractor install. We cover the cost of replacing culverts. He noted that he had estimates from a company to come out and flush out plugged culverts, but it is cheaper for us to replace the culvert. The 2009 Freightliner had to have a repair of the braking system. The mechanic thought it could partly be caused because the truck had sat for a while. Supt. Whitaker noted that Laurens had helped draw in sand and he will send them help when they draw in their sand.

Discussion was held on fixing the old County tower that we lease for our radio system. Lenny Melillo commented that we may be able to use the new tower and work it out as part of our lease agreement. It didn't sound like the County would want to fix up the old tower. Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that perhaps we could get a cell carrier interested in using the old tower. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that our repeater is about 14 years old and we should update with a digital compatible one. He will get a cost estimate. Councilman Robert Eklund questioned if the new tower will cover the entire town. Supervisor Miller suggested that we hold off on fixing up the old tower site until we see if using the new tower for our radio system will work out.

Discussion was held on the 2009 Freightliner being overweight when loaded. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that the Freightliner is 4500 lbs. heavier than the Volvos. He guesses that all of our trucks and probably all of the trucks in the County are overweight when fully loaded. This always weighs on his mind, especially in winter. Councilwoman Flo Loomis questioned how we check on this and are we within what the trucks are registered for. She added that we should be in compliance as far as safety and what our trucks are registered for. Lenny Melillo added that a truck's wheelbase determines what it can carry. We need to know the wheelbase and unladen weight to figure how much a truck can carry. Councilman Robert Eklund commented that maybe we should hire materials drawn in. Supervisor Timothy Miller added that we may have to lessen loads on certain trucks.

Kevin Morse from Kaationrondack Benefit Planning was present to review our medical insurance plan renewal. Renewal of our current plan with MVP is up 12.22%, with benefit levels the same. He felt that it was a good move to go with MVP last year. He noted that the comparable CDPHP plan is up 35.24%. He added that the Affordable Care Act is definitely affecting costs. Employee Willard Lasher advised that their out of pocket costs are more with MVP because they call most visits seeing a specialist which is a higher copay and prescriptions cost more. Mr. Morse advised that we are in the Utica rate region for small businesses. Edward Lentz questioned if we could self-insure. Mr. Morse responded that we are too small of a group and no one would write us for reinsurance. Lenny Melillo commented that the small increase in wages doesn't cover the increase in out of pocket expenses for employees so it's like our employees are going backwards. The Board will review the data and make a decision next month or sooner if we are going to switch carriers.

Edward George thanked Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy if she had any part of getting a culvert cleaned out near him. Edward Lentz commented that the reason for going into executive session last month to discuss appointing a highway superintendent was not an allowable reason and that elected officials can't be discussed in executive session. Attorney Martin Tillapaugh advised that there is no real penalty for violating the use of executive session except that any decisions made would be voided. Tom Riso asked if any information was available on the executive session last month and he was advised no because no decisions were made so no minutes had to be recorded.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy will help see if we could utilize the new EMS tower for our highway radio communications. Maybe the County would be interested in updating their old tower for other uses. She advised that the County Veteran's Director Jack Henson is staying on for another year. She noted that the Veteran's expo held at Foothills had a lot of information. Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that we only had four days' notice of the event. If held again more advance notice would be appreciated. Co. Rep. Kennedy advised that the ARC has a reuse center on River Street. They will take used construction materials which they sell for a low price, plus it helps cut down on thrown out items in the waste

stream. The County will not share the bed tax with all towns this year. She attended an agricultural session in Cobleskill on the farm bill which explained funding from the Federal government.

Land Use Officer Tom Riso noted that he had a list of items for the new assessor. Supervisor Timothy Miller advised that he has applied for a grant to get an AED for the Town Hall. The Supervisor's association had a representative from the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce. They have a lot of information on their website. The Otsego County Board approved going ahead with an EMS tower at the highway garage location. Supervisor Miller received a new site map. Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos noted that 13 people attended the "Woods Walk" on September 30th at the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest Walking Trail. He thanked Ed & Vicky Lentz for purchasing the sign to mark the trail site.

The Lena Cemetery Association has asked for the Town to provide them with some money towards their expenses out of the Town budget. Attorney Martin Tillapaugh advised that he could not find any law which would allow us to give funds to an active cemetery. The Town is only responsible for abandoned cemeteries.

Discussion was held on a "Spoils Policy". We do not have a written policy. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that he is always on the lookout for places to dump ditched dirt. He tries to find locations near where they are working. He will give it to anyone willing to take it. He keeps lists of people who will allow him to dump on their property. We only dump the material; the landowner would have to level it. Supervisor Timothy Miller had a copy of a four page policy from South Bristol. Attorney Martin Tillapaugh noted that it didn't have to be complex, just to have a written policy to ensure fairness that offers the spoils to anyone in town and taken to the nearest location. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to get more information, gather concerns and have everyone bring in their points of interest to formulate a spoils policy at the next meeting.

We received notice that Otsego County has initiated a program of accepting installment payments for delinquent (current year) taxes. This applies to after the town tax collector has finished collecting taxes through April and handed back the unpaids to the County. This doesn't change anything with the Town tax collection process. The Treasurer, Dan Crowell noted that they would work with any Town that wanted to explore their own installment payment program. We would have to check with our software vendor to see if a change is possible and with our Attorney to check any legality. Town Clerk Charlene Wells noted that she had contacted other clerks and most had not discussed the issue with their Boards and most thought it would be a bookkeeping nightmare. After further discussion, the Board decided not to pursue the idea at this time.

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 approve paying General Fund bills #173 through #180 for a total of \$931.59 and Highway Fund bills #160 through #172 for a total of \$32,901.86. General Fund bills #169 through #172 and Highway Fund bill #173 for a total of \$7,660.38 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that the list of repairs identified by contractor Richard Dennis for our three buildings should be reviewed and used to prepare an RFP. A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to prepare an RFP for repairs to the Highway Garage and Town Hall. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted special thanks to highway employee Barry Braunius who has been working on the storage building ceiling and insulation project.

There will be a Meet the Candidate night, October 12th, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall for local offices and our County Board representative.

Justice Bruce Moskos would like to apply for a raised bench and record disposal assistance through the Justice Court Assistance Program. A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to pass a resolution to support and

authorize Justice Bruce Moskos to submit an application through the Justice Court Assistance Program for a raised bench and record disposal assistance for approximately \$6500.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays/1 Abstention (Councilwoman Flo Loomis) to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:45 PM. Edward Lentz commented that it was an illegal executive session due to the subject matter to be discussed. A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 3 Ayes (Supervisor Miller, Councilwoman Loomis & Councilman Gregory) to 2 Nays (Councilman Eklund & Councilman Pegg) to include Attorney Martin Tillapaugh in the executive session. The Town Clerk left the meeting at this point and the following was recorded by Supervisor Timothy Miller:

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh left the executive session at 10:40 PM. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker was invited in to the executive session at 10:50 PM. Councilwoman Flo Loomis left the executive session at 11:10 PM. A motion was made by Councilman John Pegg, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays to exit the executive session at 11:36 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk