

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—OCTOBER 11, 2016---7:30 PM---TOWN HALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Present: Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilmen Robert Eklund, John Pegg & Joseph Gregory, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Edward George, Willard Lasher, Tom Riso, Donald Smith, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Britten Fitzgerald & husband, John & Pam Bugyi, Sue Smith, Robert Tuthill

Supervisor Timothy Miller opened the public hearing at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Highway employee John Bugyi retired in July 2016. He was thanked for his 24 years of service to the Town and presented a plaque.

The 2017 Preliminary Budget reflects only a \$147.00 increase in the amount to be raised by tax over the 2016 Budget and will keep us in compliance with the allowed tax cap. Our fund balances at the end of 2015 were \$361,631.00 in General Fund and \$199,627.00 in the Highway Fund.

Lenny Melillo questioned how much we should be keeping in our fund balances. We should have an amount that we don't want to go below. It was noted that if we have a FEMA declared disaster we have to spend the money and apply to get it back. Supt. Bill Whitaker added that it is a lot harder to get money back from FEMA than it used to be. We also have to spend money for our CHIPS projects and apply to get reimbursed. Edward Lentz added that we should have enough money to deal with big items such as if a bridge or piece of equipment fails. He thought maybe we should work on increasing our fund balance in the highway by putting more sales tax revenues there or using more fund balance in the general fund. He also noted that the repairs we made to the highway garage were only to extend its life and we should start saving for the eventual replacement of the garage. He is in favor of staying under the tax cap but thought it was okay to have a small increase to build our fund balances. We should look at tax rates of other small surrounding towns and see where we sit in comparison. Tom Riso noted that since our original estimate to replace the highway garage was 1.6 million, it will probably be 2.5 million in 18-20 years. He added that he saw no reason to raise taxes just because we can. Lenny Melillo commented that we only have an annual program. We need a long term program with an equipment replacement plan. Highway salaries were figured with a 22 cent raise and 200 hours of overtime per man. With no further comments, Supervisor Miller closed the Public hearing at 8:07 PM.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---OCTOBER 11, 2016

Present: same as above

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5/0 to approve the minutes for the September 13th, 2016 regular meeting and September 26th Tentative Budget meeting as written.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that he went and got the newest 2009 Freightliner truck. It is identical to the truck we already outfitted. He noted that the Army has been downsizing and once they get to where they want to be it will be harder to get a surplus truck from them. He will be applying for over \$200,000.00 from the CHIPS & PAVENY funding. His work for the rest of the season will be shouldering the newly paved roads, finish hauling in sand, patch work on High Street, cutting down some trees on Backus Road and cutting brush. Councilman Joseph Gregory noted that he would be in favor of getting another Army surplus truck if one becomes available. Supt. Whitaker thought he would like to first see how the newly outfitted truck works out this winter before getting any more. We cannot sell these Army trucks to the general public, only other towns. Councilman Robert Eklund added that our original plan was to see how the first Freightliner worked out before getting anymore. Supt. Whitaker stated that it is his goal is to have the two Freightliners replace the two International trucks. He doesn't want to always use his CHIPS funds for trucks as it takes away money from his road surfacing projects. Braun, Allen & Gilbert Lake Roads were last done in 2005 and on his to do list.

Edward George asked if the Board was going to change their meeting in November since it falls on Election Day and Supervisor Miller responded we were going to change the date. Also, Mr. George

commented that he was on one of our recently paved & sealed roads and he slid on the loose stone with his car and suggested that there should have been "loose stone" signs put up.

Edward Lentz advised that he was one of a dozen who signed up to help with the Butternut Creek assessment and went through training of what to look for. The plan is to assess the creek from the start in the Town of Exeter all the way to the Unadilla. They will record sites of interest, where there could be future problems. They will identify these areas, catalog them and then they can be prioritized. Soil & Water will be available to help seek grants for stream mediation.

Sue Smith questioned if because the 2009 Freightliner is camo and not orange if it will be a site problem. It had been decided to leave it camo because it was going to cost too much to strip the camo paint which is supposed to have a 20 year life span and repaint. Supt. Bill Whitaker was asked to see if perhaps we could apply some sort of reflective or orange florescent material to the truck.

County Representative Meg Kennedy was asked to look into the over \$500.00 fee we had to pay for the building permit for the highway storage building. She advised that she looked into our concerns that there were issues with communicating with the County during the recent windstorm that left us without power for days. She advised that the County Emergency Operations Center only kicks in when there is a very widespread emergency or disaster. If we need to get hold of someone at the County for assistance we can always call the County Communications Center at 547-5351. Rep. Kennedy advised that the Town of Hartwick is working on responding to our shared service agreement. She advised that the County put \$10,000.00 in their 2017 budget for support of the SPCA. She doesn't think that the bed tax will be shared this year, but she will still support having all towns receive a share of it in the future. She thinks that the County is planning on using the EMS grant money towards debt on the tower sites. Discussion was held on the resolution started by Mr. Powers to send to the Governor to allow the pipeline because it would help economic development here. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that there was no County Board resolution of support. She thought she would sign on, but admitted that she has a lot to learn about the issue. Councilman Robert Eklund stated that the pipeline would not help anyone here and there were health concerns for communities and water supplies. He felt that Mr. Powers was pushing it for his own interest. Edward Lentz added that they should look into enlarging the existing gas line that comes into Oneonta as that wouldn't be as destructive as a new line.

Kevin Morse of Kaationrondack Benefit Planning was present to review our medical insurance plan and options for next year. Our current plan will renew at an 8.27% increase with several higher co-payments. The only other option with CDPHP would decrease the premium by 7.83% but would become more costly for employees with higher co-payments and deductibles and coinsurance. An option under Excellus BlueCross-BlueShield with similar benefits to our current plan would only be a 3.3% increase over current rates. He noted that he only started selling MVP plans last year and they have come in again with good rates. All local medical facilities would be in the network. MVP's Platinum 1 plan would be closest to our current plan and would be at a rate of 7.65% less than our current rates. Lenny Melillo questioned how emergency transports, including air transports are covered under these plans. Mr. Morse will check into that and get back to us. Councilman Joseph Gregory stated that he would be leaning toward the MVP Platinum 1 plan. Councilwoman Flo Loomis stated that we should do the best that we can for our employees and that they should have a chance to look at the plans so there will be no surprises with the plan we select. If we want to switch carriers, we have to let Mr. Morse know by mid-November.

Britten Fitzgerald has requested a setback variance to 40 feet for building a garage/storage building. She cannot go back further due to her septic system and lot size. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5/0 to approve a setback variance to 40 feet for Britten Fitzgerald at 214 Turnbull Road, parcel #142.00-2-13.00, for the purpose of building a garage/storage building.

Lenny Melillo gave the quarterly report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They put in 220 man hours in July, 520 man hours in August and 420 man hours in September. They had 13 fire calls and 24 EMS calls during this period. With documenting and record keeping always increasing they will be getting a new fire safe to separate squad documents from fire ones. Their annual barbeque went well with 700 out of 750 chicken halves being sold. There were less vendor tables due to an event the same

day in Cooperstown. They did all right with their golf tournament at Butternut Golf & Recreation. Lenny added that their participation has been good with good moral of members. They are happy with their new truck. They are still using the old radio system. New radios cost about \$23,000.00. Councilman Gregory and Deputy Supervisor Kazacos had met with Assemblyman Bill Magee and his office is willing to help with grants. Lenny added that in the past we have been hurt with grants by our small population and tax base. The Fire Department will be getting a new fuel tank and will install it at the upper firehouse at an estimated cost of \$550.00.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that building projects have been slow. Once the leaves are off the trees, he will scout around town to look for projects to report to the assessor.

Town Hall Custodian Willard Lasher reported that the outside of the building was done, with the doors painted and the building power washed. The roof leak by the vent pipe in the utility room was fixed. One piece of sheetrock has to be replaced, but there was no mold issue. It appears that the recent windstorm caused the ceiling tiles to lift up and caused more damage to the large meeting room ceiling tiles.

Supervisor Timothy Miller advised that he received a letter from FEMA advising that they have completed the final flood hazard determination for our town. The new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) will become effective on March 21, 2017. Prior to that date we have to update our Floodplain Law from 1992 to reflect the new standards. Supervisor Miller asked Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso to look at the new standards and see how our law will have to be updated.

Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos has met with the NYS DEC at the Texas Road state land and is hopeful that establishing the walking trail will be proceeding forward.

The Planning Board met on October 3, 2016 and reviewed the sample drafts of solar regulations. They will be drafting a sample based on the Town of Geneva law. They asked if we required a bond to guarantee the cleanup of outdated panels would it be legal. Attorney Tillapaugh advised that we can require a bond in that case. Councilman Eklund didn't think that we could only target one type of project with a bond requirement and not on all things. The Planning Board will be meeting next on November 14th, 2016 and hopefully will finalize a draft for the Town Board to review.

The Land Use Planning & Zoning for Solar presentation is October 20, 2016 from 6-8:30 PM at the BOCES in Milford. The Cemetery Association will be holding an Election Day dinner at the Firehouse. The Fire Dept. will be holding a spaghetti dinner on opening day of deer season, November 19th, 2016.

NYMIR sent information on upcoming ice & snow safety classes which was given to Hwy. Supt. Whitaker. No one was interested in getting a solar speed sign from the company ELAN City. Our County Equalization rate will be 115.93.

A letter was received from Senator Charles Schumer about a "Museums for America Grant Program". Supervisor Miller will forward the information to Historian Virginia Schoradt. He also received an old New Lisbon phone book from a lady in California. He will give that to the Historian for our Town archives.

A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to change the November 2016 monthly meeting from Tuesday November 8th to Wednesday November 9th, 2016 because of Election Day.

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5/0 to appoint Cynthia Kelleher to the New Lisbon Board of Assessment Review, to fill the term expiring 9/30/2018.

Planning Board Clerk Judith Koster passed away on October 1, 2016. She served 25 years in this position. The Planning Board asked that Sue Smith be considered to take over as Planning Board Clerk. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 5/0 to appoint Susan Smith as Planning Board Clerk.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund Bills #181 through #193 for a total of \$3,013.89 and Highway Fund Bills #157 through #173 for a total of \$94,207.24. Supervisor Miller/Deputy Supervisor Kazacos paid General Fund bills #177 through #180 and Highway Fund bills #156 and #174 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5/0 to authorize Robert Taylor to attend the 2017 Association of Towns Annual Meeting & Conference in February 2017 and to be our voting delegate.

Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that the Soil & Water Assessment of the Butternut Creek is a good study of our watershed. Soil & Water will be holding training events which we can attend. They may be helpful in getting us grants in the future pertaining to our bridges.

Edward Lentz thanked Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos for working on the 2017 Budget, who in turn thanked Councilmen Joseph Gregory & John Pegg and Bookkeeper Doris Schlee for their help.

With no further comments from the floor or further business, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 10:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk