

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 13, 2016---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilmen Robert Eklund & Joseph Gregory, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Attorney Martin Tillapaugh, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos, Residents Keith Woodbeck, Sue Smith, Donald Smith, Barry Braunius, Lenny Melillo, Edward Lentz Absent: Councilman John Pegg

Supervisor Timothy Miller opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4/0 to accept the minutes for the August 9, 2016 regular meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised the Board that we have an army surplus vehicle in Fort Dix, NJ with our name on it. It has less than 4500 miles and is a 2008 for \$4,500.00. He plans to go get it next week. He will use it for moving equipment, etc. for now and will eventually get it set up with a dump box and plow. We have the 1994 & 1997 International trucks which are due to be replaced. The 2009 Freightliner has been repaired with employees Willard Lasher and Barry Braunius doing most of the work which saved us money. Needed seals were back ordered which is why it took a while to get the repairs done. He noted that the paving projects were finished today with help from surrounding towns. He will have to seal them in a few weeks. Supt. Whitaker noted that he is keeping track of the times we help other towns and when they help us. The new employee is scheduled for his CDL test on October 19th. The DEC violations are being worked on, so the DEC will not fine us. Stan Leonard has placed two lighted exit signs in the hwy. garage and will be putting two in the storage building.

Tom Riso has completed the paperwork to go along with our application for a County Building Permit for the ceiling in the storage building. The permit fee is estimated at \$500.00 to \$600.00. A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Joseph Gregory and carried 4/0 to approve paying for the building permit for the storage building project once we find out the correct amount.

Supervisor Timothy Miller advised that he had received a letter which was also sent to Morris Central School from Meadowvale Campground. They were requesting that the school bus not use their driveway as a turn-around and that the Town plows dug up the end of their driveway. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker will go look at their driveway and see what he can do to fix it up.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that Jordan Clements of Otsego County Soil & Water is setting up a class for hwy. departments in cooperation with the Cornell Local Roads Program on Storm Water & Culverts. The class will be held on November 16th and two of our men can attend for free. They plan on setting up a class on ditching in the spring.

The County Hwy. Dept. has been getting the solar site ready near Laurens. They have dug up evergreen trees and are giving them away free to the public. They can be picked up on Sept. 16th & 17th and Sept. 23rd & 24th from 8:00 AM to Noon at the County Hwy. 11 site.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy further advised that the County Planning Dept. will be holding a solar workshop on October 20th from 6-8:00 PM at the Milford BOCES. Notice will be sent to our Planning Board and maybe they will get working on our solar site plan regulations after this meeting.

Lenny Melillo asked Co. Rep. Kennedy if she had asked the County if they would give more money from the grant they are getting to cover the radio upgrade cost. She noted that it didn't look very promising that the fire departments would get any more money as the grant money was earmarked for other expenses. She will find out who the Fire Dept. can contact directly. The new EMS system is not totally up yet. Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that during the last storm, when we had no power, it was hard to get information and no one responded to his calls at the County. Clerk Charlene Wells added that when an outage occurs on a weekend, the radio stations don't give out any emergency information. With no phones, cable, or electric, a radio is the only way we can get information. Co. Rep. Kennedy advised that they are reviewing how the emergency situations were handled and she will convey our concerns.

Councilwoman Flo Loomis noted that when she went to the Oneonta Transfer Station there was a sign that mattresses & box springs cost \$100.00 each to dispose of. At that price she noted there would be a lot of them thrown along the roadsides. Lenny Melillo noted that he had just went and had to pay \$25.00 each. Meg will check to make sure the sign says \$25.00 each. Ed Lentz questioned her on the bed tax disbursement and sales tax levels. Co. Rep. Kennedy responded that the County Treasurer had advised that the sales tax figures were looking good and on track with expected amounts. She had not heard anything new on the bed tax disbursement but noted that she would support sharing it with all of the towns.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh noted that the agreement with MB Campground had been settled and filed. The amount the Town owed was \$6,565.14 and the amount the County owed was \$2,783.27. The County Treasurer's office had sent notice to us that they paid both the Town & County shares, totaling \$9,348.41. They advised that since we had turned over the tax rolls to them for 2012-2016 that they had to pay the amount the Town owed and that it will be billed back to the Town on the 2017 tax roll in our County taxes. Attorney Tillapaugh added that he had not heard any more on the status of the complaint filed by Meadowvale Campgrounds.

We received a notice that the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is looking for volunteers to help complete their assessment of the Butternut Creek Watershed this fall. They will train volunteers and will hold informational meetings this fall. Interested residents can contact Jordan Clements at 607-547-8337. A grant for funding of bridge & road repairs with the NYSDOT has expired, but maybe we should consider hiring a grant writer to apply next year. There is a grant for transportation projects that would help the Clean Air Act, such as bike paths & sidewalks that has to be in by October 21st, 2016. It isn't likely that we would have any qualifying projects.

The NY State Dept. of Taxation & Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services sent notice that our Final State Equalization Rate for the 2016 Assessment Roll is 115.93.

When Mirabito Energy Products was doing our furnace cleanings, they advised that we should consider replacing the fuel tank at the upper firehouse. They sent a proposal to replace the tank with a new vertical tank, with a 10 year warranty for \$1200.00 for all materials & labor. Keith Woodbeck had been asked to check out our existing tank and give us his opinion on it. He advised that it is an older tank, but it is solid and pretty rust free and there are no leaks. He suggested that if we do consider replacing it we should go with a flat tank which has less chance of tipping over. Keith and Lenny advised that switching the tank over to a new one would be something that the Fire Dept. could do to save money. They will get a price for a new flat tank and we will discuss further after we get that information.

Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos had talked with Andrea Denekamp on the status of opening trails in the Texas Road state land. She advised that she had done the applications and kept getting resistance from the DEC. Deputy Supervisor Kazacos advised that the previous forester had retired and maybe the new one will be easier to work with. He will contact the DEC and see if he can get the project moving forward.

At the IDA meeting on broadband on August 26th, it was noted that no private companies want to deal with the cost of bringing broadband to rural areas. Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos, Councilwoman Flo Loomis and Councilman Joseph Gregory attended the meeting. The County & the IDA are waiting for the State to announce the grant program and they will apply for a grant to get fiber optic cables and wireless set ups to build a County wide system. (Estimated cost of \$35 million). Only Otsego Electric Co-op. and Middleburg Telephone were interested in working with the County. If the County gets the grant, it would probably be 3 years before the project is completed. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that until we get County wide broadband, any new business and/or agricultural business would have trouble operating here.

The Board met prior to the meeting to review the bills. A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4/0 to pay General Fund bills #161 through #176 for a total of \$5,107.94 and Highway Fund bills #139 through #154 for a total of \$17,255.63. Supervisor Miller/Deputy Supervisor Kazacos paid General Fund bills #156 through #160

and Highway Fund bill #155 for a total of \$6,117.29 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

The Board set the date of Monday, September 26th, 2016 at 7:00 PM for the 2017 Tentative Budget to be presented to the Board as prepared by Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos, followed by a work session on the budget. Supervisor Timothy Miller noted that based on his calculations we can have a 1.5% increase, approximately \$10,000.00. Kaatirondack Benefit Planning is working on getting us some options for medical insurance as CDPHP has said they are proposing a 10.8 % increase.

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to reappoint Edward Dawyot to a new five year term on the New Lisbon Board of Assessment Review effective October 1, 2016. We will check with Cynthia Kelleher to see if perhaps she would be interested in the Board of Review position vacated by Flo Loomis.

A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 4/0 to invite retired hwy. employee John Bugyi to attend the next meeting to receive an official thank you from the Board for his 22 years of service to the Town.

Deputy Supervisor Stacey Kazacos will check with Willard Lasher about a utility room water leak and the meeting room ceiling. Justice Bruce Moskos submitted his Justice Court grant request which included getting new carpet for offices, new flooring for the halls and conference room, a small bench and new flags & flag poles, totaling approximately \$9,000.00.

Lenny Melillo submitted the Fire Department's Budget request for 2017, staying the same as the 2016 Budget at \$125,350.00. They will submit their 2017 Budget by the first of the New Year.

Supervisor Miller noted that the weekend outdoor concert put on by "Upstate Tailgate" did not have a huge attendance and did not cause any problems. Owner Tony Condurso did a great job setting up the area, providing lights, security, etc. The Fire Department handled the parking with 100% of that money going to them. Lenny Melillo added that Tony has a good rapport with the Fire Dept. and he participates in the community.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Supervisor Timothy Miller and carried 4/0 to adjourn at 8:36 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk