

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 26, 2017---7:00 PM---TOWN HALL  
SPECIAL MEETING---2018 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Present: Supervisor Timothy Miller, Councilmen Robert Eklund, John Pegg & Joseph Gregory, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents: Tom Riso, Edward George, Lenny Melillo, Edward Lentz, Nancy Mathewson

Supervisor Timothy Miller opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. The 2018 Tentative Budget was presented to the Board as prepared by Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos. He acknowledged help from his budget committee of John Pegg, Joseph Gregory and Doris Schlee. He also noted that Bookkeeper Doris Schlee has advised that she is planning on retiring at the end of the year.

The Board reviewed each line item in the proposed budget. The Town Hall cleaner position was figured with a 50 cent raise, as the position has not been increased in many years. We need to review the list of recommended repairs to our buildings from Richard Dennis to make sure we have enough figured in our building repair accounts. Lenny Melillo suggested that we should start looking into replacing the furnace in the firehouse. The Board included \$500.00 to do an efficiency analysis of the firehouse. Highway employees' salaries were figured with a 1.7% increase (rate of inflation) @ a 31 cent per hour raise up to \$18.00 per hour. Health insurance was figured with a 10% increase.

Discussion was held on the Highway Superintendent salary. Councilman Robert Eklund acknowledged that he had wanted to withhold \$6500.00 in the Hwy. Supt.'s salary until he completed tasks which he felt the Board has asked for in the past and haven't been done. Some items he noted were setting up a maintenance plan and log, giving the Board an update & reasons for overtime, willingness to attend training seminars, setting up a training class on equipment for employees, etc. Since the only real control the Town Board has over the highway department is with the Budget, Councilman Eklund thought this was the time to get these things implemented. Councilwoman Flo Loomis questioned if it was legal to withhold allocated salary and Supervisor Timothy Miller advised that Attorney Martin Tillapaugh has advised we can't. Once the salary is set, we cannot hold back portions until tasks are completed to the Board's satisfaction. The Tentative budget set the Hwy. Supt. salary as the same as 2017, with the Board planning on discussing the issue further.

Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos advised that the highway equipment category included \$216,000.00 for a new plow truck. We would pay down \$66,000.00 and finance \$150,000.00. He did not include funds to outfit the newest Freightliner as he figured we could use funds from selling the 2008 Volvo. The Board discussed the options, with Councilman Joseph Gregory stating he did not want to see a new truck when we don't keep good maintenance records. Councilman John Pegg felt he was unsure, possibly leaning towards outfitting the Freightliner. Councilman Robert Eklund added that he was unsure of which direction to go since the Hwy. Supt's plans change all the time. Councilwoman Flo Loomis felt that we needed a good piece of equipment and was okay with purchasing a new one. Supervisor Timothy Miller was leaning towards a new truck, but also wanted to see the Freightliner outfitted so we could use it. More discussion will follow on this issue.

Lenny Melillo noted the Fire Department request at \$125,350.00 is the same as last year. He noted that fund raising is hard with a limited area. They lost the golf tournament since Butternut Valley Golf closed. The annual barbeque was okay, with the rainy remnants of Hurricane Harvey cutting attendance. They will be working on their calendar renewal. He further noted that they hired Webster's paving to seal the lower firehouse blacktop, and that Royce Webster donated the sealing of the upper firehouse blacktop.

The 2018 Tentative Budget as originally drafted came in at an \$11,000.00 increase over last year, staying under the tax cap. Budget Officer Stacey Kazacos noted that our unexpended balances over the past six years have remained stable even though we have used some each year in the budget to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes. Supervisor Timothy Miller would like to see the tax rate the same as last year by using more of the general fund unexpended balance. It was discussed evening out the sales tax revenue between the general and highway funds.

Comments from the floor on the 2018 Tentative Budget and issues discussed included with highway being the biggest part of the Town budget accountability is needed, now is the time to get control over neglected areas of concern in the highway dept., the highway garage needs a good house cleaning and why would we want to outfit another Freightliner which we can't legally run with a full load because it is overweight. A comment on the issue of changing from an elected to an appointed highway superintendent was that most towns that put it up to a vote it fails.

A motion was made by Supervisor Timothy Miller, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 Ayes / 0 Nays to adopt the revised 2018 Tentative Budget with a 0% tax increase as the 2018 Preliminary Budget and to hold a public hearing on it prior to the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Lenny Melillo submitted an energy efficiency proposal from NYSEG to replace the lights at the upper firehouse which Pete Chase has been working on. The total cost to replace all lights inside and outside would be \$2,966.91. NYSEG would cover \$1,354.20, so our cost would be \$1,612.71. They estimated it could save over \$1,000.00 per year and would replace lights which are failing and pose a fire threat. The only additional cost may be to rent a lift. After review, a motion was made by Councilman Joseph Gregory, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the proposal from NYSEG to replace the lights at the upper firehouse at a cost to us of \$1,612.71 and to authorize Pete Chase to sign on behalf of the Town & Fire Dept. Supervisor Miller also signed the acceptance.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilman John Pegg and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk