

## **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL---7:30 PM**

Present: Councilwoman Connie Chase, Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Robert Eklund, Joseph Gregory & John Pegg, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Edward George & Katie Eklund

Absent: Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker

The minutes from August 12, 2014 were corrected to add the word "increase" in the last sentence of Paragraph 4. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept the amended minutes for the August 12, 2014 regular monthly meeting.

Supervisor Robert Taylor advised that Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker will be meeting next week with FEMA representatives about getting mediation funding for culvert repairs that have problems every time there is heavy rain. He also advised that he hopes to get Vibbard Road and the Town Hall driveway and parking area paved next week.

Councilman Robert Eklund questioned why we haven't proceeded with the cement floor for the storage building addition and when the scrap metal/surplus items were going to be inventoried and ready for sale. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he was waiting for the roof contractors to come first so there wouldn't be a conflict with men working and the Hwy. Building Committee hasn't met on the floor issue. UpState Sprayfoam has started on the highway garage roof and to date they have done the roof repairs, power washed the roof and applied the undercoat.

Ed George commented that he was happy to see the roof repair/sealing project had been started. He also noted that the Resident's Guide and Business Brochure that were distributed at the Firemen's Barbecue were nice. He questioned why the rented excavator sat for several days while we were paying to use it. Mr. George also noted that he doesn't see our equipment operators using the beacon lights on equipment which he feels is a safety factor.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he has been working on the 2015 Tentative Budget. He's including money for repairs at the town hall as some things may need upgrades. He will ask Tom Riso if he will go through the Town Hall and provide an inventory of any items that need to be addressed. Supervisor Taylor also noted that he would like to see the pay rate for part time highway help increased to \$17.00 per hour up from \$12.00 per hour because they don't get benefits. Most of the Board felt we should leave it at \$12.00 as long as we don't have a problem finding part time help. Ralph Morse has advised we should budget for a 15% increase in Health insurance. The Fire Dept.'s 2015 budget reflects a \$40,000.00 increase because of the new truck they are going to purchase. It will be a hard year to keep our budget under the allowable state cap.

Supervisor Taylor advised that resident Bill Burdick has volunteered to redo our town hall sign if we pay for the cost of materials. A motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept Bill Burdick's offer of redoing our sign and to pay for the materials needed to do so. Martha Clarvoe has sent info about joining in with Hartwick and other towns in the Climate Smart Communities program. Councilman Robert Eklund advised that he will look into this for the Board.

A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 4/1 (Joseph Gregory against) to authorize Supervisor Robert Taylor to attend the February 2015 Association of Towns annual conference in NYC.

Clerk Charlene Wells advised the Board of a recent dog case. The DCO received a call about a dog tied up in a yard that was in poor condition. She responded and had to call in the Sheriff because she is not authorized to handle cruelty cases. The Sheriff directed her to take the dog to the vet. Our clinic was closed so she took the dog to Oneonta Veterinary Hospital in Oneonta. After considering the case the Sheriff's Dept. decided not to issue cruelty tickets to the owner. The vet advised that the dog was in extremely poor condition and the owner agreed to have the dog euthanized. The owner advised that she had no money to pay for the vet bill. After talking with NYS Ag & Market officials it was advised that the Town had an ethical obligation to pay the bill. We have not received the bill, but estimate it will

be at least \$600.00. This case brings up the question of who is responsible for the vet bill in cruelty cases. Since the town DCO has no jurisdiction and the SPCA no longer handles cruelty cases, it becomes up to the Sheriff Dept. to handle. Vet bills could be high if an animal has to be held for any length of time. We will have to look into this further with the County Sheriff Dept. After discussion on the case, the Town Board directed the Clerk to send a letter to the dog owner advising that we would pay the vet bill now, but would like her to make arrangements to make restitution to the Town as it is not fair for the taxpayers to pay this bill.

We received information about the Lifeline Discount Telephone Service Program. It is designed to make basic telephone service more affordable for income-eligible consumers. Questions on this can be answered by calling 518-474-1788.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Joseph Gregory, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to pay General Fund Bills #158 through #167 for a total of \$733.55 and Highway Fund bills #150 through #155 for a total of \$8,858.55. Supervisor Taylor paid General Fund bills #153 through #157 and Highway Fund bill #156 for a total of \$7,114.08 with prior Board approval.

After reviewing the information on the Assoc. of Towns Municipal Cooperative Utility Purchasing Program, Supervisor Robert Taylor felt that we don't use enough energy with the Town Hall & Streetlights to make a big difference. Our biggest usage is the Hwy. Garage which is on Otsego Electric. He will advise the Assoc. of Towns that we aren't interested in the program at this time.

A motion was made by Joseph Gregory to have his annual councilman salary of \$1400.00 donated to the Garrattsville Fire Company. The motion was seconded by John Pegg. Joseph Gregory and John Pegg voted YES and Robert Eklund, Connie Chase and Robert Taylor voted NO, thus the motion failed. Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that there is no code in the budget for the Board to make donations. Councilwoman Connie Chase commented that if Councilman Gregory wants to donate his salary to the Fire Company he should just accept the salary and make the donation himself.

Councilman Robert Eklund noted that OCCA has received notice that the powerline extension has received the go ahead to proceed with a public comment period. The Town has not received anything further on the powerline issue. Councilwoman Connie Chase noted that even though the Fireman's Barbeque turned out to be a rainy day, it was nice to talk with those who came out. It was estimated that attendance was down 25-30% due to the rainy weather.

With no further business, a motion was made by Robert Eklund, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk