

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---FEBRUARY 13, 2018---TOWN HALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW #1-2018 TO AMEND COLD WAR VETERANS LAW**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman John Pegg, Councilman Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Sue Smith, Donald Smith, Edward George, Earl Smith, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Lenny Melillo, Ed Lentz, Jr., Tom Riso

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the public hearing on Local Law #1 of 2018, a local law to amend Local Law #3 of 2008 providing "Cold War" Veterans Exemption from Real Property Taxation at 7:30 PM. The proposed law would change the exemption from expiring after ten years to being ongoing as long as the property and veteran remain qualified for the exemption. Supervisor Lentz noted that the exemption is for \$4,000.00 off of the assessment. We currently have eight properties with the exemption at a cost of about \$300.00. Tom Riso commented that we shouldn't consider the cost and we should continue the exemption for veterans. With no further comments from the floor, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to close the public hearing at 7:32 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Present: same as above

The regular monthly meeting opened at 7:32 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the minutes for the January 9, 2018 regular monthly meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that they have been surviving all of the ice storms and the sand pile is holding out with a lot of winter still left. They had a lot of breakdowns and costly repairs this month, but hopefully all is under control now. He submitted prices of various tractors for the Board to review. He advised that he had a small accident with the pickup. He was turning around in a driveway and slid on ice and hit a parked car. No one was home at the time so he left a note and called the insurance company. Councilwoman Flo Loomis questioned what the bill for the airbag in the Freightliner was. Supt. Whitaker explained that many trucks have an extra spring to help support the plow/wing. The Town of Burlington had added an airbag on their truck to give more lift to the plow/wing. Hwy. employee Barry Braunius noted that the airbag helps with the handling of the Freightliner and gives him more lift off the ground with the plow/wing. Councilman Robert Eklund questioned the bill for towing the 2004 Volvo two times. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that it was for two different issues. Councilman Eklund suggested that maybe we should pay for an extra hour of labor to have them go over the vehicle and look for problems when we have to have them towed in for service.

Supervisor Edward Lentz presented figures on our past fund balances and options for using some of our fund balance. The general fund excess could be used to start a building reserve or some could be transferred to highway or used to reduce taxes next year. He thought that the general fund unappropriated fund balance of \$215,749.00, at 80% of our 2018 appropriations was too high. The highway unappropriated fund balance is \$250,503.00 or 28% of our 2018 appropriations. We are anticipating approximately \$245,000.00 in State funds to use for paving projects, equipment, culverts, etc. with a ten year lifespan. We also found out that we have \$20,000.00 in multi-modal funds which were allotted to us in 2008 for Gregory Road but were not applied towards the work that was done. Ideas for the state money include the planned projects for 2018 of culverts (\$20,000.00) and Gilbert Lake Road resurfacing (\$105,000.00). Other ideas are to purchase a tractor (\$40,000.00), the down payment for a second new truck (\$65,000.00), to outfit the second army truck as a plow truck (\$70,000.00), to pay cash for a second new truck (\$205,000.00) or to do other road projects including Pegg Road, Gregory Road, Goddard and/or Jones Road. Supt. Bill Whitaker added that we still haven't received approximately \$10,000.00 from FEMA for Superstorm Stella last year. Supervisor Lentz is working on gathering bank rates for financing the new Freightliner truck we ordered. So far he has received rates between 3.59% and 4.59% depending on whether for one truck or two and for 5 years or 7 years. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson has started recording truck repair costs each month. The men are recording dates of fuel fill ups and the number of gallons. The results will be that we can

figure out how much each vehicle cost us per mile. The Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Money will be completed after we make a final decision on how the state money will be used this year.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the IDA had a meeting about the concept of a County Manager. There are three options which will be looked at; changing to a County Executive, changing to a County Manager or leaving it as it is now with the County Board. Also at the IDA meeting they heard information on an Innovative Readiness Training from Southern Tier East. They do healthcare clinics and provide engineer work and labor. 2019 would be the earliest fund cycle available. Community event grant applications are due in by the end of the month. The tiny home project is moving along as a way to help reduce the cost that the County spends on temporary housing. They are planning to set them up at the old Meadows site. Councilman Eklund thought there would be more need in Oneonta. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy responded that the County didn't want to buy land for the project, there is a bus route available there and social services at the County office building there. She further noted that she got to see how the purchasing process works with Onondaga County. We can contact Barbara Heegan about a two week training class for the unemployed to help them get ready to reenter the workforce.

Lenny Melillo gave the 2017 year-end report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 55 active calls which included CO2 calls, trees down, motor vehicle accidents, searches, ten mutual aid structure fires and one structure fire in our district. The fire calls totaled 684 man hours and there were 1136 hours of training and 320 hours for fundraising events. The new communications tower is expected to break ground in the spring. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy to keep on County 911 Director Robert O'Brien about the SEQR on the site. Lenny Melillo further noted the trouble that they have had with Mirabito's service at the upper firehouse. They have changed the furnace ductwork with the help of Reese-Marshall. They have started a Tanker Committee to start drafting their specs for a new tanker purchase in a few years. Edward Lentz, Jr. gave the annual report for the Garrattsville Emergency Squad. They were toned out 100 times in 2017. Of these, 20 were for mutual aid and 70 were for New Lisbon calls. Of the New Lisbon calls they responded to 29 calls with our ambulance. 41 times people went to the scene if available to assist CMT or other squads. The average response time was 10 minutes with the average call lasting 2.5 hours. Ed added that our ambulance is in good shape and should last a long time. They only have a few members and could really use some new personnel. State training requirements keep making it harder for volunteer squads. Councilwoman Flo Loomis asked about charging for calls. Ed responded that volunteers can't charge and with our small call volume it wouldn't be cost effective. We would spend more to hire someone to handle the billing then we would take in. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that some towns are hiring EMS crews at least part-time. EMS Captain Ed Lentz, Jr. added that if we combined districts we would be too far stretched as far as call distance. He added that volunteer EMS is changing for the worst. Many towns are dropping from ALS level to only BLS level. After the Town receives the AED unit for the Town Hall, a training session will be set up by the Emergency Squad. All agreed that we need to work on ideas for getting new members.

Tom Riso noted that there was not much happening this month due to the weather. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he received notice of a Bridge NY Program where we might be able to get funds for bridge and culvert work. NYMIR sent a letter hoping to get us back under their insurance. A letter was received about the NY Municipal Energy Program, which Supervisor Lentz will look into further as a way to save energy costs. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he will be leaving the Assoc. of Towns' Conference on Tuesday night. The vote on the resolutions is on Wednesday so he asked the Board to approve Robert Taylor as the voting delegate. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/1 Nay (Councilman Robert Eklund) to authorize Robert Taylor to be our voting delegate at the Assoc. of Towns' annual conference.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to increase A 1920.4 (Association Dues) by \$49.00 to be transferred from Contingent Account #A1990.4 to cover our Assoc. of Towns dues bill.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to pay General Fund bills #24 through #40 for a total of \$4,776.79 and Highway

Fund bills #17 through #35 for a total of \$29,875.70. General Fund bills #17 through #23 and Highway Fund bill #35 for a total of \$9,333.42 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Supervisor Lentz noted that the new justice William Burdick received word that we received grant approval for the justice's bench at a lower amount than asked for. He is looking into a redesign of the original plans at this point.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to adopt Local Law # 1 of 2018, a local law to amend Local Law #3 of 2008 Providing "Cold War" Veterans Exemption from Real Property Taxation. The law becomes effective upon filing with the NYS Secretary of State.

Contractor Rich Dennis has amended his cost estimates for the town hall and highway garage repairs based on information Supervisor Lentz got that the prevailing wage was about \$50.00 per hour. The new totals are \$3,925.00 for the town hall and \$7,109.00 for the highway garage. We will have to contact the Dept. of Labor when we are ready to get started. Tom Riso questioned if it would be cheaper to just get new stainless steel partitions for the bathrooms rather than sand down and repaint the old ones. We will have to check on that with Rich Dennis. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to go ahead with all of the proposed repairs on the town hall & highway garage with contractor Rich Dennis of Double D Contracting.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that the Otsego County Code Enforcement Office conducted their annual fire and safety inspection of the Town Hall on January 30th, 2018. The things they wanted us to do were as follows: They want us to replumb a relief vent/blowout vent on the furnace. It was suggested we tell them we will do it in the spring. They advised there should not be an exit sign over the furnace room door, so that was taken down. They suggested we should put up a no exit/authorized personnel only sign. They wanted two CO detectors installed. Tom Riso suggested we should also put one in the furnace room. The emergency lights need fixing. It may just be bad batteries. We need to get Fargo Alarm to do an inspection of our alarm system. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to authorize Tom Riso to install the three CO2 detectors and fix the emergency lights and to pay for the needed items and the alarm system inspection by Fargo Alarms.

A request for proposals was drafted by Supervisor Edward Lentz for our insurance package. He talked with both Lois Miller-Ballard of Gates Cole and John Ryland of Hughson & Benson Associates about going out for bids this year. They both suggested that it is not too good to put out for bids too often. It takes a lot of work to get quotes from various companies. It was also noted that our loss of the 2004 Volvo in Superstorm Stella will come into play with our renewal. John Ryland suggested that we should stay where we are for at least two years. Supervisor Lentz noted that he has been asking Lois a lot of questions about our policy and she has been helpful. The Board discussed having the blanket coverage on buildings like we had with NYMIR. That allows coverage from one to go to another if we had a loss on one. Lenny Melillo also suggested that we should have ordinance or law protection coverage to cover the extra costs of having to rebuild to new codes. Councilman Robert Eklund suggested maybe we could just have Gates-Cole at least get us a price from another company to make sure we're getting a good deal. The Board decided to see if HCC offers the blanket coverage and ordinance or law coverage before deciding to put out an RFP for our insurance package.

The Undertaking that town officials signed states we have \$1,000,000.00 in coverage on the Supervisor and Town Clerk, but we actually only have \$250,000.00. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to keep our coverage at the \$250,000.00 level and amend the Undertaking to reflect the \$250,000.00 insurance level.

Councilman Robert Eklund conducted the audit of the Town Justice office. The Board reviewed the paperwork and a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman John

Pegg and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the audit of the Town Justice office as completed by Councilman Eklund.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells had been asked by Zoe Curtis about using the Town Hall for her exercise class on Wednesdays for a few weeks while the Pathfinder gym has work done. The schedule is already booked on Wednesday for the next few weeks, but the Board discussed the issue. In the past a \$50.00 fee per use was set for a "commercial" use of the Town Hall. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/1 Nay (Councilman Robert Eklund) to offer Zoe Curtis the use of the Town Hall at the \$50.00 per use fee, subject to scheduling availability, for up to 3 months for her exercise class and she would have to provide a certificate of insurance with the Town as an additional insured.

A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to schedule a special meeting for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:30 PM to discuss Town finances.

The Fire Department had to have the ductwork in the upper firehouse fixed. Mirabito wanted too much for the job so they went with Reese-Marshall who gave them a proposal for \$1750.00. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pay the bill to Reese-Marshall for the new ductwork installation at the upper firehouse at a cost of \$1750.00.

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to adjourn at 10:15 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk