

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 11, 2018---7:30 PM---PUBLIC HEARING
ON LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2018---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Robert Eklund, Councilman John Pegg, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Edward George, Donald Smith, Earl Smith, Barry Braunius, Tom Riso

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 PM on proposed Local Law #2 of 2018, a local law to amend the Town of New Lisbon ordinance of 1970 entitled "An Ordinance Regulating Public Assemblages and Gatherings to Preserve Good Order, Safety and the Public Welfare". He noted that the section requiring a bond would be changed to having a certificate of insurance naming the Town as an additional insured. Our insurance agent advised that this would be appropriate to cover any Town risk with an event having over 1500 people whereby a Town permit would have to be issued. Supervisor Lentz noted that we should take a look at the entire ordinance over the next few months and see if it needs any further updates. Tom Riso questioned where we got the number of 1500 people before a permit is needed. That is the number in the original ordinance and may be something we should look at. With no further comments from the floor, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to close the public hearing at 7:35 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

Present: same as above

The regular monthly meeting opened at 7:36 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the minutes for the August 14, 2018 regular monthly meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that he had spoken to the individual who posted a handmade sign at the end of Gilbert Lake Road complaining about the road condition and it was not directed at our road, but the adjoining town's road. The roof at the Hwy. garage has either had a leak or problem with condensation. Supt. Whitaker noted that he had made several unanswered calls to Upstate Sprayfoam about the problem. He finally went to see them and they did come out to look at the roof. It looks like there is a bad section where the material was not put on as thick. The roof was done in 2013 and we have a ten year warranty, so they will come out and fix the problem before winter. We may need to reapply the roof material after the ten years is up. Our new truck has gone to get the plow equipment installed. The mower tractor will be coming back from having a braking problem repaired and the boom mower tractor needs to have a new clutch, with repairs estimated at \$5,000.00. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that while they have the machine apart they should check for any other issues and give us a written estimate for any other items. Supt. Whitaker estimated they put about 300 hours a year on the boom mower and if we had to rent one it would be \$6,200.00 a month.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker advised that they still have 6 more culverts to install this season. They can do four of them but he will hire a contractor to do two on Card Road. He has the required permits for all of them. Gilbert Lake Road and Gregory Road were paved and will have the sealing done. All remaining bills will be sent in for the final CHIPS reimbursement. They have agreed to use the US DOT maintenance daily checklist so Supervisor Edward Lentz will get it ready. When Rich Dennis was working on the building repairs he noted that furnace is too close to the door. He suggested it be moved or at least move the air intake. Stan Leonard has provided an estimate of \$2,875.00 to change the lights in the hwy. garage to LED's so they will be brighter and more energy efficient. He further suggested that our 4400 watt generator is not sufficient to run the town hall if it was needed to be used as a shelter. He suggested that we get an 8,000-10,000 watt generator. The hwy. inventory is still being worked on. Pea gravel will be ordered for the playground and the backstop pole put in. Supervisor Lentz added that he estimated we would get between \$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 if we sold both of the Volvo trucks. Ed George commented that the sand pile didn't look as big and Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that they are still hauling in the winter sand.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that they had a person from Tompkins County speak to them on how they deal with energy shortages and demand usage. Supervisor Edward Lentz commented that Otsego County needs an Energy Plan; not just taking band aid fixes when an issue arises. She spoke about PACE funding for commercial properties. If they are approved for loans, the principle is added to the tax bill so that the loan stays with the property if it is sold. The Ag Implementation Specialist that was hired and doing a good job will be leaving to take a job out of state. Hopefully they will be able to find another person quickly to fill the spot. She noted that the person in the Forestry position is doing a good job planning and getting money in from sales. Rep. Kennedy spoke about her work on the Land Bank. The goal is to reduce blight and get properties back on the tax roll. Properties can be donated or be in foreclosure. She can arrange for someone to come talk to us on the subject if we want. It was found that Otsego County owned a sliver of Doubleday field and they will be making a deal to sign it over to the Village of Cooperstown. The Public Defender's office is getting a grant to help them cover mandated items.

Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde asked if the County would ever consider taking over the assessing duties for all towns like some counties do. She thought that things would be more equitable between towns then. It has been talked of in the past with no consensus of agreement, but maybe could be considered as a shared service in the future. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that she heard that with the new Otsego Electric fiber optic cable line being installed cell carriers would be more interested in putting up cell towers. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the County should have a cell carrier policy that mandates they use all towers, not just ones in high density areas. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that she would bring these ideas to the County Board. Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that we could see an additional \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00 in assessments being added to the tax roll with construction projects this year.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he attended a meeting with the Pittsfield Supervisor, New Berlin Supervisor, EMS personnel and the NYS Health Department about setting up an ambulance district. Pittsfield has been contracting with New Berlin who has a paid ambulance service, but they have been having problems. Supervisor Lentz doubted that the idea of joining them in an ambulance district would work for us, but it did highlight the overall problem that local volunteer ambulance services are in trouble. Lack of volunteers means more mutual aid and CMT handling calls and residents have longer wait times for getting an ambulance. Supervisor Lentz suggested that the County should look into a County-wide ambulance service which could be a shared service. Towns could still provide basic services with advanced personnel from the County assisting or the County could provide all service. He felt that the volunteer shortage should be addressed now so we are prepared for what is coming.

Contractor Rich Dennis fixed the park benches and pea gravel will be ordered for the playground. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he will be meeting next week with Kevin Morse, our Health Insurance broker. It looks like we will be facing an 11-12% increase in premiums. Our cost has been fairly level for the past three years.

Justice William Burdick would like to apply for funds for items through the Justice Court Assistance Grant Program for a building wide security system, better outside lighting and painting of the courtroom and halls. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #2 of 2018, supporting Town Justice William Burdick to apply for funds through the Justice Court Assistant Grant Program to benefit our Town Court.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that the Otsego County Shared Service Plan was adopted with 22 yes votes at a meeting of County officials, Town Supervisors & Village Mayors. Now we will have to see what it would cost to implement ideas in the plan. As far as joining in on the Soil & Water Stream Maintenance Program, it was discussed that we might want to wait until it is included in the County's shared service plan.

The NYS Deferred Compensation Plan is a state run retirement plan where employees can contribute pre-tax funds if the Town opts into the program. Hwy. employees attended a meeting in Morris on the plan and Supervisor Lentz noted that he would like the Board to consider joining in as a

benefit to those employees who would like the option. There is no cost to the Town to join and we would just send in money to the state for any employee who wants to participate. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #3 to adopt the State of New York Deferred Compensation Plan for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees.

Attorney Martin Tillapaugh has advised that he really does not have the time to continue next year as our Town Attorney so Supervisor Edward Lentz has been contacting local attorneys. He has received a positive response from Attorney Michelle Kennedy who he would be happy with. She provided her background information and a letter of engagement if we decided we would like to hire her. She would bill us \$90.00 per hour for services and suggested we budget \$5,000.00 for the year. She would be available for emails & phone calls. We received notice that a hearing has been scheduled in the matter of James Raftery & Timothy Gerken's small claim against their assessment for September 13, 2018. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde advised that at the Board of Review meeting, they lowered their assessment of their land, but not their dwelling. This will be her first hearing of this type and Supervisor Lentz will attend with her and see if Attorney Martin Tillapaugh is available. Depending on the response from Attorney Tillapaugh about helping us with this assessment dispute case, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to hire Attorney Michelle Kennedy to help us with the assessment case and for the rest of 2018 as needed. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to hire Attorney Michelle Kennedy as our Town Attorney for 2019.

Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde has received notice from NY State that beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, all new Enhanced STAR applicants are required to participate in the Income Verification Program. Once this all goes into effect, the State will be verifying that people are eligible and they will no longer have to file information with the local assessor.

The bills were available for the Board to review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to approve paying General Fund Bills #168 through #176 for a total of \$900.62 and Highway Fund Bills #140 through #149 for a total of \$14,059.28. General Fund bills #163 through #167 and Highway Fund bill #150 for a total of \$8,199.51 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to adopt Local Law #2 of 2018, a local law to amend the Town of New Lisbon Ordinance of 1970 entitled "An Ordinance Regulating Public Assemblages and Gatherings to Preserve Good Order, Safety and the Public Welfare" changing the bond requirement to a certificate of insurance with the Town as an additional insured.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he was informed that the Garratt monument on Co. Hwy. 16 is in danger of collapsing. He will find out who the land owner is and Councilman Robert Eklund will go look at the monument.

The Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 25th, 2018 at 7:30PM for the presentation of the 2019 Tentative Budget and a work session on the budget. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that she did not have enough support to have the bed tax spread out among towns.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that he would check out the Town Hall to make sure everything is in order for the annual fire inspection done by the Otsego County Code Office. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that the County did a lot of good road work this year. He was not happy with how the State did St. Hwy. 51. 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 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

