

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---DECEMBER 11, 2018---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

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, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde. Residents: Edward George, Stacey Kazacos, Tom Riso, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Earl Smith, Donald Smith, Lenny Melillo

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. He noted two corrections in paragraph 1 of the 11/13/18 minutes about the Block Grant and in paragraph 5 the assessment dispute was settled with no decrease (not increase). A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the amended minutes for the November 13, 2018 regular meeting.

Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that the 2004 Volvo was having issues with the suspension and when they took it to Burr Truck, they also discovered a cracked frame. He asked them to provide an estimate to do the necessary repairs and for what the value of the truck parts would be if we didn't fix it and junked it. The new truck might be in this week. The 1997 passed inspection. He will try to finish the inventory project. Upstate Sprayfoam has to wait for dry and warmer weather (over 40 degrees) to fix the hwy. garage roof which will be covered under the warranty. The highway crew will work on the Morton building addition over the winter as time allows. He will get the paperwork ready to apply for the remaining reimbursement from our 2018 CHIPS project. He will contact Auctions International to put the army generator on their auction site. He questioned if we should put the 2004 Volvo on the auction site. Pittsfield had given us some parts for the box on the 04 that they would like back if we are going to junk the truck. The new tires put on the 04 were switched to the 08 Volvo. The Board wants to review the repair estimate and parts value estimate before making a decision on what to do with the 2004 Volvo. The new LED lights in the hwy. garage make a big difference.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker has applied for a bus driving position with Morris Central School. If all goes as planned and he is approved by the School Board he would be retiring as Hwy. Supt. between December 30th, 2018 and January 6th, 2019. He added that he would be available to help out on days when school is closed, but doesn't want any pay and will be available to answer any questions. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he would like to accept job applications for the position and hold a special meeting on December 19th, 2018 to select one. Councilman Robert Eklund thought it would be good to select someone who could come in and work with Supt. Whitaker before he leaves. Anyone working would most likely give their employer a two week notice. Since it is an appointment, the person could be from out of Town, but Supervisor Lentz noted he would prefer a Town resident so they could run for the next term of office. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays/1 Abstention (Councilman Robert Eklund) to advertise on Facebook, the Town website and by posting notices for applications for the position of Highway Superintendent to be reviewed at a special meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the County has worked out a deal with Otsego Rural Housing to handle using program money left over in the revolving fund that must be used up. There is money for Ag micro grants which Co. Rep. Kennedy noted that several New Lisbon farmers had applied for in the past. For more info contact the Otsego County Planning Dept. The County is working on a policy for communication towers. Supervisor Lentz noted that they should include that all towers must be utilized. This Is Cooperstown has bed tax money for County tourism. Any tourist based business can get a free listing with them. If they pay for a membership from \$500.00 to \$6500.00 they get more advertising. (Contact Cassandra at 607-322-4046 for more info). A recent discussion on shared services noted that in many areas of the state public health, EMS and solid waste are popular topics. The possible legalization of marijuana could add to mental/public health issues. Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that there is a CDL driver shortage because many people can't pass the drug tests. Co. Rep. Kennedy noted that with the County forestland parcels discussed last month, they do still have to pay school taxes even if they file a plan for the parcels. She further noted that she will not be at our 1/8/19

meeting because she has a Hartwick Planning Board meeting. Councilwoman Flo Loomis asked about the garbage/recycling fees. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that the fees are going up in 2019. China has cut off recyclables, so we now are paying to get rid of them instead of making money on them. They will be working on separating glass which can go to a place in Richfield. They need to find new markets for recyclables because as waste costs go up there is more trash thrown along roadsides. Councilman Robert Eklund noted that the County should spend more effort on the fentanyl/opioid crisis than on the marijuana becoming legalized issue.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that they are reviewing properties with Ag exemptions that are not being utilized for Ag purposes. Supervisor Edward Lentz met with Erik Scrivener (Otsego Co. Plan. Dept.) and Tim Peters (Otsego Rural Housing) about our grant application. We need to start getting the word out and collect names of individuals who might be interested. We probably won't hear if we get the grant until April-June of 2019. Emergency Services Coordinator Art Klingler has advised they are working on getting the EMS taskforce going. Supervisor Lentz noted that he is checking with other towns who have become Climate Smart Communities to see if they feel the designation is worthwhile. There are some grant programs where this is a requirement. He will continue to gather information and more can be found on the NYSDEC website. The County was setting up a training class on 12/13 & 14 for hwy. employees which should cover the new sexual harassment policy. Edmeston had a State representative come give their people a class, so Charlene will get the phone number of who to call.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills and balance accounts:

1. Increase A9010.8 State Retirement by \$1,130.00 Transfer from A1990.4-Contingent.
2. Increase A1220.11 Bookkeeper by \$274.97. Transfer from A1990.4-Contingent.
3. Increase A1620.41 Town Hall Contractual by \$1,000.00. Transfer from A1990.4-Contingent.
4. Increase DA5142.4 Snow Contractual by \$2,439.05. Transfer from DA5110.4-General Repair Contractual.
5. Increase A1355.4 Assessor Contractual by \$145.62. Transfer from A1990.4-Contingent.

The bills were available for the Board to review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to pay General Fund bills #221 through #234 for a total of \$4,844.75 and Highway Fund bills #191 through #204 for a total of \$16,641.36 and a bill from the Assessor for stamps & supplies for \$145.62. General Fund bills #216 through #220 and Highway Fund bills #205 & #206 for a total of \$39,396.19 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

The Board decided to hold the 2019 Organizational meeting on January 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM to be immediately followed by the Public Hearing on the 2019 Fire Protection Contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company, followed immediately by the regular monthly meeting.

The State Forester Nathan Funk met recently with Supervisor Lentz and Stacey Kazacos about the Texas State Forest. They are currently logging and will be done in the spring. The State will let us amend our agreement with them to utilize the area that was logged for walking trails as there will be 20 foot wide logging trails. Further discussion will be ongoing about other developments and possibilities for the area.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk