

## **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JUNE 11, 2019---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

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

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the minutes for the May 14, 2019 regular meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the engine in the roller had died. It will take a long time to have repairs done so he is looking for a new engine. They have been using the trucks to pack down dirt and he may have to rent a roller. He further advised that he is taking a work zone safety class tomorrow put on by the County. They are hoping to get the paving projects done on Thursday or Monday, weather permitting. Jordon Clements has advised that a culvert on Gross Road should be a minimum of 30 inches. There is a 70-inch tube in there now, so Supt. Smith noted that he will probably look for at least a 60-inch plastic replacement tube. Then he will have an engineer design it and get the DEC permit.

Under our insurance policy we would only receive fair market value for our trucks and equipment. The values need to be adjusted so that we are not paying for more insurance than we would get in case of a loss. We also need to see if the miscellaneous amount of \$23,000.00 will cover our items not separately listed. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith questioned if the plows are considered with the value of the truck or would come under miscellaneous. The insurance agent has advised that we should have a written lease for borrowed or leased equipment and make sure the item is covered by insurance. Our policy would cover borrowing items from other towns, but not personal items. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the next CHIPS submission deadline is August 2, 2019. He has been working with the bookkeeper to fix the employee vacation records.

Edward George commented that Gordon Terry was going to have a presentation on how to restore gravestones on Thursday in Edmeston and maybe it would provide some information for helping fix the Garratt monument. Lenny Melillo volunteered to look at the Garratt monument with Supervisor Edward Lentz. Supervisor Lentz will contact Gary Norman to see if he would come look at the monument and give advice on what we need to do to fix it.

Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde noted that the state has passed more changes to the STAR program. The income limit for the basic exemption has been cut to \$250,000.00 but if they change to a credit the income limit is at \$500,000.00. The credit can increase up to 2% a year, but the exemption can't increase. The state is trying to get people to switch to the credit where they get a check to use for school taxes instead of the exemption which comes off the amount owed. She further noted that they had three cases on grievance day but none were approved.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy was absent due to a family obligation but sent word that the County is putting out a new RFP for a cell tower manager.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that there should be approximately a \$50,000.00 increase in assessments. This is lower than last year because we had more exemptions come in this year.

The Climate Smart Communities Committee has set up a Facebook page, Climate Smart New Lisbon. They are working on getting information ready to hand out at the Fireman's Barbecue. A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to rent a table at the Fireman's Barbecue Labor Day Weekend.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he is waiting for a contract to switch the street lights to LEDs. He had the choice of selecting 3000 or 4000 kelvins. He wasn't sure which to choose so he checked with the American Medical Association and they recommended no hotter than 3000. There is a difference in the color with the 3000 being a little yellowish and the 4000 more bluish/whitish. Councilman Robert Eklund thought he would prefer the 4000 with a blue/white color.

A quick review of the finances to date was held. We received a \$9,000.00 mortgage check which was over what had budgeted. We need to get the total of the justice court grant to update the budget. Highway repairs are about one third of last year to date.

It was found out that the previously discussed subdivision that wasn't approved by the Planning Board used "boundary line adjustment" to split the land & barn and house. The land & barn were added to a small vacant adjacent parcel. Since there were originally two parcels and it ended up with two parcels the Board decided to take no action on it.

Supervisor Edward Lentz suggested that he would like to hold a Fire/EMS volunteer recognition at our September meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to hold this recognition reception at 7:00 PM on September 10, 2019 and to authorize up to \$500.00 to purchase supplies/food.

There is an upcoming meeting with the County on Shared Services. Supervisor Lentz is going to propose a formal agreement with New Berlin to provide EMS backup services to surrounding towns. Currently only Pittsfield pays New Berlin for EMS services but several towns including us get the benefits of their services. New Berlin is uncertain of its future due to budget costs, but maybe with funds from surrounding towns they could survive. Lenny Mellillo suggested that if we pay New Berlin to handle calls we can't crew up for, we should also pay AMR for calls that they handle. Councilman Robert Eklund suggested that we need to look further at why New Berlin has been having issues. Maybe if we work with New Berlin, we could offer advice on how to fix some of their management issues. If we paid a set fee of \$250.00 to \$400.00 per call or a set annual fee, it may keep New Berlin operating. Supervisor Edward Lentz has been pushing for the County to consider the EMS shortage and help provide ways to help out.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he has hit a brick wall with the garbage clean up at 644 Gardnertown Road. Social services and code enforcement won't get involved and the bank who holds the mortgage hasn't stepped up yet as they are in the foreclosure process as the owner is deceased.

The Board previously adopted a policy for the playground which included having it professionally inspected every two years. Because of the age of the playset, they always tell us the same issues which we can't change. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to change the playground policy to have it professionally inspected every five years. We will continue to check it annually to make sure all items we can take care of are completed. The Board set the date of Saturday July 13, 2019 at 9:30 AM to stain the playset, weather permitting.

Justice William Burdick has found out that he needs to have a policy which prohibits cleaning personnel from being in his office when he is not there. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Robert Eklund and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to establish the following policy regarding the Town Justice's Office: The office of the Town Justice may not be entered by cleaning services personnel unless the Town Justice or the Court Clerk are present.

We received notice that our 2019 State Equalization rate is 106.22. This is down from 109.02 last year. MVP sent notice that they have applied for a rate increase of 3.9% for our current medical insurance plan. The Town of Otsego sent us a request for entering into a shared service agreement with them for highway purposes. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to send notice to the Town of Otsego that we accept their request and approve of entering into a shared service agreement with them for highway purposes.

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Eklund, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to advertise for bids for fuel products to be opened at the July 9, 2019 meeting.

It was discussed that it would be nice to have a clean up day like Hartwick does. More information on what they do and how much it cost will have to be gathered in order to proceed with this idea.

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 #111 through #123 for a total of \$23,601.46 and Highway Fund bills #79 through #89 for a total of \$30,825.33. General Fund bills #106 through #110 and Highway fund bill #90 for a total of \$5,757.98 were paid with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was presented to the Board.

Lenny Melillo commented that he would like the Board to consider changing the FD annual contract to a two-year contract to save from having to do each year. Tom Riso commented that if we paid New Berlin to be our backup, it should be less than Pittsfield pays because they have no squad. 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 9:23 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk