

## **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---FEBRUARY 11, 2020---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Lenny Melillo, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Earl Smith, Tom Riso, Robert Taylor, Brian Ryther, Victor Bronner

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 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the January 14, 2020 Organizational Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that the Chevy pickup had to have brake pads and rotors and the Volvo broke down. They got it patched on site and got it back to the garage. He called Volvo to find out how to access the problem and they told him they would either have to pull the manifold or the back of the head and estimated it would cost about \$5,000.00. Supt. Smith advised that they got it figured out and fixed it themselves. The roof repairs are on hold until Spring and hopefully Upstate Spray Foam will be back out. He is still waiting on getting the new lights in the storage building and is working on the inventory list. He has found two loaders on state contracts for the Board to consider purchasing. We can get a John Deere 624L for \$173,763.88 or a 938M Cat for \$179,005.00. He advised that they were comparable machines. Several other towns around us and the County have John Deere loaders and are happy with them. He recommended we go with the John Deere as it would be about \$5,000.00 less. The bucket size is 3.5 yards, one size bigger than our current one. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the purchase of a new 2020 John Deere 624L wheel loader from Five Star Equipment for the cost of \$173,763.88. Delivery will be in 30 to 60 days.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he would like to attend three training classes. One is on Bridges: about what inspectors look for on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Utica, one on April 9<sup>th</sup> in Fulton County on "Local Roads Done Right" for \$50.00 and one on April 21<sup>st</sup> in Madison on "Running your Hwy. Dept." for \$50.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to attend the three noted training classes. Equipment repairs for 2020 are at \$1425.00. Fuel usage for equipment will start being tracked.

A draft 2020 Highway Plan was submitted for the Board to review. Discussion was held on the dust control policy. Ideas were to add that property owners can opt out if they don't want. Adding owners paying for extra product was discussed. Councilman Bill Whitaker noted that the availability of the product and the weather are the key factors in placing dust control and the amount of traffic a road gets should be considered. Brian Ryther questioned about local businesses getting dust control. Tom Riso noted that based on last year's application, the product placement was too narrow. The sprayer reaches ten feet. To do both ways would result in excess being placed in the center of the road and doing only one way does not reach the sides of the road. The ideas discussed will be reviewed and adjustments will be made to the dust control policy for the Board to review next month. Supt. Smith is looking at turning some gravel roads to paved. He has not made any decisions on which ones, but will look at plow routes and roads where sections of the roads are already paved.

Robert Taylor noted that he will be attending the Association of Towns conference and will bring back a report next month. A question on what we will do with our present loader was answered by Supt Smith advising that he will put it on Auction's International as they reach a bigger audience than just placing a local ad for sale. Lenny Melillo questioned if we should go to a four-way bucket. Supt. Smith noted that if we get a trailer this year, in the future he would like to look at a mini-excavator.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that Soil & Water is having their annual tree sale. For information go to their website or office. They also have the \$1000.00 grants available like we got last year for trail signs for the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest Walking Trail. The County has separated out 3.2 tons of glass to send to Andela Associates in Richfield Springs. At a cost of \$133.00 per ton for recycling materials, diverting out the glass is good. The Community Event grant applications are on the County website and due in by 2/29/2020. They give out \$50,000.00 from the bed tax funds. The County Board voted in favor of increasing the bed tax by 2% and the proposal will be sent to the State for approval. It

would take place by fall of 2021 if approved. She attended an educational forum on the Medicaid redesign which may make the formulas for reimbursement change so that Counties are responsible for more costs. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked if the County was preparing for the Coronavirus in the event we have any local impact. Rep. Kennedy will check and see if they are doing anything. Councilwoman Flo Loomis questioned why the Oneonta transfer station isn't accepting separate glass. Rep. Kennedy will check on that.

Lenny Melillo submitted the 2019 final report for The Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 34 active calls, with 36 total calls. They put in 644-man hours on calls and 1246 hours on training, meetings, and non-call activities. They attended 18 structure fires, with four being in New Lisbon. Fire causes are a lot of the time electrical with temporary heaters, bad extension cords, etc. They had a busy year with no injuries to firefighters. The new tanker will be here before the end of the month. He added that he felt the meetings on EMS over the last year were great. The squad responded to 50 calls with 25 having no patient care. The Fire Company appreciates having a Town Board they can work with. The new changes in the discovery law may hurt fire & ems as volunteers can be called in for legal depositions and background checks can be done. It may hurt getting people involved. Hopefully the State will relook at the issue and exempt fire & ems.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso advised that construction projects are still being completed in Town. The property on St. Hwy. 51 with a lot of vehicles has removed many of them so it looks better and is now in compliance with the no more than two unregistered vehicles on property in State law. Our Local Law #1 of 2013 gives a 50% discount to start, going down to full assessment over ten years for businesses that invest over \$10,000.00 in their business. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde was not aware of this local law. Amy Wyant now of OCCA will be invited to talk to the full board about the Climate Smart Communities program. ORHA has started doing site visits for the CDBG rehabilitation program.

Supervisor Edward Lentz suggested the Town Board develop goals for the year and beyond. Ideas he had were to update our Emergency Plan, get a standby generator and air conditioner for the Town Hall, do more to control trash/junk vehicles in Town, set up a reserve for Capital Projects, update our Comprehensive Plan, set up a volunteer recognition program, set up a bike route, start a finance committee and make a Welcome package for new residents.

Theresa Berdon, a Licensed Practical Nurse, from Elliott Road has volunteered to be considered for the position of Health Officer. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to appoint Theresa Berdon as our Local Health Officer for a four-year term.

Victor Bronner and Brian Ryther have come forward to be considered for the vacant councilman seat. The appointment would be for the rest of 2020. They will have to pass petitions to be on the ballot for the final year of 2021. The Board asked each to speak on their behalf and would then go to executive session to discuss the appointment. Brian Ryther of Myers Mill Road was born here and believes in the preservation of our rural area and promotion of small business and making people aware of their eligibility for tax deductions. He has helped the highway department with welding in the past. He runs a maple syrup business. He added that it would be an honor to serve the community on the Town Board. Victor Bronner of County Hwy. 12 has been living in the County for 40 years. He is retired and a Veteran. He is active in volunteering with Veteran issues. Since he is retired, he feels that he has the time and he is interested in getting involved with the community. Both said that they would be willing to pass petitions to run on the ballot in November for the last year of the term. Comments from the floor included from Lenny Melillo who felt that Brian Ryther has been active in the community so he knows what going on, makes a living here and will voice his opinion on issues. Tom Riso added that maybe Victor Bronner would be valuable in that sometimes it takes someone not involved to take a fresh look at things. A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to go into Executive Session at 9:20 PM to discuss the two candidates for the position of Town Councilman. A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to include the Town Clerk in the Executive Session. The Board returned and a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson to close the Executive Session and return to regular session at 9:30 PM. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the Board felt that both men were excellent candidates and hoped that both would stay interested and involved with the Town. The Town Board voted for their choice of the two candidates, Brian Ryther and Victor Bronner as follows: Councilwoman Flo Loomis abstained from voting as she felt both were equally good choices, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson voted for Brian

Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker voted for Brian Ryther and Supervisor Edward Lentz voted for Brian Ryther. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked Victor Bronner to stay involved and he would remember him when we are looking for community volunteers in the future. Brian Ryther was sworn in as a Town Councilman and joined the Board.

Funds were budgeted for new computers for the Assessor and Supervisor. Steve Lawton has submitted an estimate of \$1,035.11 for each of them. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the purchase of new computers for the Assessor and Supervisor from Steve Lawton for \$1,035.11 each.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells asked the Board if they would consider establishing funds for a Deputy Town Clerk to be paid if she was out of town and something had to be done that couldn't wait. She has one person who may be interested in learning the job. Other towns that she heard back from pay \$11.00-13.25 per hour for the position. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to set up a Deputy Clerk budget line of \$1, 500.00 to be paid out to a Deputy Town Clerk for training and service when the Clerk is absent at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

We received notice from the Army Corps of Engineers concerning two County bridge projects, one on County Hwy. 17 near the St. Hwy. 51 intersection and one on County Hwy. 14, near the Town line. Both were for replacements using box culverts. Hwy. Supt. Don Smith noted that he will have to talk to the County about the Co. Hwy. 17 one as we haul our sand over that one.

January 2020 financial reports were quickly reviewed and all looks good at this point. The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays/1 Abstention from Councilman Ryther as he had not reviewed the bills, to approve payment of General Fund bills #27 through #39 for a total of \$2,677.02 and Highway Fund bills #14 through #20 for a total of \$7,280.17. General Fund bills #23 through #26 and

With no further comments from the floor and no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:57 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk/Collector