

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MARCH 10, 2020---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilman Brian Ryther, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Residents Edward George, Tom Riso, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Clair Tompkins, Guest Amy Wyant
Absent: Councilwoman Flo Loomis

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the February 11, 2020 regular meeting as written.

Amy Wyant from OCCA was present to talk about Climate Smart Communities. She noted that it is a voluntary NYS DEC program which is intended to help communities become more resilient, save energy and be more prepared for what the future brings. She advised that they got a partial grant to fund an Otsego County Climate Smart Institute which will be thirteen communities working together towards their goals. They will be working on the goal to complete a greenhouse gas inventory which is worth 30 points. Each community can pick which actions they want to work on from ten categories. Out of 900 possible points, we would need 120 points to reach the first level (bronze) certification. By being a Climate Smart Community, we can apply for grant money from the DEC for implementing projects, consultants, etc. She thought it might be possible for us to get grant money for our town hall generator/heat pump for cooling so we should get our quotes ready. It is a matching grant program. We would also have to draft an Emergency cooling plan. The next meeting of our CSC Committee is March 26th. More volunteers are welcome to join in.

Clair Tompkins from St. Hwy. 51 in New Lisbon has requested a setback variance to 50 feet for the purpose of building a pole barn. He purchased the old Harris farm on St. Hwy. 51 near the town line. He plans on tearing down the old barn, leaving an addition in the rear. He wants to place a new 60 ft. by 104 ft. pole barn in the same footprint as the old barn. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve a setback variance to 50 feet for Clair Tompkins for a pole barn to be placed on his property near the town line on St. Hwy. 51. He was advised that he should check with the NYS Dept. of Transportation to make sure the State doesn't have a setback he would have to comply with and about widening the existing driveway. He was commended for taking on an agricultural venture in the Town.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the 1997 International truck will be sold on Auctions International when our old loader is ready to go. The new loader is expected around April 1st. They used the 2009B Freightliner with the winch to pull the 2009A Freightliner back on the road. The meeting with Army Corps and NYSDEC at the Gross Road culvert is still on for next week. We have an April 15th meeting with Upstate Spray Foam about the hwy. garage roof leak. The new lights in the Morton building should be installed next week. They are going to place a drain line around the sandpile to help get rid of standing water. The inventory list of highway garage items has been completed. New items can now be added as purchased to keep it up to date. It was decided to only list items with values of \$500.00 and over. We will check with our insurance carrier to see if this is okay with them. Councilman Bill Whitaker commented that every \$100.00 adds up quickly.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson gave figures on repair costs. For the first two months of 2020 the total spent was \$2023.00, compared to \$12,178.00 in 2019 and \$37,000.00 in 2018. The 2018 & 2019 trucks had the same mileage the past month. Tom Riso suggested that the cost of the loans on the new trucks should be added into the cost per mile to be accurate.

The 2020 Highway Plan was amended to include under the dust control policy that people can opt out of getting the dust control if they don't want it, that businesses can receive it and under equipment purchasing a backhoe or excavator was added. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays/1 Abstention (Councilman Ryther abstained as he had not read the plan).

We had originally planned on purchasing the new loader with CHIPS funds, then it was decided to get a loan for \$75,000.00 of the loader cost so that funds would be available for road projects. Because of the drop in interest rates, Supervisor Edward Lentz got rates for a 3-year loan for \$175,000.00 at 2.6% from NBT and 2.01% from Community Bank. He suggested that with the low interest rates if we bonded

the entire loader cost, we would have more funds for road work or we could purchase an excavator which should be under \$100,000.00. Councilman Bill Whitaker added that we have needed an excavator for a long time. Our Ford backhoe is in too dangerous condition to use. The purchase of an excavator will be discussed further after Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith gets estimates together. After further discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Resolution #01 of 2020, authorizing the acquisition of Highway Machinery and apparatus, stating the estimated maximum cost of said acquisition is \$175,000.00, appropriating said sum therefor and authorizing the issuance of up to \$175,000.00 serial bonds of the Town to finance said appropriation.

Tom Riso commented that if we only do one path of the dust control product down the center of the road, if it only reaches out ten feet, it will not do enough to cut down on dust. Councilman Bill Whitaker advised that when it was placed in the past it made a twelve-foot path, which covered more of the road. It does help people with asthma and high traffic areas may need it applied more than once a year. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that the sprayer they have now is eight feet wide and sprays out of the ends covering about ten feet. He will look into the issue further to see if there is a wider spray width available.

Edward George commented on the state law which changed bail and other things. He felt a lot of people are unhappy with the changes and the law should be revised. He suggested that the Town Board consider passing a resolution in support of making changes and put back a judge's right to use their discretion. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy doesn't think there has been any talk of doing this at the County level. The Board will look further into this issue and look at what other official responses have been on the issue.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to advertise for bids on sand and gravel items to be opened at the April 14th, 2020 regular meeting.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that Soil & Water has \$1000.00 grants available and they are due in by May 31st, 2020. The public defender's office is catching up on grant fund reimbursements. The Sheriff's dept. is getting two new canine officers. The County Planning Board has Micro-enterprise grants for businesses. The last director of the Veterans service office has left and the deputy is running the office for now. The County Health Dept. has put an announcement about the COVID-19 virus on their website. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he was not happy that the County Health Department's preparedness plan was not available to the public. The jail renovations/repairs from the October flooding should be done soon and the jail will be back to normal business. The Energy Taskforce is working on getting their plan drafted.

Otsego Rural Housing Assistance is working on four projects from our list and after they get estimates they will let us decide if we should proceed with these ones. Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso advised that he had found another place for the assessor to look at. Councilman Brian Ryther has met with Dave Johnson and is getting an estimate for a heat pump for a cooling system for the Town Hall. This will have to be coordinated with a generator which together will make our Town Hall more appropriate as an emergency shelter. Once we see all that has to be done, we can see what aspects the town can do ourselves.

Discussion was held on private use of Town property. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he had been asked about someone using trees on Town property for a maple syrup business. Discussion included how would we decide who gets to use Town property to be fair, should the Town get something in return and should we require them to have insurance. We will have to ask our insurance agent about this before making any decision.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he is working with an Attorney, Brad Pinsky about helping us and Butternuts to get our Certificate of Need so we can get a contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS services. Financial reports show we are still on track for 2020.

A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to sign the 2020 Polling Site Agreement with the Otsego County Board of Elections for use of the Town Hall for elections. The Presidential Primary is scheduled for April 28, 2020, the Federal, State and Local Primary is scheduled for June 23, 2020 and Election Day is November 3, 2020.

The Town Justice put in for a fireproof file cabinet in the Justice Court grant program, but they were turned down. They feel that they really need one for adequate record storage. Estimates they

received were from \$2849.99 to over \$3,000.00 They did receive approval from the grant for desks, a podium and printer cart.

A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$2,000.00 from Contingent Account #A1990.4 to Justice Contractual #A1110.4 and to transfer \$1,000.00 from Contingent Account #A1990.4 to a new account A1410.11 for the previously approved Deputy Town Clerk position.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the purchase of a fireproof file cabinet for the Town Justice office at an estimated cost of \$2,900.00. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the estimate from David Birdsall of approximately \$1,9000.00 for making the desks, podium and printer cart for the Justice Court, to be funded through the grant program.

We need to set up accounts in the 2020 Budget for the CDBG funds. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to add expense account #CD 8668.4—Rehab Loans & Grants for \$198,000.00 and revenue account #CD 3089 State Aid, Other for \$198,000.00.

The bills were available prior to the meeting for the Board to review. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #45 through #59 for a total of \$136,290.52 and Highway Fund bills #22 through #30 for a total of \$8,200.75. General Fund bills #40 through #44 and Highway Fund bill #31 for a total of \$5,474.89 were paid with prior Board approval.

With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 10:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk