

# **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JUNE 9, 2020---7:30PM REGULR MONTHLY MEETING---BY WEBCONFERENCE**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the regular monthly meeting was held by Zoom Web conference/teleconference. Those joining by video were Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Clerk Charlene Wells, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Councilwoman Flo Loomis (late), residents Tom Riso, Edward George, Allison Lasher, Willard Lasher and Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy by phone Absent: Councilman Bill Whitaker

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the meeting at 7:40 PM. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson requested that her name be corrected in the attendance section of the May minutes. A motion was made by Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accepted the minutes as amended for the May 12, 2020 regular monthly meeting.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the 2009A Freightliner had repairs done by the County Hwy. Dept., with the parts purchased at Cooks Brothers for a total of about \$7,000.00. After they got it back, the radiator blew so now he is waiting on that part. The roller blew a fuel line which they have fixed. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that our repair costs through May were \$9,807.00 compared with \$27,241.00 for the same time last year. They have used the new trailer a few times and are happy with it. They are leaving it hooked up to the 2009B Freightliner. They will be starting the culvert replacement on Gross Road next Monday. The road will be closed during the repairs. He got a pipe size from the DEC for the Goddards Road culvert and he is working on the permit applications.

Preliminary rumors are that we will be getting about 80% of our CHIPS, PAVE NY & Winter recovery funds, or about \$180,000.00. We have not received our official letter from the NYS DOT. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith requested approval to order the stone that he needs to make the grader patch to apply to about one-third of the roads he plans on sealing. He also noted that he will have to rent an excavator for probably two months at a cost of \$3,000.00-\$4,000.00 per month if he doesn't purchase an excavator. He won't be able to use the machine every day because of the weather. He felt we should purchase the excavator now rather than pay up to \$8,000.00 to rent one. He has taken several online classes. Upstate Spray Foam personnel are coming at 7:00 AM tomorrow to look at the hwy. garage roof again. We have no news on the Card Road speed reduction request. They have painted the fuel tanks and Supt. Smith advised that he was going to look at replacing the gas tank (\$3,000.00 -\$4,000.00) because they can't keep track of the usage with it. Since we are not reselling the gas, he has found that we can install an in-line meter at an estimated cost of \$300.00-\$400.00 so they can keep track of usage.

Tom Riso questioned if the Hwy. Supt. had decided on what roads might get a double pass of dust oil. He felt that what was applied to Bell Hill Road and Bardin Road was inadequate since it only covers about half of the road. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that so far, he has only applied extra on the back side of Turtle Lake because of the heavy seasonal traffic and BuckSchoolhouse Road since they will be using that for going to the Gross Road repair site. Councilwoman Flo Loomis suggested that Blue Jay Hollow Road needs extra because of heavy truck traffic. Tom Riso added that our roads are more dirt than gravel which accounts for more dust. Supt. Smith advised that he still has more roads to apply dust oil to. Edward George commented that the hwy. crew is getting out and honing roads and making them better, but they need some rain.

Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that the County is midway through Phase 2 reopening. They have had a few enforcement issues to work out. Our County Health Dept. does not have full authority. The last month of Sales tax was down 31% from last year. Because of the revenue loss they had to layoff 59 people (51.5 positions) to help stabilize their solvency. They hope to be able to bring them back, especially those whose positions will become essential. They only received \$10,000.00 in bed tax compared to \$200,000.00 last year, so that also hurts the revenue picture. The County got an \$8 million revenue anticipation note to help maintain short term solvency. Rep. Kennedy advised that the County has signed a lease with Verizon for using the Morris tower. Karen Sullivan has announced her retirement this summer from the County Planning Dept. Her position will have to be advertised, but they can take applications from within the department. With the hiring freeze, the hiring of a County Manager is not moving forward at this time.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that he has checked on five locations involving pre-fab units coming in. Three have involved a change in ownership, but he noted that on the Real Property

website the changes haven't been made. Representative Kennedy will check with the Real Property tax office on this. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson will be sending out an email to see if anyone has worked on any CSC ideas and set up a future meeting for at the Town Hall. It was noted that the new LED streetlights have been installed. The monthly bill was about half of what the old lights cost.

In regards to the CDBG, the Holt and Hoag projects are getting contracts signed and will be proceeding, following social distancing protocols. Tim Peters is working on other sites and hopefully we will be able to select some additional projects at our July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he is still working on getting our CON so we can hire New Berlin Village EMS as our backup. Garrattsville EMS will remain our primary service. Only 49% of New Lisbon residents have returned their census forms. It is important to be counted as future funding and other items relate to the Census count. The Census can be completed online, by mail or by phone. NYSERDA has announced they have 0% loans for heat pumps.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that there was an assessment dispute that did not get approved by the Board of Review because they felt it was lacking information. The Assessor had not been able to schedule a visit at the location prior to Grievance Day. She has since looked at the site and agrees that the assessment should be lowered. Since the State allowed the Board of Review to be postponed for 30 days because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will check with the County Real Property Director Hank Schecher to see if we can get the assessment lowered without having to go to court.

Our finances remain stable as Supervisor Edward Lentz has projected a loss of revenues because of the Pandemic. There are rumors that our state road work funds will be reduced by 20%. Supervisor Lentz felt that we would be okay if we didn't get the State funds since we have our fund balance. The Hwy. Committee is recommending that we go ahead and purchase the excavator since we would have to spend money renting one. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that he would also like to purchase the stone that he needs to make grader patch, approximately \$7,500.00. He would need to do the patch before paving. If we get our CHIPS funds, then he can try to schedule paving for later. He felt that the patch would hold up if we don't get to pave this season. All agreed that we need to continue to be cautious with spending, but also that work has to get done. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to purchase the stone needed to make the patch material at an approximate cost of \$7,500.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson to purchase a 2020 Caterpillar 307.5 Excavator for \$85,303.32. Discussion followed. Councilman Brian Ryther would like to wait until we have our CHIPS letter advising that funds will be available. Supervisor Edward Lentz felt that the State will not take away all of the CHIPS funds and that we have available fund balance to use if we have to. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith added that if we don't get to do paving this year, he can use the excavator to ditch roads which will help maintain our roads better and he needs an excavator to put in culverts. After further discussion, a vote was taken with Supervisor Lentz, Councilwoman Loomis, Councilwoman Martin-Mathewson and Councilman Ryther all voting Aye (4 Ayes/ 0 Nays) to purchase a 2020 Caterpillar 307.5 Excavator from Milton Cat for \$85,303.32 under state contract #PC66988.

The June 2020 abstracts were given to the Board to use to review the bills. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Yes/ 0 Nays to pay General Fund bills #102 through #114 for a total of \$5,769.50 and Highway Fund bills #57 through #71 for a total of \$30,300.21. General Fund bills #99 through #101 and Highway Fund bills #56 and #72 for a total of \$24,928.66 were paid with prior Board approval.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays to advertise for bids on #2 Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Diesel, Winter Mix Diesel, Unleaded Regular Gas, Propane and furnace service contracts to be opened at the July 14, 2020 meeting.

The Board reviewed the new draft of our COVID-19 Pandemic response memo as drafted by Supervisor Edward Lentz and a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to open the Town Hall offices for business and official meetings in accordance with Phase 3 rules. The Justice Court will follow guidelines from the NYS Court system, however, the Town Hall will remain closed for social events and club uses until reviewed next month at the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Hwy. Dept. will continue normal operations, utilizing social distancing, masks and hand sanitizer. The CDBG projects will continue using safety

protocols. Anyone entering town hall and town offices must wear a face mask and practice social distancing measures. The next Town Board meeting may be by web conference if it is allowable.

The Planning Board met by web conference on June 8, 2020 and recommended approval on Subdivision Application #02-2020 for a simple subdivision for George Martin. The Town Board completed the short environmental assessment form and a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to issue a Negative environmental impact declaration and to approve Subdivision Application #02-2020 for a simple subdivision #02-2020 for George Martin on tax map #141.00-2-22.00, subject to any County Planning Dept. input as the property is located on County Hwy. 17 in New Lisbon.

Tom Riso questioned the CDBG project for Barbara Hoag for a new heating unit. He questioned what the efficiency rating of the unit to be installed was. He thought that the bid should specify this. His question will be referred to Tim Peters. Edward George noted that he received a prank call which he feels is another scam trying to get money especially from senior citizens.

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:07 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk