

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JULY 14, 2020---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Residents Mert Hull, Edward George, Joseph Gregory

The regular monthly meeting was opened at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall utilizing the recommended social distancing and face masks. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the June 9, 2020 regular meeting as written.

Fuel product bids were only received from Reese-Marshall as follows: Diesel--\$1.575 fixed or \$.14 differential, Winter mix Diesel--\$1.775 fixed or \$.15 differential, Unleaded Gas--\$.19 differential, Fuel Oil--\$1.86 fixed or \$.14 differential, Propane--\$1.35 fixed, Kerosene--\$2.26 fixed or \$.14 differential and \$200.00 for each service contract. After discussion on the option of fixed prices versus fluctuating prices, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the fixed pricing options for Diesel at \$1.575, Winter Mix Diesel at \$1.775, Fuel Oil at \$1.86, Propane at \$1.35 and Kerosene at \$2.26 and the differential of \$.19 for Unleaded Gas and the \$200.00 for each service contract from Reese-Marshall for the period of 8/1/2020 to 7/31/2021.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the 2008 Volvo is broken down and he will send it to the County repair shop to see if they can figure it out before sending it to Burr. They got the radiator fixed in the 2009 Freightliner and we got a credit back on account of \$2041.55 with Cook Brothers. Supt. Smith noted that one employee had a COVID-19 test on Saturday. They received a notice of negative results and will be back at work tomorrow. They are on the schedule for making the grader patch material on July 23rd. The estimated cost is \$15,972.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the purchase of the patch material at an estimated cost of \$15,972.00 which includes the stone cost. The paving stone has been hauled in and paving should take place about three weeks after the grader patch is placed. A permit has been applied for with the NYS DEC and Army Corps of Engineers for the Goddards Road culvert. Supt. Smith estimated it would cost about \$60,000.00 or less if we can do a lot of the work ourselves. The Gross Road culvert was completed using 111-man hours and materials for a total cost of \$21,511.00. The engineering estimate was \$17,725.00 and Supt. Smith estimated it would have cost about \$40,000.00 if they hired out the job. Overall, he felt we saved about \$35,000.00-\$40,000.00 by doing the work ourselves. Councilman Bill Whitaker noted that they did a great job on the project. The Board commended the Highway crew for the professional job they did with the road only being closed for a week and saving the town a lot of money on the project.

The two International mower tractors keep breaking down and Supt. Donald Smith advised that he has started to look at other options rather than having to keep fixing the old tractors/mowers and dealing with down time between repairs. He is looking at an attachment which would go on our Mahindra tractor, with estimates from \$10,00.00 to \$15,000.00. With the closed cab, it would be better for the employees also. The Board approved the Hwy. Supt. to get prices for them to review. Upstate Spray Foam is scheduled to come patch the hwy. garage roof next week. An in-line meter has been ordered for the gas fuel pump. Supt. Donald Smith advised that even though we adopted a dust control policy he still gets nothing but grief about dust. He noted that after hearing all sides of the

issue, he's leaning towards individuals paying for what dust oil they want. If we only do 300-foot sections in front of homes, the dust oil is only benefitting the homeowner, not all of the drivers who still get dust on the rest of the road. He compared it to those with streetlights are the only ones who pay that bill. He suggested that we get rid of any exceptions in our policy and only do one 300-foot path per home/business. Supervisor Edward Lentz suggested that with an adopted policy, complaints should be made to the Board if the Hwy. Supt. is following the policy. Councilwoman Flo Loomis objected to having homeowners on dirt roads having to pay more for dust oil. Councilman Bill Whitaker commented that he had felt that dust control was part of road maintenance and he knows what it's like living on a dirt road. Supervisor Lentz added that he would like to keep our adopted policy but have the width increased to a 12-foot swath. Supt. Donald Smith noted that some towns do no dust control and others spray all dirt roads. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde noted that the Town of Westford charges those homeowners that want dust oil \$75.00 for 100 feet. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson added that she was uncomfortable asking residents to pay separately for dust control. She suggested we include the full policy in our annual newsletter. It was decided to look into the legalities of if we are obligated to provide dust oil before making any changes to our dust control policy.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted they are working on setting up a bike route from Gilbert Lake State Park to the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest to utilize a \$1000.00 grant. We would purchase bike route signs and posts with the grant funds. The County will post on the County roads and we would post on town roads. Supervisor Lentz advised that he hopes to have all the information ready for the Board to approve next month.

Ed George commented that he hoped we could get new batteries for the clock in the meeting room. Co. Rep Meg Kennedy and Land Use Officer Tom Riso were not present to give updates. Mert Hull gave the second quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. Because of COVID-19 and social distancing they have had limited work details and had 62-man hours of non-call activities. They had 39-man hours on calls during the second quarter. Mert also noted that they are happy with the new fire truck. They have not made a final decision on their normal Labor Day weekend chicken barbecue. Supervisor Edward Lentz added that we are still waiting to hear from the Regional Council on our application for a Certificate of Need so we can contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS services. The CSC Committee had nothing new to report because they have not met due to the pandemic. Second quarter reports were filed for the CDBG. There were six more projects that ORHA is working on: Caffery, Patterson, Cozzolino, Miller, McLean and Pope. The Board suggested that they should go ahead and move forward with these projects and also asked that we get the bid specs to look at. Hopefully we will get all the information by the August meeting so we can officially approve the projects. About 52% of town residents have responded to the 2020 Census. We need to improve our response and everyone is urged to respond either by phone, mail or email. Supervisor Lentz noted he received a letter from an ISO rating agency showing we are at 8 out of 10. This figure is used in insurance rating and depends on our fire protection, which for us is volunteer. Supervisor Lentz received a post card in the mail from 1944 showing a creek in New Lisbon. He will get it to Historian Virginia Schoradt to add to our town collection. We received a letter from the Mohawk Valley Land Bank about a grant to assist communities to identify vacant abandoned properties. We received a notice from MVP that they have applied for a 6.43% increase in our medical insurance policy for 2021.

A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills: 1. Increase A1420.4 Attorney Contractual by \$224.11. Transfer from A1990.4 Contingent. 2. Increase

A1910.4 Insurance by \$455.72. Transfer from A1990.4 Contingent. 3. Increase DA5130.2 Machinery Equipment by \$69,458.88. Transfer \$57,901.00 from DA1990.4 Contingent, \$10,000.00 from DA 5130.4 Machinery Contractual and \$1,557.88 from DA 5142.4 Snow Contractual. It was noted that the new excavator is not being submitted in the CHIPS program because that would require that we keep the machine for at least 10 years and Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that he may want to look into trading up to a bigger machine at some point.

The 2020 Budget was reviewed with the Supervisor's projections of changes in Sales Tax revenue, CHIPS and other state highway funds. Supervisor Lentz noted we should look into setting up reserve accounts for big ticket items like buildings and equipment. Councilman Brian Ryther noted that we should include saving for future Bridge replacements. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that we can use CHIPS funds for Bridge repairs/replacement. He added that in some towns some roads get closed when bridges fail because they are too expensive to replace.

The Board received the July abstracts to review the bills prior to the meeting to prevent all from having to handle the bills. They were available for them to review at the meeting if necessary. With no questions or comments, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #123 through #137 for a total of \$20,985.23 and Highway Fund bills #73 through #92 for a total of \$145,513.99. General Fund bills #115 through #122 and Highway fund bill #93 for a total of \$5,050.44 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells advised that NY State is coming out with a new Records Retention and Disposition Schedule (LGS-1) to use with Town records as of August 1, 2020. This will replace the current schedule MU-1. The Board has to formally adopt the use of the new schedule in order for the Clerk to be able to use it. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Resolution #4-2020 to officially adopt the new Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) for use by Town officials in legally disposing of records after they have met their retention period and are not deemed to have any further value to the Town.

Supervisor Edward Lentz gave the Board a copy of a Town of Hartwick Unsafe Building local law to review. The purpose of the law would be to provide for the safety, health protection and general welfare of Town's residents by requiring unsafe buildings be repaired or demolished and removed. The owner would be given a timeframe to complete the repairs or removal. If not completed, the Town Board may have the work done and a lien would be put on the property to cover the expense. Councilman Bill Whitaker questioned if there would be a problem going onto private property. Supervisor Edward Lentz thinks no; under State law we can do this because it is a Code Enforcement issue. It would be a way to get rid of eyesores in the Town that could also pose a safety risk. Councilwoman Flo Loomis thought it might induce some to fix up their buildings or remove. Councilman Brian Ryther thought the Board should get some Community feedback before considering adopting the local law. Edward George commented that the proposed law sounded like it might be a good way to help protect the public. Joseph Gregory commented that if the landowner can't pay for repairs or removal, then the Town would be putting the burden of a lien on their property.

With no further business or comments, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

