

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---SEPTEMBER 8, 2020---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso, Residents: Ammon & Roseann Fisher & grandson and Garth Brown.

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the 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 August 11, 2020 regular monthly meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the 09 Freightliner needs tires before winter. He is working on getting prices due to odd size and possibly changing size to match other trucks. The new mower has only been used once so far. They finished the paving projects. One bad spot on Walters Rd where a hydraulic hose broke and fluid got on the road and caused the stone not to stick will be fixed by the paving company. The culvert for Goddards Road probably won't be here until October, so that project will be postponed until next year. They will be replacing a culvert on Santoro Road that is half ours, half Burlington's. Burlington is buying the culvert pipe and we will provide the equipment and we will split the gravel cost. At the intersection of Gross Road and County Hwy. 12 there has been a hole in the road. The County will supply the new culvert pipe and the Town will install it. Supt. Smith advised that he has two big dead white pine trees on Jones Road and Texas Road that he needs to have taken down before winter. He received estimates of \$650.00 for the one on Jones Road and \$900.00 for the one on Texas Road to cut and drop them from Tree Pro Services, Tom Pasternak of Morris. The Town will have to do the clean-up. There are still a few spots leaking in the hwy. barn roof as we wait for Upstate Spray Foam to come back again. As far as hydroseeding, Jordan Clements has advised to wait until spring as the roots take better then.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that the equipment repair total through August 2020 was \$23,574.00, \$17,000 less than the same time last year. Mileage rates are being tracked for all trucks and equipment. Tentative plans are to get a new pickup truck in 2021 to replace the 2013 pickup. The hwy. committee would suggest ordering a new 10-wheeler in 2021 to be delivered and paid for in 2022 to replace the 2008 Volvo.

Tom Riso noted that the intersection of Bell Hill Road and St. Hwy. 51 needs some fill as it is dropping down from the paved road. As far as his Land Use Officer duties, he advised that he is watching construction projects to get them to the assessor when they are completed. Garth Brown of South Welcome Road addressed the Board on his concerns about the proposed campground for South Welcome Road. He questioned the need for another campground in Town and had many safety and environmental concerns. His written comments will be forwarded to the Planning Board.

In response to a question from Supervisor Lentz, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy advised it looks like the County will be doing their mandated annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training by a Zoom meeting. The last day to register to vote for the November 3, 2020 election is October 9, 2020. Early voting will be held at the Meadows Office Complex at 140 County Hwy. 33W, Cooperstown from October 24th through November 1st. (See the Otsego County Board of Elections website for times.) The Otsego County Dept. of Health has been overwhelmed with tracking and tracing cases due to the huge COVID outbreak at SUNY Oneonta. Everyone is urged to continue with hand washing, wearing masks and social distancing. The County is still dealing with cutting costs, waiting for reimbursements from the state and revenue shortfalls.

Ammon & Roseann Fisher were present to request a setback variance for placing a mobile home at 125 Wheat Road. They were renting the house at 113 Wheat Road when it burned earlier this year. They are now buying the piece of land and are setting up a mobile home. After getting the site ready, they found out they had to stay 15 feet from NYSEG lines at the rear of the parcel which means they have to set the mobile home closer to the road and are requesting a setback variance to 61 feet. Mr. Fisher advised that they would tear down the burned house remains as soon as possible. The Code Office told them they could rope it off for now. They are running water & septic lines from the old house to the new mobile home. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve a setback variance to 61 feet for Ammon & Roseann Fisher for the purpose of setting up a mobile home at 125 Wheat Road.

Discussion was held on our setback. The 75-foot setback originated with our 1976 Floodplain law, which has now been replaced twice. The Town policy was set at the 75 feet, with a variance being available if needed. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that our subdivision regulations have a 100-foot setback. Tom Riso commented that the distance should be enough to park several cars. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith added that we need to have a setback out of the Town right of way and with enough room if they have to do work or make changes with the road. More research will be done to see if we should establish a formal setback by local law.

In regards to giving a "Welcome" package to new owners in town, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde gets the information on sales and she can forward the new owners to the Board. Work on a letter to send out will continue. The Assessor advised that she did have the SCAR hearing on the Natale assessment dispute on August 27th and is awaiting the decision.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson had talked to Hans Drews of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank about Zombie Houses. They cannot be in foreclosure or occupied. He is looking for empty, falling down houses for inclusion in the list that the grant will cover. Our list can include houses for the grant and other structures for a future unsafe building law. Supervisor Edward Lentz would like to see an unsafe building law which addresses unsafe buildings and garbage. We will continue pursuing this next year.

The Climate Smart Communities Committee met on August 27th. They are working towards getting 120 points. A resolution is needed appointing a coordinator to get more points. A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #5, appointing Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson as the CSC Coordinator.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that we got our Muni CON which we need to contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS services, however we now need to apply for ALS status. The trail signs are almost done in Texas Schoolhouse State Forest. The main Walking Trail sign can be put back up out front. They are still working on getting the signs and posts ordered for the bike route. We have no bids back to award for our CDBG. We will send in for reimbursement of our costs to date.

A review of our finances and accounts show that everything is going well. Supervisor Edward Lentz is working on the 2021 Tentative Budget which he is going to try to keep at no tax increase. The Board will meet on September 22, 2020 at 7:30 PM for the presentation and workshop on the 2021 Tentative Budget and any other business that may come before the Board.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to increase account #A1110.4 Justice Contractual by \$144.71 to be transferred from A1990.4 Contingent and to increase DA 5130.2 Machinery Equipment by \$7,558.00, transferring \$3,779.00 from DA 5130.4 Machinery Contractual and \$3,779.00 from DA 5142.4 Snow Contractual. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #160 through #167 for a total of \$1,178.15 and Highway Fund bills #105 through #118 for a total of \$44,569.10. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #154 through #159 and Highway Fund bill #119 for a total of \$4,924.30 with prior Board approval.

Richard Eldridge's term on the Board of Review expires 9/30/2020. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to reappoint Richard Eldridge to a new five-year term on the Board of Review effective 10/1/2020.

A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to continue with the COVID-19 precaution of keeping the town hall open only for town government purposes.

Sexual Harassment Prevention training must be completed by all Town employees by October 9th, 2020. Training may be done online or if done with another employer, a certificate of that will be acceptable. For those who need an in-person training, Supervisor Edward Lentz will do the presentation at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020 at the Town Hall.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

