

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---APRIL 13, 2021---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Edward George, Mert Hull

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:31 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the March 9, 2021 regular monthly meeting and March 29, 2021 special meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the 2013 Ford pickup brought a winning bid of \$13,200.00 on Auctions International. He noted that the book value is \$11,500.00. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the \$13,200.00 bid for the 2013 Ford Pickup. Hwy. Supt. Smith noted that all the trucks are working okay and the Mahindra tractor is still at the repair shop. They are still waiting on parts and he was advised that it will not be covered under warranty. He is not happy that it is taking so long to get fixed and he is not sure if he will have to rent another piece of equipment to get the roads honed and swept. He is getting his paving estimates together as he would like to do the end of Card Road before doing the Goddards Road culvert. He asked for Board approval to purchase a load of culverts for upcoming projects, driveways, etc. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Highway Supt. to purchase 20, 18-inch culverts and 20, 15-inch culverts and bands for an estimated cost of \$7,049.40 under state pricing. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that repair costs are below last year's level at this point and she is tracking mileage for the pickups. The old Welcome to Garrattsville signs need to be sanded and refinished if we are going to use them again. Supervisor Lentz asked Mert Hull if he would be interested in the project. Mert advised that he would look at the signs before committing. Councilman Bill Whitaker thought that maybe we could ask David Birdsall from Morris for an estimate.

We have not yet received our 2021 CHIPS letter with specific amounts, but the State budget included increases and Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that with our rollover amounts, it looks like we will have about \$340,00.00 in State funds this year for highway projects. Applications are being submitted tomorrow under the Bridge NY grant program for Goddards Road and Jones Road. The application was submitted for a USDA grant for a new highway garage. Delaware Engineering is working on the Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report and Environmental Report which have to be submitted for this grant. The USDA grant for 35% of the cost of a new tractor was also submitted.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy also noted the increase in CHIPS funding this year as per the State budget. The County is discussing how they will utilize the stimulus funds, with most likely looking to replace lost revenues. We are still waiting for the full regulations on the use of the stimulus funds. It is questionable on the status of the baseball camps as they were asking for proof of vaccines, but kids aren't eligible for vaccines yet. Summer tourism revenue may be impacted again. The state budget also diverts sales tax revenue to Counties to pay AIM funds to Towns and funds to a distressed hospital fund. Local Medicaid tax was fully funded in the State budget. Sales tax revenues have been up and down. The County has filed their Police Plan with the State. Early voting this year will be held at Foothills in Oneonta. The Community Events Grants will be open for applications from April 16-30th. Priority will be for outside events and NY Covid guidelines will have to be followed. The County has hired Bill Couse as Veteran's Director. They have received 15 applications for the County Administrator position, with hopes of selecting one in July. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked about whether the County has started talking about what actions they might need to take to help with the EMS volunteer shortage and Co. Rep. Kennedy advised that no action has been taken yet. She was asked to keep on top of this issue and agreed that we need something to assist volunteers.

Mert Hull from the Garrattsville Fire Company was present to give their first quarter of 2021 statistics. They had 8 calls which resulted in 116-man hours. They also had 140 hours in meetings and work details. The Garrattsville Fire Company will be at their firehouse on Saturday April 24th and Sunday April 25th from Noon to 3:00 PM as part of the Recruit NY campaign. Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted there was some logging activity and a utility pole onsite on County Hwy. 12. George Knarich had filed a building permit checklist at 1515 County Hwy. 12 for building a log cabin, so perhaps this is that

project. All town officials should report building activities so we can keep on top of projects. The assessor also looks for new projects, but would appreciate the help from everyone.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported on the CSC Committee activities. They have set up a page for our website which will be able to be accessed from the home page. They will also post an annual report. These items get them points so they will be up to 70 points completed. The Board had no issues with adding the CSC items to the website. The Annual Earth Day held in Milford will be mostly virtual this year. They are having a recycling drop off, but you must pre-register.

An update on the CDBG projects was received from Tim Peters. The Hilary Pope roof has been completed. Lead remediation needs to be completed and they are getting prices to take down a few trees near her home, estimated at about \$4000.00. The Miller/Countryman project is 2/3 done, with the interior work to be completed in the next few weeks. The Caffery windows have come in and they are working on setting up a time to do the installation. Two bids came in for the Mike Parsons project. \$32,375.00 from All American Renovations and \$35,000.00 from Christian Brothers Construction. Tim Peters suggested we accept the bid from Christian Brothers as they have a bigger crew and we are nearing our deadline. After further review and discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the bid of \$35,000.00 from Christian Brothers Construction for the Mike Parsons CDBG project.

The new LED streetlights are saving us about 50% of the cost and 60% of the kwh. The Town Board agreed to leave the town hall closed to public use, with only Town meetings and small groups allowed at this time due to COVID-19 cases still being high in the County. Our insurance inspector suggested that we develop a social media policy. Supervisor Edward Lentz got some samples from the Association of Towns. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson volunteered to review them and start working on a draft policy. Supervisor Lentz advised that he is looking into getting some of the Historian's projects digitized. He noted that he forwarded the Unsafe Properties Law to Planning Board Chairman Matt Palmer for his input.

With NY State legalizing marijuana, The Association of Towns did a webinar on the basics of the new legislation. Towns can adopt a local law to opt out of allowing retail dispensaries and/or on-site consumption sites. A law would have to be adopted by 12/31/21 and would be subject to a permissive referendum. If we didn't opt out, we would be eligible for a part of the 4% tax that will be on products. Other types of licenses that the State will issue include cultivator, processor, distributor, delivery and nursery. The town will have no input on these types of licenses. The Board will review the information and discuss further. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that we would be able to prohibit the use on town properties and should do so by a local law which would be more enforceable.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that after reviewing the banking proposals from NBT, Bank of Cooperstown and Community Bank that he will probably remain with Community Bank since they are willing to increase our interest to .2%. He is going to talk to NBT about the account we opened with them because they are charging us user fees. The Association of Towns and the State Comptroller are cosponsoring a Town Finance School which will be held virtually on May 19th and 20th, 2021. The Board received the monthly financial reports and everything is on track. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills: 1. Increase DA9055.8 (Disability) by \$18.35. 2. Increase DA9720.6 (Bond) by \$.33 and 3. Increase DA9720.7 (Bond Interest) by \$72.37. Transfer all of these from DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual. The Board audited the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #59 through #76 for a total of \$28,624.23 and Highway Fund bills #32 through #43 for a total of \$36,390.91. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #54 through #58 and Highway Fund bill #44 for a total of \$5,094.13 with prior Board approval.

Ray Gorton advised that he would not continue as our seasonal mower this year. A help wanted notice posted and placed on our website got no replies. Willard Lasher has advised that he would be able to take on the mowing at the town hall/park/community center, but not the cemeteries. A new push mower and trimmer are needed for the cemeteries and Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that our riding mower is getting old. All agreed to have the Highway dept. mow the cemeteries and have Willard Lasher mow the Town Hall/Park/Community Center.

In the efforts to get the required paperwork to be able to contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS services, the State has informed us that they need a copy of a signed contract between

us and the Village of New Berlin. After further discussion and review, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize Supervisor Edward Lentz to sign the contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS services.

In regards to the proposed unsafe properties law, Edward George commented that junk vehicles and objects are once again accumulating along the creek in Garrattsville. There are children playing in the area and he is concerned for their safety. Supervisor Edward Lentz will send a letter to the landowner. With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk