

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MARCH 9, 2021---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Edward George & Lenny Melillo, Guest Danny Lapin, OCCA Planner.

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the meeting at 7:31 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 February 9, 2021 meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that they would be going back to a full crew next week and work on tree trimming and other spring work. He advised he is still having some electrical issues with the Chevy pickup and all other trucks are okay. The Mahindra tractor was sent out for driveshaft repairs at Maple Grove Repair, estimated at \$5,000.00. The repairs may or may not be covered in part by the warranty as Hwy. Supt. Smith advised that this series of tractors have a history of this issue. It is a 2017 and has 493 hours on it. USDA has mentioned that they have funds for equipment purchases and we could apply for a grant of 35% of the purchase of a new tractor. A bigger Mahindra, more suited to our needs would cost \$44,902.00 minus \$15,715.70 (35% grant), minus trade in of our 2017 Mahindra of \$24,000, would result in us having to outright pay \$5,186.00 for a bigger tractor. Hwy. Supt. Smith noted that after repairing our current tractor, we could be looking at the same repair in the future as the tractor is really more designed to be a homeowner's tractor. Councilman Brian Ryther questioned if we wanted another Mahindra or if we should look at other options. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that he had not found any negative information on the larger Mahindra online and for the grant, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson thought we needed to get three quotes. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to apply through the USDA for a grant of 35% of the purchase of a larger tractor and to put out for bids for a new 4 wd cab tractor with loader since we need 3 prices to submit with the grant application.

Danny Lapin of OCCA was present to explain the Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan. It is a joint effort by the NYSDEC, OCCA, BVA, Otsego County Soil & Water and other non-profits to preserve the watershed, which is a part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Butternut Creek watershed contains 130.28 miles, has a population of 4,489 and runs through 9 towns and 2 villages. The County Board will have to officially adopt the plan and the Town can adopt or vote to follow the plan. As a bonus, the Climate Smart Communities in the watershed can get points for having a watershed plan. Mr. Lapin suggested that we should draft a list of 3 to 5 projects related to the watershed in our town. These might be creek right of ways, flood control projects, stream restoration projects, buffer plantings, culvert sizing and replacement projects and road ditching management. The goal is to have a watershed plan for each major watershed in the County.

Upon a request from the Hwy. Supt., a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to consider the following items as surplus and authorize the Hwy. Supt. to sell them on Auction International: 2013 Ford Pickup, 1985 Ford Dump Truck, 1970 Kaiser Jeep Water Truck, Ford Loader/backhoe and 484 Tractor with sickle bar mower. The County Hwy. Dept. is going to renew their last year bids for gravel items (except for Cobleskill Stone products) and road salt and we can piggyback on their prices instead of bidding on our own. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to utilize County bid prices for the upcoming season for gravel items and road salt.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted he watched a webinar on abandoning and classifying roads. He wants to look into the process for abandoning Blue Jay Hollow Spur Road or else we would have to get a bigger right-of-way if we had to make it a fulltime road. The old plow which was lettered for the holiday lights show at the fairgrounds will be set up in front of the Hwy. Barn. There will be a meeting next week with Mike O'Reilly to go over the preliminary budget and building plans for a new hwy. garage. It looks like we would not be able to get a grant, but a 25-year loan at 2.12% which would be a \$105,000 per year payment on a \$2 million loan.

County Representative Meg Kennedy advised that she had a printout of the funding from the Federal Government stimulus bill which would give \$11,628,000.00 to the County and the Town would be eligible for \$195,127.00. Details will follow on any guidelines and how we would access the funds. Webinars through NYSAC on the economic outlook show 2021 & 2022 as growth years with a positive outlook for things improving with the COVID vaccines. SUNY Oneonta will be opening as a state-run vaccine site. All types of vaccines available should be utilized when available. More vaccines are needed to meet the demand. The County will be opening up the Community Grants program April 15th-30th. Any project must meet COVID safety guidelines to be able to get funding. The 1989 County Recycling law is being updated. Currently both County transfer station sites take separate books, glass and cardboard. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted they have talked with the County Hwy. Dept. about combining a new garage with the Town. The County thought that they would want as much space as the Town does, so it probably won't work to combine. He asked if Co. Rep. Kennedy heard anything on the three-town merger study. She advised that it was on hold as they lost their state funds for the study. They are proceeding with advertising for the position of County Administrator, hopefully filling the position by summer.

The Planning Board met on March 1, 2021 and reviewed an application for a simple subdivision for Butternut Valley Environmental Resources/Holly Hilary and referred it on to the County and Town Board. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve a simple 112-acre subdivision #1-2021 for Butternut Valley Environmental Resources/Holly Hilary on tax map #142.00-2-26.01 subject to completing the environmental assessment and subject to any County Planning Dept. input. Lenny Melillo questioned if a public hearing would be held on the application and/or why the neighboring property owners weren't notified. Review of our regulations affirmed that a simple subdivision doesn't require a public hearing or notice to adjoining owners. We will check with the Planning Board and see if they have any objection to having their agenda put on the Town website in the future. The Town Board completed Part 2 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to issue a negative declaration of no significant adverse environmental impacts in regards to Subdivision #01-2021.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that the CSC Committee is meeting monthly. They have 63 points completed and members are working on projects for more points. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he is working on getting the surrounding towns back into discussions on helping the Village of New Berlin EMS remain available to be our EMS backup and getting our paperwork completed to be able to contract with them. He also noted that he has received back three banking proposals, from NBT, Bank of Cooperstown and Community Bank. He will review them with input from the finance committee. Justice William Burdick has advised that he received notice that he was awarded the funds in the JCAP grant program to have the door intercom and lock release system installed that was estimated at \$2,320.00. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that we have some old computers that he thought might be usable by town residents. We will have to check with Steve Lawton and see how much it would cost to have our data cleaned out of them before donating them. We received notice from the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets that our dog control officer Elizabeth Fish passed her annual inspection. We received notice from our insurance carrier that a cyber loss is not covered under our policy. We will have to check and see if a rider is available to cover this. We received notice from the NYS Dept. of Real Property Tax Services of our Tentative Special Franchise Full Values which covers utilities in the Town. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith to see if the highway crew would be interested in refinishing the Welcome to Garrattsville signs to place them on the corner lot. We will check with Historian Virginia Schoradt to see if she knows the history of the Veterans sign. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Town Clerk to register for the online virtual NYSTCA conference April 26th-28th, 2021.

The Board had the monthly financial reports to review and there were no issues noted. The Board audited the monthly bills prior to the meeting. 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 #42 through #53 for a total of \$136,431.07 and Highway Fund bills #22 through #30 for a total of \$67,022.61. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #37 through #41 and Highway Fund bill #31 for a total of \$5,047.58 with prior Board approval.

Lenny Melillo commented that we should check with our insurance carrier and see if we have Ordinance of Law coverage on our policy. He also suggested that we should have a policy on Social Media to limit our liability. He noted that the Fire Dept. made it a rule that only one designated person could speak on behalf of the Fire Department. Edward George commented that the pine tree on the corner lot

needs the bottom branches trimmed so that mowing can be done better. We should also get a price from Jeff Broek for trimming the pine trees by the Town Hall again. 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 9:43 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk