

## **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JUNE 8, 2021—7:30PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Flo Loomis (late), Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyne-Gohde, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Joseph Gregory, Dan Vibbard

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the May 11, 2021 regular meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that the Mahindra tractor repairs have been completed for approximately \$3,000.00. He would like to put it on Auctions International and suggested a minimum bid of \$20,000.00. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes /0 Nays to surplus the 2018 Mahindra Tractor and put it on the auction site with a \$20,000.00 minimum bid. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith would also like to get rid of the 484 International tractor with sickle bar mower. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to surplus the 484 Tractor with sickle bar mower and put it on the auction site with a \$2,000.00 minimum bid. The grader and 09 Freightliner each needed a new tire. Supt. Smith is finishing up his pricing and specs for a new truck to replace the 2008 Volvo and will bring it to the Board next month.

Part of Card Road was paved and will be chip sealed at a later date. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the bill will be under \$40,000.00 and he asked for approval to pay it on receipt so that we can submit by the July 7<sup>th</sup> reimbursement date. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the payment of the paving bill for Card Road upon receipt so we can apply for reimbursement. For the Goddards Road culvert replacement project, the headwall stones will cost about \$15,000.00 We will be on budget since we paid for the culvert pipe last year. Supt. Smith advised that he is looking for a class on Erosion & Sediment Control so he can renew his certification. Contractor Rich Dennis will be asked to look at the Morton Building roof and see what we need to do for repairs. We are doubtful of getting any further work out of Upstate Spray Foam as we have been told that the business was sold and the product manufacturer has gone out of business.

NYPA has submitted a request for a hwy. work permit for the upcoming Marcy-South OPGW project. Supervisor Edward Lentz and Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that they have been good to work with and have met our concerns and altered their use of town roads to Stahl Road and Lena Road. The permit will be approved since they have answered all our questions and concerns. Equipment repair costs are at \$9,117.00 this year, close to last year's \$9,703.00 at the same time. We are going to put in for CHIPS reimbursement for the \$173,763.88 cost of the 2020 John Deere Loader. The funds will then be used to pay off the loans on the loader and 2018 Freightliner truck. The process for doing a qualified abandonment of the seasonal Blue Jay Spur Road will be started. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith would like to see a formal setback local law to keep people back away from our town right of way.

County Representative Meg Kennedy advised that they are making changes to get ready for having a County Administrator. The Administrator will be able to fill a vacant position if funded in the budget, make minor modifications and transfers, spend up to \$2,000.00 if not budgeted and \$20,000.00 if budgeted, authorize overtime, sign contracts, attend meetings with departments, etc. She noted they are going to check with other Counties and see how much time their administrators are in meetings and committee duties may be redesigned. They are going to start reviewing candidates. She noted that the Land Bank was awarded an \$800,000.00 brownfield renovation grant. It will mean an opportunity to clean up some area sites. They are going to try to enforce the bed tax with rentals that are not registered with the County. There is a software program available for \$20,000.00, which they would probably be able to recoup by catching all those rental locations that are not registered.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that there are 7-8 locations where work is started on projects of considerable size. Our total assessments went up about one million dollars this year. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that the CSC Committee has 72 points out of the 120

needed. She is waiting to hear back from Amy Wyant about grant money available for upsizing culverts which we could try to get for culverts on Jones Road and Parker Road.

Supervisor Edward Lentz received the guidelines for the American Rescue Plan (stimulus funds). We are eligible for about \$110,000.00. The funds can be used for public health, economic impacts, premium pay for essential workers, revenue loss and water, sewer and broadband. He figured we have about \$107,000.00 in lost revenue and about \$21,000.00 in paid time off for highway employees. It was agreed to continue our current COVID policies due to uncertainties at this time. We will not hear on our Bridge NY grant applications for Goddards Road and Jones Road until fall. The proposed social media policy has been passed around and Supervisor Lentz advised that he has not received any comments back, so he will bring it up for a vote next month.

ORHA has submitted a proposal for foundation work for Patricia Patterson. They recommended accepting the low bid of \$29,300.00 from Lacar Construction of New Berlin, NY. They would use \$23,800.00 from our grant and \$5,500.00 from another program. We will still have lead remediation costs which are estimated at \$4,200.00. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the proposal of \$29,300.00 from Lacar Construction for the Patterson foundation work. Our grant projects were to be completed by the end of June, but we received an extension until September 28, 2021.

A letter of resignation was received from Art Mathewson from the Planning Board. A motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the resignation from Art Mathewson from the Planning Board with thanks and appreciation for his many years of service to the Town. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays/ 1 Abstention (Councilman Ryther) to appoint Amy McKinnon to the New Lisbon Planning Board to a term which will expire May 31, 2026.

Historian Virginia Schoradt has put together a history of the Veterans's sign, including photos of those listed on the sign. Hopefully the sign can be restored and mounted somewhere in the Town Hall.

The Board discussed the new highway garage project. We have been offered a \$700,000.00 grant and 1.9 million dollar loan at 2.5 % for 25 years from the USDA. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the grant award was much better than we had anticipated. He noted it would cost us about \$104,000.00 per year. Discussion was held on how we would be able to afford building this 25-year commitment versus on how we could afford to turn down the grant and low-cost loan which may not come again. Our existing 50-year-old garage has a leaky roof, sketchy electric, mold, no insulation, inefficient heating, sketchy well/septic, is undersized, has inadequate storage area and no private office. It will cost us \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00 to fix things that have to be done to continue using it and it will still be an old building. The 9800 square foot new building is estimated to cost \$2,750,000.00. Supervisor Lentz showed the Board how we could cover the expense and the impact on fund balances and taxes. An increase in taxes could be spread out or have a higher amount at the beginning. The current garage would be utilized while the new one is being built and then possibly be turned into a salt storage building. It was decided to hold a public informational meeting on the proposed project to get public input.

The Otsego County Board adopted the new Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan on May 5, 2021. The Town has been working on our part with the County and Tetra Tech. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes / 0 Nays to pass Resolution #4-2021, adopting the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation as our town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

We had two parcels in the town that had forest exemptions that the NYSDEC found were not compliant with their terms and the exemptions were supposed to have been removed. There were 11 parcels in the County that had this issue. Since it was both an error by the Town Assessor and the land owners, the Town Board agreed that they would agree to the landowners only having to pay the back taxes, not interest and penalties. The County Attorney is drafting a resolution for dealing with this for the Town Board to adopt next month. Otsego Electric Co-op/OE Connect filed a grievance against the state assessed values. OEC feels that their fiber should be exempt as it was in the past. There is a current court case that could have a new ruling on this issue. The Board of review lowered the assessments to about half of the state assessed levels.

The Board received the Supervisor's monthly reports which show everything is going as expected. The bills were reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve

paying General Fund bills #95 through #108 for a total of \$4,290.45 and Highway Fund bills #59 through #69 for a total of \$19,067.60. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #93 and #94 for a total of \$299.03 with prior Board approval.

A sample local law to adopt a Natural Resource Inventory was submitted for review. The CSC Committee can get points for having this law. If adopted, this law would have to be considered when reviewing land use items such as subdivisions, site plans, etc. The purpose of the law would be to protect natural resources in the Town for present and future generations.

With no further comments from the floor and no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:45 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk