

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 12, 2021—7:00 PM---TOWN HALL
PRESENTATION ON NEW HWY. GARAGE PROPOSAL**

Present: Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Supervisor Edward Lentz, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso, Residents: John Bugyi, Lenny Melillo, John VanDine, Barry & Sandra Braunius, Don & Barb Smith, Steve Davis

Councilman Brian Ryther explained that the new proposed garage, at 9800 sq. ft. will accommodate the size of our current equipment and allow for safe work on vehicles. The existing garage needs so much work that it is not cost effective to fix it. We would like to turn it into a salt shed, which we need. The estimated cost of the new building is \$2.75 million. The USDA has given us a \$700,000.00 grant and an almost \$2 million low-cost loan (2.25%) for 25 years. We normally increase taxes annually by up to 2% and the new garage would mean an additional 1% for a few years. The proposition on the election ballot (on the back side #6) will allow the Town to bond for the cost of the new garage, up to \$2,681,000.00. The Town Board and Highway Supt. have visited other town garages and listened to what works and doesn't with each one. The Town Board has held many meetings on the project and has mailed a letter and copy of the ballot to registered voters. They will be going door to door to promote the project. Lenny Melillo commented that a project manager will be important to have to keep costs in line and keep track of contractors. Changing the existing garage into a salt shed is not included in the new building cost and will be done as time and funds allow. Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson added that the Board has put countless hours into the project and as taxpayers, they understand that it is a big commitment for the Town. With no further comments or questions, the meeting on the new hwy. garage was closed at 7:37 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 12, 2021—PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

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

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the Public Hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Budget at 7:38 PM. He noted a correction on the summary page and that we may have a few small changes before we adopt the final budget in November. Lenny Melillo commented that the Town is being run well and people don't understand how much time is involved with figuring out all the issues. With no further questions or comments, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to close the public hearing at 7:45 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—OCTOBER 12, 2021—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING--TOWN HALL

Present: same as at public hearing above

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:45 PM. 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 September 14, 2021 regular meeting and September 28, 2021 special meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that the grader needs repairs costing \$2500.00 and maybe an additional \$500.00. The Hwy. Committee suggest that the grader should be put on the replacement schedule in the next few years. The 09B Freightliner needs a new radiator. He is getting estimates for next year on shimming and chip sealing Morse Road, Gross Road, Vibbard Road, Parker Road, and East Turtle Lake Road. We will have work to do on Coles Bridge and Bell Hill Bridge. He is waiting for the steel to fix Coles Bridge and information from Delta Engineering on Bell Hill Bridge. We did not receive any bids on the roofing RFPs so we will start contacting contractors to bid on the jobs for next year. Walters Road will now be open all year. The upper part of Pardee Road will now be seasonal. He also noted that the portion of Gill Hill Road from the turnaround to the town line is being marked as seasonal. Repair costs through September were at \$17,706.00. We received notice that the insurance claim we submitted for the highway garage roof leak was denied as they determined it was from deterioration not storm damage. County Hwy. Supt. Rich Brimmer has advised that we should do our abandonment resolution for Blue Jay Hollow Spur Road and then he will add his comments.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that last month she attended a NYS Assoc. of Counties seminar on various issues. County Administrator Joshua Beams is meeting with all groups and departments and

absorbing information on how the County works. The County will be getting some funds from the opioid settlement to use toward prevention measures and treatment. Soil & Water and the County share the expense of a forester. The County will be getting over \$300,000.00 from timber contracts, with some of the funds going to reinvest in the future by planting trees. Separating glass and cardboard out of other recyclables has helped lower the cost of recycling handling from \$140.00 per ton to \$73.74 per ton. The new revised recycling law takes effect January 1, 2022. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that several times the separate bins for glass and cardboard were closed at the recycling site. Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy will look into this. Early voting will be held both at the Meadows office site and Foothills in Oneonta from October 23rd through October 31st. The County is working on its 2022 budget and hopes to be able to stay under the tax cap. Two ambulances and personnel will be set up by the County for use around the County. Lenny Melillo noted while he is happy the County is doing something to help the volunteer shortage, he thinks that the County should be reaching out to all squads for input and to keep them in the loop as to what is going on. Supervisor Edward Lentz added that he wondered if the County looking for personnel to staff the two ambulances will take away from the already low number of volunteers. Incentives for people who volunteer were discussed. County Rep. Kennedy will look into the issue and see if we can get some better communication going.

Lenny Melillo of the Garrattsville Fire Company gave their 3rd quarter report. They had 10 active calls for 101-man hours. They put in 257-man hours in work nights, meetings, etc. They have one new junior fireman. They will be starting a committee to look at what they want for their next firetruck. It is a long process from start to finish. He estimated that they lost about \$20,000.00 due to lack of fundraisers due to COVID-19. Daytime calls are the hardest with few members working in the town. The Emergency Squad had 39 active calls for about 156-man hours. They had an additional 120-man hours in training & meetings. New Berlin has responded to 28 calls, but only transported 10 times. New Berlin covers many towns and is short-staffed. AMR has been really good at responding when needed. Supervisor Lentz noted the Boards' appreciation for the volunteers.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted he found three more projects to add to the assessment roll. He has not checked out a reported building going up on Wheat Road by the powerline. Supervisor Edward Lentz submitted revisions to our Driveway Law (#4 of 2008). He noted that he needs to put some "teeth" in to it, with possible fines. Clerk Charlene Wells suggested we just do a new law that supersedes the existing one, so in the future you would only have to look at the new law rather than having to look at two laws for all the rules. It was discussed whether or not Otsego Electric requires a building permit to install electric service. NYSEG requires the owner have a building permit. It might help stop illegal building activity if Otsego Electric required a building permit, so we will check with them on this issue.

In regards to the Cannabis Festival, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso had checked out the site over the weekend and felt that there were not enough people for needing a permit and that a water supply and port-a-johns were available. There was some police activity on Friday to move cars from off the roadway. Lenny Melillo noted there were no EMS calls there over the weekend. In regards to our Public Assemblages Law, Supervisor Lentz noted that we need to work on increasing the fines for non-compliance. The CSC Committee is still working on finishing up items. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson updated the Board on her efforts to try for grant funds for an electric charging station.

Supervisor Edward Lentz reported that Otsego Electric Cooperative did not accept our settlement offer pertaining to their assessments, so we will have to wait and see what the judge decides. Grant funds will be available from FEMA pertaining to items in our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Supervisor Lentz noted that he has started looking into this to see how we may qualify. Several town employees still need to take the annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training and submit their documentation.

We received a written complaint from residents on Pegg Road pertaining to Gerald Fuchs and his permit to operate a Scrap Collector/Processor business at his property at 636 Pegg Road. The complaint cites that Mr. Fuchs is not in compliance with his permit because he is accumulating items along Pegg Road which are not shielded from public view by a fence or foliage as was stipulated in his permit issued in 2001. Supervisor Edward Lentz will draft a letter and Councilman Brian Ryther volunteered to pay Mr. Fuchs a visit about the complaint.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to reappoint Edward Dawyot to a new five-year term on the Board of Assessment

Review effective October 1, 2021. We still have one vacant position on the Board of Review if anyone has any suggestions.

Financial review shows that three accounts are in need of updating the appropriations. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to increase DA 5112.2 Capital Improvements by \$17,369.04, increase DA9055.8 Disability Insurance by \$249.44 and increase CD8668.4 CDBG Rehab Program by \$39,170.53. The Board reviewed the bills and a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #173 through #184 for a total of \$27,423.47 and Highway Fund bills #116 through #133 for a total of \$44,500.42. General Fund bills #170 through #172 for a total of \$235.05 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

Our Stewardship Agreement with the NYSDEC for the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest expires 12/31/21. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to apply for an extension of our Stewardship Agreement with the NYSDEC for the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest with Stacy Kazacos serving as our liaison.

With no further comments or business, a motion was made By Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk