

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

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

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:35 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the minutes for the October 12, 2021 regular meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that all the Freightliners have been serviced and the new part was installed in the grader and it is working. The boom mower keeps having to be fixed and should be replaced. They are ditching on Quinlog Road and will head to East Turtle Lake Road, weather permitting. He is working on the 284 Agreement for 2022 with road projects and bridge issues to deal with. Cornell is going to have some webinars over the winter, so he will try to watch them. They will meet with Bill Brown to figure out our next step with the new highway garage project.

An estimate of about \$32,000.00 was received from Town & County Bridge & Rail for the welding on Coles Bridge. Another option would be about \$13,000.00. We have already tied up \$12,500.00 on Coles Bridge. Supt. Smith advised he is trying to get approval to brace with wood blocks as a temporary measure, so he has more time to consider his options. Painting the bridge is estimated at \$57,825.00. We could close the bridge temporarily or consider closing permanently. Bell Hill Bridge was braced with wood blocks so repairs could be put off until next year. To redo the deck, clean and paint and do the steelwork will be about \$38,000.00.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that repair costs are at \$24,200.00, down from \$32,500.00 at this time last year. The newer trucks are costing us about \$1.00 per mile and the older trucks are over \$2.00 per mile. Supervisor Edward Lentz has sent out the roof repair RFPs to contractors in hopes of finding someone to do the repairs next spring.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy reported that the County's preliminary budget is under the tax cap. They are looking at getting the cost of EMS into a shared service plan. The County Health Dept. is doing booster shots at the Meadows. They had to get a scale repaired at the Northern transfer station. \$700,000.00 of the rescue plan money went to tourism. Updates from Otsego Now show that they have helped add about 50 tech jobs. The Energy Taskforce's data is being entered by an OCCA intern and will be available eventually to the public. Rep. Kennedy was congratulated on her well-deserved re-election.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that seven more projects have been added to the assessment roll. Supervisor Edward Lentz questioned if will have to rethink some town issues, such as zoning with more people moving in to town. Supervisor Lentz had sent an email to the Code Office about requiring people putting in electric services to get a permit. NYSEG requires one, but Otsego Electric does not. A response from Anthony Gentile was that they did not have the time or interest to require building permits for electric services. Supervisor Lentz noted that he will ask the Planning Board to review our site plan law and see if it covers short term rentals and air b&bs. County Rep. Kennedy suggested we look at Milford's law as they do a lot of short-term rentals.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #11, to start the process for the Qualified Abandonment of Blue Jay Hollow Spur Road. A copy of the resolution will be sent to County Hwy. Supt. Rich Brimmer and the four landowners abutting the road will be given notice of a public hearing on the Qualified Abandonment of Blue Jay Hollow Road to be held at 7:00 PM on December 14, 2021.

Supervisor Edward Lentz submitted a new driveway placement law for the Board to review. Several changes have been made from our existing law #4 of 2008, including using NYS standards instead of County standards, existing driveways must be reapproved if any improvements are made and an enforcement and penalty section. The new law would repeal the existing law. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to hold a public hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2021, A Local Law Governing the Placement and Location of Driveways and Other Access Roads that Enter Upon or to Highways Owned or Maintained by the Town of New Lisbon on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:15 PM.

The Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan is available for review on the OCCA website. The plan is meant to be used as a guide for property along the Butternut Creek. It includes eleven priority projects which would help the watershed resilience. The suggested guidelines are not laws or regulations. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 1 Nay (Councilman Ryther) to approve the Butternut Creek Watershed Management Plan as a resource guide for the Town of New Lisbon.

The CSC Committee is continuing their projects and hope for a January 2022 submission. Supervisor Edward Lentz updated the Board on a new state law which will require that we post all known documents that will be discussed at a Board meeting on our website at least 24 hours in advance. An audit of the Garrattsville Fire Company's financial books was completed by Supervisor Lentz with GFC bookkeeper Pete Chase and he reported that all records were in impeccable order. Otsego Electric Cooperative has now advised that they wish to accept our assessment dispute settlement offer. It appears that another court case has upheld that fiber optic lines are assessable and not exempt from taxation. Supervisor Lentz has reached out to Eric Scrivener at the Planning Dept about the FEMA grants pertaining to the hazard mitigation plan. With the deadline by the end of November, we may not be able to get a submission ready. Councilman Brian Ryther spoke with Gerald Fuchs about the complaint from residents on Pegg Road about items beginning to pile up along the frontside of his property in violation of his site plan approval. He advised that he will get it cleaned up so we will follow up in 30 days to see that it has been completed. Supervisor Lentz noted that there will be a zoom meeting of the Otsego/Chenango EMS group on November 17, 2021.

We received our new rates from MVP and they have gone down a few cents from last year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to continue with the MVP EPO Silver 8 HDHP medical insurance plan for 2022 at the monthly premiums of \$637.77 single, \$1,275.54 double and \$1,817.64 Family.

The Association of Towns sent notice that their annual meeting and training school will be held in NYC on February 20-23, 2022. They will hold Virtual Training for newly elected officials on January 6-7, 2022. Assemblyman John Salka sent information on nominating a business that has been in business for over 50 years for inclusion in the NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry. Our Workers Compensation amount will be decreasing to \$5,875.87 this year.

The Board reviewed the 2022 Preliminary Budget with a few changes made by Supervisor Edward Lentz. Discussion was held on updating our Comprehensive Plan, saving up for the next revaluation and what to do with Coles Bridge. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the revised 2022 Preliminary Budget as the 2022 Final Budget.

Review of the monthly financial reports show that we are doing well. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$275.00 from Contingent Account #A1990.4 to Retirement A9010.8 to cover the annual bill. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund Bills #190 through #203 for a total of \$26,076.72 and Highway Fund Bills #134 through #153 for a total of \$45,132.58. General Fund bills #185 through #189 for a total of \$419.02 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

With no further comments and 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 9:35 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk