

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MARCH 12, 2013 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL---7:30 PM

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase, Councilmen Edward Lentz, Glen Noto and Robert Eklund, Hwy. Supt. Bill Whitaker, Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents: Sue Smith, Donald Smith, Joe Gregory, Edward George, Lenny Melillo

Supervisor Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Councilman Edward Lentz requested the 2/25/13 minutes be amended to read that the price from Morton buildings was for a shell & doors only and the wording of the ideas presented be changed slightly. A motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Edward Lentz and carried 5/0 to accept the minutes for the 2/12/13 regular meeting as written and the 2/25/13 special meeting as amended.

Highway Supt. Bill Whitaker noted that our sand pile is in good shape and we shouldn't have to purchase our normal 5000 yards. The Board approved advertising for bids for materials to be opened at the April 9, 2013 meeting. Supt. Whitaker also noted that they have been real happy with the four wheel drive truck this winter. He discussed what he was looking for in a new pickup. He hasn't seen anything on state contract that he wants. He is working on his specs for a new pickup to be put out to bid.

The Town Board scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, March 21st, 2013 at 7:00 PM to work on reviewing all of the ideas that have been suggested for upgrading the storage building and/or the highway garage and try to make some decisions on which direction we should take.

Lenny Melillo noted that over the past ten years the Fire Dept. has not used \$10,957.00 of the annual \$1500.00 that is allotted for the repairs at the upper firehouse. He is working with Webster's paving and Cobleskill Stone to loan us a paver and/or paver with an operator and to get estimates for paving the upper firehouse lot. The firemen and highway employees will prepare the lot for paving at no cost to the Town. He estimates the total cost at approximately \$15,000.00 and would probably be able to be done later in the summer. The Board will discuss further when Lenny gets the total estimate together. He further advised that the Fire Company has been jumping through hoops with the State to do with its' non-profit status. They have worked everything out and are following all of the State guidelines. In order to keep their income under \$100,000.00, Lenny requested that the Town pay \$10,000.00 of the 2013 contract money directly to the Emergency Squad and the remaining \$74,350.00 to the Fire Company. This was okay with the Town Board.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that we received a \$100.00 donation from Cooperative Extension for use of the Town Hall for 4-H. He advised the representatives of Williamson Law Book that we liked their highway supt. software program, but we felt it was too complex for our needs.

By email, we received a draft copy of the results of the State Comptroller's audit. Supervisor Taylor, Clerk Wells, Hwy. Supt. Whitaker and Bookkeeper Doris Schlee met with them to review and discuss the results. They advised us not to release the results until we send them a statement on their findings and they finalize the document for release. They found no big issues and no misappropriated funds.

The CPIC has designated April 13th as town road cleanup day. Supervisor Taylor has asked each Board member to handle a section of the Town and recruit workers to help. We will advertise for volunteers and have them contact Board members directly. The Highway Dept. will pick up bagged trash collected from the roadsides.

Discussion was held on putting a generator at the radio tower site, sharing the cost with the others using the site, automatic and manual set up, etc. Sue Smith questioned spending the money for an occasional time when the tower is down. Lenny Melillo noted that the County tower goes down several times per year and during disasters a generator would help keep the highway dept. and firemen in contact with each other. Donald Smith noted that we would have to keep the site open for a fuel delivery truck.

A motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to pay Highway bills #35 through #47 for a total of \$14,304.42 and General Fund bills #44 through #57 for a total of \$91,193.84. Supervisor Taylor paid Highway Bill #48 for \$5,060.94 and General Fund bills #38 through #43 for a total of \$913.25 with prior Board approval. The Supervisor's monthly report was submitted to the Board.

Councilman Robert Eklund completed the audit of the Supervisor's office and Councilman Edward Lentz completed the audit of the Justice office. After reviewing the paperwork, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Connie Chase and carried 5/0 to accept the audits as completed for the Supervisor's and Justice's offices.

We received resumes from 10 applicants for the seasonal mowing position we advertised. Six were from out of town people and four were from Town residents. The Board will review the paperwork and discuss making a selection at the March 21st, 2013 special meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had received back 63% of the dog census postcards. 76 new dog licenses have been issued as a result of the census. There are approximately 150 people who have not returned their census cards. The Board approved having the Clerk work with the DCO to finish the remaining ones either by phone or by going door to door to complete the census count.

Councilman Edward Lentz questioned the playground status. Most of the recommended work was completed last year. The Clerk will review the list and see what else needs to be done. We still need to plug up some of the holes. Maybe Pete Chase can make some wood circles we could pound into the ends where the plastic caps have broken.

Councilman Edward Lentz has set up a local business owner roundtable for Saturday April 6th at 4:00 PM at the restaurant at Butternut Valley Golf & Recreation. The purpose of the meeting is to gather ideas for promoting existing business and for inviting new businesses to get established in the Town.

We haven't heard the official results of the Maple Tour held at local sugarhouses on Sunday, March 10th. Lenny Melillo noted that the Fireman's breakfast had a great turnout, approximately 20-25% increase over past breakfasts.

The Butternut Valley Alliance will be hosting a meeting on Sunday, March 16th at 1:30 PM at the Town Hall. The speaker will be talking about global warming and the impact on flooding.

Ellen Pope, director of Otsego 2000, sent an email questioning if there would be any interest in them sponsoring a workshop on the county's historic resources. Councilwoman Connie Chase said she would be interested in attending if they set it up.

Councilman Robert Eklund noted that the Otsego County Board had passed a resolution asking for the repeal of the Safe Act passed by NY State. He felt that this law is not appropriate for most gun owners in our town and maybe the Town Board should support the County's resolution. Lenny Melillo added that the real problem with the new law was how it was passed without public input and how it attacks our constitutional rights. Supervisor Robert Taylor felt that it was an individual's choice to oppose the law, not the Town Board's. After further discussion a motion was made by Robert Eklund and seconded by Edward Lentz to have the New Lisbon Town Board urge the State to take a fresh look at the Safe Act and make some amendments. Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilwoman Connie Chase and Councilman Glen Noto abstained from voting so the motion failed 2 to 3.

Councilman Eklund further noted that there is push to have Senator Seward support a two year moratorium on gas drilling. There is a website for signing on to support a moratorium sponsored by Elected Officials to Protect New York (EOPNY), (www.nyelectedofficials.org) where individuals and elected officials can sign on in support of this.

With no further business, a motion was made by Edward Lentz, seconded by Robert Eklund and carried 5/0 to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

