

# **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MAY 11, 2021---7:30PM**

## **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Plan. Bd. Chairman Matt Palmer, Residents Lenny Melillo, George & Delaney Knarich, Bill Brown of Delaware Engineering

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:31 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the April 13, 2021 monthly meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that they are still waiting for one part to come in to complete the repairs on the Mahindra. The new tractor is due to be delivered on Thursday. He got estimates for the CHIPS paving projects of \$93,000.00 from Suit-Kote and \$109,000.00 from Gorman, so he will plan on going with Suit-Kote. We have most of our stone, but will need to purchase about \$7,000.00 more. He plans to do more on Goddards Road than originally thought. Prices could go up due to market issues. Supervisor Edward Lentz learned that Upstate Spray Foam has changed owners so we are unsure of the status of getting them back out here for the garage roof. The storage building roof has not been checked out. The Hwy. Supt. wanted insurance input on having our men doing work on our buildings. Walters Road will no longer be considered a seasonal road. The upper part of Pardee Road, from the house to Walters Road will now become seasonal. We are still waiting to hear about the grant applications through Bridge NY for Jones Road and Goddards Road. We did receive comments on our applications which will be addressed and resubmitted. The Hwy. Dept. will mow the cemeteries since we didn't receive any applications for the position. Willard Lasher will mow the Town Hall/Park at \$18.00 per hour, plus reimbursement for the cost of gas. Three items were put on the auction site. We received bids of \$2,225.00 for the 1970 Kaiser water truck, \$5,100.00 for the 1985 Ford dump truck and \$3,200.00 for the 1990 Ford 545 backhoe, which the Hwy. Supt. accepted. It was decided to keep track of how much we make from surplus sales. The Board could decide to put these funds into an equipment account in the future. In 2019 we took in \$14,309.10, in 2020 we took in \$29,219.56 and so far in 2021 we took in \$26,771.50. When we get the Mahindra tractor back, we will have to decide what we want for a minimum bid and put it on the auction site. 2021 repair costs are still trending lower than in 2020. With about \$300,000.00 being available to us in State funds for highway this year, we may want to consider ordering a new 10- wheeler to replace the 2008 Volvo. It will take at least a year to get a new truck from the order date. We received word that we were awarded the grant of \$14,700.00 from USDA toward the cost of a new tractor. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to officially accept the grant of \$14,700.00 from USDA and to authorize Supervisor Edward Lentz to complete the required documents to accept the grant award.

Bill Brown of Delaware Engineering was here to go through the Full EAF for the Highway Garage Project. It is considered an Unlisted Action and he noted they feel there will be very minimal impact. The wetlands mapping shows a pond where the sand pile is, but that won't interfere with the project. After review of the document and agreement there would be no significant adverse environmental impacts, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #2-2021 adopting a Negative Declaration pursuant to SEQRA in connection with the environmental review of the new Highway Garage project and authorizing the Supervisor to sign the required paperwork. The preliminary PAFR had been submitted and comments will be addressed. We may have to pave a small parking area to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The estimated cost is 2.75 to 3 million, higher than the 2.2 million that was estimated by Mike O'Reilly, due to the volatile construction market. Hopefully by the time we would get to the bidding stage it will be more stable and we may be able to do some things ourself to cut costs. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report (PAFR) as completed by Delaware Engineering. No final decision will be made on the new Highway Garage project until we hear from the USDA on whether we will be awarded a grant and/or low-cost loan option. If we do decide to proceed, it would most likely be 2023 before the project would be completed.

Lenny Melillo commented that if we get no action from Upstate Spray Foam on the garage roof, we should file a notice with their insurance company. In regards to the Fire Dept.'s open house, no one

came to find out about joining. They do have one new fireman and overall morale is good. They will be having a drive through chicken barbecue on June 12<sup>th</sup>. He did not think that they will hold their normal annual barbecue Labor Day weekend. They have approved allowing another blood drive as the last went well and was well organized by the Red Cross. The Fire Dept. did not approve allowing use of the lower firehouse for the October bike race. Supervisor Edward Lentz will discuss it further with him.

George and Delaney Knarich were present to discuss the NY Cannabis Arts & Music Festival which they are planning on holding September 24-26, 2021. He acknowledged that he had problems with the promoters last year so they are doing it on their own this time. They are in talks with the new owner of the Allen Road (former Goodrich) property to hold it there. They will have hand washing stations, port-a-johns, water, security and insurance. Parking will be off road only and no glass or firearms will be permitted. He will file the necessary paperwork to get approval through the Public Assemblages Ordinance from the town after he gets all things lined up. County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that she had talked to Sheriff Devlin and no one had contacted his office about it yet.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that the Community Event Grants are reopened May 14<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> because they did not have proper advertising the first round. Bill Hoose, the County Veterans Director will be going for his certified officer status through the American Legion. Early voting now has to be in the population center, so it will be at the Oneonta Foothills Performing Arts Center. The County will also offer it at their office at the old Meadows building. For the June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Primary it will be June 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Hours will be posted on the County website under Board of Elections. Destination Marketing is focusing on promoting local businesses. There will be a Brochure Exchange at Barnyard Swing for businesses to swap their brochures for posting at each other's locations. The Air B & B industry is popping up a lot, with Schoharie County seeing a large increase last year. The recycling law was updated and will be going into effect in the next six months. The Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ag District enrollment have been approved. The Energy Taskforce is still working on getting their collected data together. NYMIR has budgeted funds for cyber assessments, to see where the vulnerabilities are. Supervisor Edward Lentz questioned if there is anyone at the County looking at and seeing if there are good opportunities for towns now that the CFA process is reopening. Perhaps Erik Scrivener in County Planning would be a good resource on this. They are still interviewing for the Director of Planning position. Co. Rep. Kennedy noted that there have been no efforts on the EMS shortage issue. The County has received guidelines for receiving their federal stimulus funds, so hopefully the town's guidelines will be available soon. The Oneonta baseball camps are opening with no onsite campers. The Cooperstown site is requiring all 12 and over to be vaccinated.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that we added 2.6 million to our assessment roll this year. Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he sent a letter to Ken Bain about the junk accumulating on his property in Garrattsville. He advised that he did speak with him and he noted that there was no garbage there. He will speak to Mr. Bain further. The CSC Committee has 69 points and working on more. They are working on a Climate Action Plan which is a plan to reduce GHG emissions. Ideas are to put programmable thermostats in the town hall offices, change hot water heaters to demand type, and get electric pickup trucks. Supervisor Lentz noted that it may not be possible to utilize electric plow trucks.

Our CDBG is supposed to be completed in June 2021. We may need to ask for an extension so we can finish up the projects we've started. There was no objection to asking for an extension. We need to hold a public hearing when we have spent 80% of the funds. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the estimate of \$2,900.00 from Tom Pasternak LLC/Tree Pro Services to remove two trees and trim one for Hilary Pope. This will complete her project. The Miller/Countryman project is almost complete. The Caffery windows were installed, with a few minor things to finish up on that project. The Parsons project will be starting soon. One estimate each have been received for the Cozzolino and Patterson foundation projects. Tim Peters reported that he is having trouble getting other estimates on these projects.

Our insurance carrier suggested that we should have a Social Media Policy. The Board received a draft policy prepared by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson for review. It was decided to pass it around with employees and get feedback before adopting.

The NY Power Authority has notified us of an OPGW Project which will be done on the Marcy South Transmission Line. They will be replacing existing static wire with Optical-Fiber Ground Wire. This will take place in the existing right-of-way, but Supervisor Edward Lentz and Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith have been corresponding with them about any potential impact on town roads. The Otsego County Sheriff's dept. has a free app that people can put on their phones to receive notifications.

The justice office is having a door intercom/lock release system installed with a JCAP grant. Supervisor Lentz got a price of \$400.00 (for each office) to add this to other offices. There was a question if there is a battery backup for the equipment in case of a power outage. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to have a unit installed in only the Assessor's office at this time.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he has closed the bank account at NBT because they were charging fees for having the account. He would like to open an account at Bank of Cooperstown, as they will not charge us fees. The purpose of the account would be for capital building funds. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #3 authorizing the Supervisor to open an account at Bank of Cooperstown with \$75,000.00. QuickBooks has notified us that we have to upgrade our program at an annual cost of \$299.00, with \$199.00 for the first year. The Bookkeeper has advised she will see if she can utilize hers. If not, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Supervisor to pay the necessary fees to continue using QuickBooks.

The Board received the monthly Supervisor reports. Financial review shows all is going well, with sales tax revenue ahead of last year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills: 1. Increase A1910.4-Insurance by \$1,448.59. Transfer from A1990.4-Contingent. 2. Increase DA5130.2-Machinery by \$39,723.00. Transfer \$30,000.00 from DA5130.4-Machinery Contractual and \$9,723.00 from DA5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual.

The bills were audited by the Board prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #83 through #92 for a total of \$44,255.80 and Highway Fund bills #45 through #57 for a total of \$66,273.40. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills # 77 through #82 and Highway Fund bill #58 for a total of \$5,257.05 with prior Board approval.

Art Mathewson's term on the Planning Board expires 5/31/21. He would like to retire from service, but will stay on until we find a replacement. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays/1 Abstention-Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, to reappoint Arthur Mathewson to a new five-year term effective 6/1/21 on the New Lisbon Planning Board, with the understanding that we will look for a replacement for him.

Otsego Electric will be trying to get their assessments lowered. In all towns where they have placed the new internet fiber, they are now required to pay real property tax and are paying more than what cable companies pay. The state sets the rates for utilities, so we are unsure how we will handle this situation.

The Town Board revisited the use of the town hall due to recently relaxed CDC guidelines. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to install the following rules: Town offices are open for town business, with masks and social distancing required unless all are vaccinated. The community room will be open for clubs and organizations for regular meetings of no more than 50 people. No social events are allowed and no eating is permitted. Masks and social distancing are required and a list of attendees' names and contact info must be submitted. The outside pavilion is open by reservation for all events of up to 100 people. Masks and social distancing are required unless a single household event and a list of attendees' names and contact info must be submitted.

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 9:55 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk