

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JANUARY 11, 2022—TOWN HALL PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022-2023 FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Residents: Clair Tompkins, Barbara Tilley, Don C. Smith

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the public hearing on the 2022-2023 Fire Protection Contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company at 7:30 PM. The contract amount has not increased. \$2,500.00 was included for an EMS incentive program. The Fire Dept. has approved the contract. With no comments from the floor, 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 7:32 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JANUARY 11, 2022—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Present: same as above

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:33 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the December 14, 2021 regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that the 2008 Volvo is still out for repairs. The other trucks have had only minor issues. The 2017 pickup is having electrical issues. He suggested that since the cost of a new grader will be \$250,000 to \$300,000.00 that we hold off unless we could get a big grant. He suggested that if we got a new excavator with a mulching head, it wouldn't cost us much with the trade in of our current excavator and a small grant. The boom mower and tractor brought in \$3,150.00 on Auctions International. Supt. Smith advised that he has watched a few Cornell programs and has been working on drafting driveway regulations. He suggested that we put the new driveway permit application on the website. The Board will review the draft driveway policy and local law for next month. By having the driveway regulations as a town policy, we won't have to redo the local law if the policy is amended in the future. Supt. Smith is doing monthly inspections of Bell Hill Road Bridge and Coles Bridge Road Bridge. He will start work on getting the items together we will need to work on them this spring/summer. He has been working with the Delaware engineer on the new hwy. garage. He has updated the hwy. inventory list. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that 2021 repairs totaled \$36,564.00, \$9,778.00 less than 2020.

The Hwy. Committee is recommending that the Town not do the qualified abandonment of the Blue Jay Hollow Spur Road because the adjacent landowners were not in favor of it, the Fire Dept. wants to keep it accessible and Otsego County has not been excited about supporting it. The Highway Dept. will work on upgrading the road as it has time and funds available so the cost can be spread out over a few years. It will remain a seasonal road for now.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that there were three new County Board members. She will remain as Vice-Chair and is on the IGA, Admin and Solid Waste committees. She also works on Tourism, DMCOG, Soil & Water, Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank, NYSAC, and NYMIR Board of Governors. Two items that she wants to see worked on are the new Countywide EMS system and how to maintain it and getting the findings of the Energy Taskforce published. Hopefully NYS will approve the County's shared service plan which would provide funds for a few years for EMS. They are going to draft an EMS Strategic Plan with grant funds from the Scriven Foundation. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked if the County has made any progress on a County-wide medical insurance program. Co. Rep. Kennedy noted there has been a little talk, but no specifics. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported again that the cardboard bin at the Oneonta transfer station is locked many times. By separating out the cardboard it saves on recycling costs, so Rep. Kennedy will bring it up at the Solid Waste Committee meeting. Councilman Bill Whitaker asked about the Tiny Houses that the County was going to build for veterans. Rep. Kennedy noted that they are building 6 homes and a community center at the old Meadows location and they are getting near completion. They will be used as temporary housing for the homeless.

The CSC Committee is looking at a possible submission date in the Spring. Supervisor Edward Lentz will get an RFP ready to go out for insurance quotes. The Fire Department had no one available to come do their quarterly report. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the Village of New Berlin EMS did about the same number of transports in our town in 2021 as in 2020. Councilman Brian Ryther will audit

the Supervisor's office, Councilman Bill Whitaker will audit the Town Clerk/Collector's office and Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson will audit the Justice's office.

A review of our finances showed that our sales tax and mortgage tax were up in 2021 and we received the first half of the ARPA funds. The County has lost 2,000-3,000 people over the past ten years, but some may be attributed to the college kids not being on campus due to the pandemic. Approximately 300,000 people left New York State.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he joined a preliminary meeting with Pittsfield, Burlington and Edmeston about conducting a Revaluation. They want to start theirs later this year, but we might not want to do one this year with our equalization rate at 100%.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the 2022-2023 Fire Protection Contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company and authorize the Supervisor to sign on behalf of the Town.

A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the 2022 contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS service at a cost of \$6,000.00.

The Association of Towns annual meeting in NYC on February 20-23 has been switched to a virtual setting due to the high number of COVID cases in the state. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize Supervisor Edward Lentz to be our voting delegate if he chooses to join the conference.

Clair Tompkins commented that he liked the newsletter sent with the tax bills, but he had some concerns about the Safe Properties Law. He questioned if the town should be invading people's space with one person's definition of junk not the same as another's. We explained how we are getting calls about these situations and we have trouble getting things enforced. The Code Office has been pushing the lawyer for the bank on 644 Gardnertown Road to get things cleaned up and the situation is improving. We need to address concerns on Parker Road that were reported to us at the end of the year.

With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk