

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MARCH 8, 2022---7:30 PM—TOWN HALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2022-DRIVEWAY PLACEMENT**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Edward George & Lenny Melillo, also: Daniel Butterman

Absent: Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the public hearing on the proposed Local Law #1 of 2022, 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 at 7:30 PM. The proposed law was redrafted to have our own specifications rather than refer to NYS DOT specifications. Lenny Melillo commented that he thought it looked good and reasonable. With no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:32 PM.

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD –MARCH 8, 2022—TOWN HALL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Present: same as above

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:32 PM. With NYS lifting mask mandates, the Board discussed our COVID policy of following CDC guidelines. With the low numbers now, it was agreed to allow unlimited use of the Town Hall suggesting that social distancing and masks be utilized but not mandated. Daniel Butterman of Oneonta was present to introduce himself as a candidate for our NYS Assemblyman. He gave a brief background and advised that he considers himself a community advocate. He looks for ways to bring people together by listening to all ideas.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2022 regular monthly meeting as written.

The 2008 Volvo was towed back to Oneonta with fluid leaking into the engine. We have already spent \$7100.00 in repairs on it this year. It was agreed by all that after it is fixed it should be parked until we sell it. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith had advised that he thought we would get a better price for it at auction this fall rather than now. Supervisor Edward Lentz sent a letter to Henderson advising that we would not accept their price increase on outfitting the new truck, only the bid price. The 2017 pickup had to have a new starter and will need a new windshield. Instead of eventually replacing the 2017 pickup with a larger truck, Hwy. Supt. Smith would like to consider getting a 250 with a crew cab. Then it could be used for plowing/sanding and all the employees can go in one vehicle to training sessions. Supervisor Edward Lentz will look into electric trucks and grants. Councilman Bill Whitaker commented that he didn't think an electric truck would work efficiently with all the extra stress of running a plow and sander.

The Board had previously discussed increasing the clothing allowance for highway employees from \$200.00 to \$500.00 each. After further discussion a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$1200.00 from A 1990.4 Contingent to DA2770.4 Misc. The Hwy. Supt. may also purchase the clothing items from his contractual account. Supervisor Lentz had contacted Reese-Marshall and asked them about getting our fuel bids to a calendar year instead of coming due in the summer. We will bid for prices for August through December and then for the new year.

Laurens was proposing to purchase the County owned radio tower that we lease for our highway radio system. We reminded the County that we have leased the tower since 1988 and a meeting was held and it is now proposed that the County will keep ownership of the site and replace the old tower with a newer one. The Laurens & New Lisbon highway departments will clean up the access to the site and Laurens School will do some "band aid" repairs until the tower is replaced. The County will also pursue getting other carriers on the tower such as LifeNet, AT&T, Verizon, etc. Ongoing maintenance will be shared by all of those using the tower.

The Town Hall will be used for a multi-town mandated highway training class. Supervisor Lentz will advise Hwy. Supt Smith that the Board supports sending our crew to a chainsaw safety class even if it means paying the men overtime. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the garbage that was reported to

be accumulating on the corner of County Hwy. 14 & 15 was moved before anything had to be done. Supervisor Lentz will stop and check on the pile accumulating on the corner of St. Hwy. 51 & Gill Hill Road. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith will be placing an order for \$25,000.00 in paving stone in accordance with our 284 Agreement for paving projects.

Lenny Melillo commented that the Fire Dept. feels there are insurance issues with the upper firehouse. The Fire Dept has put a lot of money into improvements over the years, but wouldn't get anything back if the building burned down. He felt that the Town didn't have enough coverage on the building and it should be at replacement cost levels if possible. It may be hard to rebuild there due to the small lot and new building requirements. Lenny suggested that the Board consider giving the building to the Fire Dept. to help solve future issues. Supervisor Edward Lentz will look into the issue and talk with our insurance carrier about it.

Supervisor Edward Lentz has been involved with multi-town talks on doing a revaluation. If we went forward with it, it would be done in 2023 and finished in 2024. They will be getting pricing options for going alone or together with the other towns. The reval company would use our existing cards if they are in good shape. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde advised that the cards from the last reval are just piled in a drawer and were never put into the files. She is not sure of the accuracy of them. She noted that the pricing for a reval can vary from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per parcel. We have 1108 parcels. She would want to be involved with a reval and work with the company. It was discussed whether it was a good time to do a reval with our equalization rate already at 100% and the busy housing market. Lenny Melillo commented that a revaluation gets people stirred up and with the new Highway garage project it may not be a good time to bring up doing a revaluation. The last time we did a revaluation our equalization rate was about 50%.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the IGA committee met with the new Veterans' Service Director Phil Couse. With an increase in Veteran suicides, she passed along information on a Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, Jason Davis from Binghamton who provides counseling services. We will post this on our website. The Community Grants applications are due in by March 11th. Regarding the old radio tower in New Lisbon, Rep. Kennedy noted that an RFP would be put out for a new tower, and we will most likely get new agreements with the County for using the tower. The County is purchasing another ambulance. Insurance money from ambulance calls is coming in good which helps to offset some of the operating expense. They might consider purchasing a 4th ambulance with the rescue funds. She will be attending a NYSAC conference and will attend a session on EMS. The County Hwy. Dept. has set up an ambitious schedule of redoing roads and bridges since they are getting a lot of State funding this year. The County is hosting planning board training on May 17, 2022 from 5:00PM-8:30 PM on Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan and an Overview of the Model Solar Law. The information has already been forwarded to our Planning Board. Lenny Melillo commented that the County also has a fly car with an ALS provider that moves around the area and has been helpful to our squad.

The CSC Committee has uploaded 119 points and with the final project will be at 126 points, a small cushion over the required 120 points for Bronze Certification. The Board had received copies of an updated Fleet Efficiency Policy, Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan which the CSC Committee needs for their planned April 8th, 2022 submission. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the Fleet Efficiency Policy, Climate Action Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Climate Action Plan as drafted.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he had attended a webinar on CFA funding. He was going to submit ideas for the town including a Comprehensive Plan update, repair/replace the radio tower/shed, install PV at town hall, install AS or GS heat pump HVAC at town hall, install PV at new hwy. garage, Install AS or GS heat pump HVAC at new hwy. garage, purchase & install standby generator at town hall, purchase & install EV charging station at town hall, purchase EV pickup for hwy. dept., purchase EV sedan for town use and expand fiber for broadband to underserved areas. Supervisor Lentz also noted that he talked with a company who said they could get us our electric cheaper than NYSEG. He will look into it further, but Councilman Brian Ryther felt we should not pay more for "green" energy, but go with the best price for the taxpayers. We received notice that Dog Control Officer Elizabeth Fish passed her NYS inspection.

Attorney Michelle Kennedy had reviewed the bond offers for the new highway garage and found them equal, with Bank of Cooperstown (Wayne Bank) being offered at a lower interest rate. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the offer from Bank of Cooperstown (Wayne Bank) for a Bond Anticipation Note of \$2,681,000.00 for the new highway garage project at 1.98% interest.

A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Local Law #1 of 2022, 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. It will be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Kristopher Tilbe called and advised that his attorney didn't get his subdivision paperwork ready to file before the approval expired and he asked if we could give him an extension. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to grant a 60-day approval extension on Subdivision #2-2021 for Kristopher Tilbe on parcel #141.00-2-7.01 on Santoro Road.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Town Clerk to attend the 40th annual NYSTCA Conference in Albany on April 24-27, 2022.

The Board reviewed the monthly financial reports and bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #37 through #51 for a total of \$185,804.47 and Highway Fund bills #32 through #43 for a total of \$22,119.00. General Fund bills #31 through #36 for a total of \$696.08 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson conducted the audit of the Justice office with Town Justice Glen Noto. The Board reviewed her report and a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept her report of the Town Justice office for 2021 records.

Supervisor Edward Lentz received a letter from Steven Sclafani concerning the burned down house at the corner of Wheat Road and County Hwy. 14. It has been two years since it burned and it has not been cleaned up. He feels that this hurts property values in the area and people should have to pay taxes on burned structures until they are cleaned up. He also noted that Otsego County has a local law #1 of 2011, Unsafe Building and Structures which should apply to this. Supervisor Lentz forwarded the email to the County Code Office and they advised that they can condemn, but they prefer to work with the owner. This property is listed as owned by David Sanchez, but Mr. Fisher told us that he was buying it when we gave him a variance for his trailer. We will have to check with our Assessor to see what is listed on the property and continue to pursue getting it cleaned up with the County Code Office.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:25 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk