

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—APRIL 12, 2022—7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Lenny Melillo, Edward George, Mert Hull, Don Smith, Brian Holt, Barry & Sandra Braunius

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the March 8, 2022 public hearing and regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that the New Holland Tractor had to have some work done which was under warranty. They put a new bed chain in the 2009A Freightliner. They got the 2008 Volvo back today with a bill of \$11,785.83 for multiple repairs. Supervisor Edward Lentz had sent a letter to Henderson advising that it would be hard for us to accept the almost \$7000.00 increase for outfitting our new truck. They have advised that due to their increased cost of materials, they have to ask for the increase. If we don't accept the increase they could cancel our order, which would cause delays in getting the truck outfitted. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to continue to try to reach a deal with Henderson, but if not able to, to accept the approximate \$7,000.00 increase as long as they guarantee that we will not get another increase.

Paving costs are increasing and Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that they will only give him a 20 to 30 day guaranteed estimate. He has ordered the paving stone from Cobleskill Stone. No further information is available on the radio tower. Supt. Smith will be taking a class on road construction and employees Lou Colburn and Earl Smith will take one on drainage & ditching. Most of the materials have been purchased for the bridge repairs. Supt. Smith will check with Town & County Bridge & Rail about when they will get started. He also noted that he has to confirm which beam actually needs repairing on Coles Bridge as he thought the pictures don't match the written report.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that our 2022 repair costs (before April bills) were at \$11,900.00 up from \$4,177.00 for the same time last year. With the increase in repair costs for the 2008 Volvo, its cost per mile is at \$4.88 compared to the new trucks at \$.66 & .78 per mile. We will have to wait and see how much our CHIPS funds will be this year, but may have to cut back on projects due to increasing costs. The plans for the new highway garage have been sent to USDA for their review.

The hwy. committee has been researching if it would be possible to prohibit land subdivisions on seasonal roads that had no other access. Since seasonal road status changes every year, depending on if there is a structure on the road, it probably would not be allowed to prohibit subdivisions on seasonal roads. They are now focusing on possibly designating certain roads as Minimum Maintenance Highways which would allow minimal maintenance and no plowing.

Brian Holt addressed the Board concerning his ongoing problem with his neighbor's dogs running loose. He feels that we have a problem with unlicensed dogs and that he has not been happy with the Dog Control Officer's response to his last few calls. Councilman Brian Ryther agreed that his neighbor should get tickets for unlicensed dogs and for running at large. Supervisor Edward Lentz will contact Dog Control Officer Elizabeth Fish about the issue and will tell her that the Board wants appearance tickets to be issued for loose or unlicensed dogs at least when there have been multiple violations.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that in the future she will try to send us her monthly report before the meeting so we can post it with our other meeting documents. She noted that it sounded like we would be getting at least the same amount of CHIPS funds as last year, but the new State budget has included an increase in CHIPS funding. NYS repealed the DOT right of way fee, so maybe there will be more broadband growth. Co. Rep. Kennedy noted that there was good attendance at the NYSAC conference she attended. She sat in on sessions on Veteran's affairs and EMS. She thought there were some negative vibes from other counties in regards to EMS issues. She thought that Otsego County is doing well with over 1000 calls handled so far. There is a company doing the EMS billing for them. All agencies will be able to bill now due to a change in the state law. The County will be getting funds for opioid treatment, prevention and recovery efforts. The Community Event Grants were awarded for a total of \$50,000.00. All applicants received some funds. The County has listed for job openings for Directors

of Building Services and Planning. Supervisor Edward Lentz commented that the County may have to increase the pay for the Director positions so we don't keep losing good people. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde added that she thought that the education needed for some positions is too much for the salary. The Mohawk Valley Land Bank will be receiving \$800,000.00 in federal funding for brownfield studies and lead and asbestos abatement in properties the landbank holds. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson asked whatever happened with the list of zombie properties that we submitted to the land bank as we never heard anything on it. County Rep Meg Kennedy noted that there was a personnel change and she is not sure what happened with the zombie property efforts.

The Planning Board met on April 4th, 2022 and reviewed two subdivisions. They recommended approval on a simple subdivision for the Estate of Dorothea Friedman/George Martin and a minor subdivision for Kenneth & Teresa Stabler. The Town Board completed the short EAF Part 2 for Subdivision Application #1-22 for the Estate of Dorothea Friedman/George Martin and a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays, finding no significant impact and no adverse environmental impacts on Subdivision #1-22. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve, subject to any County and State findings, Subdivision Application #1 -2022 for the Estate of Dorothea Friedman/George Martin for a simple subdivision on NYS Rte. 51, New Lisbon, tax map #189.00-1-30.01. The Town Board completed the short EAF Part 2 for Subdivision Application #2-22 for Kenneth & Teresa Stabler and a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays finding no significant impact and no adverse environmental impacts on Subdivision #2-22. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Subdivision Application #2-2022 for Kenneth & Teresa Stabler for a minor subdivision on Backus Road, New Lisbon, tax map #158.00-1-11.00.

Gates-Cole Insurance was the only agency to submit insurance quotes. They received quotes from our current provider HCC of \$19,153.00, \$19,328.00 from NYMIR, \$21,615.00 from Gladfelter and \$24,000.00 from Trident. The Board reviewed the quotes from HCC and NYMIR as the low bidders. Supervisor Edward Lentz had reviewed the two quotes with Kathy Capra of Gates-Cole and she noted several instances where the HCC quote gave us better coverages. After further review and discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the quote of \$19, 153.00 from HCC for our insurance package renewal.

Mert Hull of the Garrattsville Fire Company gave their first quarter report. They handled 16 calls for a total of 205-man hours. They had a total of 154-man hours for non-call functions, with 88 coming from meetings and work nights and 66 from two members taking the basic fire fighter's course. Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that some new projects have started and he has seen some cabins brought in. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that the CSC Committee has uploaded their application for bronze status to the state. They should find out in May if it is acceptable. We would be the 2nd town in the County, after Roseboom, to reach bronze status.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the EMS group is planning on meeting again. He is concerned with the new County EMS service, other towns may rethink paying the Village of New Berlin for their services, which may cause them financial hardships.

Councilman Bill Whitaker completed the audit of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's records. After review of the report, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the report. Town Clerk Charlene Wells received notice that Time Warner-Syracuse has filed a complaint with the NYS ORPS over their Tentative Special Franchise Values for 2022. They have one account in New Lisbon with a value of \$7,097.00, which wasn't included on the list of those they were contesting.

Financial reports were submitted for the Board to review. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$325.50 from DA 9720.7 Bond Interest to DA 9720.6 Bond Principal to cover the payment on the loader bond. The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes /0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #59 through #75 for a total of \$59,898.55 and Highway Fund bills #44 through #56 for a total of \$72,789.75. Supervisor Edward Lentz paid General Fund bills #52 through #58 for a total of \$727.83 with prior Board approval.

We received an email from Bill & Sandra Kaster in full support of the Town's efforts to get a Safe Properties law. They have had to deal with the mess on Gardnertown Road for years and support a law that would allow the Town to clean up an unsafe mess and bill the landowner. Supervisor Edward Lentz suggested that the Board should revisit the Safe Properties Law he previously submitted for consideration.

Edward George noted that he was told that the Crosby house on High Street was recently sold. Tom Riso questioned if there was going to be another CPR/AED class at the Town Hall. Supervisor Lentz will check and see if we could get one set up. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde advised that she was switching jobs at the County and will now be in the Real Property Tax Office. She advised that the Director, Hank Schecher, would like to see the County take over assessing for the entire County by the time he retires in three years. County Rep. Meg Kennedy will check into this idea further.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk