

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—MAY 10, 2022---7:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Alicia & James Neilsen

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:32 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the minutes for the April 12, 2022 regular monthly meeting as written.

We received our official letter from NYS that we will be receiving \$205,635.88 in CHIPS funds, \$54,242.17 in Pave NY funds, \$47,213.68 in EWR funds, \$36,151.44 In Pave Our Potholes (POP) funds and \$22,831.68 in rollover CHIPS funds. The 2008 Volvo is back in use and made it through the late April snowstorm. The 09 went off the road during the snowstorm and had to be towed back on to the road. The pickup had a mirror broken off by a branch. The tractor went back to Clinton Tractor with no brakes for the second time. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he would be attending a meeting tomorrow and hoped to find out more about "pothole" money from NYS. No paving stone has been delivered yet. The bridge company will not start our two bridges until June. Hwy. Supt. Smith did some welding repairs to the beams on Coles Bridge and is waiting for it to be inspected by the State. He advised that he went up and mowed around the radio tower site. The landowner said that the County had no right-of-way to the site and they didn't want any major work done on the access road to the tower. Rob O'Brien provided a copy of the tower site deed and it shows that the County has a 20-foot right-of-way to the tower parcel. He went and talked with the landowners and all is okay with them to do repairs to the access road. Our hwy. crew will work with Laurens to upgrade the access road. They will be able to get free stone from the Town of Otego, just having the cost to haul it here. A new building project is underway at 192 Gross Road which the owner has not done the building checklist or driveway approval.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that the 2008 Volvo costs us \$4.14 per mile and the new trucks cost us \$.78 and \$.66 per mile which shows why it is good to replace older trucks. The Hwy. Committee is recommending that we change our seasonal roads to minimum maintenance roads. This would allow us to do only minimum work and no plowing. Supervisor Edward Lentz will draft a local law for the Board to review.

Alicia and James Neilson of Middlesdorf Road were present to complain about their neighbor's dogs. They advised that there are at least 20 dogs belonging to Bruce Page that regularly come to their property and harass their animals. Alicia advised that she had been bit by one of the dogs in the past. Two children that live on the road have to walk past the Page house to get to the school bus. She couldn't get hold of the DCO so she called the sheriff dept. who told her that it was a dog control issue. She also called the SPCA who they take in rescued animals from and they suggested they come to the Town Board. When she did talk to the DCO she was not happy with her attitude about the problem. The dogs are never confined to the owner's property and per the Town Clerk are not currently licensed. The Board agreed that tickets should be issued for unlicensed dogs running at large. Supervisor Edward Lentz will talk with the DCO and Mr. Page about the situation. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde suggested that they contact the NYS DEC if the dogs are endangering livestock as they would also be a danger to wildlife. The Neilson's were asked to keep a log of each time that there is an incident with Mr. Page's dogs. Supervisor Edward Lentz will talk to DCO Elizabeth Fish about the dog issues and perhaps coming in to report to the Board.

Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde noted that our equalization rate has dropped to 91%. This was caused because sale prices have been higher than our assessed values.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that the County Board approved the distribution of the Community Event Grant funds. She noted that she joined in on the EMS group zoom meeting. She felt the major issues were transports and the toning of different agencies. The Village of New Berlin is concerned because their call volume is down since the County EMS started, especially in Morris and Edmeston, which means they are losing billable calls. Supervisor Edward Lentz added that he felt that the County EMS needs to have the Village of New Berlin handle some calls, so maybe more calls should be toned out to them to help keep them in business. Some towns are questioning why they should continue to pay the Village of New Berlin now that the County EMS is available. This may be even more of a concern if the County starts billing towns or residents. Rep. Kennedy advised that she attended a NYMIR meeting on cyber insurance. She noted that perhaps in the future the County could help towns with cyber security as a shared service project. NYMIR has signs for hwy. departments to remember to do a "battery disconnect". There will be a second primary on August 23rd for the NYS Senate and Congress due to the district lines being contested and having to be redrawn. The June 28th primary will be for NYS Assembly,

Governor and Lieutenant Governor. There may also be a special election for Senator Delgado's seat this summer. The County Board discussed a resolution to become a Purple Heart Community as a mark of respect for veterans and legions. The County will begin to update their Strategic Plan which was completed five years ago. Anthony Gentile is retiring from the Code Office. No replacement has been hired yet. There are 6 candidates for the Planning Director position.

Supervisor Edward Lentz submitted a newer version of an Unsafe Properties Law for the Board to review. The ongoing cleanup of the 644 Gardnertown property is just one example where having a town law might help. We need to put more pressure on the Code Enforcement Office to get tough with the bank holding the mortgage on the property to complete the cleanup. Councilman Brian Ryther felt that we need to start somewhere to have rules that keep properties cleaned up. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson was concerned about the additional cost for people who can't afford a clean-up. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that if we get to that level, after working with the landowner, we wouldn't have to take the final step of doing the work and billing the landowner. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that in his travels around town, the worst site is around the burned down home on Wheat Road. Besides the burned home not being cleaned up, tires are coming up out of the ground that were previously buried there and there is stuff being dragged up the road with no concern for the town road. The draft focuses on garbage, but the Supervisor will work on a draft to include other items.

A proposal was received from the firm of Emminger, Newton, Pigeon & Magyar, Inc. for conducting a Real Property Reassessment in the Towns of Pittsfield, Burlington, Edmeston and New Lisbon for \$428,000.00. There are still questions on conducting a revaluation now. The County is doing a trial of taking over the assessing for the City and Town of Oneonta.

We received a letter of resignation from Court Clerk Katharine Davis effective June 30, 2022. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to work in the Town. Justice Glen Noto is looking for someone to take over. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to reappoint Matthew Palmer to a new five-year term on the New Lisbon Planning Board effective June 1, 2022.

Financial reports were given to the Board to review. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$289.50 from Contingent Account #A1990.4 to A1355.4 Assessor's Contractual to cover her training bill. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #78 through #92 for a total of \$55,149.83 and Highway Fund bills #57 through #67 for a total of \$28,029.39. General Fund bills #76 and #77 for a total of \$159.15 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson questioned if we should conduct the dog census that got cancelled out in 2020 because of COVID. The Supervisor will ask the DCO if she will do this for us this year. Councilwoman Flo Loomis commented on Election Inspectors being needed. If anyone is interested in serving as an Election Inspector, they should contact the Otsego County Board of Elections at 607-547-4247.

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

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk