

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JULY 1, 2022—6:30 PM SPECIAL MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Dog Control Officer Elizabeth Fish, Residents: Brian Holt, Tim Gerken, Bruce & Frances Page

Supervisor Edward Lentz called the special meeting to address dog control issues prompted by recent concerns. He noted that overall, the Town faces many law enforcement issues in the Town, including junk cars, trash, driveways without permits, dog issues, etc.

Dog Control Officer Elizabeth Fish noted that historically she has found that issuing tickets doesn't do much good when the court doesn't enforce getting dog tickets processed. She noted that many times the people don't show up to court, the case gets adjourned, and she keeps having to take off from work to show up. Eventually the case just becomes dormant. Supervisor Edward Lentz commented that he thought that the court could issue a bench warrant if someone doesn't show up to court or perhaps scoff their driver's license.

A common factor in several of the recent calls has been an ongoing dispute between neighbors. Supervisor Edward Lentz commented that he wanted to come up with a common-sense approach to handling dog calls, especially loose dog calls. With any stray dog call, an attempt is made to figure out the owner before going to the dog shelter. If the owner is located, the DCO should return the dog and make sure the dog is licensed or gets licensed as soon as possible. Repeated instances with the same dogs, should result in tickets to the dog's owner.

Keeping dogs licensed in the Town assures us that dogs have up to date rabies shots. Free rabies clinics are back this year after being shutdown for the past two years because of COVID. Free shots were given last year at the SSPCA. Bruce & Frances Page suggested that we should try to get our own rabies clinic. Mr. Page suggested we contact Barry Spaulding at the Little Falls Vet Clinic. We will also check with the Otsego County Dept. of Health about getting a local rabies clinic.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells noted the need to conduct a dog census. In 2012 we had 222 dogs licensed. She did a mail in dog census and in 2014 we were up to 458 dogs licensed. In 2021 we licensed 238 dogs. The Board was in support of doing a mail in census again, with the DCO having to only go to those who don't respond.

The Town Board agreed that the Dog Control Officer should enforce laws using common sense. We will look into possibly getting a rabies clinic in town and work with the Town court to see what needs to be done to get tickets processed efficiently. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 7:42 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk