

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 11, 2022—7:00 PM---TOWN HALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET & LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2022**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents: Philip & Karin Catania, John Janitz, Brian Holt, Edward George, Mert Hull, Lenny Melillo, County Rep. Meg Kennedy
Absent: Councilwoman Flo Loomis

Supervisor Lentz opened the Public Hearing on the 2023 Preliminary Budget and the proposed Local Law #3 of 2022, providing for the Designation of Minimum Maintenance Roads Pursuant to Local Law #2 of 2022 at 7:00 PM. There were no comments on the 2023 Preliminary budget. John Janitz of Gilbert Lake Road was present to question about Barth Road, a short dead-end road, being designated as a Minimum Maintenance Road when it had never been designated as a Seasonal Road. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith explained that because they don't plow it every time, he wanted to post it as a Minimum Maintenance Road for liability reasons. Mr. Janitz was happy with the explanation and that Barth Road would be occasionally plowed as it has been. Philip Catania asked if there would be new signs posted. All roads designated as Minimum Maintenance Roads will get new signs, replacing all those posted with Seasonal Road signs. With no further comments from the floor, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays to close the public hearing at 7:10 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 11, 2022---REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Present: same as above

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:11 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the minutes for the September 13, 2022 regular meeting and September 27, 2022 special meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that all the big trucks have been serviced and brakes were done on the pickups. He still needs to purchase some tires. The bull dozer is having some track issues, so they will work on that over the winter. Vehicle repairs will be up a bit over last year, but mostly due to the 2008 Volvo. The reimbursement of CHIPS projects is due in by November 4, 2022. We still need to find someone to work on the roofs on the Town Hall and Morton building.

Philip Catania asked if the Town could plow past his driveway up to the Seasonal Road sign as it would make his snowplowing easier. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that they could do that.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso was absent, but his report was read to the Board. Mert Hull gave the 3rd Quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 15 calls for 258 man hours. They averaged 7 members per call. They had 636 man hours in meetings, drills, etc.

Supervisor Edward Lentz discussed our contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS service. Since our CON expired, we can no longer contract with them until we renew the CON. He noted that in 2020 and 2021 the Village of New Berlin ambulance did 15 transports for us, which was how they came up with the \$6,000.00 annual contract cost. However, since the County ambulances have been responding and Garrattsville EMS response has improved, in 2022 the Village of New Berlin ambulance has only done 3 transports. Supervisor Lentz noted that it is going to be hard to justify continuing a contract with them. Lenny Melillo added that he felt that the County EMS has been doing a good job and they will be adding another ambulance in 2023. The Garrattsville Fire Company & EMS are suggesting that the Town no longer contract with the Village of New Berlin for backup EMS services since they are handling so few calls. They would rather see the EMS incentive program increase as that has helped up the Garrattsville EMS responses. Councilman Brian Ryther noted that he was in favor of increasing the EMS incentive program.

A letter and resumé was received from Keegan Holt about his interest in being considered for the Dog Control Officer position in 2023. A New Lisbon property owner has requested permission for the Leatherstocking Brush & Palette Club to occasionally use the Town Hall for their meetings which are usually held on the 2nd Thursdays of the month during the daytime. The Board had no objection to them using the Town Hall, subject to availability.

County Representative Meg Kennedy reminded the Board about the \$50,000.00 in ARPA funds that the County has allocated to each town. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he has sent a request to Otsego County Treasurer Allen Ruffles requesting the \$50,000.00 to be used towards our highway garage project. The Veterans Expo will be held at Foothills in Oneonta on Sunday, November 13, 2022. Rep. Kennedy noted the effort to use green outdoor lights in November in honor of Veterans. The County Board is working on the 2023 Budget. They have been working on a salary study and they are planning on doing raises to meet neighboring Counties as an effort to keep staff. They have about a 25% vacancy rate right now. The original County EMS plan had talked about getting up to 8 ambulances. They are currently talking of adding the 5th one. They are waiting for an EMS study/report to be completed. Supervisor Edward Lentz asked about what became of the four-town consolidation study. Reg. Kennedy noted that it had been stalled because of COVID, but she thought that the County had been presented the results of the study. County Representative Meg Kennedy had received a certification award from the Association of Counties for course work she completed.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he is looking into whether or not we could put some of the hwy. garage funds in the Bank of Cooperstown into a higher yielding CD or other account. He is waiting to hear back from the Attorney on this issue.

The Board discussed the proposed Local Law #3, Designating Minimum Maintenance Roads. The main reason for switching from Seasonal Roads to Minimum Maintenance Roads is that there will be no dates involved and we won't have to plow anytime. This will help protect the Town from liability issues. We had received a concern from Laurens school about the bus turnaround on Lena Road. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith assured them that the turnaround on Lena Road is in the section of the road that will remain open. The Laurens School Board did approve our resolution. With no other concerns, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Local Law #3, Providing for the Designation of Minimum Maintenance Roads Pursuant to Local Law #2 of 2022. The law will be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The Board reviewed the draft Local Law from Supervisor Edward Lentz Prohibiting the Unsafe Accumulation of Garbage and Junk. As we get many complaints about garbage and junk, this law would allow the Town Land Use Enforcement Officer and/or Health Officer to issue reports of violations. There would be no fines issued. The landowner would get a notice that they were in violation of the law and be given time to clean it up. If they refuse, the Town could remove the garbage or junk and bill that cost to the landowner. If the bill is not paid, then the amount due would be added to the tax bill for that parcel. Councilman Brian Ryther felt that we needed the law to keep the Town cleaned up, but we needed to address the landlord/tenant situation. The Town would only act on complaints, not go out looking for violations. Discussion was held on having a large bin/scrap metal day as a help to get a town-wide clean up started. Hartwick has a core group who put on their Clean Up Day. Supervisor Lentz will relook at his draft after hearing the Board's input.

Kathleen Caffery had work done through our CDBG housing program. When she went to renew her line of credit, her bank asked for a Subordination Agreement from the Town. It was also noticed that her mortgage with the Town had the wrong expiration date, so a corrected one had to be filed. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Supervisor to sign a Subordination Agreement with Community Bank in regards to Kathleen Caffery's CDBG mortgage.

Supervisor Edward Lentz submitted sections of Local Law #2 of 2022 that needed technical corrections made. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to advertise for a public hearing on Local Law #4 of 2022, a local law Effecting Technical Amendments to Local Law #2 of 2022 Providing for Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Town Highways and for the Designation of Minimum Maintenance Roads, at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

Monthly reports were submitted for the Board to review. We will have to check with the bookkeeper as to why the ARPA funds are listed as liabilities. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$21.22 from A1355.12, Board of Review to A1355.4, Assessor to cover a bill.

The Board reviewed the bills during the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund Bills #173 through #185 for a total of \$6,767.44 and Highway Fund Bills #125-135 for a total

of \$9,225.88. General Fund bills #170 through #172 for a total of \$463.84 and Highway Fund Bill #124 for \$103,625.04 were paid with prior Board approval.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to advertise for bids for fuel products for 2023 to be opened at the November 9, 2022 meeting. Because we have been low a few times, a spec will be added for emergency delivery within eight hours.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to reappoint Edward George to a new five-year term on the Board of Assessment Review effective October 1, 2022. We still have one vacancy on the Board of Review.

Due to Election Day being the normal date for the monthly meeting, the November meeting of the New Lisbon Town Board will be changed to Wednesday, November 9th at 7:30 PM.

The Town received two official "Climate Smart Community" signs. It will have to be decided where they should be placed. Edward George commented that High Street needs a new road name sign.

With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:23 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk