

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JULY 12, 2022---7:30 PM---TOWN HALL  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2022**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Land Use Officer Tom Riso, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Mert Hull, Peter Martin, BVA Executive Director Michele Farwell, Monica Kennedy & her mother Absent: Councilman Bill Whitaker

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and handed the floor to BVA Executive Director Michele Farwell. She explained that the BVA has a \$500.00 Visionary Scholar Award open to seniors for ideas on what the Butternut Valley watershed will look like in the future. They had several great applications which could be in any medium. She announced the winning entrant was Monica Kennedy and she presented her the certificate and award. Her entry was a black and white painting of a grandmother and granddaughter's hands passing flowers symbolic of passing the future of the Butternut Valley through generations. She also won an award through the Fenimore Art Museum with the same painting. Michele Farwell continued with a brief history of the BVA which was started in 2008 by residents who had a vision for a sustainable Butternut Valley. They have 75 active members and 250 on their mailing list. The Butternut Valley watershed, 40 miles long, covering 130 square miles, includes 8 towns and 2 villages. They do educational seminars, Creek Float, Trail of Art, Summer Harvest Festival, Blood drives, New Lisbon Gravel Grinder, etc. The BVA's Mission is to encourage the watershed to become an even better place to live, work and play. New volunteers are always welcomed. Supervisor Edward Lentz closed the meeting and opened the Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2022 at 7:47 PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2022-MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROADS**

Proposed Local Law #2 of 2022, Providing for Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Town Highways and for the Designation of Minimum Maintenance Roads, would provide for road classifications, including Minimum Maintenance roads. Minimum Maintenance Roads don't have to be plowed during the winter like our current Seasonal Roads don't. By changing our Seasonal Roads to minimum Maintenance Roads, it will help reduce costs of maintaining low volume roads. The roads cannot be the only access to a dwelling or farm center and they will have to be posted as Minimum Maintenance Roads. A second local law will have to be passed to designate which roads would be classified as Minimum Maintenance Roads. Tom Riso questioned if there were any provisions for changing back to the previous designation and Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that the Town Board could change the designation in the future. With no further comments the public hearing was closed at 8:06 PM.

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JULY 12, 2022—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Supervisor Edward Lentz reopened the regular monthly meeting at 8:06 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the June 14, 2022 regular meeting and July 1, 2022 special meeting as written.

Fuel Product bids for the period of 8/1/22 to 12/31/22 were only received from Reese-Marshall as follows: Unleaded regular gas--\$.19 differential, Kerosene (for firehouse) --\$.16 differential, Fuel Oil--\$.16 differential or \$3.13 fixed price, Propane--\$2.009 fixed price, Service Contracts—4 @\$350.00 each, Diesel--\$.16 differential and Winter Mix Diesel, an additional-.16 differential. Due to the uncertain market, Reese Marshall noted they did not feel comfortable doing fixed prices on most products. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the bid prices of \$2.009 fixed for Propane, \$3.13 fixed for Fuel Oil, \$350.00 for each furnace service contract, \$.19 differential for unleaded gas, \$.16 differential for Kerosene, \$.16 differential for Diesel and an additional \$.16 differential for Winter Mix Diesel.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that they have been mowing roadsides, although the mower has PTO problems and he is going to look into getting a new mower. The new Freightliner is going to Watertown next week to be outfitted. We will be able to surplus the 2008 Volvo soon. He is dragging his feet on lining up our paving projects to see what our bridge bills will be. They found more deterioration on Bell Hill Bridge, so the bill will be more than planned. Coles Bridge hopefully only needs to be cleaned

and painted. He is trying to coordinate with the Town of Laurens to fix the radio tower access road. Our Road Preservation Law (#1 of 2009) allows us to post our roads for a ten-ton weight limit during the timeframe of March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> when the soft roads can be easily damaged by heavy equipment. Town equipment and fire equipment would be exempt. Councilman Ryther commented that he would want to see an Ag exemption also. We have received a preliminary estimate from USDA of a \$20,000.00 grant and \$69,000.00 loan at 2.5% interest towards the cost of the new truck. Equipment to be considered next will be a mower, pickup and grader. Newer trucks and the Hwy. Supt. and crew doing more things themselves is helping repair costs. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted "new" activity at 109 Gardnertown Road and 414 Turnbull Road for the Land Use Officer to check out. He also noted that he heard that Adventure Bound Campground may be adding some new facilities which may include going across the road. It may be worth having a discussion with them about safety issues and concerns. Residents at 228 Bell Hill Road erected a new mailbox in the town right-of-way and in concrete and have refused to move it. Supervisor Edward Lentz will try to get specs from the Post Office about setting boxes and send a letter.

The Otsego County Board of Elections is asking for more New Lisbon residents to consider becoming Election Inspectors. They advised that our polling site could be in danger of closing if we don't get some residents to take the training and serve as election inspectors. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde will not be in the office next week as she will be attending her training classes. No SCAR cases have been filed yet. They must file by 7/31/22.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy reported that the County Board hired Steve Wilson as the new County Administrator. He has served as Administrator for seven years in Schoharie County. They are getting a new contract for jail health services which will include mental health and treatment programs. There hasn't been discussion on replacing the jail yet. They are having some repairs done. A new highway garage is also needed. There will be another Primary Election & Special Election on August 23, 2022. It costs about \$50,000.00 for each primary, but Meg wasn't sure if that included early voting expenses. With cyber security being a big concern, NYS has opened an office that helps out counties with security and training. The County IT dept. has advised that they need a network upgrade which will cost about 1.9 million dollars. She noted that Suffolk County is switching to all electric vehicles, but they don't have plow equipment. We will be getting our AIM funding out of the NYS budget, not from County sales tax this year.

Land Use Enforcement Officer Tom Riso noted that there are six big projects underway. Mert Hull of the Garrattsville Fire Company gave their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter figures. They had 8 fire calls with 169 man-hours and 260 hours in non-emergency functions. The Climate Smart Communities Committee resubmitted their application for bronze status again, with 3 actions being revised. They are hopeful they will meet all of the requirements this submission.

Town Justice Glen Noto has interviewed Court Clerk candidates and recommends we appoint Melaina Woodbeck. She has been serving as Edmeston's Court Clerk. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays to appoint Melaina Woodbeck as New Lisbon Court Clerk effective 7/12/2022 for the term expiring 12/31/2022. Katharine Davis will remain on until 7/31/2022 to assist in the transition.

The new Highway Garage bid package will be out this Friday. There will be a pre-bid meeting for any bidders to ask questions and see the site on August 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM. The bids will be opened at 3:15 PM on Friday August 19, 2022 at the Town Hall. The Town Board will hold a special meeting on August 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM to go over the bid results with the engineer.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he was having trouble reporting our \$55,000.00 in ARPA funds, but was helped by the County Treasurer and got it filed. The upper firehouse roof needs painting. The fire dept. got prices of \$1,800.00 from Austin McEnroe (brush & roll) and \$2,000.00 (spray only) from Brian Sherlock. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the quote of \$1,800.00 from Austin McEnroe for painting the upper firehouse roof.

Proposed Local Law #2 of 2022 was reviewed further by the Board, with no concerns voiced. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Local Law #2 of 2022, Providing for Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Town Highways and for the Designation of Minimum Maintenance Roads. The law will be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith submitted his list of roads that he determined were used by less than 50 vehicles per day and met all the requirements to be designated as Minimum Maintenance Roads. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the Hwy. Supt.'s list of roads to designate as Minimum Maintenance Roads. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #1 of 2022 to approve the Hwy. Supt's recommendation on which roads or portions of roads should be designated as Minimum Maintenance Roads and to set a public hearing for a local law that would establish this designation. The public hearing on Local Law #3, Designating Certain Town Highways or Portions Thereof as Minimum Maintenance Roads is anticipated to be held in September or October.

Supervisor Edward Lentz submitted his monthly financial reports to the Board. His projected figures show the fund balances looking good. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #120 through #130 for a total of \$16,718.15 and Highway Fund bills #78 through #92 for a total of \$51,540.61. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #115 through #119 for a total of \$20,715.18 with prior Board approval.

The Planning Board met on July 11, 2022 and recommended approval on Subdivision Application #03-22 for Richard Eldridge. After further review, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Subdivision Application #3-2022 for a simple subdivision for Richard Eldridge on tax map #175.00-1-17.01, subject to pending review by the Otsego County Planning Dept.

The Planning Board further discussed the Site Plan Review Application #1-22 for Bismarck Iniquez to convert an existing building to a Commercial Garage/Body Shop. The Otsego County Code Office issued a Certificate of Compliance for the 36 x 40 newer building to be used as cold storage. They advised that Mr. Iniquez would need to have a designer professional give a codes analysis of the older 42 x 25 barn and he would have to submit plans and apply for a change of occupancy from residential to commercial with the Code Office. The Planning Board recommended approval of the occupancy change from residential to commercial for the purpose of a Commercial Garage/Body Shop for the 42 x 25 barn with the requirement that Mr. Iniquez submit copies of the Code Office's approval and his NYS license once he receives it. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Site Plan Review Application #1-2022 for Bismarck Iniquez for changing the occupancy of his 42 x 25 barn from residential to commercial for the purpose of opening a Commercial Garage/Body Shop to be known as Cats Garage LLC with the conditions that he must submit a copy of his County Code Office approval from residential to commercial and a copy of his NYS license before operating his business.

The Planning Board has asked how to replace a member who has not been coming to meetings or training for a few years. They have sent a certified letter, but still have had no response. Supervisor Edward Lentz has found that the Town Board must hold a public hearing to terminate. An attempt will be made to get a letter of resignation before the next meeting.

With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:40 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk