

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---DECEMBER 13, 2022—7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Joseph Gregory, Brian Holt, Lenny Melillo

Absent: Councilwoman Flo Loomis

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:31 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the November 9, 2022 public hearing and regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that the new truck had to go back for repairs of a cracked coolant reservoir. The 2018 also had a coolant line replaced. They put on the wings today. For the 2023 284 Agreement the Hwy. Supt. would like to pave part of Gardnertown Road, pave part of Gilbert Lake Road and chip seal Braun Road. He would like to purchase a new pickup, generator and mower. NYS no longer has state contracts on pickups. We got a bill of \$2,149.42 from Otsego Electric for replacing a 1940's pole that a town truck had damaged when it caught a low hanging fiber wire. Though the low wire attributed to the cause of the accident, the Board agreed to pay the bill to remain as a good neighbor with the electric company. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith attended a meeting in Delhi sponsored by the Delaware County Soil & Water District and the NYSDEC on Post Storm Response. The Otsego County Soil & Water is working on getting this type of class locally. There will be a kickoff meeting for the new Highway Garage on December 15th. USDA requires this meeting before they will approve issuing notices to proceed paying any bills.

Supervisor Edward Lentz left a safety memo for the highway employees regarding wearing all safety equipment when working with chainsaws. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he is going to purchase some new chaps. There seems to be some questions on how to handle marijuana now that it is legal in NYS. We will have to review our drug and alcohol policy. Since it is still illegal at the Federal level, it is illegal to use with a CDL license which is federally issued. The new Minimum Maintenance Road signs have been posted. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that we have to add a new grader, estimated at \$300,000.00, to our equipment replacement rotation. We received the results of a NYS DOT bridge usage survey done during the Summer of 2022. Average daily traffic for Myers Mills Mill Hollow Bridge was 43, Talbot's Bridge on Myers Mill Road was 87, Coles Bridge was 43, Bell Hill Bridge was 58 and Turnbull Bridge was 89. Supt. Smith is concerned that Mill Hollow Bridge will be the next bridge we have issues with. Our vehicle expense total this year was \$44,945.00.

Lenny Melillo asked a few questions of County Rep. Meg Kennedy. She will get back to him with answers. The County had a consultant come up with a redistricting plan for County Reps based on the new census data. With the old system, District 5 previously had 627 votes and will now have 10 votes. There has not been any recent talk of cutting the number of representatives since we now have an administrator. The County 2023 Budget was passed staying under the NYS tax cap.

The Planning Board met on December 5, 2022 and recommended approval for a simple subdivision for Margaret Fraser with a negative environmental impact. After further review, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Subdivision Application #4 of 2022 for a simple subdivision for Margaret Fraser, 301 Gardnertown Road on tax map #191.00-1-57.03, with a Negative environmental declaration.

In the court matter of Keith Reynolds vs the Assessor over his assessment, he is supposed to file his income and expense statement by December 16, 2022. Appraisals are to be exchanged by March 3, 2023. We will hold off for now to see if he files anything further. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he didn't really want to have to expend the money for an appraisal.

We have regained access and posting ability to our website. There are some issues with it which we may need to address in the future. We received a thank you note from Mike Parsons for the home improvements that he received under the CDBG housing program.

The Susquehanna SPCA submitted a 2023 contract for Dog Shelter Services. The only change was their fee increased from \$40.00 per dog, per night to \$50.00. With no further comments, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the 2023 Dog Shelter Contract with the Susquehanna SPCA.

Attorneys Schlather & Birch's office has requested an approval extension for Subdivision Application #3 of 2022 for Richard Eldridge and Joseph Neil Olmstead as they had difficulties in getting the paperwork together and were just getting the closing done. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve a 30-day approval extension to January 12, 2023, so that the legal documents can be filed for the subdivision.

We received emails from Bill and Sandra Kaster and Elizabeth Worden pertaining to 644 Gardnertown Road. Apparently, Elizabeth Worden purchased the 4.79 acres for \$12,000.00 and has been working on cleaning it up. They both feel that the Town and/or County should help with the clean up as the former residents were basically operating an illegal dump on the property and they had been trying to get the situation rectified for years. The property was purchased knowing that there was still a lot of junk and debris there even after the former Mortgage holder had been cleaning up some of it. The Board discussed the issue and felt it basically came down to the fact that the highway department can't work on private property. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he may talk with several other towns about going together to hire our own Code Enforcement Officer.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that we are in good shape with our finances. We are waiting for our CHIPS reimbursement and loan and grant from USDA for the new truck. He has moved some of the hwy. garage money to Community Bank because they gave us a higher interest rate than Bank of Cooperstown. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills: 1. Increase Streetlights SL5182.4 by \$101.80. Transfer from A1410.11 Deputy Clerk, 2. Increase Assessor A1355.4 by \$138.72. Transfer from A1410.11 Deputy Clerk., 3. Increase Town Clerk A1410.4 by \$89.06. Transfer from A1410.11 Deputy Clerk., 4, Increase DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual by \$153.79. Transfer from DA5110.4 General Repairs., 5. Increase DA5142.4 Snow Contractual by \$282.12. Transfer from DA5110.4 General Repairs.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #216 through #230 for a total of \$6,524.03 and Highway Fund bills #151 through #158 for a total of \$9,309.73. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #208 through #215 for a total of \$9,018.68 and Highway Fund bill #159 for \$ 16,778.00 with prior Board approval.

Discussion was held on how towns are having trouble filling positions of personnel with CDL licenses. We may have to pay more to remain competitive. The Town Board will hold their 2023 Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM to be followed by the regular monthly meeting.

Joseph Gregory commented that perhaps the highway crew could offer ditching dirt to the site at 644 Gardnertown Road to cover up the junk. With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk