

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---APRIL 11, 2023—7:30PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, DCO Keegan Holt, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents Tom Riso, Derek Schoellig, Laura Curtis, Brian Holt, Dan Vibbard, Mert Hull, Joseph Gregory, Alicia & James Neilson

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the March 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes as drafted.

Highway Superintendent Donald Smith advised that all of the equipment is okay. He is proceeding with his plans for paving on Gardnertown Road. With repairs made last year to Coles Bridge and Bell Hill Bridge, they should be okay for a while. He feels that Turnbull Road Bridge and Myers Mills Road over Stoney Creek Bridge should be okay also. He is most concerned that Mill Hollow Bridge on Myers Mills Road will be the next one facing repairs or replacement. He noted that the cost of road salt is up \$10.00 per ton for the next season. We have received a request from Spectrum to place two poles in the town right-of-way on Walters Road so that they can bring service to 119 Walters Road. After discussion on the issue, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the request from Spectrum to place two poles in the Town's right of way on Walters Road for providing service to residents.

The contractor has run into a problem with a wet area on one corner of the new building. They have proposed to excavate and place cobble stones, covered by fabric and gravel to help the water to dissipate and give a sound base to build on. The proposed change order would cost \$6,877.87 which would come out of our \$75,000.00 contingent fund. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve a change order for the new Hwy. Garage project for material and labor to excavate and install stone under footings in the amount of \$6,877.87.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that our repair costs to date are \$6,000.00, compared to \$12,000.00 at this point last year. The closing on the \$69,000.00 loan and \$20,000.00 grant with USDA for the newest truck is scheduled for April 20th, 2023 along with the meeting on the new hwy. garage. Supervisor Edward Lentz has sent our RFP's for roofing repairs to the Town Hall and Morton storage building to many contractors, with no response except for proposals from Upstate Companies which were received today. Their proposals are for \$17,500.00 for the Town Hall and either \$45,600.00 or \$43,000.00 for the Morton storage building. The Board decided to review the proposals and discuss further next month. The Highway Plan was sent to Board members and will be reviewed next month. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith has received estimates of \$340,000.00 for a Cat grader and \$353,000.00 for a John Deere grader. They are looking into grants and how this will fit into the highway plan. The water testing samples will be done next week at the old town dump area by the NYSDEC's contractor.

James and Alicia Neilsen addressed the Board with complaints about the turnaround near their home not being sanded as they had previously requested, about trucks driving on their lawn and about a tree being cut on their property. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith responded that they try to stay within our 24 ft. 9 inch right-of way. The Neilsens felt it was a personal attack on them and that the hwy. department's actions were unacceptable. Upon the suggestion of Supervisor Lentz, the Hwy. Supt. will meet with the Neilsens to address their concerns.

Mert Hull gave the 1st quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 8 calls for 79-man hours, averaging 10 members per call. They also had 180-man hours in meeting and drills. Supervisor Lentz asked Mr. Hull to express the Board's gratitude to the GFC for their service to the Town.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that the Otsego County Soil & Water District office is working on setting up an Erosion & Sediment Control class in the county. The County Board had a presentation from the EMS consultant they hired to examine the EMS situation in the County. The County has four ambulances which are meant to fill in the gaps with local agencies. They need to examine how they will pay for the County service going forward, as reimbursements won't cover the entire operation. A long-term solution needs to be addressed. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he feels that the number of local agencies will diminish and the County needs to plan for that and he also foresees a problem with Fire

Departments in the future as their volunteer numbers are dwindling. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson questioned if the County ambulances will be staged closer to the tourist attractions during the summer months and will that cause issues for the rest of the County. Co. Rep. Kennedy noted that they awarded the Community Grants funded by the occupancy tax. Everyone who applied got something. She hopes that next year they will increase the funding level from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00. The election workers have received a wage increase to minimum wage after a salary study showed they were drastically underpaid.

DCO Keegan Holt reported that he had not received any calls in the past month. He was working on calling people with expired licenses. Vicky Lentz has volunteered to serve on the Board of Review and a motion was made by Supervisor Edward Lentz, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to appoint Vicky Lentz to the New Lisbon Board of Assessment Review for the term which expires 9/30/2025. Daniel Vibbard expressed an interest in the Land Use Enforcement Officer position.

After reviewing and discussing several versions over the past year, the Board has been reviewing the latest draft of a law to prohibit the accumulation of garbage and junk. Supervisor Lentz will delete one line that was in there in error as noticed by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM on May 9, 2023 on proposed Local Law #1 of 2023, a Law Prohibiting the Accumulation of Garbage and Junk.

In accordance with our Procurement Policy, Supervisor Lentz will send out an RFP for an Insurance Benefit Advisor. Kaatirondack Benefit Planning has been working with us for years. The Butternut Valley Alliance is applying for a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Watershed Investments Defense Grants Program and is looking for support from towns in the Butternut Valley. Supervisor Lentz drafted a letter of support which he asked the Board to consider. As he is a member of the BVA, Supervisor Lentz left the room so the Board could discuss the issue. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays/ 1 abstention (Supervisor Lentz excluded himself from voting due to his affiliation with the BVA) to send a letter of support for the BVA's grant application.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. 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 #64-79 for a total of \$34,592.75 and Highway Fund bills #34 through #42 for a total of \$16,974.17.

Art Klinger, who now works for NYSEG, sent information about joining a rate case against the proposed rate increases. The Board decided to get further information before pursuing. Supervisor Edward Lentz introduced resident Laura Curtis who is running for one of our Town Council positions this fall. With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk