

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MAY 9, 2023—7:00 PM—PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 1 OF 2023 TO PROHIBIT THE ACCUMULATION OF GARBAGE AND JUNK

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Health Officer Theresa Berdon, Dog Control Officer Keegan Holt, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Residents: Brian Holt, Susan Smith, James Neilsen, Dauna Osborne, Tom Riso, James Gregory, Joseph Gregory, Bruce Page

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2023, a local law Prohibiting the Accumulation of Garbage and Junk at 7:02 PM.

James Neilsen commented that he thought the law looked good. Brian Holt commented that everyone would probably agree with the garbage part of the law, but we were in need of an enforcement officer. Supervisor Lentz commented that he and the Board would have to be the enforcement officer until a new Land Use Enforcement Officer is found. Susan Smith felt that we cannot legislate people to have pride in their property. She felt that we should leave it up to the County to deal with. Health Officer Theresa Berdon noted that she has not been able to get help from the County. The Town has had limited help from the County Code Enforcement Office because they advise they are over worked and understaffed. Joseph Gregory commented to let the NYSDEC handle issues. He further stated that he will consider it harassment if he's turned in. If people don't like the looks of his property, then don't look at it. The Town has found that the DEC will only get involved if a waterway is being contaminated. Dauna Osborne commented that we all have a different opinion of what junk is. Supervisor Lentz felt that we defined junk pretty well in the proposed law. Bruce Page stated that it would be a way for the Town to make money and fines could continue to increase if not paid. He thinks that more restrictions would keep getting added to the law and it would be infringing on people's rights. Joseph Gregory added that before there were town and county dumps everyone had their own dump on their property. Supervisor Lentz noted that we know better now and have better ways to deal with garbage and junk. Councilwoman Flo Loomis noted that residents have begged for help with garbage issues and we have not been able to get them the help they needed. What one person does with their property affects others property values. She felt that the County should step up their responsibilities to help avoid these nightmare issues. Councilman Bill Whitaker added that he felt the intention of this proposed law is good, with garbage being the biggest focus. Alicia Perfetto suggested that maybe if we had our own garbage transfer site in Town it would help alleviate some of the garbage issues. With no more comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:37 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—MAY 9, 2023—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL

Present: same as above plus County Rep. Meg Kennedy, resident Laura Curtis

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:38 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the April 11, 2023 regular meeting as written.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he has been doing repairs to the 09A Freightliner including a coolant leak and new batteries. The new pickup truck ordered is in production. We will be getting a small increase in our CHIPS funds, although there are some new requirements and restrictions. He will be getting all of the details at a meeting tomorrow. Earl Smith has resigned his position as HMEO. Supt. Smith is looking for a new person, but may end up looking for an MEO. All towns and the County are looking for CDL drivers and they are hard to come by. The new highway garage contractor will be pouring the concrete walls next and then start backfilling and prepping for the floor. The proposal from Upstate Companies for the Morton building roof for replacing the transparent panels and painting was for \$45,600.00 and the cost to replace the roof was \$43,000.00. The hwy. committee suggested that we can do a bit of patching and nurse through for now as we did not budget enough funds to cover the proposed cost. The hwy. committee is still looking at ordering a new grader this year at an estimated cost of \$340,000.00 to \$350,000.00. Many parts are obsolete for our current grader and if it breaks, we might not be able to get it fixed and then it would be worth less. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that the newer trucks are averaging between \$1.14 and \$1.40 per mile. The 09 is at \$2.50. Repair costs at \$9,100.00 remain behind last years figures. The hwy. committee has also been discussing that since highway jobs are so competitive, we may have to do more to make jobs in our town more desirable with higher wages, better benefits, etc.

Tom Riso asked about the Town's right of way on roads since we are out cutting trees and digging ditches. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith responded the road width is 49 feet 5 inches in total. Mr. Riso suggested that we consider having roads surveyed. Hwy. Supt. Smith responded that we have highways by use, not by deeds. It was agreed that it would be very costly to try to have roads surveyed.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the Governor's budget will stop 1.3 million in Federal assistance money from coming to the County. It will be phased in over a few years, but will cause stress on the next County budget. The County has invested in a shipping container for electronic waste at the

northern transfer station, where residents can now dispose of it at no cost. She acknowledged that the County Hwy. Dept. is also having a constant turnover problem, with all towns and the County pulling from the same pool of candidates. The County has awarded their material bids, which the Town can utilize. The sales tax is about 12-14% ahead of last year, so the County Treasurer is cautiously optimistic. Supervisor Lentz noted that he figured our sales tax money was up about 6%. Rep. Kennedy will look into why the difference.

Dog Control Officer Keegan Holt reported that he did his first stray dog pickup. After checking the Clerk's database, he tried to find the owner, but had to take the dog to the SSPCA. It was redeemed by a High Street, Garrattsville resident. Since they came in and licensed it, paid the pickup fee and the SSPCA fees, and it was the first time, he didn't feel that tickets were necessary.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted thanks to the Morris Central School students, led by Madeline Schiller for cleaning up the Smith Cemetery on Myers Mill Road as a National Honor Society project. Work is getting done on getting the Garratt monument foundation repaired. We did receive \$50,000.00 from Otsego County's ARPA funds to use towards our new highway garage. The Butternut Valley Alliance is hosting "On The Trail of Art" this year in the General Jacob Morris State Forest in Morris on June 10th & 11th. More information is on the BVA website. The County Clerk of the Board has sent a letter concerning the Town receiving a bound copy of the County Board's proceedings. The Board did not feel this was necessary since their minutes are available on the County website. The County Code Enforcement Office sent notice that they will be getting a new software program which may ultimately allow Town officials to update items into the system. The Town will be required to submit all reviews, approvals, etc. in writing so they can be put into the system. More details will follow as the program is still being developed. Town Clerk Charlene Wells announced that she is appointing Dauna Osborne as part-time Deputy Town Clerk.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised the Board that he has put some of our funds into money market accounts to get a higher interest rate. We have a collateralization agreement so that all of our funds are secured. So far, we have earned \$26,000.00 in interest which will help defray the interest on the note we took out for the hwy. garage project. A highway plan was submitted for the Board to review showing anticipated paving projects and equipment purchases using CHIPS funds. It is the best reasonable guess of what is ahead. Cat will give us \$40,000.00 trade in for our old grader. If we went with a John Deere, we would have to sell the old grader at auction. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that there isn't a big secondary market for used graders. The Cat and John Deere are comparable machines. He said he was leaning towards the John Deere. The Board will review further and make a decision next month.

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 #82 through #97 for a total of \$229,792.99 and Highway Fund bills #43 through #48 for a total of \$12,082.86. General Fund bills # 80 and #81 and Highway Fund bill #49 for a total of \$4,936.99 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

David Galley's term on the planning board expires May 31, 2023. He has only received 3 out of the required 20 training hours over the last five years. The Board discussed his reappointment and felt that his longevity and years of experience on the planning board outweighed his lack of training credits. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to reappoint David Gally to a new five-year term on the New Lisbon Planning Board with the request that he try to keep up with the NYS training requirements.

The Board reviewed the proposal from Upstate Companies to do the repairs to the Town Hall roof. The Board decided to hold off on doing the ridge seal (gasket) as we have not had any issues with the roof the way it is. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the proposal from Upstate Companies to fix the Town Hall vent stack flashing, boot at weathermast and snow slides for a total of \$11,400.00.

The Board discussed proposed Local Law #1 Prohibiting the Accumulation of Garbage and Junk. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the Attorney had not yet reviewed the law so he would like to hold off considering adopting it until she has reviewed it and made any comments. Councilman Brian Ryther felt that the law looked good to him, but agreed to wait for the Attorney's input. The Board will consider further next month.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells noted that we have not been able to find a Land Use Enforcement Officer by word of mouth and asked for the Board's permission to advertise for the position. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Clerk to spend up to \$1,000.00 to advertise for the part-time position of Land Use Enforcement Officer.

Tom Riso questioned about the new state Firemen's Exemption. Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he had sent the three school districts a letter, but had had no response from them. Joseph Gregory suggested that we contact Morton Buildings about the roof on our Morton building. With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

