

# **NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JUNE 13, 2023—7:30 PM**

## **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE**

Present: Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, DCO Keegan Holt, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Brian Holt, Dauna Osborne, Bruce Page, Joseph Gregory, Joshua Johnson, Kayla Johnson & fiancé  
Absent: Supervisor Edward Lentz

The regular monthly meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, serving in her capacity as Deputy Supervisor. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the May 9, 2023 regular meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised they had just been doing routine maintenance and the 09A is back in working order. He had attended a meeting with the new NYS DOT person who will be handling the CHIPS paperwork. Changes with the program include that no five-year chip sealing can be done, as all projects must have a 10-year life span. The apron around the new hwy. garage can be done this year as a qualifying project, but not next year. If we put in for funds for the pickup, we would be committed to keep it for ten years, or be penalized. We cannot put in for funds for a generator or mower as they are considered attachments. We can still put in for funds for the Freightliner, which will offset the cost of the pickup and mower. He purchased a like new used 25KW PTO generator for \$2,500.00. He was told that a new one would be \$9,000.00 to \$10,000.00. The Board will review the requested revised 284 agreement later in the meeting.

The Town has been monitoring and keeping the dam lowered on a beaver pond at 516 Card Road for years. The landowner no longer will allow the Town on their property to do this and it is out of the Town's right-of-way. The NYSDEC has advised that the landowner would need a permit from the DEC and then give the town permission to monitor the dam. Otherwise, the only solution would be to raise up the road at least four feet to alleviate the problem. If the road floods it will have to be closed. The Supervisor and Hwy. Supt. will go talk with the residents to see if an acceptable solution can be reached.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith requested Board approval to post a job opening for a HMEO on the website and Facebook. A motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to post a notice on the Town website and unofficial Facebook page that the Hwy. Dept. is looking for an HMEO. There will be a meeting on the preparations being done to ready the new hwy. garage for having the floor poured on June 14<sup>th</sup> and the regular monthly meeting on the project is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to amend the 2023 284 Agreement to paving Gardnertown Road from Braun Road to Jacobson Road and from Gilbert Lake Road to the dead end and to pave (concrete) the approach aprons on the new highway garage for an estimated \$174, 000.00 and to put in for \$78,000.00 in equipment to cover the pickup, generator and mower costs.

Per our Attorney Michelle Kennedy, if we do the aprons on the new hwy. garage this year using CHIPS funds, we will have to issue a second supplemental bond resolution as we will be increasing the total cost of the hwy. garage project. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Resolution #4, a Second Supplemental Bond Resolution for increasing the total cost of the New Highway Garage Project by \$99,000.00. This increase would be used for concrete aprons around the garage with the funds being applied for from our 2023 CHIPS allotment through the NYS DOT.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith has prices for a new grader of \$346,961.00 from Cat and \$354, 196.41 from John Deere. The Hwy. Committee agrees with the Hwy. Supt's preference to get the John Deere as it has a Damage Avoidance System which may prove helpful as a new employee will be training on the piece of equipment. Supervisor Edward Lentz will reach out to USDA to see if any grants funds are available towards the purchase. The delivery date would at least six months out. \$122,000.00 of this year's CHIPS funds could go towards the purchase, with the remainder being applied from next year's funds. Supt. Smith noted that there might be a way to lease it with the downpayment of \$122,000.00 with the remainder to be paid next year. He will discuss further with the equipment representative. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to

approve the purchase of a new 2023 John Deere 622G Motor Grader with Damage Avoidance System, under state contract for \$354,196.41, subject to working out the purchasing details with John Deere.

The Planning Board met on June 5, 2023 and recommended approval on a simple subdivision for Joshua & Taira Johnson. The Town Board completed Part 2 of the Short EAF and a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays issuing a Negative Environmental Impact Declaration and approving Subdivision Application #02-23 for a simple subdivision for Joshua & Taira Johnson on tax map #191.00-1-39.01 on Jacobson Road.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the County's Veteran Services includes full-time counseling services. They will be holding an open house on Veteran's Day weekend. The NYS Veteran's office offers Fresh Connects benefits which enhance SNAP benefits. ORHA will be doing a refresh of the County's housing assessment. The Soil & Water Conservation District Board met with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to discuss opportunities. Rep. Kennedy added that she attended a NYSAC retreat on legislation updates. The state budget has taken away Federal funds from the counties over the next several years. There is legislation on the Governor's desk to change local elections to even years, but County Rep. Kennedy didn't know if it would be signed into law. The County's authority to collect sales tax was renewed and there is a moratorium on foreclosure auctions until they figure out how to give back any money that is collected at auction that is over what is owed to the County. They are now accepting the full amount due on delinquent taxes by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to get off the foreclosure list. In July they add a 15% penalty. The County now accepts credit cards, does some partial payments and does all they can to help taxpayers keep their property.

Dog Control Officer Keegan Holt reported that he had had no major calls in the past month. He advised the Board that he will be gone for National Guard training from July 20<sup>th</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>. He will then be going on a special detail to Brazil from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. We have received one application for the position of Land Use Enforcement Officer. The Board will review and discuss further next month. We did not receive a review of the proposed Local Law on Junk & Garbage from Attorney Michelle Kennedy, so the Board will discuss adopting it next month.

Monthly financial reports were submitted to the Board. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that our highway repair costs were at \$10,353.00 down from \$27,000.00 at this point last year. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$2,500.00 from DA 5130.4 Machinery Contractual to DA 5130.2 Machinery Equipment to cover the cost of the generator.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #103 to #127 for a total of \$333,275.79 and Highway Fund bills #50 to #61 for a total of \$35,339.32. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #98 to #102 for a total of \$54,233.63 with prior Board approval. Bills for the new highway garage must be approved by USDA before checks are sent out.

With no further comments from the floor and no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk