

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 10, 2023—7:00 PM---TOWN HALL  
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Bill Whitaker, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn Gohde, DCO Keegan Holt, Residents Joseph Gregory, Brian Holt, 2 others

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the public hearing on the 2023 Preliminary Budget at 7:06 PM. With only one question from the floor, Supervisor Lentz explained that the 2023 Preliminary budget is a 3% increase over last year's budget (a \$22,753.00 increase). Because of carry over from previous years we could go up to a 3.8% increase and still be considered under the tax cap. Salaries were mostly figured with a 3% increase, with the highway employees being raised higher to remain competitive with other employers. With inflation at 5-6% and costs for most items we have to purchase going up, Supervisor Lentz felt the 2023 Preliminary Budget was in line with where he had anticipated it would be when the new highway garage was being proposed. With no further comments from the floor, Supervisor Lentz closed the hearing at 7:12 PM.

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—OCTOBER 10, 2023---7:30 PM  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL**

Present: same as above plus County Rep. Meg Kennedy, residents Mert Hull, Joshua Lukman, Jeff Lukeman, Bruce Page, Laura Curtis

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the September 12, 2023 regular monthly meeting and September 20, 2023 special budget meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that all trucks are having their annual servicing with Freightliner. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to declare the 2017 Chevy Pickup and airflow salter as surplus and authorize the Hwy. Supt. to sell at auction. He will put a \$20,000.00 minimum on the pickup. They completed paving Gardnertown Road and had to repair vandalism done to one section of the road. He would like to see a security camera system set up on the new highway garage. They will be meeting on that tomorrow. For the new hwy. garage, a price of \$9,000.00 to add back in the breakroom ceiling and \$5,856.00 for a flue for the pressure washer were received. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to add in the breakroom ceiling at a cost of \$9,000.00 and the flue for the pressure washer at a cost of \$5,856.00 using the contingency funds included in the building project. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised he is looking into getting a multifunctional remote for the overhead doors. The concrete aprons are getting done this week on the new garage and he will have all the projects done to put in for CHIPS reimbursement. He is waiting on getting an estimate to do a study of Turnbull Bridge. For Bell Hill Bridge he updated the previous plan of action. Hwy. employee Barry Braunius will be back to work tomorrow. They will be taking a Soil Erosion class on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Upstate Companies is planning on doing the Town hall roof repairs soon. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that our 2023 vehicle repairs are at \$17,576.00, down from \$33,251.00 last year and on par with 2021.

Joseph Gregory asked if anyone had set up a meet the candidate's night. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he would be gone from October 19<sup>th</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>, so he had not planned one. Mr. Gregory will look into setting one up.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the Veterans Resource Fair will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM at the Foothills Performing Art Center in Oneonta. Operation Green Light will be held in November to honor veterans. Southern Tier 8 has a broadband grant to collect data on where the gaps in coverage are. Then they can apply for federal funds for building digital equity. The County's Strategic Plan survey is still available to be completed on the County Website under the Planning Department. The County Administrator is drafting the budget and Rep. Kennedy noted it would be under the 2% tax cap. They are trying to keep salaries comparable with surrounding counties to keep employees.

DCO Keegan Holt reported that he has been working on completing the dog census. He has submitted a list of those he has located so far and the Town Clerk will send out letters to those people to get their dogs licensed. He hopes to have the census completed by the end of the year.

Fireman Mert Hull gave the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 17 calls during this period, with an average of 5 personnel on each call for a total of 198 hours. They received mutual aid one time and gave mutual aid four times. They also had 123.5 hours in training/meeting time during this 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. The Board thanked the fire department members for their service to the Town.

Supervisor Edward Lentz reported that the USDA compliance surveys were completed and returned to USDA. A reminder was given that all town employees must take the annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to allow the Planning Board to count their annual sexual harassment prevention training as part of their annual required training.

The Board discussed our 75-foot setback policy and storage containers. We need to check with the code office on storage containers, but there might not be any regulations on them. The Hwy. Supt. would like to see it be a requirement in subdivisions that all driveways are approved and installed during the subdivision process. For now, he has to approve the driveway placements with the subdivider and then has to go through it all again when the parcels are sold with the new land owners.

We received notice from NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets that the Susquehanna SPCA has successfully passed their shelter inspection. We received notice from the Adirondack-Appalachian Regional EMS office that Otsego County has applied for a permanent Certificate of Need for operating ambulances in Otsego County. The Board will send a letter of support.

Attorney Michelle Kennedy has prepared the necessary paperwork for obtaining the \$130,000.00 loan and \$50,000.00 grant from USDA for the purchase of the new John Deere Grader. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Bond Resolution #5, authorizing the acquisition of the new 2023 John Deere 522G Motor Grader with \$130,000.00 in serial bonds and \$50,000.00 grant funds from USDA. It is anticipated that the remainder of the cost of the grader will be submitted through CHIPS next year.

The Board had reviewed the monthly financial statements. Bills were audited at the beginning of the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Bill Whitaker and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #192 through #200 for a total of \$247,806.76 and Highway Fund bills #88 through #99 for a total of \$80,247.09. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #187 through #191 for a total of \$704.45 with prior Board approval.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/0 Nays to reappoint Laura Child to a new five-year term on the Board of Assessment Review effective October 1, 2023.

With no more business, a motion was made by Councilman Bill Whitaker, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 8:32 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk