

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---NOVEMBER 14, 2023

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Deputy Town Clerk Dauna Brimmer, Councilman-Elect Scott Fickbohm, Councilwoman-Elect Laura Curtis, DCO Keegan Holt, Residents: Lenny Melillo, Brian Holt, George Knarich, Joshua Lukeman Absent: Councilman Bill Whitaker

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:32 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the October 10, 2023 public hearing and regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith reported that the surplus auction results were \$15,200.00 for the 2017 Chevy pickup and \$1,125.00 for the salter. Supt. Smith had hoped for more on the pickup, but couldn't guarantee if we countered with a higher amount or if we declined and resubmitted, we would do any better. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays, that due to the condition of the two items to go ahead and accept the surplus auction prices of \$15,200.00 for the 2017 Chevy pickup and \$1,125.00 for the salter. The 2018 and 2009 Freightliners had minor repairs done in house which saved us labor costs. To date we have spent \$26,200.00 on repairs. Supt. Smith advised that he is getting new winter tires for the 23 Ford pickup as the all season tires it came with will not be good for plowing in the winter. CHIPS funds have been submitted for reimbursement. The new garage aprons will be submitted in February 2024. A proposal to do a study of Turnbull Bridge was received from Delaware Engineering for up to \$5,000.00. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the proposal from Delaware Engineering to do a study of Turnbull Bridge for up to \$5,000.00. Paperwork is being done for the loan and grant for the grader with USDA. Hwy Supt. Donald Smith would like to get a waiver of liability drafted for people who want ditching material and the town has to go on their property to dump it to protect the town from any damages done by our trucks. The highway crew attended the Sediment Erosion Control class put on by the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The new garage will have a fire alarm system installed. Fire Detection Systems has proposed to cover the monitoring for an annual fee of \$350.00 with a \$750.00 fee for an inspection. Presently we have Fargo Alarms covering the town hall for under \$250.00 per year, but we haven't gotten timely inspection reports. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to go with FDS for the fire alarm monitoring on the new hwy. garage for the first year. Supt. Smith felt we should be able to switch to Fargo Alarms in the future if we wanted to. We received a proposal from Upstate Companies of \$19,535.60 to have a camera system installed inside and outside at the new garage. The Hwy. Supt. would be able to monitor the cameras from his phone. They wanted an additional \$10,000.00 to add cameras by the fuel pumps so that would not be included in this proposal. Upon the recommendation of the Hwy. Supt., a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Flo Loomis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the proposal from Upstate Companies to install the camera system on the new highway garage for \$19,535.60. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson to approve getting multifunctional remotes for the new garage for \$600.00 so that they only have to use one remote for all the doors. Both of these projects will be covered using the contingency line in the garage budget.

Delaware Engineering has asked for an increase of \$20,000.00 for their services relating to the new highway garage because the building construction has taken longer than they had anticipated. It was suggested that we could use \$5,000.00 left in the testing line and \$15,000.00 from the contingency line, meaning no other town funds would be needed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes /0 Nays to transfer \$5,000.00 from the testing line and \$15,000.00 from the contingency line in the new hwy. garage budget to the engineer line, subject to USDA approval. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith asked for approval to spend about \$1,500.00 from the general fund highway garage repair line for purchasing plywood to make shelves in the new garage and for a breakroom table. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson,

seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve spending up to \$1,500.00 to purchase a breakroom table and plywood for shelves. Since there are funds remaining in the new garage contingency line, the Hwy. Supt. has been getting prices for appliances, fireproof files, etc. for the new garage and estimates about \$18,500.00 will be needed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the expenditure of up to \$20,000.00 to purchase appliances, fire proof files, and other items needed for the new garage, using the contingency funds so there will be no additional cost to the project.

Laura Curtis commented on the dumping of ditching material that it makes sense to give it to whoever is closest to where they are working, but try to keep fair for all who want it. Having all who want to receive ditching material sign a waiver was reasonable. Councilwoman Flo Loomis added that they need to be aware of noxious weeds when relocating ditching material. We do not want to be spreading the bad stuff to other locations.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy explained issues with the County Budget which is about 130 million dollars. They receive about 1.5 million from the occupancy tax, 48.5 million in sales tax and the local tax share is about 12.5% of the budget. They have received about \$8,000.00 from cannabis sales, with 75% of that going back to towns with retail shops. They have signed a new contract with Casella for waste disposal and there will be no increase in the tipping or user fees. She noted that another training that the Soil & Water Conservation District does is Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM). This is a NYS Agriculture & Markets program. Rep. Kennedy noted that the 2024 County Budget includes funds for jail stabilization, upgrades and that funding will be available when vacant positions are filled. The County Board is planning on doing a Capital Improvement Plan for all county buildings in 2024.

Dog Control Officer Keegan Holt advised that he had no calls in the past month and that he was continuing to work on the dog census.

Bismarck Iniguez has submitted copies of his Certificate of Compliance from the Otsego County Code Enforcement Office, a copy of his NYS Sales Tax Certificate and information that he has received his NYS DMV Registered Repair Shop status. The Board felt that he was now in compliance with his site plan approval #1 of 2022 for a repair shop, known as Cats Garage.

We received notice that George Knarich has applied to NYS for a license to open a microbusiness, to grow and sell cannabis. The Town can send in any comments on the application. Mr. Knarich advised that his intentions are to start out with a growing business only at first, but the license would allow him to have a retail facility. He noted that he has fought for cannabis rights for years and with the new state rules it will cost him more with all the tracking and testing that has to be done. He felt that it will bring money to the town. After further discussion, the Board felt there was no need to comment on the application for George Knarich for a cannabis license from NYS. Agriculture activities are exempt from site plan review regulations, but the processing and selling of products may be subject to site plan review. The Town will have to obtain more information from the State on selling requirements and further review our Site Plan Regulations.

Community Bank has advised that they are closing their branch in Morris on January 19, 2024 and consolidating their service capacity with the 434 Chestnut Street, Oneonta location. Supervisor Edward Lentz met with bank officials who advised that it was a done deal and that nothing would change their mind. A community effort has been started to get them to change their mind about closing the branch which serves the Butternut Valley. The Town Clerk/Collector will be mostly affected during the tax season when deposits 3-4 times a week are necessary. To counter this, Community Bank has offered to give us a scanner so that check deposits can be scanned into the account without having to go to the bank. Cash will still have to be directly deposited. They will provide a key for a safe drop box at the 434 Chestnut Street, Oneonta location. Town Clerk/Collector Charlene Wells noted that she is not happy about losing the closer location and the employees who know us, about having to do the teller's job of scanning deposits, but she will try to make it work, as Community Bank has been giving us the best interest rates and loan rates over the years. The Board agreed to leave things as they are and see how the change goes.

The Association of Towns has sent information regarding their 2024 Annual Meeting and Training School to be held in NYC on February 18-21, 2024. They also will hold training for newly elected officials on January 10-12, 2024 in Rochester and January 17-19, 2024 in Albany. A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying for the two elected to serve on the Board starting in January 2024, Scott Fickbohm

and Laura Curtis to attend the training in January 2024 by the Association of Towns at an estimated cost of \$550.00 each.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he has asked the Planning Board to look into adding the requirement that new driveways be installed during the subdivision process so that the Highway Supt. doesn't have to deal with them twice. He also asked them to look into the idea of a local law for our 75-foot setback policy. The Planning Board met on November 6, 2023 and reviewed and recommended approval on Subdivision Application #3 of 2023 for Robert & Claire Taylor. The Town Board completed the Short EAF Part 2 and a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and Carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to issue a negative environmental impact determination and to approve subdivision application #3 of 2023 for Robert & Claire Taylor for a simple subdivision on tax map #159.00-1-25.01, subject to Otsego County Planning Department review.

MVP has submitted 2024 premiums for the highway employees' medical insurance coverage. For the same MVP plan, the premiums have increased 7.99%. We haven't heard of any problems from employees. After further review, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to remain with the same MVP Plan EPO Silver 8 HDHP for 2024 with the monthly premiums of \$741.34 for single, \$1,482.68 for double, parent & child for \$1,260.28 and family for \$2,112.82.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Flo Loomis, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to advertise for bids for fuel products for 2024 to be opened at the December 12, 2023 meeting.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he had made a few revisions to the 2024 Preliminary Budget. He had used the wrong figure for the assessor's salary so that was decreased to \$10,468.00. With the 2024 MVP rates now available, he adjusted the medical insurance lines. To keep things balanced out he adjusted the contingency line in the general and highway budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the discussed changes to the 2024 Preliminary Budget and to adopt the revised 2024 Preliminary Budget as the 2024 Final Budget.

The Town Board had received the monthly financial reports to review. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve transferring \$21.56 from A1990.4 Contingent to Street Light # SL5182.4 and \$7,712.60 from A1990.4 Contingent to A1620.42 Town Hall Repairs. 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 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund Bills #207 to #223 for a total of \$280,110.06 and Highway Fund Bills #100 through #115 for a total of \$126,462.16. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #201 through #206 and Highway Fund bill #116 for a total of \$5,237.74 with prior Board approval.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that the paperwork was submitted and we have received the Clean Energy Community designation. We will now be able to receive a \$5,000.00 grant towards a clean energy project. Supervisor Edward Lentz reminded all town employees, part & full time, and officials need to take their annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training before the end of the year. With no further comments or business, a motion was made by all to adjourn at 9:15 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk