

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JANUARY 9, 2024---7:00 PM---TOWN HALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024-2025 FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Laura Curtis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Residents: Lenny Melillo, Nick Lasher, Brian Holt, George Knarich Absent: Councilman Scott Fickbohm

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Fire Protection Contract with the Garrattsville Fire Company. The contract amount is increased 3% for 2024 at \$130,810.00 and at \$134,734.00 for 2025. Each year an extra \$2,500.00 will be paid for an EMS incentive program. Brian Holt questioned why the Garrattsville EMS doesn't bill for their services like the paid services do. Lenny Melillo responded that they provide volunteer emergency services as a public service and they would have to change their insurance if they became a paid squad. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to close the public hearing at 7:32 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JANUARY 9, 2024—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Present: same as above, plus Planning Board Chairman Matt Palmer

The regular monthly meeting was opened at 7:32 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes from the December 12, 2023 regular monthly meeting and the January 2, 2024 Organizational meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that they had a few truck breakdowns during the January 7, 2024 storm. The 2021 Ford Pickup needs some repairs so he will be sending that out to Williams Tire & Auto. He has found that the 2023 Ford pickup has an issue with the air intake getting clogged with snow. Morris is interested in the old grader, but they have not made a final decision on purchasing it yet. The general contractor is working through the punch list items on the new garage. Supt. Smith noted he keeps adding little items to the list as they are in the process of moving things in. He does not expect to do much with the old garage over the winter. He came up with an estimate of about \$40,000.00 to convert it to a salt shed. He will give the figure to Soil & Water so they can help apply for a grant for us. The cost of the concrete aprons on the new garage will be submitted to CHIPS for reimbursement in February. He is waiting on Delaware Engineering to do their study on Turnbull Bridge to see what needs to be addressed. The Hwy. Committee has been reviewing the rules and regulations regarding the 284 Agreement. Since we will not know our exact CHIPS amount until April or May, and the estimated costs for paving projects could change, the submitted 284 Agreement will get us started for the year, but will have to be amended if things change after we have exact numbers. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the 284 Agreement as drafted for 2024. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported on mileage costs per truck ranging from \$1.20 per mile for the 2018 Freightliner to the 2009 Freightliner at the highest at \$3.00 per mile. Total repairs costs have come down from the \$105,000.00 in 2014 to 2018 to average about \$47,000.00 now. Besides the cost of repairs decreasing, the downtime of equipment is also reduced. The 2024 budget will have to be amended to cover the cost of the new grader to use unallocated fund balance until we can submit for CHIPS reimbursement and receive the grant and loan from USDA. We have received change orders from all contracts on the new hwy. garage to change the substantial completion date to December 27, 2023. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he will be talking with USDA to see what options we have for using remaining project funds and what we will have to do to get the USDA loan paperwork started. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the four change orders changing the substantial completion date to December 27, 2023 and to approve a change order for an electric contract increase of \$3,680.40 to cover additional expense related to the alarm system. Matt Palmer added that we should withhold the final payment until all things are done on the punch list and we receive all our warranties.

The Hwy. Committee had discussed adding additional holidays for the highway department as we currently only give 9 holidays, less than the County and State. They suggested adding Martin Luther King Day as a floater, changing Presidents Day to a floater and adding Juneteenth. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Laura Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to change Presidents Day to a floating holiday, and to add Martin Luther King Day

as a floating holiday and to add Juneteenth as a holiday. The hwy. committee is also going to look into the financial aspect of changing back the highway employee medical coverage to allow family coverage, as this may help to attract employees in the future.

Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde has requested Christopher Farrell to be considered as her Deputy Assessor. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Curtis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to appoint Christopher Farrell as Deputy Assessor at the rate of \$20.00 per hour, up to \$2,000.00 for the year. DCO Keegan Holt was unable to come to the meeting but sent a report that he had no calls in December. He will be unable to come to the meetings over the next months because he has a mandatory college class on Tuesday evenings.

Lenny Melillo submitted the fourth quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 7 calls for 88-man hours with an average of 7 members per call. They gave mutual aid one time and received mutual aid two times. For meetings and training they had 149.5-man hours during the fourth quarter. The totals for 2023 were 39 calls for a total of 506.5-man hours and 570-man hours in non-call functions. They currently have 17 members with good participation. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve new members Jennifer Smith and Bill Burdick to the Garrattsville Fire Company roster. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the 2024-2025 contract for Fire Protection Services with the Garrattsville Fire Company for \$130,810.00 plus \$2,500.00 for EMS incentives for 2024 and \$134,734.00 plus \$2,500.00 for EMS incentives for 2025. Supervisor Lentz noted that he will do a review of the Fire Company's books.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that with Community Bank closing the Morris branch on January 19, 2024, the BVA is working on trying to get another bank interested in coming to Morris. NBT, which currently has an ATM machine in the laundromat in Morris is working on getting a larger machine which would also accept bank deposits.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to designate Supervisor Edward Lentz as our Voting Delegate at the February 18-21, 2024 Association of Towns Training School and Annual Meeting in NYC.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Laura Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2024 Poll Site Agreement with the Otsego County Board of Elections for using the New Lisbon Town Hall for 2024 elections.

Financial reports were submitted to the Board. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he was happy with the overall figures for the year. After the AUD (Annual Update Document) is completed for 2023 he will work on a new financial ten-year plan. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$99.00 from Contingent Account #A1990.4 to Association Dues Account #1920.4 and to transfer \$354,064.37 from unassigned fund balance to DA 5130.2 Machinery Equipment to cover the bill for the new grader. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Curtis and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #1 through #19 for a total of \$120,764.96 and Highway Fund bills #1 through #14 for a total of \$369,602.29 and a bill from Assessor Pamela Dyn Gohde for \$62.50 for NYS Association dues. General Fund bills #247 through #250 for a total of \$1,175.79 were paid by the Supervisor with prior Board approval.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson will audit the Justice office, Councilwoman Laura Curtis will audit the Supervisor's office and Councilman Scott Fickbohm will audit the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office.

Planning Board Chairman Matt Palmer was present to discuss updating current regulations. The Hwy. Supt. would like to have all driveways installed as part of the subdivision process. Currently he reviews the locations with the subdivider, but doesn't actually do the driveways until the new owner contacts him. In the case of a minor or major subdivision he would rather commit a day or two to install any necessary driveway sluice pipes and have then he wouldn't have to keep going back to the area and do one at a time as the parcels sell. Chairman Matt Palmer advised that the Planning Board was in favor of adding that requirement to the subdivision regulations. They have been reviewing the subdivision regulations and they would like to see a minimum lot size for a simple subdivision of 2.5 acres and a minimum lot size for minor and major subdivisions of 5 acres. Chairman Palmer added that they would ultimately like to see a land use regulation law that includes all items and issues. Since that will take time to draft, it was suggested to do a Local Law to amend the subdivision law to add the driveway installation

requirement and the minimum lot sizes. The Board had no objection to doing this, so Supervisor Edward Lentz will work on drafting a local law to make the amendments to the Subdivision Regulations. The Board discussed the proposed garbage & junk law, unsafe building law and enforcement issues. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to allow the Planning Board to count any time spent on working on our regulations to count towards their annual training time.

With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:40 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk