



# Town of New Lisbon

908 County Highway 16

Garrattsville NY 13342

(607) 965-2112

## **2023 IN REVIEW**

### **TAXES, BUDGET, AND FUND BALANCE**

Town finances are in good shape. The 2024 town tax levy only increased by 3.0%, despite high inflation in 2022 and 2023. We stayed within the NYS Tax Cap and within the increase projected for 2024 in our ten year financial plan. Our fund balance, which is earmarked for foreseeable future needs, e.g., assessment re-evaluation, equipment purchases and capital improvements, as well as for unforeseen emergencies, is approximately \$650,000 (\$650K) and is also on plan.

### **NEW TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE**

The official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Town Highway Garage took place on December 14 and the Highway Department moved in shortly thereafter. There were no cost overruns and the project was completed within a month of the scheduled completion date. Closing on the USDA loan (\$1.981 million) and grant (\$700K) is expected to occur during the first half of 2024. We now have a town highway garage that the whole town can be proud of and that meets the needs of our Highway Workers.

### **TOWN HIGHWAYS**

The Highway Department continues to do a great job maintaining our town roads. In 2023, the town resurfaced most of Gardnertown Road in addition to "routine" maintenance, like ditching, repairing and replacing culverts, mowing, tree trimming, honing, etc. In 2023, we purchased a new John Deere 622G grader at a cost of \$354K, with help from a \$30K grant and a \$150K loan from USDA, with the rest coming from NYS Highway funding ("CHIPS") and the sale of our 2009 Volvo Grader.

For 2024, we raised the hourly wages of our Highway Workers from \$21.00 to \$24.00. The Town Board felt this was the right thing to do because we were beginning to fall behind the county and neighboring municipalities. We want to treat our employees well and we want our Highway Department to continue to be an employer of choice.

Please remember that our Highway Department employees are dedicated and diligent and are doing the best they can to maintain our roads and to keep them clear during the winter. If you have concerns or questions about our roads, please discuss them, courteously, with Hwy Superintendent Don Smith (965 8287) or with the Town Board. And, remember, don't shovel or plow snow from your driveway out onto our roads.

### **TOWN GOVERNMENT**

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Supervisor: Ed Lentz  
Deputy Supervisor: Nancy Martin-Mathewson  
Councilpersons: Laura Curtis, Scott Fickbohm, Brian Ryther  
Highway Superintendent: Don Smith

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Justice: Glen Noto  
Clerk/Collector: Charlene Wells  
Assessor: Pam Dyn-Gohde  
Website: [thetownofnewlisbon.com](http://thetownofnewlisbon.com)

Councilpersons Flo Loomis and Bill Whitaker have stepped down from the Town Board and we thank them for their service. Newly elected to serve in 2024-2027 are Laura Curtis and Scott Fickbohm. Welcome and thank you, Laura and Scott.

We are always looking for persons to fill town positions, some paid and some volunteer, some elected and some appointed. In particular, at this time, we are looking for a Land Use Enforcement Officer. If you would like to find out more about this or other positions, please contact Clerk Charlene Wells at 965 8508 or charlene\_r\_wells@yahoo.com.

### **CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY (CSC)**

With our DEC Climate Smart Community certification in hand, the town has moved on to become designated a NYSERDA Clean Energy Community, resulting in an award of \$5K with additional awards of up to \$65K expected in 2024. Among the ideas under consideration for use of these awards are a PV electricity generation system, air source heat pumps for the Town Hall and the office area of the Highway Garage, an EV charging station, and an EV medium duty truck. For more information, see the town website or call Councilperson Nancy Martin-Mathewson at 263 5784.

### **LAND USE AND BUILDING CODES**

The town board is considering changes to our land use laws that would create a 2-1/2 acre minimum lot size requirement for simple (1 parcel) subdivisions and a 5 acre minimum for larger subdivisions. A new local law to address the garbage and junk problem remains under consideration.

If you are planning to build, install a driveway, change the use of your land, subdivide, or make other changes to your property, please start by consulting the Land Use Guide, which can be found in the Digital Filing Cabinet under the Documents tab in the town website. You can also check with Clerk Charlene Wells or Hwy Superintendent Don Smith.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SQUAD**

The Garrattsville Fire Company (GFC) volunteer firefighters and EMT's do a great job and are vital to the health and safety of town residents. To find out what you can do to support GFC, please call Lenny (437 4694) or Keith (965 2109) for more information.

### **RECREATION**

Take advantage of New Lisbon's outdoor recreation resources. Bicycle along the Texas Schoolhouse - Gilbert Lake bicycle route, ride in the CNYC/BVA cycling event, hike or ski on the trails in Texas Schoolhouse State Forest and Gilbert Lake State Park, or fish the Butternut at the DEC public fishing sites on SH51 or on Backus Road.

### **SUMMARY**

Town finances are in good shape, taxes have gone up but well below the rate of inflation and only as planned, we have a new highway garage and new equipment, and our roads are well kept. We look forward to a great year in 2024! NOTE: (our town website is now: [thetownofnewlisbon.com](http://thetownofnewlisbon.com))