

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JUNE 11, 2024—7:00 PM—PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2024 PROHIBITING THE ACCUMULATION OF GARBAGE AND JUNK

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Councilwoman Laura Curtis, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, DCO Keegan Holt, Residents: Karin Catania, Susan Smith, Lenny Melillo, Jeff Lukeman, David Sanchez, Brian Holt, Joseph Gregory, James Gregory, George Knarich, Daniel Vibbard, Bruce Page

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the public hearing at 7:05 PM on the proposed Local Law # 2 of 2024, a local law Prohibiting the Accumulation of Garbage and Junk. Joseph Gregory commented that the fine of up to \$500.00 per week is steep for our depressed area and feels the town residents will be very upset with the Board if they enact this. Susan Smith questioned if we had found a person to be our Land Use Enforcement Officer who would enforce the proposed law. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the position is vacant, but the Board could appoint anyone to be the enforcer of the law. He further noted that the main reason for the law is that the most complaints we receive from residents is about neighbors who hoard garbage and junk causing health and safety issues and decreased property values. Jeff Lukeman questioned whose definition of junk was used. He keeps old cars and appliances and other items to use for parts. David Sanchez noted that he sells cars and can have many cars at times. Supervisor Lentz noted that the proposed law has nothing to do with cars, as it is NY state law which says you can only have two unregistered cars on a property. Susan Smith commented that she thought the law would be used by residents who have issues with their neighbors and that we can't legislate taking pride in your property. Joseph Gregory added that he thinks people should have the choice to keep junk/scrap items until the prices are good to sell. Bruce Page commented that the law would be used to take people's property away by having fines attached to their tax bills. Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that that provision was not in the current proposed law. The Board has been working on this law for several years and the new version provides for the local court to set the fines, up to \$500.00 per week. Mr. Page acknowledged that he had not read the current version of the proposed law. Councilman Scott Fickbohm suggested that maybe we need to come up with a compromised version, focusing on the garbage issue mostly. Supervisor Edward Lentz added that if people would keep their junk out of view and orderly it wouldn't be an issue. Jeff Lukeman noted that no one in attendance spoke in favor of the proposed law, although he didn't think the garbage part of the law was bad. With no further comments, Supervisor Edward Lentz closed the public hearing at 7:56 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—JUNE 11, 2024---REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Present: same as above at hearing

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:58 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the May 14, 2024 public hearing and regular meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted they fixed the radiator in the 2009 Freightliner and still have the brakes to repair. He would like to see us put a sealer on the concrete aprons on the new highway garage before winter at an estimated cost of \$1,500.00. The paving projects on Gardnertown and Jacobson Roads were completed so the cost can be submitted for CHIPS reimbursement in August. He is waiting on the report from Delaware Engineering on Turnbull Bridge repair options. We have received our loan from USDA for the new garage. After they complete the final inspection and their final paperwork, it is expected that we will receive the balance of the grant funds which cover the related expenditures for the garage. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that 2024 actual repair costs are at \$12,490.00. The newer trucks are averaging about \$1.50 per mile, while the 2009 is about \$2.50 per mile.

Councilman Brian Ryther has requested permission to bury a 3" conduit with utilities for his maple syrup business under Bardin Road. He left the room while the Board considered his request. He proposes to dig a trench across the road 3-4 feet deep to bury the 3" conduit. Original material will be replaced. It was noted that similar cases have been done in the Town before, but Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith wanted Board approval as it is like giving an easement to our right of way. Lenny Melillo commented that they may want to go down closer to 5 feet deep to be under the frost line. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays (Councilman Ryther was absent from the vote) to approve allowing Brian Ryther to place a conduit for utilities for his Maple Syrup business under Bardin Road, with the recommendation that he may want to consider going down to 5 feet deep to be below the frost line.

An RFP has been sent out to local trash haulers for getting a bin placed at the new garage. With only one response so far, it was decided to discuss further next month.

Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde was asked to explain what the Equalization Rate that is set by the State means to us. She advised that it is how NYS determines where our assessments are in relation to sales. We are at 81% this year, with no change from last year. Sale prices County-wide have been over assessed values. She further noted that the equalization rate affects exemptions such as veteran, agriculture and Star. She advised that it is bad to be below 50%. When she assesses a new structure, she has to use the rates established at the last revaluation, which makes the new assessments lower than market value. Sales are also used for setting land values. It was noted that Edmeston, Pittsfield and Burlington were not happy with the revaluation company that they hired to complete their revaluations, so it was a good thing that we opted not to go in with them.

Lenny Melillo noted that due to a recent case, it was found out that if you call 911 from a landline you may, in some cases have to also use 607 to get the call to go through. He advised that the firehouse garage doors were serviced for \$200.00. They received a quote to seal the blacktop at the firehouse for \$1,910.00. He felt it was a good investment to keep the blacktop in shape and he noted that they didn't use any of the repair funds last year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$610.00 from Contingent #A1990.4 to A1620.44 Firehouse Repairs to cover the firehouse door servicing and blacktop sealing bills totaling \$2,110.00.

No final plat was received in regards to Subdivision #2, so no action was taken on that project. County Rep. Meg Kennedy was not in attendance. DCO Keegan Holt advised that he had several dog calls, loose dogs and a few tickets. He will be gone on National Guard duty July 12-28th. Supervisor Edward Lentz and Councilman Brian Ryther will handle simple calls while he is away and seek help from other DCOs if we have a severe case to deal with.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that we received an additional \$10,000.00 grant under the Clean Energy Program. (A \$5,000.00 grant was received earlier.) She noted that she met with NYSERDA to get an energy audit started at the Town Hall. The grant funds can then be used to fix any items found in the energy audit. Supervisor Edward Lentz thanked Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson for her work on the Climate Smart Communities Committee.

Councilmen Brian Ryther and Scott Fickbohm met to start their Facilities Committee assignment by checking over the Town Hall. Overall, the building is in good shape. It needs to be washed, a few lights need fixing and coming up with a plan for rearranging to get the Town Clerk's office ready for the next Clerk were noted as things to do. Lenny Melillo added that there is some loose siding on the back that needs fixing before having the building power washed. The town park looks nice after the Morris Youth Rec. committee did some work this spring. Councilmen Ryther and Fickbohm noted that the park sign needs to be replaced. Supervisor Lentz asked them to look into the options and costs of replacing it. Supervisor Lentz also asked them to complete the playground checklist when they meet to keep that up to date. It was noted that we may need to look at the Town Hall heating system. The current heat lines were put into the concrete slab so they might be deteriorating and could become an issue.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the Town was asked to adopt a Resolution in support of Sidney Federal Credit Union applying to the state for getting the Butternut Valley designated as a Banking Development District. If we want to consider using SFCU if they do get to open in Morris, we have to be a co-applicant, but we will not be committed to anything. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #3 of 2024 to support and approve the application of SFCU to the NYS Department of Financial Services to establish a Banking Development District and to participate in the application as a co-applicant.

Monthly financial reports had been sent to all Board members. The Board reviewed the bills during the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills # 102 through #116 for a total of \$3,155.04 and Highway Fund bills #60 through #72 for a total of \$126,581.17. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #98 through 101 for a total of \$7,224.91 with prior Board approval.

The Board discussed the proposed local law Prohibiting the Accumulation of Garbage and Junk. In light of the public comments, the Board discussed amending the proposed law to possibly lower the maximum amount of the fine, only have it pertain to garbage, issue warnings before tickets and have the

judge be able to issue fines at his discretion, etc. Supervisor Edward Lentz will relook at the law and make amendments and send out a new version for the Board to review.

George Knarich noted that he felt that we needed community events to get the community together. Supervisor Lentz encouraged him to look into how other places get funding to hold events that maybe we could utilize to hold community events.

Town Clerk Charlene Wells has received three quotes for providing a new website and technical support. Two companies were recommended by other clerks in the state, Civic Plus and Town Web. The other company, Chenango Web Design is local out of Norwich and they designed the Village of New Berlin website. For Civic Plus, the first-year cost to set up the new website and technical support would be \$3,082.00. The annual fee after that would be \$2,572.00, subject to a 5% annual increase. For Town Web, the first-year cost would be \$3,620.00, with the annual cost after that being \$2,420.00. Chenango Web Design quoted \$1,200.00 to build the website, an annual hosting fee of \$200.00 (which includes 4 hours of tech support) and free training. If more technical support is needed it would cost another \$200.00 for 4 more hours. All websites would be able to support a resident sign up to receive emails and/or text messages of important notices. Several residents said they would prefer text messages. All three options look good and would provide what we need. Clerk Wells felt it was worth looking at Chenango Web Design first since they would be the most economical and are local. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Town Clerk meet with the owners of Chenango Web Design and to enter into a contract with them if she is satisfied with all of the details.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:40 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk