

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---JULY 9, 2024---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---TOWN HALL, GARRATTSVILLE

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Laura Curtis, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Joseph Gregory, Mert Hull, Bruce Page, George Knarich, other: Meredith Baio, Ken Stabler, Jr.

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:31 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Curtis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the minutes for the June 11, 2024 public hearing and regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that they have been working on issues with both the 2009 A and 2009 B Freightliners. The New Holland tractor needs a new fuel line. The Hwy. Committee has been discussing looking at getting a 550/650 light plow truck and a tractor with a mounted mower. The light plow truck would not be replacing the large 10 wheelers because it can't hold enough sand to do a full plow route. Hwy. Supt. Smith will be getting pricing for mower options. As of January 2025, all new trucks must meet new standards in NY. The chip sealing was done on Gardnertown and Jacobson Roads so all bills for the projects can be submitted for CHIPS reimbursement in August. USDA came and did a final inspection on the new highway garage today. They were happy with everything and suggested the Town hold up the final payment to Upstate Companies until they finish the few items remaining on the punch list. The materials for the Morton building roof have been delivered and it is expected to be done this week. The Hwy. crew need to finish cleaning out the old garage so it can be left open to air out and keep the humidity down. No report has been received yet on Turnbull Bridge from Delaware Engineering. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he hopes to have a new highway employee ready to start next week. He has to have his driver's license checked, he has to pass a drug test and his application is being sent to the County per civil service rules. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson advised that our repair costs are at \$17,700.00. The energy audit was done at the Town Hall. When she gets the report, she will share with the Board. The grant funds we received can be used to make any energy saving repairs noted in the report.

Two proposals were received for a garbage dumpster at the new highway garage. Casella will supply a 6 yard dumpster, emptied every other week for \$75.00 per month. Home Town Hauling will provide a 2 yard dumpster for \$70.00 per month and a 3 yard dumpster for \$85.00 per month, both picked up every other week. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the offer from Casella of \$75.00 per month for a six-yard dumpster to be set up at the new highway garage, to be emptied every other week.

The Planning Board met on July 1, 2024 and reviewed and recommended approval on a simple subdivision #3-2024 for Kenneth and Teresa Stabler off Jones Road. The private access road off Jones Road will need a new culvert pipe per Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith. The Board completed the short EAF and a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to issue a finding of no significant adverse environmental impacts for Subdivision #3. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve subdivision application #3 of 2024 for a simple subdivision for Kenneth and Teresa Stabler on tax map #158.00-1-25.21 off Jones Road. Subdivision #2 was on the agenda to have the final plat approved but the representatives did not come to the meeting.

Mert Hull gave the 2nd quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had six calls for a total of 59-man hours, with an average of 5 members per call. They also had 168-man hours of training/meetings during the 2nd quarter. The Board thanked the fire department for their service.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that she missed our meeting last month because she was at a National Association of Counties meeting in Washington, DC. She noted that it was 3 days of intense sessions on adaptive leadership issues. The County Board has the data for their capital equipment plan and now will put it into a multi-year plan document with timelines and budgets. The IGA committee approved federal funds for transportation in the County. Rep. Kennedy noted that the fee to get rid of mattresses is high because they have to be shipped out to the western part of the state. They are hoping to find a closer disposal site. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and Supervisor Edward Lentz both

advised that they have been to the transfer station and the cardboard drop off spot is closed so they have to put it in the regular recycling area. Rep. Kennedy will check and see what is going on with that.

DCO Keegan Holt was not present at the meeting. George Knarich was happy with Governor Hochul for opening up state parks for free during heat waves. He heard that maybe air conditioners could be given out through HEAP. Councilman Scott Fickbohm reported that he and Councilman Brian Ryther had completed the park/playground inspection and found a few minor things that need fixing. The kitchen light bulbs were replaced. They started washing the town hall siding. Contractor Richard Dennis has fixed the loose meeting room ceiling tiles.

Supervisor Edward Lentz discussed the 2025 Budget timeline. The Board will review the 2025 Tentative Budget on September 24, 2024, with the public hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget being on October 8, 2024 and adoption of the 2025 Final Budget would be on November 12, 2024. He noted that he had asked NYSEG why our bills have increased by so much, but he has not received a response. Supervisor Lentz wants to get the public aware of the town offices that will be on the ballot in 2025 to start January 2026. The Town Clerk and Supervisor met with Zachary Janczak of Chenango Web Design about doing our new website. We could do a community alert by email, but to have it by text would be done by a separate contractor, costing \$400.00-\$500.00 per year. We opted to stay with the email only option. We would be able to set up a common email, but were unsure how to do the four council positions. Supervisor Lentz has to finish reviewing the contract, but the meeting overall was good and it seems like it will be a good option for us. Supervisor Edward Lentz discussed finding a Land Use Enforcement Officer and/or a Town Constable to be able to handle land use issues. The Town of Butternuts has recently approved getting a constable. Bruce Page questioned if a constable would be armed. It was thought that they probably would be. A Land Use Enforcement Officer would not be armed. Supervisor Lentz will continue to do some more research.

Justice Glen Noto has asked permission to attend the annual Justice conference in September. No exact details on cost were known. In the past the Town has covered all costs for attending conferences. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Curtis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize Justice Glen Noto to attend the annual Justice conference in September as a town expense.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he believes we will have a fund balance of about \$525,000.00 at the year's end. He has earmarked funds for a revaluation and comprehensive plan update, but those two items can't be set up in formal reserves. Highway equipment and bridges can have formal reserves set up. Due to an increase in our insurance package renewal, funds have to be transferred into Insurance account #A1910.4. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Curtis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to increase Insurance #A1910.4 by \$6,675.48, transferring \$3,500.00 from Land Use Enforcement Officer #A8010.1, \$2,246.00 from Contingent #A1990.4 and \$929.48 from Attorney #A1420.4. The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Laura Curtis and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #122 through #136 for a total of \$39,589.79 and Highway Fund bills #73 through #85 for a total of \$54,723.42. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #117 through #121 for a total of \$681.33 with prior Board approval. Hwy. bill #85 to USDA for interest due on the grader loan will be paid by electronic transfer.

Supervisor Edward Lentz had made adjustments to the proposed Garbage & Junk law following the comments received at last month's public hearing. Attorney Michele Kennedy had reviewed the revised draft and her only comment was that she advised "against a cap for cumulative violations as this could result in a perpetual junk yard once the cap is reached". George Knarich commented that he felt the Board needs to do more to get information out to people better, like go door to door. The Board discussed how the fines would work, how the judge would handle, etc. A question was asked on how many other towns have a similar law. A lot of towns have laws, as Supervisor Lentz noted he used other towns laws for building his draft, but he is unsure how many. Councilman Scott Fickbohm commented that he thought it was the job of the Board to help protect property values in town with property being the main asset that people have. Councilwoman Laura Curtis was in favor of a law because she doesn't want to see junk all over town. She would like more research on the fines section. Councilman Brian Ryther added that he was in favor of a garbage and junk law and most of the input he gets from residents are in favor of having a law. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson also is in favor of a law with the biggest problem she sees is enforcing it. Councilman Fickbohm added that he needs more information on how the penalty phase

would work, but is in favor of a law. Supervisor Lentz will do some more research on the fines/penalties section and consult with the Town Justice on how the court would handle.

Joseph Gregory commented if people can't afford garbage disposal, they are not going to be able to afford fines. Supervisor Lentz noted that is why it would be left up to the judge's discretion as he could take into account all aspects of the situation. George Knarich asked if it was the same people who were making the complaints. Town Clerk Charlene Wells noted that there were different kinds of complaints from different people from different sections of town. Mr. Knarich thinks that instead of more laws, the community should just help each other out. With no more comments and 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 9:35 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk