

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 29, 2024---11:15 AM SPECIAL MEETING---PRIVATE BURIAL LAW, HEAT PUMP PROPOSAL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Joseph Gregory, Pete Chase, NP Environmental rep. Nicholas Pryputniewicz

Absent: Councilman Scott Fickbohm

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the special meeting at 11:15 AM. He advised that he had received a call from David Delker, Funeral Director from Edmeston that James and Andrea Denekamp had wanted to do a private burial of their deceased infant on their property on Quinlog Road. Our Local Law #2 of 1996 prohibits a family or private cemetery without the establishment of a \$10,000.00 fund for the perpetual maintenance of the plot. Mr. Delker advised that he thought we were the only town in the County that had this type of law. New York State allows for private burials with specific guidelines. Town Clerk Charlene Wells advised that the old minutes first referenced the town being against private burial plots back in 1975. There are many abandoned family burial plots in the town which the town does not have to maintain, only abandoned public cemeteries are town responsibility. When property is sold, these sites become abandoned and not legally accessible to future generations of the deceased. It is believed this was the main reason for the local law that was adopted in 1996 to prohibit a family or private cemetery. The fee of \$10,000.00 was set by the Board by resolution in 1996, with no procedure being established for the maintenance fund. The Board discussed the law and options available to them. The only way to get rid of the law is to pass another law to repeal it, which would require additional consideration and discussion and a public hearing. Their only option to allow this private burial at this time would be to determine the fee for the maintenance fund. After further discussion a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to set the amount of the maintenance fund for a family or private cemetery at \$0.00. The Board will look at repealing or amending the law in the future.

Nicholas Pryputniewicz was present to discuss the proposal from NP Environmental for placing heat pumps at the town hall. The total cost of the system would be \$78,865.00 minus a \$10,000.00 rebate for a cost of \$68,865.00 to the town. The proposed system would consist of 3 units, two on the big meeting room end and one on the office end. Our current furnace can be left for use as a backup heat source. The main reason for looking at heat pumps is the age and condition of the current system with the uncertainty of the condition of the heat pipes in the floors. The heat pump system would have a 20-year life span, with high reliability and low maintenance and a 12-year warranty on the equipment. They would suggest an annual check and cleaning of the units and coils. Our 200 amp electric service is okay to operate the 3 heat pumps. In case of a power outage without the oil furnace, we would need a 25,000 watt generator to run the heat pumps, where we would probably only need a 12,000 watt generator to run the town hall now. The outside units would be set on the ground on concrete pads. Installing heat pumps would be a pro-active approach as eventually all heating systems will be heat pumps. As far as covering the cost of the heat pumps, we have received \$15,000.00 in grants which we could use. Supervisor Lentz checked on the Justice Court grants for that end of the building, but they have just closed taking applications for the upcoming cycle of grants. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that we would be eligible for a \$50,000.00 grant once we reached enough points. She will check and see if installing heat pumps would help get us to that level. It was discussed that we could wait until the current system fails or if we can get the \$50,000.00 grant for installing heat pumps, it would almost cover the total cost. There may also be alternative funding sources such as USDA. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson asked if we could get the proposal cut in half for each end of the building if we opted to do only one half at this time. Nicholas Pryputniewicz will get us prices for the two-part option and check with NYSEG on if the rebate could be spread over two years. Supervisor Lentz will check and see if we would have to put out for bids on the system due to the total cost.

With no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk