

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—NOVEMBER 12, 2024—7:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, Residents: Lenny Melillo, Mert Hull, Keith Woodbeck, George Knarich, Bruce Page, Robert Schenfeld

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes / 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the October 8, 2024 regular monthly meeting and October 29, 2024 special meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that all the big trucks were serviced and minor repairs were made totaling about \$10,000.00. The pickups got tires and repairs. He still needs to get some tires for the big trucks. The final funds have been received from USDA so money spent on garage items will be reimbursed to the machinery contractual budget line. NYSDEC came out and did an inspection of the fuel tanks and cited us for several violations. Hwy. Supt. Smith noted they had to replace a cracked gauge, fixed some painting, have to submit pre-notification paperwork for removing the old garage fuel oil tanks and have to fix the secondary containment around the fuel tanks. In the old garage they have about half of the ceiling down and have put in the cement blocks for the salt area. He advised that many other towns are starting looking at rebuilding trucks due to the high cost of new trucks. He is going to look into what it would cost for us to rebuild the 2009 B Freightliner as it only has about 12,000 miles on the motor and transmission. The new County radio tower is going up but we don't have a date when we will have to change over. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he would like to get new equipment estimated at about \$10,000.00 to put on the new tower as our current equipment is old. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that we have spent \$28,519.00 in repairs in 2024 compared to \$26,205.00 in 2022 and \$35,500.00 in 2023. Newer trucks are costing about \$1.10 to \$1.30 per mile and the 09 is at \$2.70 per mile. Since this year will have 27 pay periods, the bookkeeper will be questioned if the employees' medical insurance deduction will apply to the extra payroll. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 4 Ayes/0 Nays/1 Abstention -Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, to transfer \$17,219.39 from the A Fund to DA 5130.4 Machinery Contractual.

Mert Hull gave the Third Quarter report for the Garrattsville Fire Company. They had 7 calls for 83-man hours, averaging 6 members per call. They also had 99-man hours in training and meetings. The Board is grateful for their service to the Town.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy was absent as she had to attend a meeting in Hartwick. DCO Keegan Holt was not in attendance.

The Planning Board met on November 4, 2024 and recommended approval of Site Plan #1 of 2024 for Keith and Melaina Woodbeck for a multi-use commercial building. The Planning Board further requested that a waiver be issued for use of the existing sign (section 100-4.6. Letter C #5) since the previous business and sign were in place before we had regulations. Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck recused herself from discussion and voting. The Town Board completed Part 2 of the Short EAF and a motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes / 0 Nays / 1 Abstention-Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, to issue a determination that there will be no significant environmental impact in regards to Site Plan Application #1 of 2024. Parking was discussed. There are parking spaces for tenants out behind the building and with the tanning salon only having two beds, there will be less customers at a time then when the store was operating. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays/ 1 Abstention-Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, to approve Site Plan Application #1-2024 for a multipurpose commercial building with tanning salon, three apartments and possible gas pumps at 940 County Hwy. 16, Garrattsville for Keith and Melaina Woodbeck, including further approval of using the existing interior lit sign.

Gary Fenstermaker and Christine Butler requested a setback variance to 50 feet for placing an 8 ft. by 40 ft. storage container for use while they demolish the old home and build a new home on South Welcome Road. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson to approve a setback variance to 50 feet for Gary Fenstermaker and Christine Butler at 164 South Welcome Road for a storage container. Councilman Brian Ryther did not feel that they needed a setback variance because a storage container does not qualify as a structure. After further

discussion, the Board voted 0 Ayes/ 5 Nays to approve a setback variance to 50 feet for Gary Fenstermaker and Christine Butler for a storage container. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to advise Gary Fenstermaker and Christine Butler that no setback variance was required for placing a storage container on their South Welcome Road property because a storage container is not considered a real structure. They will be advised to get together with the Highway Supt. about using multiple accesses off the town road when they only have one approved driveway.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson advised the Board on the grant information discussed previously for use to obtain heat pumps for the town hall. The grant amount has been lowered to \$40,000.00 (down from \$50,000.00) and can only be used for a future project. We would have to find an alternative funding source to proceed with installing heat pumps. The price was split at \$28,855.00 for the large meeting room end and \$50,010.00 for the office end of the building. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson further noted that she had read that they are not accepting any high impact actions at this time, so she has to check on that further. Another option for using the \$15,000.00 in grant funds that the Town did receive was to use it to install a solar system at the town hall. Two quotes had been received earlier in the year, \$21,870.00 from Revolution Solar and \$21,432.00 from Solar Liberty. She was not sure if we could get a NYSEDA credit or a refundable tax credit to help lower the cost. Councilman Brian Ryther hoped that the Country would stay on the current tract of supporting solar as many jobs have been started. He suggested that maybe we wait until spring to pursue since there is uncertainty now about the direction of renewable energy sources. The solar panels would have a thirty-year lifespan, with a payback in twelve years.

Councilman Scott Fickbohm submitted an estimate from Prolifiq Sign Studio for a replacement for the park sign. They would charge \$476.00 for the aluminum composite sign panel with a printed vinyl graphic or \$726.00 for the sign and installation. He will check with the Otsego County sign shop to see what they would charge to make a sign. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the top board is split on the town hall entrance sign. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith will ask employee Barry Braunius if he would be interested in replacing it as he was the one who previously worked on it.

We received notice that the Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Conference is scheduled for February 16th-19th, 2025 in NYC. Supervisor Lentz will email details to Board members.

Supervisor Edward Lentz has been reaching out to other places to see if they would be available for dog shelter services because of the notice from the SSPCA that they will be charging us an extra \$2,500.00 in 2025 on top of their normal fees. Chenango SPCA has advised that they can't help us as they are already overloaded and have no 24 hour drop off capability. A possibility would be if someone local would want to open a shelter to temporarily hold dogs. Lenny Melillo suggested asking Lisa and John Powell as they both work from home. Councilman Ryther suggested checking with a place on Bemis Road. The SSPCA has advised they will do quarterly payments in case we find an alternative during the year.

The regular January 2025 meeting will be on the 14th, so it was decided to hold the 2025 Organizational meeting on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025. Supervisor Lentz will not be able to attend so Deputy Supervisor Nancy Martin-Mathewson will chair the Organizational meeting. We will confirm the date next month to make sure it will work for all others.

The Board received monthly financial reports for review. Councilman Fickbohm questioned if memos can be added for transfers so they know what and where funds are being transferred. Supervisor Lentz noted he will ask the bookkeeper if this can be done. He added that mostly funds are held in money market accounts with higher interest rates and then transferred into checking accounts and trust and agency (payroll) as needed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$500.00 from A110.4 Justice Contractual and \$500.00 from A1010.4 Town Board Contractual into A5132.4 Highway Garage Contractual to cover utility bills.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pay General Fund bills #194 through #208 for a total of \$16,296.17 and Highway fund bills #117 through #130 for a total of \$48,961.24. General Fund bills #188 through #193 for a total of \$807.76 were paid by Supervisor Lentz with prior Board approval.

The Board discussed the medical insurance options for 2025 with MVP. Supervisor Edward Lentz suggested we switch to the MVP Bronze plan from our current MVP Silver plan for 2025 to save on the monthly premiums. The employees save by not having any co-payments for prescriptions, but the Town would be on the hook for a higher deductible amount. The employees have never reached the total

deductible amount in the past. The Bronze plan would be a 2.8% increase over 2024 premiums, whereas the Silver plan would be a 11.52% increase over 2024 premiums. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the MVP Bronze plan for 2025 Highway Employee Medical Insurance at monthly premiums of \$761.10 for single and \$2,171.99 for the family plan. The Board will determine the employee contribution next month.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he made several adjustments to the 2025 Preliminary Budget including changing streetlights to \$1,700.00, deleting the \$15,000.00 in justice grants and increasing Association of Towns dues by \$1.00 to \$800.00. By picking the MVP Bronze plan the total of DA 9060.8 for the premiums would be lowered to \$48,754.00. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to make the above noted changes and to delete the Hwy. Contingent line and increase the Health Insurance Deductible line DA9060.81 to \$28,400.00 in the 2025 Preliminary Budget. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt the revised 2025 Preliminary Budget as the 2025 Final Budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to repeal Local Law # 2 of 1996, a local law to prohibit a family or private cemetery, by adopting a new local law #3 of 2024, a local law to repeal local law #2 of 1996, subject to a public hearing which will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM. The Board feels since the Town is not responsible by law for family or private burial sites and NYS has laws to cover the requirements of doing a private burial, there is no need for local law #2 of 1996.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to advertise for fuel bids for 2025 to be opened at the December 10, 2024 meeting.

The Planning Board has requested that the Town Board consider allowing them to join the NYS Planning Federation so that they can access their training offerings. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to have the Town join the NYS Planning Federation for 2025 at a cost of \$295.00.

Lenny Melillo suggested that since there are more and more storage containers being moved into town, that the Board should set a policy on them and also get a setback law on the books. There needs to be more definite rules and less gray areas.

With no further comments and no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk