

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---DECEMBER 10, 2024---7:30 PM—TOWN HALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2024-TO REPEAL LOCAL LAW #2 OF 1996**

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, County Historian Deb Mackenzie, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Lenny Melillo, George Knarich

Absent: Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Scott Fickbohm

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the public hearing on proposed Local Law #3 of 2024, a local law to repeal Local Law #2 of 1996, which prohibited a family or private cemetery. George Knarich questioned if this would mean that people could be buried on private property. Supervisor Lentz answered yes, with the old law repealed, people could be buried on private property, but they would have to adhere to the NYS rules on private burials. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde noted that people can't get a property tax exemption on private burial sites, only public cemeteries can get tax exemptions. With no further comments, Supervisor Lentz closed the public hearing at 7:35 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—DECEMBER 10, 2024

Present: same as above

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:35 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the November 12, 2024 regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that he got new tires for truck #19. The 2009 Freightliner slid into the guardrail during the one storm and a wrecker had to be called. After that it ruptured an air tank and they are waiting on the part to fix that. They have the excavator, with about 2000 hours on it, in the shop to replace a pin and bushings. The 284 Agreement will have to be approved at the Organizational meeting so he can make his plans and purchases for the upcoming projects. In regards to the cited violations with the fuel pumps, all repairs have been made and Hwy. Supt. Smith advised that he sent in all the paperwork and photos to the NYSDEC. The Hwy. Committee was putting out an RFP for fire alarm monitoring for 2025. The highway crew is still working on tearing down the ceiling in the old garage preparing to use it as a salt shed. Supt. Smith is trying to get Stevenson Equipment to bring out a Mantis mower for them to look at. Once he gets the lumber for the Turnbull Bridge deck, they will build it in sections in the garage. The Hwy. crew will be having their annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training on Thursday. We just received a shared services agreement from the County Hwy. Dept. The Hwy. Committee will review it and recommend to the Town Board in January. Repair costs for 2024 are at \$43,200.00 compared to \$45,000.00 in 2023 and \$33,200.00 in 2022. Fuel costs are \$1.28 for the 2019, \$1.34 for the 2020, \$2.16 for the 2018 and \$4.16 for the 2009. Supt. Smith is looking at the costs to upgrade the 2009 B Freightliner. Driveway permits for Coyote Hollow Park were received. One was approved, but one needs a new culvert before the Hwy. Supt. will sign off on it.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that the workers compensation figures are out for 2025. She said that she once again asked for the amount that is allocated to the fire department members so that they can figure out what the cost is per member. The County Board approved their 2025 Budget with an additional \$218,219.00 over the tax cap. There were increases in multiple areas including salaries, sheriff deputies, etc. She advised that the County has 591 positions with 103 being vacant. Rep. Kennedy noted that the IGA Committee had a meeting with the This is Cooperstown tourism group. They explained their programs and advised that tourist related events can be added to their calendar. The Southern transfer station is being redesigned to eventually pull out organic materials and construction debris from the trash. It was told to her by three in attendance, all with different trash haulers, that many times the recyclables are just dumped in with the trash. She will check on this with the Solid Waste department.

DCO Keegan Holt was not in attendance. There was no update from the Facilities Committee. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson discussed with MVEDD regarding using

the \$15,000.00 in NYSEDA grant funds we received for solar or heat pumps at the town hall. It is going to be recommended to the Facilities Committee that we issue an RFP for solar for the Town Hall and see what proposals we get. With the cost of heat pumps for the town hall being about \$75,000.00, at least if we did do the solar project we would get points towards the next level of grant.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he had spoken with Planning Board Chairman Matt Palmer and they agreed that getting a setback local law should be a priority. Supervisor Lentz will work on drafting a law for review. Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck questioned about getting another law without enforcement. Supervisor Lentz noted that the Board can be the enforcement officer until we get a part-time Land Use Enforcement Officer. It would be more expensive to get a Constable. Councilman Brian Ryther felt that it was two separate issues, one that we need a setback law and two, that we need enforcement. Lenny Melillo commented that it is a public safety issue having things too close to the road. The Board discussed what type of items should be included in the setback requirement, with ideas of anything not self-propelled or anything not natural for breakaway standards being suggested.

Supervisor Lentz is working on a 2024 in review newsletter. We are working on getting the new website up and running. He also wants to look at getting us all .gov email addresses. The Board discussed whether we should put out for bids on our insurance package or at least have Gates-Cole get us several options to review. A reminder that all town officials and employees need to take the annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training and email the Town Clerk that they have taken it.

Otsego County Historian Deb Mackenzie addressed the Board about her request that they consider passing a proclamation in support of the local efforts to commemorate the America 250 celebration in 2026. She advised that a group of historians, including our Town Historian Virginia Schoradt are working on coming up with ideas including a logo contest, photo contest, historical trail, etc. She noted that about 50% of the towns in the County have signed the support proclamation. There is no monetary or other commitment involved. Anyone with ideas or who would be interested in volunteering can reach out to the group through the Town Historian. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #5 of 2024, a Proclamation to support the work of the Otsego County Historian and Town Historian on America-250 related activities with all participants being volunteers and no compensation for participation.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to set the 2025 Organizational meeting for Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall.

Only one bid was received for fuel products from Buell Fuel of Deansboro. For Summer Diesel they bid \$2.3049 fluctuating price (+.0700 differential) or \$2.5033 fixed price. For Winter diesel they bid \$2.3779 fluctuating price (+.0700 differential) or \$2.6433 fixed price. For Gas they bid \$2.0527 fluctuating price (+.1000 differential) with no fixed price. For Fuel Oil they bid \$2.3179 fluctuating price (+.1500 differential) or \$2.6510 fixed price. For Propane they bid \$1.4115 fluctuating price (+.4000 differential) or \$1.6210 fixed price. They offered service plans on our furnaces for \$199.00 each. After further discussion on the fluctuating or fixed options a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/0 Nays to accept the fluctuating prices from Buell Fuel for all products and the \$199.00 furnace plan on four furnaces.

After reviewing figures for employee contribution rates for medical insurance from several years, the Board agreed to keep the amounts about 12% of the premium. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to set the 2025 employee contribution amounts for medical insurance to \$91.00 for single, \$155.00 for Employee & Child, \$182.90 for Employee & Spouse and \$261.00 for Family.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to reappoint Carol Lernihan to a new five-year term on the New Lisbon Board of Assessment Review.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adopt Local Law #3 of 2024, a local law to repeal Local Law #2 of 1996, a local law to prohibit a family or private cemetery. Local Law #2 of 1996 is hereby repealed in its entirety. This law will take effect upon filing with the NYS Secretary of State.

A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to make the following appropriation changes to cover bills:
1. Increase Justice Contractual #A1110.4 by \$44.03. Transfer from Town Clerk Contractual #1410.4. 2. Increase Planning Contractual #A8020.4 by \$413.58. Transfer from Town Clerk Contractual A1410.4. 3. Increase Machinery Contractual #DA5130.4 by \$2,000.00. Transfer from Snow Contractual #DA 5142.4.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 3 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #214 through #236 for a total of \$4,688.80 and Highway Fund bills #131 through #144 for a total of \$21,464.98. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #209 through #213 for a total of \$1,215.46 with prior Board approval.

With no further comments or business, the Board adjourned at 9:35 PM by acclamation.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk