

# NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—FEBRUARY 11, 2025

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL

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

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:35 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 January 14, 2025 regular meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that they have been kept busy with the winter weather and have kept everything going. He noted that so far in 2025 they have used 267.5 hours of overtime compared to a total used in 2024 of 298 hours and 2023 277.5 hours. Salt has become a hot commodity and he is unsure when he will get another load so he will have to ration it out to the most needed spots. We will also have to replace a lot of sand as they have been using a lot of that. All of this could mean making budget adjustments later in the year. They have been having a humidity issue in the new garage with some mold starting. They will be talking to the engineer about ways to fix the problem. The word so far on CHIPS funding is that it will stay the same in the NY State budget, but that could change. The decking materials have been ordered for Turnbull Bridge. Highway employee Julian Lentz will be leaving, with his last day being February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Discussion was held on possibly hiring Bill Whitaker as a part-time MEO or HMEO. Supt. Smith also noted he might have an employee retiring in the fall. If we want to hire a part-timer, we have to create the positions per civil service rules. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther to approve creating the positions of Part-time MEO and Part-time HMEO to help with openings in the highway department. Hwy. Supt. Smith noted that he has been receiving more weather related complaints this year, mostly from newer residents who haven't gone through this type of winter. He is not sure if he will attend the Advocacy Day in Albany on March 5, 2025, as it depends on the weather. The new County radio tower is up and he is waiting for information about moving our radio equipment to the new tower. Because our current equipment is old and outdated, he anticipates it will cost us about \$10,000.00 to get new equipment for the new tower. More money has been spent on gas and diesel so far this year than repairs.

Robert Schenfeld questioned if hiring part-time workers would benefit us and the answer was yes because we would not pay part-time position benefits. County Rep. Meg Kennedy was not in attendance. DCO Keegan Holt was not in attendance. The Board would like him to submit a monthly report by email if he is not going to make it to the meetings.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson advised that she received word from Nichols Energy that they would not be submitting a proposal for solar at the town hall because they don't do installs on roofs. So far, we have received a proposal from Revolution Solar, with all proposals being due in by March 24, 2025. Councilman Scott Fickbohm advised that he had ordered the new town park sign from Prolifig.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that in ongoing discussions about getting Christopher Farrell certified as assessor, he is going to have to go back and relook at time that he spent in real estate to see if he can come up with 720 hours over the past years. If not, we can try to get a Deputy Assessor position certified by civil service rules. The assessor's current term expires on September 30, 2025. Supervisor Lentz noted that he is reaching out to other area assessors to see if any of them would be interested. Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde noted that the assessor shortage is state wide. She suggested to the state that they hold training at BOCES or Community Colleges.

A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the 2025 Poll Site Agreement with the Otsego County Board of Elections for using the New Lisbon Town Hall as our poll site. Primary Election Day is June 24, 2025 and Election Day is November 4, 2025.

Supervisor Edward Lentz submitted a first draft of ideas for a Setback Law. Councilman Scott Fickbohm noted that he couldn't find other setback laws to look at, which could be because setbacks are included in zoning laws. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith noted that the NYSDOT has a 75-foot setback, like our town policy has been. Supervisor Lentz will continue working on the draft law. A public hearing will be held once it is in its final form.

The Annual Financial Report to the NYS Comptroller won't be done until the end of February. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he would submit an extension request in case it is not done by the end of the month. He will try to share it with the Board members before filing it. The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #20 through #30 for a total of \$6,684.10 and Highway Fund bills #15 through #23 for a total of \$15,911.00. General Fund bills #16 through #19 for a total of \$811.41 were paid by Supervisor Lentz with prior Board approval.

Supervisor Edward Lentz would like to review the employee handbook and town policies with the Town Board by working on a few each month. He proposed that Board members review the documents according to his list before each meeting so they don't have to read them at the meetings, just discuss if any updates were needed. (March-Employee Handbook 4-9, April-Employee Handbook 10-15, May-Employee Handbook 16-20, June-Playground Policy, Dust Control and Town Justice Office Policy, July-Procurement Policy, Best Value Procurement, Investment Policy, August-Equal Employment Opportunity, Sexual Harassment Prevention, Work Place Violence, September-Code of Ethics, Email, Social Media, October-Drug Free Work Place, Drug & Alcohol, Smoking Policy.)

Councilman Scott Fickbohm noted that the town hall phones don't work well. The Verizon lines have been causing trouble for years, especially when it rains. They fix them temporarily, but won't upgrade the lines. Maybe we could look into getting Spectrum cable phones for at least two of the lines, keeping one land line which should work when the power is out. With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk