

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---MARCH 11, 2025---7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Co. Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Peter Martin, Christine Cozzolino, Lenny Melillo, Laurie Melillo, Theresa Burdick, Keith Begany, Bob Schenfeld, Amy Dill, George Knarich, Bruce Page

Absent: Councilman Scott Fickbohm

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 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the February 11, 2025 regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that they are still working on repairs to the 2009 Freightliner. The 2021 pickup needed a new alternator and battery. The 2018 Freightliner had a partial rollover on Pardee/Walters Road which resulted in a twisted frame. It may be possible to repair or replace the frame. Supt. Smith is waiting for the insurance adjuster to come look at the truck to determine what our options may be. They are working on potholes and on tearing apart the old garage as time allows. With the prices for steel anticipated to go up he is going to order the steel that he needs for Turnbull Bridge, approximately \$1,200.00. Highway Employee Barry Braunius has announced that he is going to retire on September 23, 2025. Supt. Donald Smith attended a local news conference and the Advocacy Day in Albany in support of CHIPS funding.

Theresa Burdick was present for the Morris Rec Youth Sports which she noted has now become a non-profit group. They would like to continue to help improve the Garrattsville field as they all love using it for their teams. She noted that they would like to look into doing the basketball court surface. It was originally done as a stone & oil surface as that was all that was in the budget. In discussions it was roughly estimated that it could cost about \$32,000.00 for paving or \$10,000.00 for concrete. The Board was supportive of getting the work done, if possible, but only \$1,000.00 is in the park budget. Theresa Burdick noted that they would have to do a big fundraiser as they don't have those kinds of funds either. It was discussed that perhaps a paving company would donate some materials/labor. County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that Chobani has made donations to communities and maybe they would be willing to help out. Theresa Burdick will look into these options and see if any financial help would be available.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that they have a new GIS Coordinator Levi Anderson who maybe could be helpful to the Town. With all that it is going on with the Federal government it is not sure if the \$750,000.00 grant for housing rehabs will be impacted. There are still ongoing discussions about broadband and expanding its reach as a necessity in today's world. The MVEDD will come out to towns to discuss community opportunities. It was noted that Morris was submitting an application in the NY Forward grant program. She noted that the This Is Cooperstown group has memberships to promote businesses and any event can go on their event calendar. Rep. Kennedy advised that they gave funding to about 55 projects/events under the Community Events Grant. If the organization doesn't file a post event report, they may not be eligible for future grants. She advised that County Treasurer Allen Ruffles will be coming out at some point to discuss their tax collection program. Short term rentals, defined as stays of under 30 days, have to collect sales tax and occupancy tax. She noted that the County

is working on getting all registered to be in compliance with State rules. She attended a reception in Albany where NYSAC was honored on its 100th Anniversary.

DCO Keegan Holt has been deployed on prison duty with the National Guard. He noted that a letter has been sent to a landowner whose tenant's dogs are running loose. Supervisor Lentz helped by talking to a new resident whose dogs were running loose and noted that they were cooperative about keeping them confined.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that they met with MVEDD officials about the possible town hall solar project. It is not sure if the tax credit will still be available or if the project may have to be scaled down to be near the \$15,000.00 that we have received in grants for the project. She will check with NYSEG about getting the lights switched to LEDs and what contractors they know that do this work.

Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he is still working with Christopher Farrell about getting his hours for past work together for the Assessor position qualifications. Since he has been working with our assessor as a part-time clerk under civil service rules, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to appoint Christopher as Part time Clerk in the Assessor's office effective January 1, 2025 at a rate of pay of \$20.00 per hour up to \$2,000.00. Supt. Lentz has contacted Spectrum about getting some of the town hall phones changed to cable phones and is waiting on information back from them. Petitions for running for public offices up for election are out now and are due back to the Board of Elections by April 3, 2025. We are almost ready to launch the new website, with some posting issues still to work out.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pay General Fund bills #38 through #45 for a total of \$143,101.83 and Highway Fund bills #24 through #34 for a total of \$19,548.77 and a bill for \$125.00 for NYSAA dues for Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #31 through #37 for a total of \$2,588.75 with prior Board approval.

In the plan to review all town policies over the year, Handbook sections 4-9 were reviewed. The Town Clerk noted that under #7-Probationary Period, we need to add that any part-time appointments covered by civil service rules have a probationary period of 8 weeks. The Town Board voted on this March 12, 2024. The Hwy. Committee is recommending revisions to the section 9.B. on Overtime. If overtime requests are made the night before, the start time would be the time as requested. If they get short notice, the start time would be the time they get the notice. Also, they requested that the tardiness section 9.C. be revised that if they report to work more than 45 minutes after a short notice it would be considered being tardy. With no further changes being suggested, Supervisor Edward Lentz will make the discussed changes for the Board to approve next month. The review next month will be of Handbook Sections 10-15.

The Board had reviewed the Supervisor's draft of a setback law. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith questioned having a 50-foot property line setback as opposed to a 25-foot property line setback. If each property owner had a 25-foot property line setback, that would equal a total of 50 feet between structures which should be plenty. Town Clerk Charlene Wells questioned the section on waivers. We currently do setback variances. She questioned if the term should be waiver or variance, so that the form matches the law. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he has not heard back from the Attorney yet on the draft he sent her. The suggestions will be considered and hopefully the law will be ready for the Board next month to proceed with planning a public hearing.

With Town Clerk/Collector Charlene Wells retiring 12/31/2025, there have been some questions about what will be expected of the next person in the position. The location of the office can be at the Town Hall or at another location. NYS has been pushing for ADA compliance, so the office would have to meet all accessibility issues. Most job duties are spelled out in Town Law which was posted on the Town Website under meeting documents. Town Clerk Charlene Wells will also post a list of what she feels are the jobs under the law and a separate list of things that she has assumed doing over the years. After discussion, the Board agreed that they would anticipate that the salary would be around \$20,000.00 annually, depending on the number of hours to be worked and the extra job duties that the new clerk would take on.

Councilman Scott Fickbohm audited the Supervisor's office and Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck audited the Town Clerk/Collector's office. The Board reviewed the documents and a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the audits of the Supervisor & Clerk/Collector offices. Councilman Brian Ryther will do the Justice office audit.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson reported evidence to support that it has been a bad winter. In 2024 the trucks went 3,040 miles versus 7,000 miles this winter. In 2024 the cost of diesel was \$4,422.24 versus \$10,949.00 in 2025. With no further business or comments from the floor, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:15 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk