

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—APRIL 8, 2025, 7:30 PM REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING---NEW LISBON TOWN HALL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Councilman Brian Ryther, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Justice Glen Noto, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, County Rep. Meg Kennedy, Residents: Amy Dill, Lenny & Laurie Melillo, Gioya Fennelly, Mark & Judy Shatynski, Bob Schenfeld, George Knarich, Brad Morro, Dan Vibbard

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the March 11, 2025 regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that they have done a lot of repairs to the 2009 Freightliner and still have issues to fix. They need it because the 2018 Freightliner is out of commission for the foreseeable future. He is working on getting a finalized estimate of repairs for it, which will be about \$46,000.00. The value of the truck is \$230,000.00 so the insurance should cover getting it repaired. They have been busy hauling in gravel from Burrell's as he is not sure what is going on at Parker's site. He would like Town Board approval to purchase lumber, estimated at \$742.00, for framing in the door on the old garage. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize the Hwy. Supt. to purchase approximately \$742.00 in lumber to frame in the door on the old garage which is being turned into our salt shed. The lumber is in at Munson's for the bridge deck and the steel is in for making bridge brackets. The building for use at the radio tower is due in this week. We are waiting for the final signed agreement for shared services from the County. Supt. Smith noted that he has been doing driveway permits for upcoming subdivisions and new projects.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that 2025 repair expenses to date, at \$14,471.00, are higher than the last two years for the same timeframe. This year's first quarter miles for the big trucks are 7,845 miles compared to last year's 4,207 miles. The fuel cost for the big trucks this year's first quarter was \$11,954.00 compared to \$6,217.00 in 2024 with the prices per gallon being similar. The newer trucks are running cheaper than the 2009, but the cost for new trucks is outrageous and it takes about two years to get one. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the RFP for alarm systems was sent out today.

Lenny Melillo complimented the highway department on handling the rough winter with a man down and multiple repairs. George Knarich thanked the Supervisor for supplying the public with town information. He noted that he had applied for a cannabis license in 2023 and hasn't received any more information from the state. He felt that the NYS Office of Cannabis Management has been stagnant. He noted with the new rules he will have to do a lot more to break even than when he was illegal. Brad Morro asked why the town can't get involved with cannabis. He was advised that it is all under NYS jurisdiction, not a town or county issue. He further asked about the garbage law enforcement. He was advised that the Town Board can handle complaints in the absence of a land use enforcement officer. Dan Vibbard again noted the mess on East Turtle Lake Road. The owner hadn't complied in the past to a letter that was sent about junk cars. He noted there are lots of black bags now, assumed to be garbage. Councilman Scott Fickbohm questioned if we can act on a verbal complaint like this. Supervisor Edward Lentz will review the law and see if we can act on a verbal complaint or if it has to be in writing.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy advised that County Historian Debra MacKenzie is working on getting a grant to help with projects. The NYS budget has no funds allocated for the America 250

Commission. Rep. Kennedy suggested that we reach out to our state representatives about this. The County is unsure about the status of anything funded by the Federal government. They are about level with sales tax and they are working on a short-term rental law to meet NYS law requirements. The County IT director is working on a plan with a company to help towns update their websites for \$1,000.00.

Justice Glen Noto spoke on his efforts to get the hamlet of New Lisbon (previously known as Noblesville) designated as a historic district for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. He is working on applying for a grant to get funds to hire Jesse Ravage, who did our Historic Resources Survey in 2013, to help with the designation application. George Knarich asked why we would do this. Justice Noto responded that it would recognize our town history and would limit/mitigate future land use activities. Residents in the district would be eligible for tax credits if they do repairs/alterations within guidelines, but they would still be able to do anything they wanted to their properties. The area he is looking at is from the Butternut Creek to Pegg Road and County Hwy. 14. Councilman Brian Ryther felt this shouldn't be a town expense, which is why Justice Noto explained that he is doing it on his own. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to pass Resolution #1 of 2025 to support an application to designate the hamlet of New Lisbon as a historic district for inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Councilman Scott Fickbohm noted that Prolific Sign Studio was bought out and the business moved to Binghamton. He reached out to another company in Little Falls for a sign estimate but hasn't received it yet. Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck noted that another business, Wharton Creative, is moving into where Prolific was and she will get the info on them. Councilman Fickbohm noted that minor rehab items will be done in the park. There is a DEC grant for park/playground updates, so estimates for surfacing the basketball court and a new backstop are being collected in hopes of submitting an application.

Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that she did an online class with the IRS about the tax credits for green energy, but at this point there is no guarantee that they will remain available. We received two proposals for installing solar panels on the Town Hall roof. We have received \$15,000.00 in grants to use toward this project. Revolution Solar submitted a proposal for a 7467 kwh system at \$20,169.00 minus a \$6,050.70 energy credit for a total of \$14,118.30, but noted that costs of parts could go up. Solar Liberty submitted a proposal for a 5520 kwh system at \$25,766.27 minus a \$7,729.88 energy credit for a total of \$18,036.39. Both have 5 year warranties on the system and 25 year warranties on the panels and inverter. It was noted that we have to let NYS know how we used the grant funds so we should be spending the grant funds before we lose them. Lenny Melillo noted that we should be getting an automatic generator set up at the town hall to cover if the panels don't produce enough electric, especially in the winter months. Also, it would be needed for the Town Hall to be an emergency shelter. Bob Schenfeld questioned about the company's warranty for doing work on our roof. We would have to obtain their certificate of insurance before they begin work. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the proposal from Revolution Solar for installing solar panels on the Town Hall roof at a net price of \$14,118.30, subject to possible component price increases and possibly not being able to get the energy credit. Councilman Scott Fickbohm will start looking for estimates for an automatic backup generator.

DCO Keegan Holt was deployed with the National Guard to serve in a prison during the prison guard strike, but is now home. He had no special calls to report. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that the County Planning Dept. is doing a transit survey on their website to help improve pickups of people in remote areas. We received a copy of an annual report done by the Otsego

County Code Enforcement Office. We received notice from the Otsego County Treasurer's office in regards to a property which was in violation of their Forestry Exemption. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Resolution #2 of 2025, authorizing the cancellation of interest and penalties on parcel #158.00-1-11.02 owned by Kenneth Stabler for violation of a Forestry Exemption and allow the Otsego County Treasurer to collect the amount due in back taxes.

Supervisor Lentz noted that he was having trouble filing a report of covid funds for 2024. He noted that he had sent in notice we had spent all our funds in 2023. The Annual Financial Report to the State Comptroller has been completed and was sent to all board members for review. It will be submitted to the state comptroller.

The Board reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General fund bills # 53 through #60 for a total of \$2,082.85 and Highway Fund bills #35 through #49 for a total of \$21,996.05. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #46 through #52 for a total of \$1,559.14 with prior Board approval.

The proposed setback local law was changed to have a setback of 25 feet from boundary lines instead of 50 feet. With no further changes, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to hold a public hearing on proposed Local Law #1, a Local Law Codifying the Town Setback Law at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy-Martin Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the revisions to the Employee Handbook pertaining to changes in probationary periods and overtime as drafted. The Board reviewed Chapters 10-15 in the Employee Handbook. The only suggested change was to add more specific wording for using required safety equipment as was used in a memo given to all highway employees previously. The Board will review the exact wording of the proposed change next month. The Board will review Chapters 16-20 of the Employee Handbook next month.

Councilman Brian Ryther completed the audit of the Town Justice office. The Board reviewed the audit documents and a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the audit of the Town Justice office as completed.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he is still waiting to hear back from Spectrum about getting phones lines at the town hall switched to Spectrum. Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck will give the Supervisor the name of the contact person that she used. It was suggested that maybe another option would be Starlink which Supervisor Lentz will explore. With no further comments or business, the Board adjourned by acclamation at 9:10 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk