

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—SEPTEMBER 30, 2025—7:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING ON 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET—TOWN HALL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Councilman Brian Ryther, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents Robert Schenfeld, Michael Marrone

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the special meeting at 7:05 PM. The Planning Board met on Friday, September 26, 2025 on the Ard Simple Subdivision. The applicant and recipient have asked that the parcel be moved up to the property boundary line so there would be no thin strip left. The easement to the back parcels would be included with the deed for the new parcel. The Planning Board referred the subdivision to the Town Board with this change. No discussion was held by the Planning Board on driveway placement. Supervisor Edward Lentz commented on the driveway issue with the subdivision. He felt that the 100 feet from other driveways pertained more to larger subdivisions. They will have to get final driveway approval from the NYS DOT which most likely has stricter rules for public safety. The Town Board completed the SEQR forms and a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to issue a negative environmental impact designation for Subdivision Application #5. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve Subdivision Application #5-2025 for Jeremy Ard for a simple 2.5 acre subdivision as per the new map submitted 9/26/25 on tax map #189.00-1-59.22 on State Hwy. 51 in New Lisbon, subject to any review comments by the NY State DOT and County Planning Dept.

The Board reviewed the 2026 Tentative Budget as prepared by Supervisor Edward Lentz. He proposed a tax increase from 2% up to the maximum we are allowed at 3.9%. The Board reviewed items line by line. Generally, salaries were increased by 2% or \$250.00. The Board agreed to go to \$26.00 per hour for the full-time highway workers. Since this reflects a 4% raise, they also agreed to increase the Highway Supt. by 4% to \$65,943.00. The supervisor and town clerk salaries were left at 2025 amounts. The Board discussed the insurance buyout for full time highway employees. We currently offer \$4,400.00 per year, paid in two payments. It was agreed to increase the amount to \$5,360.00 which reflects approximately 2/3 of what the Town would have to pay for their insurance. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that it looks like an Excellus plan will be our best option for 2026.

Lenny Melillo commented that we may want to change the medical insurance buyout to a once a year payment to help with employee retention. He suggested that he would like the Board to know more about the fire department operation and expenses. He would like to see a two year contract again if possible. He feels the fire department can justify all their expenses and would like the Board to have a better knowledge of how they operate. Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck recused herself from the discussion on the fire department as she is a member and also from discussion about the Town Clerk salary. Lenny also suggested the Board consider putting in a salary for a budget officer in case the new supervisor wants help preparing the budget next year. The Board agreed to keep the tax increase to 3%, which with the increase in assessments would actually amount to about a 1.7% increase in the millage. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 4 Ayes/ 1 Recusal (Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck) to accept the changes made to the 2026 Tentative Budget and accept the revised 2026 Tentative Budget as the 2026 Preliminary Budget and to hold a public hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM, prior to the regular monthly meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM by acclamation.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk