

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 14, 2025—7:00 PM
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET—TOWN HALL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilman Brian Ryther, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents: Jim Liner, Amy Dill, Lenny Melillo, Peter Martin, Robert Schenfeld, Marilyn Sabourin, Mert Hull, Ralph Conti Absent: Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the Public Hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget at 7:03 PM. The budget was posted on the town website and available in the Clerk's office. Robert Schenfeld asked what benefits do people who live on County and State roads get from their town taxes. Supervisor Lentz responded that since that was not a question on the 2026 Preliminary Budget he would respond to him at a later time. With no questions or comments on the budget, Supervisor Lentz closed the Public Hearing at 7:30 PM.

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD—OCTOBER 14, 2025—7:30 PM
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING—TOWN HALL

Present: same as above plus County Rep. Meg Kennedy

Absent: Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the September 9, 2025 regular monthly meeting and September 30, 2025 special meeting as drafted.

Mert Hull gave the 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter reports for the Garrattsville Fire Company. In the 2nd quarter they had 10 calls averaging 6 members per call for 93-man hours. They also had 150 hours in training and meetings. In the 3rd quarter they had 10 calls averaging 7 members per call for 141-man hours. They also had 108 hours in training and meetings (not including their annual barbeque). Supervisor Lentz expressed appreciation for the service that all members provide to the Town.

Highway Supt. Donald Smith advised that our new truck should be here the last week of October or beginning of November. The 09A went for servicing and repairs at Tracey. They can't get parts to fix the front axle so they are going to take the front axle out of the 09B and put it in the 09A so it will be ready for winter duties. They normally use the 09B for pulling the trailer. He is going to get the 2023 set up to be able to pull the trailer at an estimated cost of \$2,000.00. After a small accident involving our pickup, Hwy. Supt. Smith advised that he is going to install cameras on the two pickups for a cost of \$500.00. If they work well, he may consider adding them to the bigger trucks. He has to get new tires for the pickups. They have been working on Myers Mills Road installing culverts and making a safer intersection. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith advised that his laptop computer can't be upgraded and will not have the cyber security policy requirements for a secure computer. He got a price of \$1,500.00 from Steve Lawton to get a new laptop all set up. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$1,500.00 from Town Clerk Equipment #A1410.2 to Hwy. Supt. Contractual #A5010.4 to cover the purchase of a new computer for the Hwy. Supt.

The highway budget is holding but will be tight. Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith thinks he will have about \$16,000.00 left in CHIPS funds which will rollover to next year. He noted that he doesn't plan on any new equipment for 2026, unless we have a catastrophic loss. As our current excavator is getting a lot of hours and showing wear, he would plan on getting a new one in 2027.

To keep the project moving along and to save on installation costs, the old repeater is being transferred to the new radio tower, with new accessories. In the event we want to get a new repeater it will be an easy transfer. The County is trying to get OE Connect to go on the tower so they could have internet there for security cameras and remote meter reading. Councilman Scott Fickbohm questioned if we have an accident reporting policy. We will have to look back at the handbook and form one if not covered. Having accident forms available in the trucks was also suggested. Councilwoman Nancy Martin Mathewson reported that we are at \$33,300.00 in repairs. We had \$36,800.00 in 2024. Because of the heavier winter we are about 6,000 miles over the 2024 mileage total. The hwy. committee is suggesting that we leave the insurance buy out at twice a year. We would have to change the town law to change it. If the employee leaves employment they would only get a prorated amount.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy reported that she wasn't at the meeting last month because she was at a NYSAC conference. She advised that there was a lot of good things on the Otsego County Planning Dept. website. They have their fall newsletter, cyber grants info, a broadband survey link, hazard mitigation survey link, natural resource inventory, wetlands source, etc. She advised that the Otsego County Soil & Water District hosted a New England regional conference of Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Syracuse. Their goal is to improve water and soil quality in the County. A new statewide burn ban was put in effect on October 2, 2025. The Town of Butternuts got a federal grant to improve broadband/cell services. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson questioned if it was for the Butternut Valley if we could see about getting service off the County tower in our town. Rep. Kennedy will check on this. The 2026 County Budget may be rough this year. They have already approved a tax cap override in case they need it. Rep. Meg Kennedy noted that they increased salaries to be in line with other counties, which are in turn increasing their salaries, so it is ongoing battle to keep employees. She noted that most counties, towns and villages are seeing a 7% increase in expenses.

There was no report from DCO Keegan Holt, but he was working on a complaint and issued a warning. Scott Fickbohm reported that he was waiting on an estimate for a generator from KK Electric. Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that our electric bill for the Town Hall decreased from \$133.00 to about \$23.00 since the solar panels went operational. They are working on the paperwork to file for the tax credit.

Supervisor Edward Lentz advised that he had reached out to the Association of Towns for samples of Drug-free workplace and Drug & Alcohol policies as ours are quite old. Review of these were put off until next month. The Smoking/Vaping policy was updated last year. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the Smoking/Vaping Policy as is.

The monthly financial report was submitted to the Board. The Board audited the bills prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve paying General Fund bills #154 through #165 for a total of \$3,493.43 and Highway Fund bills #110 through #126 for a total of \$55,046.14. Supervisor Lentz paid General Fund bills #151 through #153 for a total of \$666.28 with prior Board approval. Lenny Melillo thanked Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith for getting out there doing road work and making the plans to keep improving town roads. With no further comments or business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilman Scott Fickbohm and carried 4 Ayes/ 0 Nays to adjourn at 8:23 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

