

NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---NOVEMBER 11, 2025—7:30 PM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING AT TOWN HALL

Present: Supervisor Edward Lentz, Councilman Brian Ryther, Councilman Scott Fickbohm, Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck, Hwy. Supt. Donald Smith, Town Clerk Charlene Wells, Residents, Robert Schenfeld, Lenny & Laurie Melillo, Amy Dill, County Rep. Meg Kennedy

Supervisor Edward Lentz opened the regular monthly meeting at 7:35 PM. A motion was made by Councilman Scott Fickbohm, seconded by Councilman Brian Ryther and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the minutes for the October 14, 2025 regular monthly meeting as drafted.

Highway Supt. Donald Smith updated the Board on the equipment. The 09A is keeping going, but is always needing repairs. He got the frame rails for the 2018 and has ordered bolts, so he can start working on the repairs. We hopefully will be getting the new 25 truck Thanksgiving week. He has the 23 all set up to pull the trailer. He had new tires, brakes and alternator done on his pickup. He hasn't got prices for backup cameras yet. They have been ditching and finished up work on Myers Mills Road for now. The CHIPS reimbursement request was submitted with payment due in December. All buildings are okay. The old radio County tower is down and the new one is up and running. A representative of Trout Unlimited came and looked at possible future projects in town. On Parker Road, the culvert for the Stoney Creek is being considered for replacement and more rock added to the Miller Road culvert on Stoney Creek. On Jones Road, where there is erosion occurring due to wetlands, it was suggested that we need to hire an engineer to look at what needs to be done to shore up the road. It was also noted that where the road was changed, we were supposed to have received right-of-way to the new road, but that was never done. The NYSDEC will send us a draft agreement in due course. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson noted that repair costs are at \$37,600.00 this year, with \$19,400.00 of that being for the 09A Freightliner.

Councilman-elect Robert Schenfeld requested that a short form, which he submitted be inserted with the tax bills to get taxpayers to sign up for a town email list. The Board discussed the pros and cons of using an email list. There was no objection to start with gathering emails and work on developing a plan and who would be responsible for sending out emails.

County Rep. Meg Kennedy will email us a guide to cybersecurity that she has. She noted that the Otsego County Dept. of Health does monthly reports on their website. The number one communicable disease in the County is Lyme disease, followed by Covid, chlamydia and then the Flu. The last free rabies clinic is December 4th, 2025 in Hartwick Seminary from 6-8 PM. Southern Tier 8 will be holding a conference on housing. The County 2026 Budget looks like it will be above the tax cap at a 5% increase. Even though all departments cut where they could and appropriations will be decreased, the revenues are down and costs are increased, including salaries. Rep. Kennedy noted that we may get a little extra in sales tax because B & Bs now have to collect sales tax. They have completed a capital plan, but a new jail and new highway garage are only in the study phase. Lenny Melillo suggested that they should be budgeting for their eventual replacement. People had until October 31st to redeem properties which will be going up for tax sale. They have three years of properties. Rep. Kennedy will check on the date of the tax sale.

DCO Keegan Holt reported by email that he had no updates. Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson reported that they have the registration number so we can apply for the tax credit for the solar installation. Councilman Scott Fickbohm reported that he was still waiting for an estimate from KK Electric for a generator. He got a few more names to try. Supervisor Edward Lentz noted that he is almost done with the phone switch over.

To renew our current MVP Bronze medical plan for highway employees would be a 23.6% increase in premium. The best option for 2026 is the Excellus Bronze plan which has similar coverages at a 1% increase over 2025 premiums. After further review, a motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to select the Excellus Bronze plan for Highway Employees with monthly premiums of \$769.49 for single and \$1,538.98 for employee & spouse.

Review of the monthly financial reports shows no major issues. Highway repair salary was overspent and funds need to be appropriated to cover repair costs for the 2018 Freightliner. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to transfer \$7,976.00 from DA9060.81 Health Insurance Deductible to DA 5110.1 General Repair Salary and to transfer \$20,000.00 to DA5130.44 2018 Truck Repairs from DA9060.8 Health Insurance Premium. The bills were audited by the Board 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 #171 through #182 for a total of \$18,589.71 and Highway Fund bills #127 through #137 for a total of \$59,436.45. Supervisor Lentz paid General fund bills #166 through #170 for a total of \$1,002.44 with prior Board approval.

The Board reviewed the 2026 Preliminary Budget. Councilman Brian Ryther has advised that Attorney Will Green will be willing to serve as our Town Attorney for 2026 at \$500.00 per month. The Preliminary Budget will be amended to increase the Attorney to \$10,000.00 by taking \$2,500.00 from both reval and comprehensive plan reserves, for no net change. In highway, DA 5112.2 will be increased by \$10,00.00 for paving projects, with the CHIPS revenue being increased by the same amount, for no net change. An additional \$10,000.00 will be added to DA5110.4 for an engineer survey for Jones Road, with the Bridge and Equipment reserves being decreased each by \$5,000.00 for no net change. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to approve the above noted changes to the 2026 Preliminary budget and to adopt the revised 2026 Preliminary Budget as the 2026 Final Budget.

We received notice that George Knarich has applied for a NYS Cannabis License. The Town can respond if they desire. It was noted that Mr. Knarich has started a building project without a permit and should be going in for Site Plan Review if he is planning a business use of his property. Supervisor Lentz will send a letter to him.

NYS approval of the Butternut Valley as a Banking Development District is getting close. Once received, we can use SFCU for Town banking. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, seconded by Councilwoman Melaina Woodbeck and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to authorize Town Clerk/Collector-elect Melaina Woodbeck and Town Supervisor-elect Brian Ryther to open accounts at Sidney Federal Credit Union in Morris once they receive the Banking Development District designation.

Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD) has advised that they can help with technical assistance on updating our Comprehensive Plan and/or help to get a grant to pay for an update. The Board was in favor of having them come meet with the new Board in the new year to see what assistance they can offer. The Email Policy was updated to include all kinds of Electronic Communications. A motion was made by Councilman Brian Ryther, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson and carried 5 Ayes/ 0 Nays to accept the new Electronic Communications Policy. Supervisor Lentz just received a copy of a sample DOT Drug & Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace Policy. The Board will review and discuss further next month. With no further business or comments, the Board adjourned by acclamation at 9:08 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk

