



Town of New Lisbon

908 County Highway 16

Garrattsville NY 13342

(607) 965-2112

townofnewlisbonny.gov

2025 IN REVIEW

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Town Supervisor Ed Lentz and Town Clerk Charlene Wells are retiring from town government. Brian Ryther will become Supervisor, Jill Woodbeck will become Town Clerk & Tax Collector and Amy Dill and Bob Schenfeld will join the Town Board.

People sometimes ask, "What does our town government do?" Here's a summary:

- Budgeting and managing taxpayer funds
- Highway improvements and maintenance
- Fire protection and EMS
- Land use regulation
- Property assessments
- Justice Court
- Dog Control
- Maintaining Cemeteries
- Streetlights (Garrattsville only)
- Maintaining the town hall and community room and the community park/playground
- Ensuring the town complies with federal, state and county laws and regulations
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector functions (too numerous to recite!)

We are still looking for a Land Use Enforcement Officer and a Highway Worker. For more information, contact Clerk Jill Woodbeck (607 965 0000, newlisbontownclerk@gmail.com).

TOWN FINANCES

Town finances are in good shape. Despite recent high inflation, the 2026 town tax levy increased by only 3%, which is below our NYS Tax Cap (with credits from prior years) and less than increases in neighboring towns. The increase is \$24,252, which averages out to about \$23 per parcel. Our fund balance, which is earmarked for future needs, foreseeable and unforeseeable, is on plan.

TOWN HIGHWAYS

Our Highway Garage became operational in December 2023. With two full years under our belts, we can safely say that the project was a success. The old highway garage has been re-purposed as a salt/sand shed. In 2025, we purchased a MowerMax, which is a tractor specially designed for roadside maintenance and which improves effectiveness, efficiency and safety for our Highway Workers. We will soon take possession of a new dump/plow truck. Meanwhile, our 2018 truck, which was totaled in a crash last spring, is being rebuilt

Supervisor: Ed Lentz
Deputy Supervisor: Nancy Martin-Mathewson
Councilpersons: Scott Fickbohm, Brian Ryther, Jill Woodbeck
Highway Superintendent: Don Smith

Justice: Glen Noto
Clerk/Collector: Charlene Wells
Assessor: Pam Dyn-Gohde
Dog Control Officer: Keegan Holt

by our Highway Workers. When it becomes operational, we can stop relying on our 2009 truck, which is our most expensive truck to maintain.

The Highway Department does a great job maintaining our town roads. In 2025, the town resurfaced parts of Jacobson and Buck Schoolhouse Roads, and the Turnbull Road bridge, and prepped Myers Mills Road for surfacing in 2026. This is all in addition to "routine" maintenance, like ditching, repairing culverts, mowing, tree trimming, honing, etc.

Please remember that it is unsafe, and unlawful, to place snow, debris or anything else on town highways or in roadside drainage ditches. If you have concerns or questions about our roads, please discuss them with Highway Superintendent Don Smith (607 965 8287).

CLIMATE CHANGE

We installed a PV system on the town hall roof. Three months in, our NYSEG bills have gone down to almost nothing. For more information, contact Councilperson Nancy Martin-Mathewson (607 263 5784).

DOG CONTROL

Remember that dogs must be vaccinated for rabies and licensed by the town. If you have an unlicensed dog, please contact Town Clerk Jill Woodbeck. If you encounter a loose dog that appears to be lost or distressed, call Dog Control Officer Keegan Holt (607 287 9639).

LAND USE AND BUILDING CODES

A local law codifying the town's 75' setback requirement was adopted. A copy of the law can be found on the town website. If you are planning to install or modify a driveway, change the use of your land, subdivide, or make other changes, please consult the Land Use Guide, which is on the town website. You can also check with Clerk Jill Woodbeck.

TOWN WEBSITE, EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

The town has a new website: townofnewlisbonny.gov. If you would like to be put on an email distribution list for notices from the town, please let Town Clerk Jill Woodbeck know by email to her at newlisbontownclerk@gmail.com. (return separate slip with your tax bill)

FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SQUAD

The Garrattsville Fire Company volunteer firefighters and EMT's need your support. To find out what you can do, please call Lenny (607 437 4694) or Keith (607 965 2109).

PARTING WORDS

Clerk/Collector Charlene Wells: *Thank you to the New Lisbon community for your support over my 39 years as your Town Clerk and 21 years as your Tax Collector. I guess that "time flies when you're having fun"!!! I've enjoyed getting to know and work with so many of you. Please continue to be kind to others and keep New Lisbon a great place to live.*

Supervisor Ed Lentz: *It has been my pleasure to serve as Supervisor these past eight years and I thank the people of New Lisbon for giving me the opportunity to do so. I am leaving our town government in good shape and in good hands. Best wishes to all.*

SUMMARY

Things are running smoothly, finances are in good shape, we have new elected officials, our highway equipment and roads are well kept and we look forward to a great 2026!

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!