

Town of Lisbon Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Lisbon Town Hall
6963 CR 10 Lisbon, NY 13658

- A. **Call to order** with the Pledge of Allegiance by Supervisor Nelson at 5:07 pm
- B. **Roll Call:** Supervisor William Nelson Councilmember Robert McNeil
Councilmember Ron Bush
Absent: Councilmember Jeff Dumas, Deputy Supervisor Nathanael Putney
Also present: Highway Superintendent Mike Baldock, Town Clerk Alberta Hyde
CEO Marc McDonell, Campground Director Todd Miller, Attorney Charles Nash, Legislator David Forsythe, Historian Nancy LaFaver, several residents
- C. **Presentation:**
- 1- Charles Prior of EDR gave an update on the UV Disinfection Project at the Lisbon Wastewater Treatment Plant. Installation of the UV Disinfection System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been completed. Said system was tested and running before the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation deadline. The facility still needs upgrades and repairs to major components to ensure that the facility meets environmental standards. The Town of Lisbon applied for a grant through St. Lawrence County's assistance project fund, which was granted in the amount of \$184,000. This will be used to help offset the cost of future Wastewater Treatment projects.
 - 2- Anna Gonzalez, Ber QRNG gave an update on the Woodcrest RNG Digester project located on CR 28 Lisbon. Ms. Gonzalez attended the Town of Lisbon's May 8, 2023 Planning Board meeting. Planning Board/ Lisbon Fire District members discussed building/DEC permits, and emergency vehicle access. Also discussed was hiring an outside Engineering firm to review designs and construction of the project.
- D. **Public Comment:**
- 1-Rusty Darcy, Lisbon Fire District- Mr. Darcy asked for an update regarding the ARPA funding that the Lisbon Fire District requested back in 2022. At the May 11, 2022 Public Hearing the Lisbon Fire District had requested \$25,000.00 to help fund a rescue vehicle. Since that time the Lisbon Fire District has been able to secure funding for said vehicle. Mr. Darcy handed out material describing a LUCAS, Chest Compression System. Discussion followed between Mr. Darcy and the Town Board regarding how a LUCAS machine would benefit the whole community.
 - 2-Sean O'Brien, St. Lawrence County Undersheriff- Mr. O'Brien introduced himself, announced that he is running for St. Lawrence County Sheriff in the next election. Mr. O'Brien gave a brief presentation on his education, experience, key issues, and personal status. Mr. O'Brien encouraged anyone with questions/concerns to reach out to him.
 - 3-Darlene Nelson reminded the Elected/Appointed officials that they took an Oath of Office to uphold the Constitution.
- 1- The meeting minutes of March ,2023 and April ,2023 do not do this. According to Mrs. Nelson, the March ,2023 minutes state a 2nd and 3rd account of what happened which is

gossip and hearsay, not factual. Said minutes went against the code of ethics and is considered bullying and defamation of character.

- 2- Mrs. Nelson reminded everyone of the Open meeting law which requires the town clerk to make the minutes available to the public two weeks after the date of the meeting. This Statement was in reference to Mrs. Nelson having access to the March 2023 minutes.
- 3- Mrs. Nelson placed the Town and Town Board on Public Notice if any harm comes to her or her property on Nelson Road.

E. **Approval of previous meeting minutes:** December 28,2022, March 8,2023, April 5,2023, and April 12,2023. Supervisor Nelson expressed his concerns over the Minutes of March 8,2023 and April 12,2023. Discussion followed:

- 1- April 12,2023, Town Clerk Report, #1- Supervisor Nelson stated that the minutes were not made available to him as per open meeting law till the day of the meeting. He did not have time to review them but did leave a copy for his wife, which according to the open meeting law the public is entitled to. Town Clerk Hyde stated she only questioned how Mrs. Nelson had time to review the minutes and not Supervisor Nelson. Supervisor Nelson would like this removed from the April 12,2023 minutes.
- 2- April 12,2023, K- resolution bill # 2023-44 Supervisor Nelson requested that the Town Clerk make full disclosure that she is the elected official that is related to two of the summer employees. Town Clerk Hyde has no issue with this and will make the correction.
- 3- March 8,2023-D- Presentation from Ted Jones regarding Williamson Law books monthly financial reports. Supervisor Nelson requested that it be added that the Town Board requested a presentation back in November of 2022, Town Board should have been prepared with their questions even though they did not know the presentation was scheduled for that evening, seeing it had been requested earlier.
- 4- March 8,2023- F- Public comment- Cathy McDonell-Supervisor Nelson requested that the details to what was said 4th handed be taken out of the minutes and just a summary of comment be published. Supervisor Nelson considers these statements being put into the Town minutes is a personal bias from the Town Clerk to discredit him. Town Clerk Hyde responded that Mrs. McDonell personally requested that what she stated at a public Town Board meeting be recorded in the Town Minutes. Councilmember Bush questioned if anything was in the minutes that was not publicly stated? Answer was no.
- 5- Supervisor Nelson requested that the conversation regarding Councilmember Putney, stating that he knew that Supervisor Nelson would be available to print the January invoices be put into the minutes. Discussion followed: The Town Board decided to table all the above minutes until the entire Town Board was available. Councilmember Bush and Town Clerk Hyde requested a written copy of the concerns Supervisor Nelson presented regarding the Town Clerk's Minutes.
- 6- **Report from County Legislature:** Chairman David Forsythe
 - 1-Meetings with NYSAC going well
 - 2-At this time Assigned Counsel can offer better wages than the County DA's Office
 - 3-Title 42(pandemic regulation used to keep migrants from entering the U.S. over concerns of spreading the virus) is due to end. St. Lawrence County is looking at issuing a State of Emergency to allow the County to apply for Federal funds should many migrants enter the county.
 - 4-The State still has plans to take away the County's profit from Foreclosures
 - 5- The State is looking at 2027 for no new construction using Fossil Fuel
 - 6-The share that St. Lawrence County receives back from DMV fees is due to drop

- 7-Chips reimbursement is up for 2023
- 8- Solar projects are looking into fast track
- 9-The County was asked by a resident to investigate the reasons to lower the Flags.
- 10- Reports of garbage being left on the County trails.
- 11-Chairman Forsythe had the opportunity to tour ACCO
- 12-RDIA will be meeting
- 13-Sales Tax up 9%
- 14-Swatting continues to be an issue. Response time from all emergency personnel is very good.
- 15-Rusty Darcy questioned the County passing a resolution for a 10% property tax for Volunteer fire personnel. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons.

2- Approval of Audited claims:

General \$82,614.58	Highway \$90,555.80
Sewer \$5,145.42	Water \$1,426.16
T&A \$749.50	HA Fund \$180,491.46

Motion by Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember McNeil to make payments to bill # 215-277 Ayes 3 Nays 0 Motion carried.

3- Budget review:

- 1-Councilmember Bush reported that he and Councilmember Dumas had completed the Payroll Audit for 2022.
- 2-Councilmember McNeil requested the checklist for the review of the Chief Fiscal Officer's records for himself and Deputy Supervisor Putney so they could do the financial records audit. Councilmember McNeil also requested the Bookkeeper be available to assist during the audit. Supervisor Nelson stated she is still being trained and that if they left a list of questions, he would see that they got the information. Town Clerk Hyde was asked to provide the checklist.

4- Reports of Departments:

Supervisor

- 1-National Grid is encouraging Towns to upgrade the current streetlights to LED. The Town of Lisbon has 59 HPSV streetlights that are eligible for a National Grid conversion program. There is one decorative flood light at the Lisbon Campground Boat launch that would not be covered under the conversion program. Supervisor Nelson has been working with Nation Gid and after filing an application for a rebate from National Gid there will be no cost to the Town for the 59 streetlights and a cost of \$3133.26 for the floodlight at the campground. Discussion followed: 1- Campground Light can be paid for with ARPA funds. 2- The savings on the monthly Nation Grid bill should offset the cost paid up front.
- 2- Northern Border Regional Commission has announced that that there is funding available. The Town's WWTP is still in need of upgrades to ensure long-term operation. Supervisor Nelson would like to apply for the said grant.
- 3-There has still been no one interested in doing an Audit.
- 4-Discussion took place regarding Verizon Wireless installing an Antenna on Town property.

Highway

- 1-Chips letter has been received; the plan is to begin paving next week
- 2-Highway Superintendent informed the Town Board that again this year he will be hiring Martin Feed & Transport, Inc for Trucking
- 3-Railroad has agreed to change the culvert pipe behind the WWTP

- 4-Sewer: RBC went down and there has been an issue with the control panels at the Lisbon WWTP. DANC is working on getting the filter pumps fixed.
- 5-Library: Work has started on the drainage project at the Lisbon Library. The Highway crew will be installing the drainage pipe around the building. Discussion had regarding using ARPA funds for materials and reimbursement of the Highway crews' wages.
- 6-Residents have been asking about the Clinic, discussion followed regarding the Town's options
- 7-Woodcrest is doing drainage to their fields on the Heuvelton Road and, as in the past will be replacing the Town's culverts as needed.
- 8-The Town Board needs to do a resolution to approve the Highway 284 Agreement

Town Clerk-everything is good.

CEO-everything is good.

Historian

- 1-Fire Department is celebrating 100 years in 2023
- 2-Train Day is June 6th at 9 am
- 3-Upcoming event- Coffee with the conductor
- 4-Working with 4 families on family history
- 5- Historian LaFaver will be at a conference in Lowville on May12,2022
- 6- Museum summer hours will be Friday's 6-8 pm
- 7-Keystone will begin work at the Museum on Monday May 15,2023; they expect to be completed within the week
- 8-Light switch in the Museum is giving off sparks, discussion followed with the Highway Superintendent planning to meet an electrician the following day.

Campground

- 1-The Town truck that the Campground uses is not running correctly. Discussion followed. Councilmember Bush recommended checking on Auction International to see what is for sale.
- 2-Campground Director asked if anyone had investigated having Casella's pick up the Trash at the campground. Discussion followed: Councilmember Bush stated that he had looked over the contract offer from Casella's and compared it with what it cost the Town for the 2022 season. It is Councilmember Bush's recommendation that it would be a cost savings to the Town to have Casella's pick up the trash for 2023 season. Motion by Councilmember McNeil seconded by Councilmember Bush to contract with Casella's of Potsdam to do trash removal for the 2023 season at the Lisbon Campground. All in favor Motion carried.
- 3-The New Bathhouse at the Campground needs updating. One issue that will have to be done is the Handicap stalls.
- 4-The Campground is having issues with the Internet again CREG systems have been notified.
- 5-Pavillion roof is leaking and needs repair. Discussion followed regarding to put metal or shingles and which would be more cost effective. Moved by Councilmember McNeil seconded by Councilmember Bush to accept the reports from all departments Ayes 3 Nays 0 Motion carried.

5- Reports from boards and Committees

Planning Board: Councilmember Bush stated that the May 8,2023 Planning Board meeting went well. Discussions regarding both the RNG Digester and Solar Projects are moving forward. A

Public Hearing regarding the RNG Digester is scheduled for May 22,2023 at 7:00PM at the Lisbon Town Hall.

Recreation: Supervisor Nelson reported that approximately 500 youths took part in the sports programs last year.

Homecoming: Lisbon Homecoming 2023 will be held August 18,19, & 20th. We are celebrating 100 years of the Lisbon Fire Department! Several events have been confirmed, others are in the planning phase. The committee is in the process of getting T-shirt sponsorship. Anyone with any questions please feel free to contact a committee member.

Library: Librarian McLagan

- 1- Lisbon Library has been very busy.
- 2- The new computer system has been challenging but coming along.
- 3- Discussion was held regarding the purchase of 4 window air conditioners. Lisbon Town Board had discussed previously that there was a need for them to help preserve the material housed at the library. The Lisbon Town Board is all in favor of purchasing said air conditioning units with ARPA funds.

6- Action Items

- 1- Resolution to hire seasonal employees at the Highway Department Bill # 2023-49 Moved by Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember McNeil Ayes 3 Nay 0 Motion carried.
- 2- Resolution to submit a grant application to NRBC for WWTP Upgrade and Modernization Project- Bill # 2023-50 Moved by Councilmember McNeil seconded by Councilmember Bush Ayes 3 Nay 0 Motion carried.
- 3- Resolution to approve the upgrade of 59 streetlights in the Town of Lisbon LED fixtures through National Grid-Bill #2023-51 Moved by Councilmember McNeil seconded by Councilmember Bush Discussion followed regarding the light at the Boat Ramp and if it justified the cost to the Town. Supervisor Nelson stated that the Town should see a savings in the National Grid bill that would pay for the light in a short time. Ayes 3 Nay0 Motion carried.
- 4- Resolution to approve modified Highway 284 agreement Bill #2023-40 Moved by Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember McNeil Ayes 3 Nay 0

7- New Business

1-Supervisor Nelson informed the Town Board that the NYMER Bill had gone up approximately 7%.

8- Old Business

1--Attorney Nash reported that things are moving forward with both the agreement between the Putney's and the Town on purchasing the Land behind the Town Barns and obtaining ownership of the Stemples property on County Route 10

9- Public Comment

- 1-Historian LaFaver stated the Town had received paperwork that the Bixby Halfway House on SH 68 is being considered for the National Register
- 2-Discussion took place regarding Memorial Day. Town Clerk Hyde stated that the flowers for the planters and the WWII memorial wall have been ordered and that the American Legion had

stated that they will be holding a celebration on May 29th, 2023 at the Lisbon American Legion on Main Street.

10- **Adjourned**- Moved by Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember McNeil to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm Ayes 3 Nays 0 Motion carried.

May 2023

A reminder to all Board Members and Elected & Appointed Officials that you took an oath of office. You agreed to faithfully discharge your duties without prejudice and support the constitution of the United States. The 5th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution limits power of personal discrimination. This protects ALL citizens from discrimination of any kind including but not limited to personal prejudices and biased opinions.

I earnestly ask you to carefully review the March 2023 and April 2023 Board Minutes written and submitted by Town Clerk, Alberta Hyde. For the record, I was not personally in attendance at the March 2023 board meeting. Yet, a third or more account of a conversation from a citizen at the March meeting that occurred between Supervisor Nelson and Board Member Putney was publically written in the official Town Board Meeting Minutes. Again, this was a third 3rd account of a phone conversation. I was interjected into these minutes but was not even present at the March board meeting. Why? I observe this is against the sworn oath of office as well as code of ethics. My belief is it is slanderous, libel and includes the definition of bullying, with intent to intimidate, humiliate and cause harm to myself and the Supervisor, who happens to be my husband. I had 2 people contact me concerning the content of the official March 2023 board meeting minutes that have been published on the Town website for approximately 3 weeks now. These minutes were not approved and not marked "DRAFT". This is defamation of character. It is embarrassing and not even a factual account of the events that took place.

The Town Clerk, made reference in the April board minutes as to "How myself, (who by the way I am a taxpayer and citizen of Lisbon), received access to the March board meeting minutes prior to the April board meeting". According to the Open Meetings Law, the March board minutes should have been available to ALL THE PUBLIC, within 14 days after the March 2023 Town Board Meeting. No one, including all other board members that I am aware of, received the March minutes until the day of, or at earliest the evening before the April meeting. I reminded Town Clerk Hyde of the Opens Meeting Law a few weeks ago when I requested a copy of the April board minutes and she replied in email that "She was well aware of the Opens Meeting Law". If so, then why is she blatantly dismissing this law? In fact, NONE of the Town Board had time to review the March minutes at the April Town Board meeting & all publically stated this publically so therefore the minutes were not approved. Despite the Town Clerk's admission to having sent the minutes out in email format the day before the April meeting, this DOES NOT come close to meeting the Opens Meetings Law requirement. As an aside, I had asked Bill Nelson to retrieve a copy of the March minutes several times prior to the April meeting but each time I asked, he stated the Town Clerk did not have them done. I reminded him of the Open Meetings Law but historically, the Town Clerk has rarely, if ever met these requirements. Therefore, Bill just received but had not yet reviewed the emailed minutes prior to the April meeting on April 12th. He subsequently left a copy on our kitchen table because I had asked for them as soon as they were available. The minutes are a public document so this was NOT lawless. I arrived home at approximately 4 Pm on April 12th and saw the March board minutes on the table. After reading them, it solidified my need to attend the April meeting and relate my FIRST HAND ACCOUNT of an incident that occurred over 25 years ago that has NO BEARING on today. Additionally, I WAS A FIRST HAND WITNESS to a phone

conversation incited by Board member Putney, and I have phone records of that phone call made by Putney to Supervisor Nelson. Therefore, I felt I was most qualified to publically share what was actually said & additionally what occurred over 25 years ago. Since gossip and here say had been published in the March board minutes, I assumed facts would be welcome and appreciated. Unfortunately, Town Clerk Hyde did not extend me the same courtesy in the April minutes as she did the citizen who publicly stated nothing more than here say and gossip at the March meeting. The Town Clerk intentionally left out my rebuttal. The factual information I shared as to the Town Clerk not abiding by the Opens Meeting Law and the neglect of account reconciliation of various Town Accounts prior to Supervisor Nelson taking office was all omitted from the April minutes. Why would a Town Clerk conveniently omit this information if not for personal prejudices and bias? The stark differences to what was repeated as a second and third account of a conversation was so readily published in the March meeting despite the taxpayer who expressed her concerns about small town gossip and yet my firsthand accounts to such could not be extended the same courtesy? Hyde appears to have a personal agenda and that is to humiliate & belittle myself and husband at any cost and utilize her position as Town Clerk to do so in board minutes. Subjective opinions have no place in Official Town Board minutes. None of you may not like my husband, the Town Supervisor, Bill Nelson, but that dislike and prejudice should not in any way extend to board minutes or to myself. That is discrimination and it is simply unfair. I will NOT be treated as a second class citizen by the Town Clerk or any other elected or appointed official.

As I stated at the April board meeting, gossip and wasting taxpayers time discussing Bill Nelson, myself and others has no place at Town Hall.

As a municipal officer, the job places one in a position of public trust. Public resources such as Official Town Board Minutes are to be used in the best interest of ALL the public. When serving in a public capacity, the interest of the municipality must come before your own. In fact, your actions and interests must be above reproach. Public officials such as a Town Clerk need to be impartial and fair in their judgements and actions & not for personal gain. I believe the March and April 2023 Town Board Meetings failed to meet these objectives.

I will repeat again what I stated at the April Board Meeting, I am placing the Town & Town Board on notice as to any harm to myself, and property at 393 Nelson Road including the land. This includes physical, verbal, psychological, bullying, humiliating, invasion of privacy, being singled out & harm in any nature to myself. & property.