

**Town of Lisbon Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2023**  
**Lisbon Town Hall**  
**6963 CR 10 Lisbon, NY 13658**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Call to order** by Supervisor Nelson at 5:07 pm

**C. Roll call:** Supervisor William Nelson                      Deputy Supervisor Nathanael Putney  
Councilmember Ron Bush    Councilmember Robert McNeil  
Councilmember Jeff Dumas

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Michael Baldock, Town Clerk Alberta Hyde, Assessor Steve Teele, CEO Marc McDonell, Campground Director Todd Miller, Attorney Charles Nash, Legislator David Forsythe, Historian Nancy LaFaver, several residents

**D. Approval of previous meeting minutes** – Supervisor Nelson requested that the approval of March 8,2023 Town Board minutes be tabled since he did not have time to review them.

**E. Reading of Correspondence / Communications** Town Clerk Hyde stated that the Lisbon Town Board had been invited to attend the Lisbon Fire Department Annual Banquet at the Lisbon Fire Station on May 6,2023 at 6:00 pm.

**F. Public Comment Period** - Citizen Participation (5 minutes per person)  
Supervisor Nelson reminded everyone that the Lisbon Town Board has Rules of Procedure in place that need to be followed when addressing the Town Board. Name calling/finger pointing will not be accepted, last month's meeting got a little out of hand.

- 1- Highway Employee Adam Duvall spoke to the Town Board regarding the issue he is having getting the Town to reimburse his time that was taken back in 2021 when he was off on Workers Compensation. Supervisor Nelson stated he had reimbursed Mr. Duvall's time, to which Mr. Duvall stated, "not all of it", Mr. Duvall has the paperwork that was sent to both the Town and him. Mr. Duvall stated what he was reimbursed does not match the paperwork, he is still owed money. Supervisor Nelson agreed to investigate the issue.
- 2- Darlene Nelson addressed the Town Board by reading a letter that had been prepared. Said letter accused Elected/ Appointed officers of being verbally bullying and unprofessional at the March 8,2023 Town Board meeting. Said letter went on to criticize the work ethic of Elected/Appointed officers. Letter attached

### **G. Approval Audited claims and abstract of vouchers.**

General- \$44,280.89	Highway-\$94880.14
WWTP-\$199,812.50	Sewer- \$7,968.81
Water- \$1,332.00	

The Highway Superintendent questioned the accounts that the Highway bills were taken out of on the Amazon bill. The supervisor stated that the bill had to be paid and he did not have the accounts available that the Highway Superintendent wanted them to come out of. The supervisor stated that the accounts could be changed to reflect what the Highway Superintendent had recorded.

Motion by Councilmember Bush seconded by Deputy Supervisor Putney to make payments to bill # 136-213 except for vouchers 138,161 and 195 that were approved at a special board meeting held on April 5,2023. Also having the Supervisor make corrections to the said accounts pointed out by Highway Superintendent Baldock. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Carried.

### **H. Budget review:**

- Justice Court Board audit update – 2022 Deputy Supervisor Putney reported that himself and Councilmember McNeil completed the Justice Court Audit on March 23,2023 for the year of 2022. Deputy Supervisor Putney noted there were no concerns and asked the Town Board to pass a resolution regarding the Audit. Supervisor Nelson requested a copy of the audit. Town Clerk Hyde will provide the Supervisor with a signed hard copy. Deputy Supervisor Putney stated that the Town Judges have requested that the Court Clerk take the Justice deposits to the bank and asked that she be reimbursed milage. Councilmember Bush questioned why they would not send it with the Highway men when they do the deposits for the Town Clerk. Supervisor Nelson responded that the Justice law states that it is up to the Justice Department. Everyone agreed to reimburse the Court Clerk for the milage.
- Payroll Board audit update – 2022- Assigned Council member Bush and Councilmember Dumas
- Financial records Board audit update – 2022- Assigned Councilmember McNeil and Deputy Supervisor Putney

### **I. Reports of Departments**

- Supervisor report

- 1-Finacial reports have been closed/ balanced and are available
- 2-Peggy Mousaw finished and filed the ARPA report
- 3- There was no response to the advertisement for an Audit. Letters have been mailed to individuals to see if the Town can hire someone.
- 4- Angela Lauzon has been hired and is being trained for the position of Bookkeeper.
- 5- There is a resolution tonight regarding the Fire Alarm system at the Highway Garage
- 6-The Bond resolution has been advertised
- 7-Discussion had regarding the possibility of a Verizon wireless Tower being constructed on the Highway Garage property.

- Highway Superintendent Report

1- Start up for the new UV system was Tuesday, everything appears to be going well

- Town Clerk Report

1- Town Clerk Hyde questioned how Mrs. Nelson had access to the March 8,2023 minutes, said minutes had only been sent to the Supervisor and Town Board Members, regardless Town Clerk Hyde will not be changing the minutes of March 8,2023.

2-Town of Lisbon's Rabies Clinic will be held on April 13,2023 from 6:00pm- 7:30 pm

- Assessor Report

1-The Board of Assessment Review will meet on May 23,2023 between 4:00pm and 8:00pm at the Lisbon Town Hall

2-Anyone tuning sixty-five or older in 2023 and making less than \$93,800 total income can still apply through the State for the Enhanced Star program with good cause

3-Councilmember McNeil asked for an update regarding Ty Johnsons property off CR 28. Discussion followed: regarding abandon roads and the Towns policy and procedures.

- Code Enforcement Officer report

At present the Town of Lisbon has one new resident being built, building supplies are still very high.

CEO McDonell gave an update on the site plan application that was filled regarding the Woodcrest Digester project.

1- The pipeline has now been removed from the project.

2- The Lisbon Planning Board is concerned about DEC permits and access for emergency vehicles.

3- The Town of Lisbon's building permit system allows the Town to hire an outside engineering firm to review the design and construction of the project. The applicant is responsible for this expense.

4- Discussion followed regarding the building permit fees. Permit fees are based on the project construction cost.

5- The Town of Lisbon Planning Board is required to hold a public hearing regarding said project.

CEO McDonell requested to see his Personal file after tonight's board meeting.

-Campground

1- New Rates, which are a 5% increase from 2022, for the 2023 season have been posted.

2- There is a resolution tonight to approve the summer help for the Campground

3-Border Patrol have installed new cameras at the Boat launch

4-Working with the Town's engineer to move forward with the Campground expansion

5-Mr. Miller presented the Town Board with seven quotes for a new lawn mower to be used at the Campground. Discussion followed regarding the different sizes/make and accessories. Motion from Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember Dumas to purchase a new lawn mower for the Campground. All in Favor

- Historian Report

1-Historian Nancy LaFaver Thanked the town board for their help regarding the RVRDA grant application. Councilmember McNeil and herself meet several times to complete the application.

Moved by Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember Dumas to accept the reports from all departments Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion carried.

**J. Reports of Boards and Committees**

- Planning Board Report- Included with the CEO report

- Recreation Report

1- Basketball season is done, and Spring Baseball sign-ups are going well.

2- Town Board members were e-mailed a copy of the revised Bylaws for the Town of Lisbon recreation board previous of today's meeting. Deputy Supervisor Putney asked If anyone has questions or concerns regarding the bylaws.

3-Deputy Supervisor Putney asked what steps would have to be taken to run the Concession stand at the recreation field. Discussion followed.

- Museum

Discussion regarding the infrastructure project at the Town Museum, there is a resolution. On the agenda tonight is to approve the work.

-Library

Highway Superintendent asked what the status was concerning the drainage issue at the Library. Town Historian volunteered to contact SHPO to get permission to do the drain. The Highway crew can do the work. Said project will be funded with ARPA funds.

**K. Action Items:**

1. Resolution to hire seasonal employees at the Beach and Campground BILL #2023-44.  
Supervisor Nelson informed the Town Board that two summer employees are related to an elected official, moved by Councilman Bush seconded by Deputy Supervisor Putney that the Town Board has been made aware of this and will except the resolution as presented. Moved by Councilmember Bush seconded by Deputy Supervisor Putney Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion carried.
2. Resolution to award Museum infrastructure project – ARPA funded – BILL # 2023-45 Moved by Councilman Dumas seconded by Deputy Supervisor Putney Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion carried.
3. Resolution to award Fire alarm system for Highway Garage – ARPA funded – BILL #2023-46 Moved by councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember Dumas; Councilmember McNeil questioned who would be notified if the alarm was activated. Highway Superintendent Baldock responded himself, and 911. Ayes 5 Nays0 Motion carried.
4. Resolution to purchase a printer/copier for Town Hall – BILL # 2023-47 Moved by Deputy Supervisor Putney seconded by Councilmember Bush, CEO McDonell questioned if the new copy would have the

capability to scan? Supervisor Nelson will ask the company that is supplying the new copier and stated the Town will be keeping the old copier that does have the capability to scan. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion carried.

5. Resolution to approve the purchase of property – BILL# 2023-48 Moved by Councilmember Dumas seconded by Councilmember Bush, discussion had regarding the liens against the Richard Stemples estate, the fact that no money will change hands, inspection of said property and the time frame. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion carried.

**L. Report from County Legislature: Chairman Forsythe**

1-St Lawrence County legislators passed a resolution regarding restoring biomass as an important renewable energy source

2- Discussion had regarding St Lawrence County being mandated to back the MAT program.” Medication Assisted Treatment Program”

3-Chairman Forsythe is asking for anyone with suggestions on how to deal with the latest swatting incidents to contact him.

4-County Court Office is getting a remodel

5-Trail permits are available

CEO McDonnell asked Legislature Forsythe to investigate the grant money that is available for sewer projects along water fronts, to see if Lisbon residents could qualify.

**M. Old/Unfinished Business:**

1- Town Clerk Hyde stated that the signs that had been approved to purchase with ARPA funds for the Town Hall and each end of the Hamlet, should be installed within the next month.

**N. – Executive Session** Moved by Councilmember Bush seconded by Councilmember McNeil to adjourn to executive session at 6:50 pm to discuss land purchase. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion carried. At 6:57 pm all Town Board members except for Deputy Supervisor Putney who had excused himself due to having an interest in said land rejoined the meeting. Motion by Councilmember Dumas seconded by Councilmember McNeil to have a survey done of 2.6 acres of land adjoining the Town of Lisbon land located behind the Town Highway Garage. Councilmember Bush made full disclosure that he is related to the landowners. Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried.

**O. Adjournment.** Moved by Councilmember McNeil seconded by Councilmember Bush to adjourn at 7:00 PM Ayes 4 Nays 0 Motion carried.

April 2023

I would not be here today if I had not been contacted by several persons who attended the March Town Board Meeting. The common theme conveyed to me was that Bill Nelson did NOT deserve the ambush and it was obvious to all it was planned in advance. This bullying and gang like mentality is disturbing not to mention unprofessional.

Verbal bullying includes threats, shaming, insults, constant negative judgement & criticism. Perhaps those who were a part of this inappropriate behavior need to attend Town Meetings at other neighboring municipalities like Waddington, Madrid and Canton to see how people can disagree but maintain their professionalism. I recommend those who participated, especially elected and appointed officials, to review the Robert's Rules of Order. Minutes of the March meeting were not provided until this morning or at earliest last evening according to Town Clerk. This does not meeting the Opens Meeting Law. Official minutes should NOT reflect here say. Sensitivity to here say & gossip was discussed at the March meeting in depth by a select group, and given that the taxpayer who spoke expressed deep concern about public image, it is counterproductive to then publicize it in official board minutes not officially approved. The Town Board minutes should not reflect the Town Clerk's personal feelings.

After discussions with 3 people who personally reached out to me after the March meeting, and listening to some of the audio recording of the meeting, accusations against the Town Supervisor was a personal attack orchestrated by several Town Board Members, some elected and appointed officials. I can't help but ponder how much tax payer's time was wasted during the work hours of Monday through Friday planning this. I have been approached personally by different citizens, including a part time Town Employee, for several years now who have stated when at Town Hall to conduct business 3 people are frequently sitting together talking non business. Repeatedly, the names I hear are Alberta Hyde, Town Clerk, Mark McDonnell, Code Officer and Mike Baldock, Highway Supervisor. Honestly, people are not impressed by the lack of professionalism. I also had repeated to me a conversations overheard in public targeting Supervisor Nelson by several Town Board Members, elected and appointed officials and employees. I ignored those up until now. One such conversation a friend overheard a Town Employee say at a local establishment last summer to someone else was that "Mike Baldock has the board in his back pocket and we get what we want and most of us work for his business on the side so he protects us". Again, this is second hand information and here say. Right? But, if true, this is a HUGE conflict of interest and unethical.

Let me set the record straight though on one thing discussed publicly that I know as FACT. About 2 years ago, I shared with my husband Bill Nelson an incident that happened many years ago, approximately year 1995, involving the Code Officer when he was a NYS Trooper. It was simply that Mark McDonnell had pulled me over several times on SH 37 within a short period of time while I was driving home late from work. I shared with Bill how those incidents made me feel very uncomfortable. At the time of the experience, I shared this with a close family friend who had deep connections with the District Attorney's Office. After sharing my experience, the friend said he would make a phone call, and he did and it subsequently, it stopped. That was pretty much the extent of the conversation. I was in the same room when Bill shared this same story to Nate Putney, during a phone conversation they had. Bill had the phone on speaker so I heard

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the whole conversation. What Nate failed to mention when he chose to share this conversation was that HE was the one that initiated the subject of Code Officer McDonnell. Putney stated that in the past, he had concerns about different things the Code Officer did that he did not think was right and stated they caused some problems for the Town. It was only AFTER Nate talked about the Code Officer that Bill shared with Nate what I had told him several years prior. That was it. There was nothing more to this and the fact that this was embellished into something a lot more than it was speaks to the character of those who inflated it. Perhaps the purpose in doing so was political, to tarnish Bill Nelson's reputation for fear of him running again as Town Supervisor. However, it was not needed. We decided together, over a year ago, that Bill would NOT run again. From garbage being thrown on our property, to individuals who have shared with me the back stabbing and gossip that goes on at Town Hall & in public, on tax payer's dollars, it has been enough for us. In the future, I will press charges against any wrong doing on our property. Littering is illegal. I no longer will turn the other cheek. I also will not accept inappropriate behavior and illegal activity from any Town employee and am putting the Town on notice of such.

I can state for a FACT the endless hours Bill Nelson puts into this Town goes unnoticed and unappreciated. But, you do not want to hear that but it is an unequivocal fact. Town Employees and Officials have accused Bill of wanting to be a "One Man Show" but most of the Town Board members appear to do little to move this town forward or offer assistance. They do a lot of complaining, back stabbing and nit picking. If this negative energy was channeled into doing positive for the Town, things would vastly improve and move forward. What is interesting is these same elected, appointed officials and some employees who were so readily yelling and screaming at Supervisor Nelson at the March meeting, were the same folks who have pulled into our driveway no matter the time of day asking for Bill's professional insight or advice. Some sat at our kitchen table complaining about others. You can't have it both ways people!

Many today do NOT want to be reminded of how the Lisbon Town Books had not been reconciled in many years prior to Nelson taking office. Yet, this is a FACT. This was unbelievably irresponsible. Imagine running a business or your personal accounts this way? How can a fiscal and responsible budget be prepared without account reconciliation? I attended a Town Board Meeting prior to Bill taking office and there were no financial reports or account balances provided. Why? Bill worked his butt off since he took office to give the board and taxpayers thorough account reconciliation and account transparency. The financial information between what Bill distributes as Supervisor compared to what was done 4 yrs ago and more is stark. He implemented policies and procedures never done before although several Town Employees did not like it despite savings to the Tax payers. Nelson has written a ton of resolutions, wrote a few grants. Unfortunately, much of Bill's time as Supervisor was spent doing corrective measures that his plans for economic development and moving Lisbon forward was left on the back burner. Covid also influenced progress. Bill spend a lot of time trouble shooting Town Board and Employees questions during Covid.

A reminder that several of the Town Board members here today were also on the Board 4, 5, 6 years ago when the accounts had not been reconciled. As a citizen and taxpayer, it is troublesome to me the board did not act upon this negligence prior to Nelson becoming

Supervisor. He inherited problems. The "Not Knowing" excuses are inexcusable because as town board members, it is your job to know.

As a taxpayer, I urge the Town Employees, both elected and appointed, to stop. The Town Of Lisbon will never be like the forward thinking, blooming contiguous Towns like Waddington and Madrid if they continue to waste taxpayer's time and money gossiping, plotting personal attacks and back stabbing. Enough. Move on. Do your jobs. Town Board members appointed to auditing the various Town accounts. Do It. Town Board members and Department Heads interested in applying for grants. Do it. Do not wait around for Supervisor Nelson to do the work and then criticize him for it. The Town Clerk should also be following the Opens Meeting Law. Do it. Regardless of your personal feelings, do your jobs. Do not purposely make someone else's job more difficult because of personal vendettas. Do not utilize your positions for personal retaliation. This is not in the best interest of the tax payers. Work together to make Lisbon a place people are proud to call home.