

**Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Town of Morristown  
February 13, 2024**

**Present:** Supervisor, Frank Putman; Councilman, David VanArnam; Councilman, Gary Turner; and Councilman, Shawn Macaulay.

**Excused:** Councilman, Chris Coffin.

**Others Present:** Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; community members.

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Putman at 6:02 pm.

**Pledge:** Councilman, Macaulay led the pledge, and it was said by all.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman Macaulay to approve the January 16, 2024, organizational and regular Town Board meeting minutes and January 17, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner.

**Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.**

**Correspondence:** The Town received a thank you letter from Morristown Promotions.

**Public Comment:** County Legislator, Joe Lightfoot stated that the legislators are looking for new recycling services. The County currently takes recyclables to Liverpool, but the cost has increased drastically so they visited DANC to inquire about their services and see if they can help but the state will not allow it. The County will work on solving the recycling problem. The County is considering a request for Probation Officers to carry a firearm while on duty. There doesn't seem to be any problems with it, they are considered Peace Officers and don't require a permit. The County doesn't and won't carry any legal coverage for them so they will be responsible for their own legal issues. The Sheriff's Department will take over the training for them.

The County is trying to maintain the number of people working for the county. There was 1200 and it went to 790 and now back up to 882. They are looking very closely at newly created positions.

The County has a health fund balance and will use it for the old jail roof and the new jail has leaks also. The Humas Service Building after 20 years will go back to the Village. The County will have to repair or replace the roof and do work on the parking lot. If the Village does take it back, then the County will have to find another building.

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The Sheriff's Department provides sworn or peace officers as school resource officers. They are looking for retirees instead of active officers.

Councilman Macaulay mentioned that the county is helping the fire departments with purchasing radios for the trucks but are limiting the number of radios per department. He asked if it might be possible to use some of the fund balance money to help provide a few additional radios per department.

**Executive Session:** At 6:32 pm Supervisor Putman made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel issues. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion. The Executive Session ended at 7:32 pm with no action taken.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Financial Report:** An up-to-date financial report for the Town Barn was distributed to each Councilman prior to the meeting.
- 2. DANC Monthly report:** The January report was distributed and reviewed.
- 3. Proposed Water District Update:** The public vote took place on February 6, 2024, and the results were 2 Ayes and 8 Na's.
- 4. Local Law #1-2024 Regulating Junk Storage:** A revised draft was received from Andy Silver and distributed to each Councilman. The proposed draft includes authorization for the Town to remove junk from a property and the cost to be reimbursed by adding it as a lien on the real property tax bill.

There was discussion about starting up a fund for this expense and setting a time limit for the property owner to comply before the Town begins the cleanup.

It was suggested to set up an account in the amount of \$10,000. After being given the 30-day notice, a certified letter will be sent advising them that they have 20 days to comply and if no action is taken then the town will begin the cleanup process.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to start up an expense fund in the amount of \$10,000 for the Property cleanup and give them 20 days to comply or the Town will, after being given a 30-day notice. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

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**Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.**

- 5. Code Enforcement Officer position specifications:**
- 6. Deputy Clerk/Bookkeeper position specifications:**

Councilman Macaulay got called away from the meeting as a brief discussion about the two position specifications was taking place.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to table the two job specifications and call a Special Meeting so the full Council can be involved. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 3 Ayes.**

**New Business:**

- 1. Formation of a LWRP Committee:** Anne Marie FitzRandolph advised the council that an updated Comprehensive Plan is needed in order to apply for any grants. She is suggesting appointing a committee to work on the plan as soon as possible so it's ready for a grant application in April. We will ask the County Planning Board to participate as well. Michele Whalen was on the committee for the last updated plan and volunteered to look at it for any updates. Supervisor Putman will find a committee.
- 2. Resolution #4-2024:** We have been awarded \$10,000 from the Rock Charitable Foundation of Northern New York Community Foundation and the Town's share is \$10,000. A resolution is needed to accept the award and the Town commitment to their share.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept the \$10,000 award from the Rock Charitable Foundation of the Northern NY Community Foundation to complete a structural analysis to the stone windmill and that the Town of Morristown will commit \$10,000 toward the project. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 3 Ayes.**

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**Department Reports:**

**Town Clerk:** Jill Sullivan stated that the Civic Ready residential alert system is now up and running. Many residents have signed up with more to sign up. Please spread the word.

**Highway Department:** Dean Hoffman stated that the Town barn is coming along. The roof will be 100% completed this week and the doors are scheduled to be installed next week. Hopefully it will all be closed in by the end of the week.

We are still waiting for water filter parts.

The plan is to work on the walkway this summer.

**Code Enforcement:** Gregg Mallette stated that he is trying to complete building permits before the new Code Officer begins.

**Historian:** A written report was distributed.

**Assessor:** A written report was distributed.

**Other Business:**

A letter was sent to Mr. White asking him to remove the private posted sign, but the sign is still on the pole, which is the responsibility of the utility company not the Town.

Supervisor Putman asked the Councilman their suggestion about the selling the surplus property on the backside of Bay Street.

Councilman suggested discussing it at the special meeting.