

**Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
June 8, 2021**

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Chris Coffin, Shawn Macaulay, Frank Putman
Also Present: Debbie Murray (Historian), Gregg Mallette (Codes), Dean Hoffman (Highway), Joe Lightfoot (County Legislator), Jill Sullivan, Wayne Moquin, George Cosler, Mike LaClair.

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Supervisor Frank Putman.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Councilman Shawn Macaulay

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Coffin to approve the minutes of May 11, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman VanArnam.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye Minutes approved

County Proclamation: A proclamation by the Saint Lawrence County Board of Legislators was presented by Legislator Joe Lightfoot to Town Supervisor Frank Putman recognizing the Bicentennial of the Town of Morristown.

Correspondence:

Memorial Day Letter: The Following letter was received from Cheryl Shatraw.
Town of Morristown

I was absolutely amazed that the Town did not honor our Veterans and Military on Memorial Day. There is so much history in Morristown and many who served in our armed forces Thank goodness Fran & Jeannie Colby took the initiative to prepare a wreath. Bill Meade was also part of the salute on Memorial Day. A small group of us paid our respects at the monuments at Chapman Park. I was informed that there would be no service because of COVID restrictions, but these were all lifted. I am also aware that many of you were at the Festival at the Museum. I believe that was a rather large gathering. History and freedom allowed our area to develop. Please keep that in mind and show respect for our armed Forces in the future. Sincerely, Cheryl Shatraw

Supervisor Frank Putman provided the response to the letter from Cheryl Shatraw. The decision was made to not have a public gathering to honor veterans and the military on Memorial Day for several reasons.

With the COVID 19 virus closing down Morristown Central School due to many students being infected, the Town had concerns that the potential existed that children who would attend could potentially spread the virus at a gathering. It was deemed the responsible

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action to take to consider the health of those who were not yet fully vaccinated. The Town took the approach that using social media would allow a safe and respectful recognition of our veterans who risked life and limb in defending our country. To that end we featured poems, and short articles on veterans from Morristown. I wrote remarks for our Facebook page. The Town also placed American flags on graves in Town cemeteries to honor these men and women. I personally helped to place these flags. We feel that given the circumstances, the Town kept our people safe and provided a respectful and meaningful tribute this Memorial Day.

Letter of thanks from the Black Lake Association for the Towns annual contribution.

Letter requesting support from North Country Events.

A complaint on garbage and smells at a restaurant at Black Lake.

Minutes from the Morristown Rec Committee.

July 3 Classic Car and Vehicle Parade Flyer

Public Comment: George Cosler spoke about a burnt- out house on English Settlement Road. He asked if the County Sold the parcel at tax auction would the Town be seeking back sewer rates or would they waive them for the purchaser. He also asked if the Town was going to pursue funding for a grant program to rehab or remove abandoned properties.

Old Business

1. Supervisors Update: None

2. REDI Grant Update: A pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor. On-site work could start by June 21st. Work on the vac plant planned for mid-August.

3. Bayside Park Dock Repair Grant: Work is almost completed.

4. Justice Position Reduction Resolution: Supervisor Putman move resolution #9 of 2021, with a second by Councilman Macaulay as follows:

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2021-8

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMER OF TOWN JUSTICES FOR THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN FROM TWO (2) TO ONE (1) EFFECTIVE UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THAT CURRENT TERM WHICH ENDS DECEMBER 31ST, 2021.”

Dated: June 8, 2021

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WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Morristown has determined that the case load assigned to and handled by the Justice Court for the Town of Morristown is such that a single justice may effectively manage the aforesaid case load and,

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Morristown has determined that it is in the best fiscal interests of the residents of the Town of Morristown to eliminate one Town Justice position effective upon the expiration of the current term ending on December 31, 2021: and

WHEREAS New York State Town Law §60-a(2) permits a Town, by resolution, to reduce the number of Town Justices from two (2) to one (1);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Town Board of the Town of Morristown hereby eliminates one (1) of the two (2) Town Justice positions effective upon the expiration of that current term which ends on December 31, 2021.

Section 2. That this resolution shall take effect on December 31st, 2021.

Section 3. **THIS RESOLUTION IS SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 7 OF THE TOWN LAW.**

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

5. Capital Replacement Planning: Councilman Coffin stated that budget planning for 2022 should start in July. He also said that the Town now has a solid year of experience with costs and needs for the combined Town/Village entity to apply to the budget process.

6 Resolution #8 Local Government Efficiency Grant: A motion was made by Supervisor Putman to move Resolution #8 of 2021. Second by Councilman Coffin.

Resolution # 8 Town of Morristown Resolution in support of a 2021 Local Government Efficiency Grant Application for a North Country Regional Shared Geographic Information System Project

Whereas, the Town of Morristown (Town) has an existing agreement with the Development Authority of the North Country to be part of the Authority’s regional shared services Geographic Information Services (GIS) platform, and **Whereas**, the Town will act as a participating municipality for a shared services project, involving multiple local governments in the North Country to develop GIS datasets for municipally owned assets, including water, wastewater, electric, highway, public works, and cemeteries, and

Whereas, the project partners will submit an application to the Department of State Local Government Efficiency (LGe) Implementation Grant Program, anticipated to be part of the 2021 Consolidated Funding Application, and

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Whereas, the Town understands that they will be required to contribute a 10% match for the Town's portion of the overall project budget, up to \$750 which will be paid to the lead agency.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Morristown will participate as a municipal partner as required for the LGe grant application to be filed with the NYS Department of State, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town authorizes the Supervisor to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the implementation of the grant program project as a participating applicant, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town will provide the required documentation and the support of its staff (as necessary) to the Development Authority of the North Country in performance of the North Country Regional Shared GIS Implementation Project.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

7. Surplus Properties Sales: The Supervisor was able to find out that dividing the 8 acre parcel into 3 would make more income for the town. 1 quote was received from Sheppard Surveying for the requested survey work on the 8-acre parcel and Greenwood Cemetery. The Board reviewed the quote and agreed to go with that quote. A motion was made by Councilman Macaulay, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to move ahead with the quote from Sheppard Surveying for \$4,000.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

New Business

- 1. Teamsters Agreement Negotiations:** Notice was received from Teamsters that they wish to begin negotiations on the upcoming 3- year contract. The Supervisor told Wayne Moquin (shop steward) that the Town will await their requests for the new contract.
- 2. Abandoned Property Request:** Discussed under Public Comments.
- 3. Vacancies in Appointed Positions.** The Board acknowledged the vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review by the departure of James Bogardus. A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to appoint Carolyn Noble to fill the vacancy for the remainder of Mr. Bogardus's term. (09/30/2024) The motion was seconded by Councilman Coffin.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

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Department Reports

Highway Department: A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to approve the Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds for 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Macaulay.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

Superintendent Hoffman reported that the 2 dump boxes and frames have been sandblasted and painted on the older trucks in service. The excavator is now here. The new plow truck will be here the end of June, early July. Summer paving will start soon.

Superintendent Hoffman stated that Mike LeClair has asked to tie- in to the existing sewer pod on his property to service a new camp. The Superintendent stated that he did not have any problem with having the connection made. The Board briefly discussed the request and agreed that it was ok. A motion was made by Supervisor Putman to allow the connection by Mike LaClair with the condition that the homeowner is fully responsible for the cost of connection from the pod to the camp and that the Town will be adding one EDU to the system which will be billed to Mr. LaClair.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

Superintendent Hoffman told the Board that a proposed change in the Summer Youth Employment Program could make the Town liable for workers compensation on those workers. County Legislator Lightfoot stated that he did not know what those costs would be. The Board did not think that it was a good deal if the Town cannot preselect workers to fit the jobs available. The Clerk was directed to write the County requesting the program be kept the same as in past years.

Councilman Turner told the Board that the state of County Route 6 from Edwardsville to the Log Cabins Campground was extremely poor and hazardous. The Board directed the Clerk to write the County Highway Superintendent to ask to have the holes patched.

Code Enforcement: A written report was in the Boards packet. The Code Officer discussed the issue of setbacks for non-conforming lots and setbacks for additions or rebuilds of existing structures. After a discussion, the Board said it was comfortable with 10-foot side and rear setbacks while the Town and Village land use codes were incorporated together.

County: Joe Lightfoot spoke about the search for a new Public Health Director, Federal Native American Land Claims, the need for volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program, and an increase in sales tax revenue.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:45 P.M.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by David Murray, Town Clerk