

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
March 12, 2024**

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

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator; Taylor Jennings, Barton & Loguidice; several Community Members.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Putman at 6:00 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 February 13, 2024, regular Town Board meeting minutes, February 27, March 4 and March 11, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman, VanArnam.

**Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Abstained; Supervisor Putman – Aye.
Motion carried 4 Ayes and 1 abstention.**

Correspondence:

- 1) A letter of retirement was received from Gregg Mallett, Code Enforcement Officer. Gregg's last day of work will be May 9, 2024. The Board thanked Gregg and wished him well on his retirement.
- 2) The own Recreation Committee March 11, 2024, meeting minutes were distributed.

Public Comment:

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator stated that the legislators are continuing to look for new recycling services. There doesn't seem to be any issues with allowing Probation Officers to carry a firearm while on duty they are considered Peace Officers and don't require a permit. Joe gave an update on the areas of repairs and renovations being done on the County Emergency Service building as well as the highway road maintenance/bridge replacements throughout 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. The County purchased an airboat. Additional space is needed in the courthouse to accommodate the requirements of the state. The engineers are working on a plan and figure the project will take approximately one year to complete.

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Bridget Whalen – Nevin as Morristown Library Director thanked the Town and Dean and his crew for all the work and support for the library. She gave a presentation about Rights of Nature and how the organization is seeking symbolic support, asking the Town for a resolution.

The Councilman agreed to seek legal counsel.

Rich Bzura: Rich stated that the Museum would like to hold the Monday night concerts, with a couple of Saturday concerts, on Main Street again this year. Rich stated that signage is a concern and asked if the town could assist with that. Dean Hoffman stated that the Town Highway can provide what they did last year. Dean suggested blocking the intersection with a vehicle as well.

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 February report was not available.
- 3. Local Law #1-2024 Regulating Junk Storage:** A revised draft of proposed Local Law #1-2024 was approved at the February 2024 meeting and a Public Hearing has been set for Friday, March 22, 2024, for 6:00 pm at 402 Gouverneur Street.

New Business:

- 1. Amendment #4 – Water Project Agreement with Barton & Loguidice:** Taylor Jennings stated that the expansion proposals have been unsuccessful, changing the project scoring so we have lost the grant and the funding for the initial project. The repairs still need to be done on the existing system. The amendment to the agreement is \$5,000 which is to revise the report and the scope of work and to re-apply for the grant. If we could pick up 5 additional places in the existing district it would give us expansion points which are highlights on an application. The deadline to apply is June 14th and we hope to hear something in the fall.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to sign the Amendment #4 – Water Project Agreement with Barton & Loguidice. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Turner – Aye; Councilman – Macaulay – Aye; Councilman Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

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2. Joint Recreation Program Agreement: This agreement is between the Town of Morristown and Morristown Central School for a joint recreation program. It allows the school and town to work together. There are no revisions to the agreement and remains as it has in the past.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to sign the Joint Recreation Program Agreement as written. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Turner – Aye; Councilman Macaulay – Aye; Councilman Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated that the advertisement for the Assistant Bookkeeper/Deputy Court Clerk/Utility Billing Clerk has been submitted. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 pm on March 25, 2024. Fishing season is approaching – licenses are available at the Clerk’s office. The parking ban expires on April 1, 2024. Community events are being added to the Town website, so we are asking all community organizations to let us know of any events to post. 97 individuals have signed up for Civic Ready Alerts. Please spread the word to sign up on our website.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman stated that the Highway Department is doing good and glad to have the best winter weather season this year. The outside of the Town barn is 99% done and the inside work is moving along nicely. Anyone is invited to stop and look it over. Mark Parkinson is working on the depreciation side of the funding. We are still waiting for water filter parts.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette stated its slow right now for permits. He is working on files and getting ready for the transition to the new Code Officer. The position has been offered to Lisa Thompson.

Historian: A written report was distributed.

Assessor: A written report was distributed.

Other Business: Councilman Macaulay asked if there is any progress on the installation of the streetlights. Dean stated there has not been anything yet but will see what needs to be done to proceed. Peter FitzRandolph thanked Dean and his crew for being so responsive. People left the remains of animals near the Red Barn parking lot, Dean was called, and they came up right away and removed everything, even though it wasn’t their responsibility.

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Peter also stated the website looks nice and is user friendly. Good job to those involved with updating it.

George Cosler stated he was going to look into a PA system for the conference room to help people hear better.

Adjournment: Councilman Macaulay made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Putman. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.