

**Town Board Budget Hearing/Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
November 8, 2022**

Present: Frank Putman, Chris Coffin, Gary Turner, Dave VanArnam, Shawn Macaulay.

Others Present: Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator, Jay Carter, Black Lake Association, Ingolf Hack, Dockside Condo Association, Rich Bzura, Museum Board.

2023 Budget Hearing: Supervisor Putman opened the hearing up at 7:05 pm. Copies of the 2023 budget were available for review. He asked the board and the public for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the 2023 proposed budget. There were no questions, concerns, or comments so the hearing was closed at 7:11 pm.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget as proposed and presented. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Frank Putman at 7:12 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Shawn Macaulay and said by all.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman, Shawn Macaulay to approve the October 11, 2022 Town Board meeting minutes as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gary Turner.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

Correspondence:

- 1) Thankyou card from Brier Hill Fire Department for the LUCAS Machine.
- 2) Thank you letter from Morristown Fire Department for the purchase of the Lucas Machine and the donations and support for July 4th celebration and NNY Firemen’s Convention, Fire Prevention and the annual children’s Christmas Party.

Public Comment:

Jay Carter, Black Lake Association: Jay Carter stated the Black Association is the lead agency of a group trying to promote Black Lake. In 2016 Black Lake was a Class A Lake and now a Class B Lake, because of the pollution. Machines have been borrowed to clean up, but nothing seems to be working. The Association has tried contacting the DEC to seek help or advise, but they have not

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been responsive. Black Lake Association is seeking funds from the Bordering Towns to assist in the cleanup to improve the fishing, water quality, and lake accessibility for visitors (fishermen). It is the intention to install 3 floating monitoring stations to determine the source of pollution and septic waste runoff that has caused NYS to lower the lake's classification. By using these monitors stations, we will be able to provide the evidence from certified labs to the DEC and local health monitoring agencies to provide lake remediation. With successful data collection remediation will then be able to continue with weed management, fish stocking, and other endeavors. These operations are under supervision of Dr. Brad Baldwin, Environmental PhD at S. Lawrence University. He has been studying Black Lake for several years but not able to pursue activities due to lack of funds. The Town of Macomb has committed to \$6,500 toward the operations, Town of Oswegatchie is interested and willing to provide some funds. Jay is asking for the Town of Morristown to assist with funding and in any other way for the cleanup operations. Black Lake is a very significant source of revenue for the town and county.

There was a lengthy discussion about the different measures already taken and new measures to take for the cleanup. Joe Lightfoot commented on the issue about how the county has been involved with this issue. He has a contact person at the DEC so he'll reach out to him to see if a meeting can be arranged. Town Supervisors of the bordering towns will be invited to attend. The Town of Morristown is interested, and willing to designate some town funds toward the project.

Rich Bzura: is representing the Morristown Museum and they would like to recreate the Monday night block parties with bands during the summer months. They would like to block off Main Street from the Iron Horse to Outerkirk property. The Iron Horse is typically closed on Monday's but would be willing to open as well as Ella's. What would be needed from the town is some barricades to block off the road. The Town Council is supportive and would like to see it happen. It will help with development downtown revitalization.

Also there has been some vandalism at the Red Barn and it is being requested for some lighting in the parking lots. The town will look into the issue and see what can be done.

Ingolf Hack: is representing the Dockside Condo Association and is a homeowner. They have an interest in installing public/private electric chargers (EV Chargers). The association has the opportunity for a funding grant to purchase and install the charging systems. Site surveys have been done on the property and the proposal is for 2 EV Pods with 2 chargers each level 2, which will take up 4 parking spaces. The chargers must be available to the public in order to receive the grants. They are asking for the towns help with the asphalt between Spilman's and condos. The expense to the town would be the paving and the maintenance. The cost of the charging stations would be \$11,300 after grants which would be at the Condo's expense. Supervisor Putman is suggesting to contact Dean for a site survey to make sure there is enough property for maintenance to be done and to see what the cost may be for the asphalt and paving. Ingolf will contact Dean.

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Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator reported that the Conceal & Carry Act got dropped effective immediately.

Office for the Aging is looking for drivers. They deliver 600 meals per day and have 70 additional people on the waiting list.

Jay Moore was re-appointed to the County's EMS Board.

The county's tentative budget for 2023 is \$274 million with a tax levy decrease of \$.60 from last year. The rate is \$7.60 per \$1,000. The fund balance is being used wisely so there is no increases.

Several schools are interested in SRO's. The problem is to hire new people to replace patrol officers. The schools are taking the financial responsibility but if the school does not renew the contracted position, it goes away.

In the Legislator Election there were 9 running unopposed and 5 running apposed.

Old Business:

1. **Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin stated that a copy was distributed and there is nothing new to report on the report.
2. **DANC monthly water report:** A copy of the monthly water report was distributed for review. There was nothing out of the ordinary.
3. **ARPA Funds:** There are no new updates on the ARPA Funds.
4. **Investment of Funds:** Councilman, Coffin presented a resolution from the bank naming Frank and Chris as authorized signers on the account. This resolution needs to be approved and signed.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to approve the banking resolution and it be signed for the investment of funds account. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye; Gary Turner – Aye; Chris Coffin – Aye; Shawn Macaulay – Aye; Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 - Ayes.

The 2nd step is to set up the accounts with NY Class. We'll start the checking account at Community Bank in January 2023. We'll will still keep an account at Citizens bank.

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5. **NY Forward Program:** There is no update.
6. **Property Sale Update:** Andy Silver informed us that the town can sell the property at the appraised value to first come first serve as the town desires. The appraised value for lot #2 is \$13,000 and lot #3 is \$12,000 and lot #5 is \$8,000.

There are two offers:

- 1) Rebecca & James Service have offered \$13,000 for lot #2 and \$12,000 for lot #3 for a total of \$25,000.
- 2) Zachary Montroy offered \$7,000 for Lot #2 and \$7,000 for Lot #3 for a total of \$14,000.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to sell the property at appraised value and to accept the offer of Rebecca and James Service of \$25,000. David VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

7. **Water Improvement Project Survey:** Barton & Loguidice provided a draft copy of the survey which will be mailed to the residents of Morristown. They are asking for the Council’s approval or of any revisions to be made. The survey was reviewed and the Council liked the survey and wants to proceed with the mailing of it to residents.

New Business:

1. **2023 Budget:** The 2023 Budget was approved during action taken during the Public Budget Hearing prior to this Board meeting.
2. **Resolution #15 Retirement Reporting:** This was tabled because it was incorrect.
3. **Resolution #16 Authorization to relevy outstanding Water & Sewer bills onto 2023 Town & County Taxes:** The total amount to be relevied from all districts is \$78,833.25.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to authorize the relevy of the outstanding Water & Sewer bills onto 2023 Town & County Taxes. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay -Aye Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 – Ayes.

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Other Business:

Town Historian: Supervisor Putman stated last year there was an oversight and the position of Town Historian was not advertised, and an appointment was made. We will advertise the position and go through the hiring process. A job description and application will be available at the Town Clerk's office for anyone interested.

Library Budget: A meeting for a plan and responsibilities for the library budget will be scheduled. The biggest expense is fuel. All improvements will need to come before the board prior to them being done. David VanArnam will contact Bridget at the Library to discuss the operation of the Panasonic heating unit.

Website and Zoom upgrades: There was discussion about updating the Town Website so it is more user friendly and also to upgrade the technology for the meeting room for virtual meetings. Gary Turner suggested Jacob Gilmore.

ZBA Concerns: Members of the ZBA feel fines should be increased. Gregg Mallette agrees that they are low and feels that people need to be responsible for their actions. If they start a project without the permit, they are fined the cost of the permit doubled. In most cases a total of \$60.

It was suggested to raise permit fees to \$50.00 and without a permit a civil fee of \$200.00 plus the permit fee of \$50.00.

Gregg is working on the code variances document. There will be language added in writing that Capital improvement projects with max spending of \$5,000 will not need a permit.

Black Lake Fish and Game Club is asking for permit forgiveness. There was discussion. It was suggested to reduce the cost some but not all. Gregg is still spending time on inspections and such. Suggestions were \$500.00 and \$750.00.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to reduce the building permit fee to \$750.00 which is half, for the Black Lake Fish and Game Club. Councilman VanArman seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay -Aye Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 – Ayes.

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Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated that school tax collection is finished for the year and getting ready for the Town Tax collection. She received an email from DEC stating an agent will be in contact to get her logged into DECAL as an Agent.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette presented a written report. Gregg stated that it has been a busy month with new houses being build. There has been movement with cleanup on CR 6. They are making progress. There is a sub-division taking place with that property so there is potential there. Across the road from the residence has been cleanup with only a pile of tire remaining. Properties on 37 and English Settlement Roads have been completely cleaned up. By giving the 20 day time frame to clean it up before being heavily fined is working.

Gregg stated he has had confrontation with an Amish individual on Yankee Street. He has been told that he needs to apply for a variance or legal action will be pursued.

Town of Macomb would like to purchase the old Village drop box we have. We have asked for \$600.00. The keys have not been found for it and it will cost them approximately \$200.00 to get a new lock. They have counter offered at \$400.00. All councilmen agreed that was a fair price.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman Macaulay and seconded by Councilman VanArnham at 9:16 pm.

**Town Board Special Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
November 10, 2022**

Present: Frank Putman, Gary Turner, Dave VanArnam, Shawn Macaulay.

Excused: Chris Coffin

Others Present: Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk

Property Sale Update: At the November 8, 2022 Town Board meeting a motion was made and carried to accept and sell lots #2 and #3 to Rebecca and James Service for \$13,000 for lot #2 and \$12,000 for lot#3 for a total of \$25,000. Which was believed to be the correct appraised value of the property lots. Jill Sullivan later brought to the attention of the Supervisor that the offered price for lot #2 was not the appraised amount. The offer was for \$13,000 and the appraised value is \$15,000.

Jill Sullivan spoke to Rebecca Service and give her the appraised values on the property explaining that was the minimum offer to be accepted. She stated that she was given those correct amounts and must have gotten them mixed up. They are still interested in purchasing lot #2 and emailed a purchase offer of \$15,005.00 for lot #2 but would like to hold off on lot #3 for now. If it's still available in the Spring, they may still be interested.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to rescind the motion of selling the property to Rebecca and James Service for \$25,000 due to incorrect information. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to sell the lot #2 property at appraised value of \$15,000 and to accept the offer of Rebecca and James Service of \$15,005.00. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.