

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
October 11, 2022**

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

Others Present: Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator, Bridget Whalen and Carolyn Noble, Morristown Public Library, Jay Moore, Morristown Fire Chief.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Frank Putman at 7:05 pm.

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman, Chris Coffin to approve the September 13, 2022 Town Board meeting minutes as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman David VanArnam.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Abstained; Frank Putman – Abstained. Motion unanimously carried 3 Ayes; 2 abstentions.

Correspondence:

- 1) St. Lawrence County Emergency Response Monthly Report.

Public Comment:

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator reported that there will be a meeting with the Town Highway Departments regarding plowing of snow and ice and that the mileage rate is being calculated for reimbursement. Last year the cost of salt at the county was \$7 less than state rate and this year it is \$70 per ton.

The County's financial stress rating is zero. The 2023 tentative county budget is due the 24th.

There has been discussion with the Governor about shutting down the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility and letting it just sit there and rot with no heat. The State has now decided to heat the building. The tax amount for the property auction was \$1,775,000 and the County was able to sell 288 units at \$1,506,000.

Morristown Public Library: Supervisor Putman stated that there should be something in concrete with the library as far as the financial responsibilities of the Town and the Library. Bridget Whalen stated it would be nice if the town would provide the library with a budget because they have no idea what the budget entails because they have never been given one. Frank Putman stated that the current budget amount for the library is \$14,000.00. After discussion about the expenses of the library, it was decided that Bridget will meet with Frank & Dean to put together a list of responsibilities.

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ZBA: There was no representative from the Zoning Board available for the meeting. Gregg Mallette stated that the ZBA members would like to create a fine for individuals who build without a permit. Currently the fine is doubled the permit cost, for example a \$30.00 permit fee would cost \$60.00 if the individual was unpermitted. The board would be willing to meet with the ZBA.

Old Business:

1. **Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin presented some budget modifications and stated they are minor adjustments to the budget. There is nothing major being modified. A copy of the modifications was distributed for review.
2. **DANC monthly water report:** Dean Hoffman stated the amount of water treated is high because with the river water being so low it is back washing. Other than that, everything is fine.
3. **ARPA Funds:** Morristown received the LUCAS machine, and the bill has been submitted.
4. **Investment of Funds:** Councilman, Coffin is proposing to invest a larger amount of Town funds into NY Class. They have high reviews, and they are giving 2% on the accounts which is more than other institutions. We can isolate funds into separate accounts and see what is in each account at any time. We can utilize Community bank for electronic transmissions. We would still maintain the checking account at Citizens National of Hammond with close to \$100,000. Councilman Coffin is suggesting putting \$1,350,000 into NY Class at 2% variable interest rate for a gain of \$27,000/per year. We can look at the fund balance and divide it into necessary accounts. There was discussion and it was suggested to transfer \$1,450,000 into NY Class. Councilman Coffin will ask if each account receives 2%.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion for a resolution to invest town funds into NY Class. 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.

5. **NY Forward Program:** There is no update.
6. **One Room School House Roof and Masonry Work on the Windmill:** Dean Hoffman stated that Nick Bertrand came to look at the roof and will get back to us with a quote. There has been nothing done with the windmill at this point.

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New Business:

1. **2023 Tentative Budget:** Councilman Coffin presented the 2023 budget and stated it is the same as what was worked on at the work session. An increase in Justice to cover the judge. David VanArnam stated he thought it was agreed on that the judge would receive \$17,000 for his 4-year term. The revenue has been increased to \$72,000 the draft was lowered by \$20,000 for tax. We will get a precise cost of insurance. We will use surplus funds to cover the new accounting software then put the remaining surplus in budgetary provision for replacement and repair. The only difference is an increase in personnel services.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to approve the 2023 Tentative Budget as presented. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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

2. **Property Sale Bids:** Two bids were received for Lot #1.

Richard Marshall for \$13,123.00 with no check included as asked for in the bid packet.
Shawn and Deanna Macaulay for \$12,589.70 with a 10% cashiers check included.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to accept the valid bid from Shawn and Deanna Macaulay in the amount of \$12,589.70. David VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay - abstained, Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 4 – Ayes, 1 abstention.

Other Business:

Heating Fuel Bids: Two bids were received:

Morristown Fuel & Supply (Spilmans) proposed for #2 fuel oil at variable price to billed .22 cents less than public price.

MX Fuels proposed #2 fuel oil at state rate. Currently \$4.31 per gallon and changes weekly.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to accept Morristown Fuel & Supply (Spilmans) bid on #2 fuel oil as presented. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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Vote: David VanArnam – Abstained, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes, 1 Abstention.

Hunting on Town Property: There has been mention of individuals hunting on Town property. That is not allowed. Supervisor Putman asked Dean to get posted sign to put up on the town property lines.

Internet Service: Shawn Macaulay asked Joe if he could see about internet in Brier Hill. There was special funding for that, and it was put in other remote areas. Joe Lightfoot will contact Mary Haggert from Potsdam and have discussion about it with her.

Barton & Loguidice Agreement Amendment #1 and Interest survey: There is a proposed fee increase for the WIIA grant application of \$2,000 and a proposed fee increase of \$3,500 to conduct an interest survey for a total increase to the agreement of \$5,500.

There was discussion: Council feels it is important to provide the citizens with an interest survey for a new water district.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept the Barton & Loguidice Agreement Amendment #1 as presented. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated she has been busy with school tax collection and everyday business.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman reported that he has not received any bids on sand. We have used Stouts in the past and he normally gives us the best price. Dean will ask Dave if he is willing to provide sand for the town this year. The highway department is busy fixing some major pothole. The bridge project is done. The cost for the dozer is \$ 52,500 after the first of the year. We will get \$35,000 for ours. \$287,000 in CHIPS money will be coming.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette presented a written report. Gregg stated that he has issued 11 permits but no big projects. We got an invoice for Silver & Collins so hopefully individuals will be served soon.

Rumor has it that Parkway will not be coming back. Shawn asked if he could reach out to Stewarts or another company? Frank stated he had already reached out to Stewarts with no interest at this time.

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Morristown Fire Report: Jay Moore reported that the LUCAS Machine has been received and it is in service. Thank you to the Town, it is greatly appreciated.

It has been a busy summer for the department with the July 4th celebration and the NNY Fireman's Convention. The department did well and ended up in the black.

October 28th, 2022 is fire prevention at the station.

The department will sponsor the Community Thanksgiving again this year. After talking with Pete Paquette, we will need to find storage for food.

The Children's Christmas Party has been scheduled for Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Fire District Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm. We will be putting forth some resolutions to be voted on in December. The final payment on A229 has been made so it is paid for. One of the resolutions is to put those funds in an Ambulance/Truck fund.

Jay is requesting payment from the town for the donations on \$750.00 for each, July 4th and Fire Convention, totaling \$1,500.

Jay is asking for the Town's support of \$1,000 for the Christmas Party, and \$750.00 for Fire Prevention. In the past this is what the Town has given to both Morristown and Brier Hill Fire Department for these events. We purchase fire alarms to distribute to each Pre-K student for fire prevention.

MOTION

Councilman Dave VanArnam made a motion to give each department \$1, 000 for the Christmas Party and \$750 for Fire Prevention. Supervisor Frank Putman seconded the motion.

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

The monthly EMS report was discussed. Morristown has a YTD call total of 600 plus with 3 months to go.

Gregg Mallette asked if wood stove safety is provided during fire prevention. Jay stated it is briefly discussed but will try to focus on the subject more, given these days.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Supervisor Putman and seconded by Councilman Turner at 9:12 pm.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by:
Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk
October 11, 2022