

**Town of Morristown
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 08, 2012**

Present: Frank Putman, Gary Turner, David VanArnam, David Stout, Howard Warren
Also Present: Mike Bogart, Kay Davis, Kevin Crosby, Joe Lightfoot, Joe Cosentino,
Frank Perretta

Meeting convened at 7 PM by Supervisor Putman

Approval of Minutes- A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012 as presented.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

Correspondence – A letter was received from Dick Davis complementing the contractor and the work being done on River Road East wastewater project.

Public Comment Period- Richard Fishel spoke to the Board about his concerns that the taxpayers will be overly burdened by having to pay for the cost of the proposed Town Hall.

Old Business

1. **River Road East Sewer Project-** A report was given by Jay Berkman and Andy Mason on the status of the project. Mr. Berkman presented a recommendation from Tim Burley for a change order to extend the contracted project end date from May 2, 2012 to July 7, 2012. The extension was requested due to field conditions and coordination with property owners. After a short discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Putman, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to extend the contract end date to July 7, 2012.
Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved
2. **Town Hall** –Councilman Warren reported that the road survey stakes were repositioned to a more favorable location on the site.
3. **Wind Law** –The Board reviewed LaBella’s comments and the changes they had made page by page. Mark Tayrien, from LaBella, has advised that they should do a new SEQR because so much has changed in the law since the initial one was done.
4. **Code of Ethics-** A new version of the Code of Ethics was received from Attorney Silver and passed out to the Board for their review.
5. **Ambent Energy-**The Board held a short discussion and directed the clerk to send Ambent Energy a letter informing them the Town was not interested.

**Town of Morristown
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 08, 2012**

6. Town Vehicle Policy Adoption- A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman Turner to adopt the Town Vehicle Use Policy as follows:

A Policy for Town Vehicle Shared Use as follows:

1. Only to be used by Town Officials and Town Employees with current driver's license.
2. Notify primary user with 24 hours advance notice if possible during weekdays to assure full tank of gas.
3. Notify primary user by Thursday for weekend use to assure full tank of gas.
4. Report any accidents immediately to the Town Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor and provide the following in a timely manner:
 - a. Date of accident
 - b. Time of accident
 - c. Parties involved
 - d. Police report, if available.
5. Pick up and return to Town Hall

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

7. Cemetery Costs- The Board briefly discussed the cost for a plot in the Town cemeteries and will consider adjusting them later in the year.

8. Other Old Business-No other old business.

New Business

1. Local Law #2 of 2012-Proposed Amendments to Local Law #3 Of 2007-The Board reviewed the amendments to Local Law #3 of 2007. Kay Davis explained the reasons for the amendments. A motion was then made by Councilman VanArnam, seconded by Councilman Turner to hold a public hearing on May 15, 2012 at 7 PM on the proposed amendments as follows:

Article IV, SECTION B-1-f: (Zone R-1)

- i. Setbacks (Zone R-1)
 - (a) Front: fifty (50) feet.
 - (b) Article IV, SECTION B-2-f: (Zone R-A)
- i. Setbacks
- ii. (a) Front: seventy-five (75) feet.
- iii. Article X, SECTION J-2

2. Civil Penalties: In addition to those penalties proscribed by State law, any person who violates any provision of this local law, the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, or any term or condition of any Building Permit, Certificate of Occupancy / Certificate of Compliance, Temporary Certificate, Stop Work Order, Operating Permit or other notice or order issued by the Code Enforcement Officer pursuant to any provision of this local law, shall be liable to a civil penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$350 for each day from the issuance of the order or notice to the date of resolution or

part thereof during which such violation continues, and/or up to fifteen (15) days in jail. Repeat offenders shall be liable to a civil penalty of not less than \$350 and not

Town of Morristown
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 08, 2012

more than \$500 for each day from the issuance of the order or notice to the date of resolution or part thereof during which such subsequent violations continue, and/or up to fifteen (15) days in jail. The civil penalties provided by this subdivision shall be recoverable in an action instituted in the name of this Town, including but not limited to a tax levy against said property in violation.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

2. Proposed Wording Change to Local Law #2 of 2007- The Board reviewed a proposed amendment to Local Law #2 of 2007 as suggested by the assessor as follows:
Section 6. Requirements for obtaining exemption.

- A. No exemption shall be granted for reconstruction, alterations, or improvements unless:
- (1) Such reconstruction, alteration, or improvement must be commenced subsequent to the effective date of this article; and
 - (2) The value of such reconstruction, alteration, or improvement must exceed \$1,500. The maximum exemption permitted under this article is \$24,000; and
 - (3) The greater portion, as so determined by square footage, of the building reconstructed, altered, or improved must be at least five years old; and
 - (4) Building permits must be obtained in accordance with local law; and
- (5) ~~Reconstruction, alteration, or improvements must be to the exterior of the structure.~~

The change will offer more opportunities for property owners to benefit from the exemption provided by the law. A motion was made by Councilman Turner and seconded by Supervisor Putman to hold a Public Hearing on the law on June 12, 2012 at 7 PM.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

3. Operation Veteran- Resolution of Support –Joe Cosentino made a presentation to the Board on “Operation Veteran”. It aims to provide medical and long term care solutions for North Country veterans. Mr. Cosentino asked the Board for a letter of support to aid in the efforts of “Operation Veteran”. A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Warren to have a letter of support sent to Mr. Cosentino.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

4. Other New Business-Kay Davis brought up the subject of repealing the Junk /Storage Law. Changes to the Property Maintenance Code and the adoption of Zoning in the Town make the law unnecessary. The Clerk was instructed to look into how this can be accomplished.

**Town of Morristown
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 08, 2012**

Department Reports

1. Code Enforcement- Kay Davis presented a written report for the month and YTD. She also reported on the junk/storage and pole survey. She also reported that she will be travelling to Syracuse to attend a state hearing for a variance request to support a local business. The Code Officer also requested the establishment of a petty cash fund to make change for permits, and other purposes that arise in the discharge of her duties. A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to authorize the expenditure for the establishment of a petty cash fund set at two hundred dollars, for the Code Enforcement Officer.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

2. Highway Department- The Highway Superintendent presented a written report to the Board. He also reported that a portion of the Scotch Bush Road will be paved very soon.

3. Sewer Department- Kevin Crosby reported that District #1 is continuing to have issues with the pumps losing prime. Siewert has been called to service them.

County Legislator, Joe Lightfoot made a presentation to the Board on the issue of county legislative redistricting. He submitted two plans that are being considered by the County. He asked the Board for support of his plan. A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to support Mr. Lightfoot's plan for legislative redistricting.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman Turner to enter into executive session to discuss matters relating to collective bargaining under the Taylor Law.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, David Stout- Aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye – motion approved

The Board entered into executive session at 8:35 PM and exited at 9:05 PM. Supervisor Putman reported that action was taken in executive session.

Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 9:05 PM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by David Murray, Town Clerk