

**Town of Morristown
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 14, 2013**

Present: Frank Putman, Gary Turner, David VanArnam, David Stout III (arrived at 7:12 PM), Howard Warren

Also Present: Michael Bogart, Valerie Harman, Jay Berkman(Engineer), Darrell Merkel, Dan Lockhart(Planning), Cheryl Shatraw, Kevin Crosby(Village), Joe Lightfoot(County)

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Supervisor Putman

Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2013- A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to approve the minutes as presented.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

Public Comment Period

Harvey Bender and Mark Bender spoke to the Board about a recent Code Enforcement action on a structure on State Highway 58 that they stated was agricultural in use and not within the authority of the Code Officer. The owner, Brian Morriseau, stated that the structure was for agricultural storage. The Code Officer asked the Board how they wished the case to be handled and the Board agreed that the case should be closed because the structure was agricultural in use.

Old Business

1. Sewer Project- Jay Berkman (Engineer), gave a short report on the status of the District 2 project. The contractor is working through a final punch list of items. All identified problem issues are being worked on. The mail survey for the Black Lake sewer project has gone out and the returns are back and being looked at.

The Board reviewed an acceptance letter for bridge financing from the contractor. A motion was made by Councilman Turner, and seconded by Councilman Warren to authorize the Supervisor to endorse and accept the bridge financing agreement from North Country Contractors. The issue of overtime for District 2 will require a review by the engineer to determine what is reimbursable.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

2. Amendment to Land Use Code –Boat Houses- Dan Lockhart spoke on behalf of the Planning Board concerning the Planning Boards process in creating guidelines for the regulation of boathouses within the Town as it applies to the Land Use Code. The Board asked about determining the high water mark-determined by the Code Officer, and floating boathouses-not permitted for safety reasons. After a short discussion Supervisor Putman made a motion, seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to bring the proposed amendment to public hearing on June 11th at 7 PM, before the regular meeting.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

The clerk was directed to place the legal notice for the hearing.

3. Mill Road-Tabled until June.

4. Sand Street-Tree Removal-the tree has been taken down and removed. The contractor still has some repair and remediation work to complete.

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5. Other Old Business- Councilman Turner asked if any response had been received on the request for a speed reduction on CR 6. To date the Town hasn't heard back from NYSDOT.

New Business

1. Cancer Action-Donald Hassig, from Cancer Action NY gave a short presentation on the risk of exposure to persistent organic pollutants, and current studies from the World Health Organization. Mr. Hassig asked the Board to consider putting links to these reports on the Town website. He will email links to other towns in the County currently making these links available on their municipal websites. The Board will review the other websites and consider Mr. Hassig's request.

2. Winter Sand Bids- Tabled

3. Cemetery Contract Amendment- A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to authorize an amendment to the cemetery contract with Jason Curran.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

4. Resolution- SLCPC- A motion was made by Supervisor Frank Putman, and seconded by Councilman David VanArnam, to adopt resolution #6 of 2013 as follows:

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Mental Health is proposing a reduction in the number of inpatient hospital beds, and

WHEREAS, the plan would include designating certain hospitals for closure, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, located in Ogdensburg, New York provides a comprehensive range of residential programs including Children/Youth Services, Adult Services, and a Sex Offender Treatment Program, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center has a distinguished history of providing services to those in need from the North Country and throughout New York State for over 100 years, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has a long history of assisting the New York State by welcoming and caring for those being treated at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is the only such facility in this part of the state, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center provides high quality care for residents of this region for whom travel and access to other facilities outside of this region would be a hardship, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center employees approximately 500 people, and

WHEREAS, these employees reside in the North Country, make purchases here, and support our local business, thereby contributing to the local economy and making our region a better place to live and raise a family, and

WHEREAS, in the past few years the General Motors plant in Massena, New York closed, putting over 500 people out of work, the Newton Falls Fine Paper Mill closed, leaving 100 people without jobs, the zinc and talc mines in the Gouverneur area have

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greatly reduced their operations, costing over 200 job losses, and numerous cutbacks and layoffs at local hospitals and schools have further strained the North Country economy, placing an unprecedented demand on human, health, and social services in our region, and

WHEREAS, the loss of jobs and payroll at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center would create an economic climate that will contribute even further to the need for the services that would be taken out of this area by the Center's closure or reduction of services, and WHEREAS, the current condition of the over 500,000 square feet of vacant and deteriorating buildings that were formerly used by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is a clear indication that there is no market or reasonable expectation for the adaptive reuse of any additional buildings currently being used by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center should they be closed, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Morristown urges our regional elected representatives to oppose any plan that would involve the closure or reduction in services of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, United States Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, United States Congressman Owens, New York Senators Little, Griffo, and Ritchie and New York Assembly Members Duprey, Russell, Butler, and Blankenbush.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

5. Budget Mods- A motion was made by Councilman Stout, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to approve the budget modifications as follows:

GENERAL A

1. From A1990.4: Contingent to A3510.4 Dog Control Cont. \$ 100.00
2. From A1990.4: Contingent to A3620.4: Safety Insp. \$3,000.00
3. From A5132.4: Garage Contr. to A5132.2 Garage Equip. \$ 68.00

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

6. 2013 Budget Amendment Resolution-Highway Superintendent Bogart explained that because the State had appropriated additional CHIPS funds for the Town, the 2013 budget needs to be amended to account for the additional money. A motion was made by Councilman Turner, and seconded by Councilman Warren to move resolution # 7 of 2013 as follows: Resolution #7 of 2103 - Resolution to amend the 2013 Budget for the Town of Morristown Resolved, that the 2013 Budget for the Town of Morristown, be amended to include the addition of \$23,145 in CHIPS funds for inclusion in the DB3501 Revenue line, and the DB5112.4 Expense line.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

7. Other New Business-Agreement to Expend Highway Funds-A motion to Expend 2013 Highway Funds amended to include the additional 2013 CHIPS funding was made Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Stout.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

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Department Reports

Highway Superintendent -The Superintendent presented a written report to the Board.

Code Enforcement Office -The Code Officer presented a written report to the Board. The Board discussed agreements prepared by the Town's attorney for the cleanup of debris and the removal of a burned out structure at 611 English Settlement Road. After discussion a motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to move ahead with the proposed action.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye
A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, and seconded by Councilman? to solicit bids for the cleanup and structure removal.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, D. VanArnam-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren-Aye, F. Putman-Aye

Public Works Department- Kevin Crosby reported that the vent and filter system has been installed on Northumberland street.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:30 PM.

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