**Town of Morristown**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**March 10, 2015**

**Present:** Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Shawn Macaulay, Howard Warren, Frank Putman

**Also Present**: Kevin Crosby (DPW), Cheryl Shatraw (Village Mayor)

**Approval of Minutes-**A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015 as presented.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman-Abstain (not present at the February meeting)

**Correspondence:** The Board briefly discussed the Spill Law reporting requirement. The Board directed that the reporting responsibility would be Dean Hoffman, David Murray, Frank Putman.

**Public Comment**

**Darrel Merkel**-Noted that 6 or 7 residents from sewer district 2 were present in the audience. Mr. Merkel presented a letter to the Board from which he asked the following:

1. How much is left for overtime at this point in the year.

2. How will highway employee expenses be paid?

3. Does the Board have plans to address the contractor and the engineer?

4. What line item is new equipment coming from?

5. Why is there no contingency fund?

6. Thanked the Town employees for their work during the freeze ups.

**Kevin Crosby**-In response to how new equipment will be paid for; Mr. Crosby stated that the Town bought a new hose for the village owned Steam Jenny. The hose would come from Sewer District equipment appropriations.

**Frank Putman**-There are funds in the budget for overtime. He has contacted Senator Ritchie’s office to ask for help with the problems.

**David VanArnam-** When the frost has left the ground it will be time to do test digs at the problem sites to check on the installations versus the as built drawings to see why problems are occurring.

**Darrell Merkel**-If the district is that bad will it need to be rebuilt?

**Rick Johnson**-Having an independent engineer to accompany Town when examining problem installations would be wise. Also stated that the Highway employees do a good job keeping roads clear but if they wing back the snow too far does it remove the insulating effect of the snow on the sewer main.

**Lynn Lockhart**-Asked about the reduction of the justice positions. Why was it timed when it would remove the most senior judge? David VanArnam stated that it was proposed to reduce the budget and not aimed at a specific person. Supervisor Putman stated that the resolution would have resulted in a referendum to give the voters a choice.

**Cheryl Shatraw-** Asked if this means the Board will not pursue the justice reduction resolution in the future. Supervisor Putman stated that his job requires him to bring resolutions to the table if a Board member requests it but there would not be the votes to pass this resolution.

**Lynn Lockhart**-The Boards actions regarding retiree’s health insurance is unfair and unethical.

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**Rick Johnson**-The sewer district problems are difficult for everyone. He asked the Board to do the right thing. If the engineering is at fault then do what needs to be done. Howard Warren stated that the grinder pumps seem to be working fine but can’t pump against frozen lines. Kevin Crosby stated that the mains are freezing but in some cases the laterals have frozen. Mr. Johnson asked how many residence need to be pumped. Mr. Warren stated that 8 – 12 are being pumped daily.

**Darrell Merkel**-Asked if the budget will be able to cover the current freeze ups. Howard Warren stated that the Town will have to wait until the weather moderates and everything is working to see where the budget is.

**Rick Johnson**-The system may not be built correctly. Remediating the problems isn’t enough a fix is required.

**Darrell Merkel**-The Town needs to communicate to the residents of the district what is wrong, what is being done to fix the problem. Supervisor Putman asked the residents to contact the Town for updates or to ask questions.

**Old Business**

1. **Community Development Block Grant**-The Board heard a presentation from Peter Devine, coordinator for the St. Lawrence County Housing Council. Mr. Devine asked the Board for assistance in promoting the Town’s septic system repair and replacement grant program which has had a very low response from Town homeowners. The Clerk was directed to set up an interview with the Ogdensburg Journal and Mr. Devine to publicize the grant program.
2. **Sewer Districts-**Covered during the comment period.
3. **Town Hall-**No report available-tabled.
4. **Employee Handbook-** Tabled
5. **Local Law #1 of 2015- Repeal of 2015 Tax Cap Override Law-** Because the Town did not exceed the tax cap for 2015 the Board discussed the need to repeal the law to allow residents to receive a rebate check from the State in the Fall. A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Turner, to set a public hearing on a local law to repeal the Tax Cap Override law at 7 PM, on April14th.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman

1. **Municipal Energy Program-**The Board reviewed the offering from the Municipal Energy Program and decided to decline the offer.
2. **Other Old Business-**The Board asked about the status of receiving proof of insurance from various contractors. None had yet to be received.

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**New Business**

1. **Resolution #3- Saint Lawrence County Hold Harmless**- The Board discussed the annual request from the County for a hold harmless resolution. A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to move Resolution #3 as follows:

**HOLDING HARMLESS THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE FOR PROVIDING SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN**

By Town Board Town of the Town of Morristown

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Morristown is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of Highways providing shared services such as paving, shoulder widening, signage, road stripping, blasting and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

**WHEREAS,** both the Town of Morristown and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and

**WHEREAS**, in this joint cooperative endeavor, the Town of Morristown and the County

of St. Lawrence desires to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of the services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Town will indemnify and hold harmless the County, their officers, directors, partners, representatives, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, liens, judgments, damages, losses and expenses, including legal fees and all court costs and liability (including statutory liability) arising in whole or in part and in any manner from injury and/or death of a person or damage to or loss of any property relating to or arising out of any negligent or intentional acts and/or omissions of the Town or any of its directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, or agents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows:

General Liability Insurance

On an “Occurrence” basis, with the following limits:

$1,000,000 Each Occurrence

$2,000,000 General Aggregate

$1,000,000 Products Aggregate

$1,000,000 Personal Injury

$ 50,000 Fire Damage Legal Liability

$ 5,000 Medical Payment Expense

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG 2026.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman

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1. **Letter of Support St. Lawrence County IDA-**A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Macaulay, to authorize a letter of support for the St. Lawrence County Wine Trail.
2. Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-aye, Howard Warren-Aye, Frank Putman
3. **Ethics Review Board-**The Board directed the clerk to place an ad for community members interested in serving on the Ethics Review Board.
4. **Other New Business-**No other new business was introduced by the Board.

**Department Reports**

1. **Highway Department-**The Highway Superintendent was absent from the meeting**.** A written report was given to the Board.
2. **Code Enforcement-**The Code Enforcement Officer was excused from the meeting. A written report was given to the Board
3. **DPW-**No report was given as it was covered under public comment.

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

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