

Town Budget Hearing/Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
December 12, 2023

Present: Supervisor, Frank Putman; Councilman, Chris Coffin; Councilman, David VanArnam; Councilman, Gary Turner; and Councilman, Shawn Macaulay.

Others Present: Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; community members.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Putman at 6:01 pm.

Pledge: The pledge was led by Councilman Macaulay and said by all.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Coffin to approve the November 7, 2023, regular Town Board meeting minutes; November 15, 2023, special board meeting; and December 5, 2023, Public Hearing minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman VanArnam.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public Comment: Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator, stated that the bids for renovation of the Emergency 911 building will be opened and read on Monday, December 18th. The renovations are extensive with an estimated cost of 6 – 7 million dollars for the project. Many local contractors have submitted bids, which is good. The project will be paid for with ARPA funds. The County received \$922,000 from the State and Federal Government for unexpected expenses for 2022 and 2023.

The county will be getting a new Family Court Judge in 2026.

The budget for 2024 is 296.5 million and the tax rate did decrease.

Councilman VanArnam asked if anything can be done at the County Level as far as making the Amish light up their buggies for better visibility to possibly prevent accidents.

Joe stated that the county has tried several different ways and times but is not able to enforce them to do anything.

Web Presentation: Deb Pinger gave a presentation of the updated website. She showed how to maneuver through the site and showed where to find things within the town departments. She will be maintaining the website on a regular basis.

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Old Business:

- 1. Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin reported that the November 2023 financials had some overspent budgets. This is not uncommon at the end of a fiscal year. It does reflect the decisions made by the board throughout the year. There is a list of budget modifications to be reviewed during new business. The sales tax revenue for 2023 exceeded the budget by \$120,000. We will be receiving CHIPS money soon which will help with Highway because that is overspent. The fire expenses were put in garage contractual.

The Sewer is higher than projected and water district is only short by \$12,000 even with the large repair cost. We received a check from Verizon in the amount of \$16,000 but it was made out to the Village, so it was not accepted at the bank. We are waiting for a replacement check. We are hoping to see an improvement in the water district budget by changing the rates in 2024.

The bank reconciliation matches the bank amount, but the books are about \$500.00 off. After a great deal of searching back to the start and still unfounded. Staff would rather go back to Williamson Law software for the financials for many reasons, this is just one reason. We will be able to increase the fund balance at the end of the year.

- 2. DANC Monthly report:** The November report was unavailable.

New Business:

- 1. 2023 Budget modifications:** A list of budget modifications to be made to highway, general, and sewer was presented.

MOTION

**Councilman Coffin made a motion to accept the budget modifications as presented.
Councilman Turner seconded the motion.**

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

- 2. Surplus Property:** Supervisor Putman suggested selling the remaining property west of Bay Street which runs out to Rt. 12 as one parcel. He will investigate having it appraised by a different appraiser and proceed with it.

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3. Zoning Board Membership: Tom Bell's term on the Zoning Board expires December 2023 and he has chosen to resign and not be reappointed. Supervisor Putman asked the Councilmen to assist in finding someone who is interested in sitting on the Zoning Board.

4. Dog Control Lease/Service Agreement: All members were given a copy of the Dog Control Lease/Service Agreement. It was reviewed and there was some unclarity to the rates and wording of charges listed in the agreement. Councilman Macaulay suggested getting clarification before acting. Supervisor Putman stated he would like to have Andy, our Attorney, look at it as well.

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated that DECALS will be changing the printing system and printing material for Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette stated that things are slowing down in the office. Currently there are 13 active permits. He has not heard anything on the Supreme Court cases. Other than Andy being asked to clarify some language. So it seems like the Judge wants to move forward with them. Any is also working on the Town mandatory Clean up. It may help with some cases/ If the town does the clean up on a property, then the cost will be added to the owner's tax bill.

Historian: A written report was distributed. JoAnne is doing a great job renovating the Historian's office.

Other Business: Councilman Macaulay is suggesting that the town add at least four streetlights around the corners near the Town Barn.

Executive Session: At 7:03 pm Councilman Macaulay made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into executive session for personnel reasons. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

The executive session ended at 7:26 pm with no action taken.