

**Town of Morristown
End of Year Meeting
December 28, 2010 11:30 PM**

Present: Frank Putman, Gary Turner, Mark Blanchard, David Stout, Howard Warren
Also Present: Michael Bogart, Kevin Crosby
Also Present: Wayne Storie

Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Blanchard to approve the monthly meeting minutes of December 14, 2010.
Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

Old Business

1. Budget Modifications

A motion was made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Warren to authorized the budget modifications as presented below:

General A

1. From A5132.4 to A1430.1 - \$6,465.00
 2. From A5132.4 to A9060.8 - \$2,194.00
- General A Total Transfer -\$8,659.00

Sewer

1. From SS8120.2 to SS8120.4 - \$36.00
- Sewer Total Transfer- \$36.00

Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

2. Budget Transfer Authorization-A motion was made by Councilman Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Warren to authorize the Supervisor to make any budget transfers for the remainder of 2010 as needed.

Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

3. Town Insurance Presentation – Wayne Storie presented the 2011 insurance package from NYMIR. After review of the proposal a motion was made by Councilman Stout , seconded by Councilman Warren to accept the proposal.

Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

4. Other-Health insurance for board members – Supervisor stated that he wanted to form a committee to study the issue of health insurance for the board and had asked Chris Coffin to be on the committee. David Stout stated that he wanted board members to be on the committee and Mike Bogart stated that 5 would be a good number to break ties on recommendations. Councilman Blanchard stated that the committee needs to look at all employees including the highway employee's when there contract is coming to an end. Councilman Warren stated that the committee would report to the board with their findings.

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New Business

1. Superintendent of Highways Vehicle Contract for 2011-The vehicle contract for 2011 for the Highway Superintendent was reviewed by the board and a motion to approve it was made by Councilman Blanchard and seconded by Councilman Stout.

Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

2. NYS Tax Cap Legislation-A motion was made by Councilman Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Warren to adopt Resolution # 22 of 2010 as follows:

Resolution # 22 of 2010
Opposition to Property Tax Cap

Whereas, towns provide services to more than eight million New Yorkers, yet account for less than 15% of the overall real property tax burden; and

Whereas, Towns are uniquely dependent upon the real property tax to fund town services, more so than counties, cities and villages in that towns do not have the authority to levy sales taxes, occupancy taxes, gross receipts taxes or income taxes; and

Whereas, non property tax revenues (e.g. mortgage recording taxes [fell by \$164 million from 2006 to 2008], sales taxes [declined by \$30 million from 2008 to 2009], and state/federal aid/grant programs [State AIM decreased by 5%]) are subject to market fluctuations and the ability of the federal, state and county governments to share revenue with towns; and

Whereas, the costs to provide town services and to fund town operations continue to increase despite declining revenues, such as:

Health Care

2011 cost to the Town- \$153,500

Transportation/Water/Wastewater

2011 cost to the Town- \$250,000

Pension Contributions

2011 cost to the Town- \$36,000

Whereas, many town expenses are dictated by compliance with federal and state mandates, most notably: storm water management, prevailing wage, procurement requirements, collective bargaining procedures, and the administration of real property exemptions; and

Whereas, New York State has primarily provided real property tax relief through ad hoc property tax exemptions rather than comprehensive property tax reform, resulting in a tax shift rather than a tax reduction as well as additional administrative and litigation costs; and

Whereas, simply capping property taxes will not reduce the cost of health care, mandate compliance, pension contributions or the public's expectation of governmental services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that based upon Home Rule principles the Town of Morristown has traditionally opposed state mandated property tax caps; and Be It Further

RESOLVED that the Town of Morristown calls upon the Governor and Members of the State Legislature to fund and/or eliminate state mandates, reform the real property tax system and address cost drivers in the provision of local government services/operations before implementing a property tax cap; and Be It Further

RESOLVED that in order for a real property tax cap to lower property taxes while ensuring the delivery of essential services the program must include at a minimum:

- exemptions for structured costs such as pension contributions, debt service, contract obligations, reductions in state or federal aid and emergencies and costs associated with unfunded and underfunded mandates;
- hardship relief on a case by case basis;
- mandate relief and reform;
- increased and predictable state revenue sharing and aid formulas;
- additional locally generated revenue streams;
- a defined floor of four percent with the possibility of an increased cap based upon a percentage of inflation; and
- local override by supermajority vote of the town board.

Vote: Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

Public Comment

Richard Fishel stated that his first letter in the newspaper had incorrect information and his second letter had corrected the inaccuracies.

Kim Marshall asked the Board if they were aware that Dockside Village LLC owed a large amount of back taxes and what the Town could do about it.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 12:02 PM

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by David Murray, Town Clerk