

**Town of Morristown
Monthly Meeting
September 10, 2013**

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, David Stout, Howard Warren

Absent: Frank Putman

Also Present: Michael Bogart, Kevin Crosby, Valerie Harman, Sherry Shatraw, Joe Lightfoot

The meeting was opened at 7 PM by Deputy Supervisor Warren

Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Van Arnam to approve the monthly meeting minutes of August 6, 2013
Vote: Turner-Aye, VanArnam-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

Public Comment

1. John Briggs brought revisited a continuing erosion problem to the Board. The erosion is starting to uncover sewer pipes at his property. The Board directed Superintendent Bogart to bring in fill and cover the pipes.
2. Bill Fay addressed the Board over concerns that his property is landlocked due the Town's abandonment of its interest in the Mill Road. He asked the Board to find out if he is landlocked and to explain the meaning of language in the resolution concerning NY State Highway Law. Deputy Supervisor Warren directed the clerk to ask the Town attorney for that information.
3. County Legislator, Joe Lightfoot, updated the Board on various issues at the County level.

Old Business

1. **Sewer Project**-The clerk gave a report to the Board concerning the submission of all requirements to transition to long term financing. Kevin Crosby voiced concerns over nothing being done to fix cold weather issues from last winter. The Board directed the clerk to contact the engineer about this.
2. **Sand Bid**- One bid was received from Cooke's Sand and Gravel for \$7.75 per ton delivered price. A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to accept the bid from Cooke's for \$7.75 per ton delivered, and seconded by Councilman Turner.
Vote: Turner-Aye, VanArnam-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye
3. **River Road East Lighting District**- Table until October

New Business

1. **Town Harassment Policy**-Tabled
2. SLPC Task Force Resolution of Support- motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to adopt Resolution # 12 of 2013 as follows:

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Supporting the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center Task Force in Requesting the Office of Mental Health Amend Its Regional Center of Excellence Plan

Whereas, the recent announcement of Mental Health's (OMH) Regional Centers of Excellence Plan did not include the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center as a Regional Center of Excellence, but instead classified the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center as a Regional Hub, and

Whereas, such designation will remove all adult and children inpatient services at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center (SLPC) forcing residents and their families to travel to facilities in Syracuse and Utica well over 100 miles from their home communities, and

Whereas, the North Country has a long history of providing quality services for the mentally ill and has been vocal and consistent in its support for the SLPC in Ogdensburg, and

Whereas, the distance between the SLPC and the nearest proposed Center of Excellence is significantly further than the distance between other OMH facilities in all other areas of the state, and Whereas thought the OMH proposal highlights continuity of employment, three of the five examples of this commitment involve the transfer of jobs from the existing facilities, such as the SLPC, to other areas of the state, and

Whereas, the removal of any jobs from the North Country, which is by virtually every measure already the most economically challenged region of the State, will have a disproportionately negative impact on our region, and Whereas, the elimination of catchment areas in the plan by the Office of OMH may create a greater need for services for those individuals and families who would choose to receive care close to home as opposed to a facility in an urban location a hundred miles or more distant, and Whereas, the potential and willingness of universities and hospitals in the region to collaborate and cooperate with the SLPC, as demonstrated at both the listening tour and through numerous letters and resolutions of support, shows clearly the potential to form the educational affiliations and partnerships needed to develop this facility into a Regional Center of Excellence,

Now therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of Morristown Board strongly supports the efforts of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center Task Force to amend the OMH Regional Centers of Excellence Plan presented by the Office of Mental Health to include the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center as the Northern Center of Excellence, and in doing so preserve three inpatient Adult wards and three inpatient Children/Youth Service wards at the Center, and

Be it Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Patty Ritchie, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Elizabeth O'C Little, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Marc Butler and North Country Regional Council Co-Chairs Tony Collins and Garry Douglas.

Vote: Turner-Aye, VanArnam-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

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New Business

3. 2014 Budget-The Supervisor and the bookkeeper are working on the budget. A tentative budget will be ready for the October meeting. Sherry Shatraw stated that she had spoken with Frank Putman and Mike Bogart about a meeting between the Town, the Village, and the School to see if there is any interest in continuing the Summer Rec program and who will administrate it. Mike Bogart will set up the meeting

4. 2014 Fuel Oil Bid-A motion was made by Councilman Stout, and seconded by Councilman Turner, to authorize the clerk to advertise for bids for 2014 winter heating fuel oil.

Vote: Turner-Aye, VanArnam-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

5. Black Lake Fish and Game Pavilion Support Letter-A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Warren to authorize the Supervisor to send a letter of support to the Black Lake Fish and Game Association to aid in their grant application to construct a multi-use pavilion.

Vote: Turner-Aye, VanArnam-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

6. Other-Re-appointment of the Assessor-A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Warren, seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to re-appoint James P. Snyder to a new 6 year term as assessor, effective October 1, 2013.

Vote: Turner-Aye, VanArnam-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

Department Reports

1. Code Enforcement- The Code Officer presented a written report to the Board. The Code officer asked the Board to help with 2 issues she is currently working on. The first issue is a vacant lot on River Road East that has no grinder pump installation. The current owner wants to know if the next owner of the property will need to connect to the public sewer system if they build a residence. The Board stated that if a residence or other habitable structure is built on the property the owner must connect to the public sewer system. The Board stated that this is part of Town Sewer Law. The second issue is a request to sub-divide a parcel. The parent parcel is only .74 of an acre and the owners want to split it. The Board stated that the current Town law does not allow a sub-division of less than .75 acres minimum size.

2. Highway Superintendent-A written report was handed out to the Board. Superintendent Bogart filed his annual inventory with the clerk at this time. A copy will be sent to Wayne Storie. The Board approved the take down of a tree in the Town ROW on the Ireland Road. The cleanup at 611 English Settlement Road was discussed as well as purchasing a new pickup for use of the incoming Superintendent. The Superintendent will check with State DOT on the response to the Town on the seasonal speed zone on CR 6. The state has proposed a solution that the Board does not wish to have implemented. They are proposing a year round 1 mile extension of the current speed zone at 45 mph.

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3. Department of Public Works-District #1 still has a slow vacuum leak that is proving difficult to find. Board wants to find out if proposed winter fixes have been created by the engineer and a list of installs that require special winterization. The clerk was directed to call and find out.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:10 PM

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