

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
August 8, 2023**

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

Excused: Councilman, Shawn Macaulay.

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Matt Cooper, Barton & Loguidice; and several community members.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Putman at 6:00 pm.

Pledge: The pledge was led by Supervisor Putman and said by all.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to approve the July 11th, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Old Business:

- 1. Financial Report:** The monthly financial report was distributed to each member prior to the meeting for review.
- 2. DANC Monthly report:** The June report was distributed to each member prior to the meeting for review.
- 3. River Road East Water Project:** There have been previous meetings regarding the River Road East proposed water district. A petition opposing the project has been submitted to the Town Council.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to confirm, not to continue with the proposed River Road East water district. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

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4. **Riverview Street new study agreement:** Supervisor Putman read the agreement. This is an amendment to the current agreement of \$30,000 to continue with assistance of the current scope of service for the project development, B&L proposes to be compensated on a time plus expense basis. \$15,000.00 for the scope of services for map, plan, report, District Formation, Bond Resolution. Invoices will be submitted to the town monthly.

With there being many questions and comments Supervisor Putman tabled this item until after discussion later in the meeting.

New Business:

1. **Lot # 6 Bids:** There were two bid offers for Lot #6 (property on Bay Street).
 1. Ryan Demick – offered \$4,050.00 with a 10% payment included.
 2. Shawn and Deanna Macaulay – offer \$7,621.13 with a 10% payment included.
 - 3.

There was discussion about the appraisal being done twice and it being wet land. The town will still have access to the property behind this lot.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to not accept either offer, and re-advertise. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

2. **Resolution #10 -2023 Authorization to borrow Money:** This resolution is to authorize the borrowing of \$60,000.00 from Citizens National Bank of Hammond for the cost of the recent water plant repairs. Councilman Coffin stated the balance sheets are not accurate, but the office staff is working on them. We can use funds from another account until the end of the year and pay them back.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to authorize Supervisor Putman to sign all necessary paperwork to borrow \$50- 60,000.00 from another account. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

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3. Town Highway Barn Contractor Awards:

Merkley Heating and Cooling submitted a bid in the amount of \$162, 000.00.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept the bid and award Merkley Heating and Cooling the contract in the amount \$162,000 for the Town Barn. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

JE Patterson Electrical submitted a bid in the amount of 110,000.00.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept the bid and award JE Patterson Electrical the contract in the amount \$110,000 for the Town Barn.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

Bishop Concrete and Excavating submitted a bid for the excavating and concrete and installation of the foam board in the amount of \$240,000.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept the bid and award Bishop Concrete and Excavating the contract in the amount \$240,000 for the Town Barn.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

4. **Town Dockage:** Local Law 8-2020 was distributed to all councilman to review and make suggestion on how to prevent overnight docking at the town Docks.

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated a written report was distributed. School taxes will be mailed out from St. Lawrence County Real Property at the end of August.

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Highway Department: Dean Hoffman stated they are still waiting on parts for the water plant. The paving on Walrath Road has been completed and some paving will be done within the Hamlet in September. The neighboring towns help each other with paving when needed.

Dean received a quote to seal and striping the basketball court for \$900.00. The cost to pave and coat the tennis court would cost, \$25.00 per foot. The pickleball court works very well and people are enjoying it.

Historian: A written report was distributed prior to the meeting.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette stated that he has been very busy with approximately \$300,000 in new construction. There have been a couple of violations issued. The garbage violation issues are being taken forward to the Supreme Court. Some are making progress with clean up.

Other Business:

Mass Residential Alert System: Jill Sullivan and Dean Hoffman sat in on demos for Residential Alerts systems and found Civic Plus most compatible to our needs at the most valuable cost of \$5,166.00 for a two-year service.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to utilize Civic Plus for our Mass residential alert system. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

Barton & Loguidice: Matt Cooper was available for a presentation of the proposed water district.

Jim Michaels stated that a petition was plagiarized from Peter FitzRandolph from the River Road East proposed water district. There are 95 signatures opposing the proposed Riverview Street water district. The petition will be turned into the Town Clerk on August 11th, 2023.

There was a lengthy discussion about the water district. During that discussion questions were asked and answered as well as many positive and negative comments from both those in favor and not in favor.

If the town decides not to move forward with the water district other funding will be sought out to help with the necessary, repair costs. The grant we currently have been awarded would be

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reshuffled and lose points during the reshuffle. The more the project helps the more points are added.

There were concerns with Lina Street being dead end road and who is responsible for the 1' line from the road to the house and the landscaping on the properties. Bedrock was a major concern.

Matt stated full turnkey laterals and restoration are included in the proposed costs. They have dealt with bedrock on other projects and are very aware there is a great deal of it in Morristown.

Any unbuildable lot will not get billed. Gregg stated that with multiple small lots - ordinance says they must comply with setbacks so they would qualify as non-buildable lots.

There were questions about what happens to polluted water. The water treatment plant runs 24/7

A few perks for the construction of a district - it will help with fire insurance cost by installing hydrants, it will offset treatment costs for current water issues, you will still have water when there is no power.

If just the repairs are done an additional \$200 - \$300,000.00 will be needed in funding. Is the entire town going to pay for the necessary water repairs? If there are no other additions to the project, then the current water district residents will pay for the necessary repairs. We have been awarded this amount of funding now and probably will never receive this type of funding again.

The cost of the Edu is \$902/ year plus average usage. There are concerns about the costs and residents not wanting any more expenses.

Some residents are having to replace their appliances frequently due to the horrible water they currently have.

Josh Hunter asked if the petitions were offered to both those in favor and those not in favor, because he is on River Road East and they were not asked by anyone. So just how accurate are these petitions?

There were several different sets of numbers for surveys mailed, received and responses and in favor and not in favor. Many feel a referendum will be the fairest way to obtain actual numbers.

If this project goes through the completion would probably be early 2026.

There were concerns about the new amendment needing revisions.

If a referendum is offered to Riverview, then will there be a meeting to revisit the River Road East needs? Not as we can see.

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Hooking to houses during the project will be included in the project but if after the project is complete and you want to be hooked up it will be at the homeowner's expense.

If a referendum happens it should be before voters leave for out of town. The Town must make a decision before February 2024.

There are concerns of the route of the water lines.

A thank you was given to the board for the opportunity for this meeting.

Amendment #3 to the Riverview water project agreement:

Motion

Councilman Coffin made a motion for the proposed revisions to read in second paragraph – is considering the Riverview Street/Rt 37 extension loop alternative. The next steps in advancing the project towards readiness are completion of a map, plan & report, district formation, and execution of a bond resolution to be able to close on financing and secure additional grant dollars. These steps will be reviewed by the Town before they are taken. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman VanArman and seconded by Councilman Turner at 8:23 pm.