

**Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Town of Morristown  
December 12, 2022**

**Present:** Frank Putman, Chris Coffin, Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Shawn Macaulay.

**Others Present:** Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator; Kevin Feuka, DANC; Pam Sovie Community Member; Ingolf Hack, Dockside Condo Association; Kris Woods, Community Member.

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Frank Putman at 7:03 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Shawn Macaulay and said by all.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman, VanArnam to approve the November 8, 2022 Town Board meeting minutes as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner.

**Vote:** David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

**Correspondence:**

- 1) The Morristown Recreation Committee meeting minutes of the November 7, 2022, meeting, were distributed.

**Public Comment:**

**Kevin Feuka, DANC:** Kevin Feuka stated that the partnership between Morristown and DANC continues to be successful. He asked if there were any issues, questions, or concerns for DANC? He understands there is a customer survey out to the public for interest of potential expansion of the water services.

Kevin Feuka acknowledged Morristown being eligible for a “grant/principal forgiveness award of \$5,000,000 and interest-free financing of \$11,789,000 for a term of 30 years. This is a hardship grant award. Kevin stated he and DANC will assist the town in anyway to help.

**Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator:** Joe stated that the county has been slow this month. The EMS radio upgrades will be starting shortly. They have had regular meetings with Motorola regarding the cost, and the installation process. During the renovations the county will be operating out of the Massena back up office. Ogdensburg PD dispatching will begin January 1, 2023, with no agreement. Gouverneur and Massena PDs are interested in the county handling their dispatching. There are still concerns with the EMS services throughout the county. The response time and the amount of training required are big challenges for people to commit to causing a shortage of volunteers in the county.

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The 2023 budget was adopted. DOSS is the largest department for expenditures but has the largest amount of revenue to the county. HEAP is getting an increase in January approximately an additional \$200.00 allotment for recipients.

Joe will contact DEC to setup a date and time for a meeting regarding Black Lake. Joe asked if anyone had questions:

Ingolf Hack asked why when he's calling 911, he has to dial 10 digits and then Canada answers, and it happens in Canada as well, there emergency calls get answered here in the US. Joe does not now why that happens but will look into it.

**Ingolf Hack:** Ingolf represents the Dockside Condo Association. He thanked the Board and Dean for the time and consideration into installing EV charging stations. It looks like its not going to be able to be done for the community, as hoped, on the town property. It is still a possibility to install them on the Dockside Property. Grants are not available because it's private, so the association will have to fund the project.

**Pam Sovie:** Pam has concerns about short term rentals within Morristown and the zoning ordinance. There is an out of state investor who bought property and is making the buildings on them short term rentals. He has no consideration for the neighborhood, but they feel is a hinder. There is very little language in the town variance laws about small cottage rentals.

Gregg Mallette stated he is in the process of revising the Town Ordinance so now is a good time to review this. She has some information and language from another township which she will send to Gregg to review. She is asking that the board take into consideration the permit policy, number f units allowed, occupancy, and signage.

**Kris Woods:** Kris is concerned about the water district expanding. She asked what stage is it at and is it going to happen. Supervisor Putman stated we are only at the very beginning. The survey is the very 1<sup>st</sup> step. We are waiting on the results of the survey.

**Supervisor's Update:** Supervisor Putman stated that Matt Cooper from Barton & Loguidice informed him that a sewer project study has been done for Black Lake and 2 engineering firms are going to present bid to them.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin stated that there were a few budget modifications to be made to the budget which were given to each member or review. The modifications are being made to clean up the budget.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve the budget modifications as presented.  
Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.**

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**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

- 2. 2023 Revised Budget Summary:** The revisions were made to the amount of sewer district #3 and water relevys. The amount of relevy to sewer district #3 is \$24,582.50 and water to be relevyed is \$26,605.18. These revisions were made because a payment had been made to sewer district #3 and to water during the process. The total amount to be relevyed for sewer and water \$77,924.55 which is a total of all 3 sewer districts and water. The Morristown Fire District budget summary revision was revised to \$167,544.00, which is less \$17,183.00.

**MOTION**

**Councilman Coffin made a motion to approve the 2023 revised budget summary as presented. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

- 3. DANC monthly water report:** A copy of the monthly water report was distributed for review. There was nothing out of the ordinary.

**New Business:**

- 1. Resolution #18-2022 Street Safe Program Commitment:** This resolution commits the Town of Morristown to partner with St. Lawrence County Health Initiative and Clarkson University to adopt a Complete Streets Policy to promote safe and active transportation within the town.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve Resolution #18-2022 for Street Safe Program. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

- 2. Revised Resolution #15-2022 Retirement Reporting:** This is a resolution for a Standard Workday Reporting for Elected and appointed Officials.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve Resolution #15-2022 for Standard Workday Reporting for Elected and appointed Officials. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

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- 3. Revised Resolution #16-2022 Authorization to relevel outstanding Water & Sewer bills onto 2023 Town & County Taxes:** The total amount to be relevelled has been revised to \$77,924.55 which is a total of all 3 sewer districts and water.

**MOTION**

**Councilman Coffin made a motion to authorize the revised relevel of the outstanding Water & Sewer bills onto 2023 Town & County Taxes. Supervisor Putman seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay -Aye Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 – Ayes.**

- 4. Re-Appointment of Judy Wright as Deputy Court Clerk/Deputy Bookkeeper:** Judy Wright’s last day worked was November 29, 2022. Her official retirement date was December 1, 2022. However, the Town does not have any one to replace her, at this time. Judy was contacted and agreed to come back to work as “an active not participating” employee.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to Re-Appointment Judy Wright as Deputy Court Clerk/Deputy Bookkeeper. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay -Aye Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 – Ayes.**

- 5. Historian Interviews:** Applications and resumes will be taken through December 16, 2022. Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 beginning at 5:30 pm. Councilman Coffin asked to have included in the job description to work with the Gateway Museum and any other historical groups as needed.

**Other Business:**

**Property Sale:** Pam Sovie has submitted a purchase offer in the amount of \$13,010.00 for Lot #3 on Bay Street. The appraised value and minimum asking price for the property is \$13,000.

**MOTION**

**Councilman Macaulay made a motion to accept the purchase offer from Pam Sovie in the amount of \$13,010.00 for Lot #3 on Bay Street. Frank Putman seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

Lot #5 is the last lot remaining of the surplus property sales. The farmland behind it was surveyed and the only access to it would be Lot #5. There was discussion about having it appraised and surveyed out to sell for hunting lots.

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**Main Street Wall decay:** Frank has researched the responsibility of the maintenance of the wall on Main Street. It turns out that both Vicki Peck and the Town are both responsible for the maintenance.

**Morristown Fire Department Report:** Jay Moore state that the bill for the LUCAS should be coming at any time since the unit is now in service. Thank you again to the town for purchasing it. There were 66 children and families at the Christmas party.

Frank Putman stated he would like to explore the option to include both Morristown Promotions and the Fire Department for Christmas celebrations next year.

**Department Reports:**

**Town Clerk:** Jill Sullivan stated that school tax collection is finished for the year and getting ready for the Town Tax collection. Jill is now enrolled as an agent for DECALS.

**Town Highway:** Dean Hoffman stated they have been plowing. They are down 1 employee and have been struggling for applicants. We have only received two applications. The water hoses have been taken out for the winter. Things are going well with water and sewer. The DANC report is good.

**Code Enforcement:** Gregg Mallette presented a written report and still working on the revisions to the Town variances with the help of Cassidy Sullivan.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Supervisor Putman and seconded by Councilman Macaulay at 8:19 pm.