

**Town Board Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
December 5, 2023**

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

Absent: Councilman Shawn Macaulay.

Others Present: Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Andy Silver, Town Attorney, Matt Cooper and Andrea Ross, Barton & Loguidice Representatives; and several community members.

Called to Order: The Public Hearing was called to order by Supervisor Putman at 6:03 pm.

Public Hearing: Supervisor Putman introduced Matt Cooper from Barton & Loguidice. Matt explained that this project started with repairs being needed and with the opportunity for expansion. The estimated total cost for the project is \$10,700,000. \$5 million and 0% hardship financing has been secured through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Matt provided an informational presentation of the map, plan, and the report for the proposed water district #2. There are 21 total parcels on the route from Morris and Chapman Streets, both sides of 37 to Dollar General. This includes 12 residentials, 4 Business and 5 vacant parcels. The project will include all infrastructure and your properties will be put back together as they were at the beginning of the project. The proposed rates for new water district #2 users are based on 110 gallons of water used per day - \$635 for new debt service; \$204 for operation/maintenance/water usage; short lived asset contribution \$60; for a total monthly cost of \$75 and an annual cost of \$899.

There was discussion about the process and the timeline from start to finish.

A vacant parcel will be charged for half of an EDU, which will be \$317 per year or \$26 per month. The vacant property will only pay the debt service unless the owner decides to hook up, then a user fee will be implemented.

Why is this only being offered to 21 property owners and not a larger area? It was offered to the River Road East and Riverview Street residents, but they were not interested. So, that is why this route is being proposed for water district #2.

The grant & loan is scored on the project and with an expansion more points are given. This is a very good funding package being offered to Morristown.

A big benefit is that additional business and additional housing could come in. The more users the less the monthly fee. Matt went over additional pros and cons for municipal water vs well water.

A voters list will be compiled, and everyone will be notified of the voting date, time, and location. Absentee ballots will be mailed out in time to have them returned in time for the voting day.

There will be an informational meeting for water district #1. after the outcome of water district #2 is determined.

The public hearing was closed at 6:47 pm.

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1. **Resolution to establish the Morristown Water District #2 subject to a permissive referendum:** Andy Silver, Town Attorney prepared a resolution for the board to establish the Morristown Water District #2 subject to a permissive referendum. The resolution was read aloud.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve the resolution to establish the Morristown Water District #2 and hold a permissive referendum. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Putman - Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes.

The Referendum will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Details will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

Adjournment: Supervisor Putman made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilman Coffin. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.