

**Town of Morristown
Regular Monthly Meeting
December 14, 2010 7 PM**

Present: Frank Putman, Gary Turner, Mark Blanchard, David Stout, Howard Warren

Also Present: Michael Bogart, Kay Davis, Kathy Bateman, Kevin Crosby

Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Councilman Stout, seconded by Councilman Turner to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes of November 9, 2010.

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

Public Comment Period-

1. Chris Coffin addressed the Board and the members of the public on the issue of part time elected officials receiving a health insurance benefit. He stated that the issue was not hidden and had been discussed 3 or 4 times in his memory. He stated that the health insurance benefit attracted good people and compensation created discipline in office. He stated that he hoped the public would not engage in personal attacks. He stated that it is an uneven benefit in proportion to pay and is out of balance in regards to taxes. He stated that the health insurance situation needs to be re-examined. He asked if the current plan is now a good deal. He brought up the idea of a buy in for part time employees.
2. David VanArnam stated that the cost is out of hand for 5 Board members and cost 270,000 for the five board members over a 4 year term. He stated that that would require a private firm to gross 300,000 pre tax dollars to pay that high of an insurance cost. Stated that it was a problem 10 years ago, and as a board member, he was concerned with the cost of health insurance then. Stated that 1/3 of the line item for health insurance cost goes to Board members. Stated that many members of the public had called him to give him material to speak to the Board about.
3. Mark Blanchard stated that the public mindset that the health insurance policy was set in the past and that the Board won't look at it now, is wrong. He asked the public to give the Board a chance to look at it. Stated that in the past he had promised to give up his town health insurance if the other members of the Board did so.
4. Joe Monfiletto stated the Town Board is responsible but many others give time to help the community without compensation. He stated that using Chris Coffin's statement health insurance attracts good people shouldn't volunteer firemen also get health insurance. If health insurance is out there to attract good people then it should be given to others as well.
5. Judy VanArnam asked if the rumor that town employees who work ten years could then leave and keep their health insurance was true. Frank Putman stated that is not true. Current Board members do not get health insurance upon leaving office.
6. Michelle Whalen asked if Morristown was the only town offering insurance to the town Board and did the Board contribute to the insurance. She also asked if Mark Blanchard was a member of NSUT and did he have health insurance through the school district.
7. Richard Fishel stated he worked for the state for 35 years full time and had to contribute part of his insurance costs. Stated that the town benefit is out of line and should be reconsidered in relation to the Boards compensation.

8. Supervisor Putman stated that the information provided to the public from the town is for explanation purposes and not to justify the health insurance benefit.
9. Councilman Stout stated that few members of the public attend the budget hearing.
10. Joe Monfiletto asked if that means the board can do what it wants if the public is not present.
11. Councilman Blanchard stated that nothing is done in secret and many people knew about the health insurance and asked that the public give the Board a chance to address the issue.
12. David Van Arnam stated that the Board could reduce the burden to the taxpayer. He asked why the Board has not done anything about the health insurance issue.
13. Frank Putman asked why David Van Arnam didn't run again.
14. David Van Arnam stated that the old Board was not interested in changing the health insurance policy and he didn't run because they decided to keep the insurance as is.
15. Michelle Whalen asked when the budget meetings were and Frank Putman explained the budget process.
16. Pat Chambers stated that the reason members of the public are not at Board meetings is that the public counts on the Board to act in the public's best interest and they hope the Board does the right thing and not forget about it.
17. Wayne Sardullo stated that the issue is that the taxpayers can't afford the cost of the Board's health insurance. He stated that he thought the Board would have had a solution ready for this meeting after he read about it in the paper. He stated that as part time Board members they have to come up with a solution and he knows the Board will come up with a solution.
18. Clive Chambers stated he appreciated the Board taking the public's comments which are representative of the taxpayers of Morristown. He asked the Board not to discount the taxpayers who are in attendance. He asked how the Board will make a decision on health insurance and restated his request that the Board not discount the taxpayer feelings. He stated that the Board could hold a special meeting for more input.
19. Richard Fishel stated that he agreed that the Board should not discount the expressed views of the taxpayers. He stated that the Board could look for more comment and information on how the public feels on the health insurance issue.
20. Clive Chambers stated he senses that a lot of town residents feel the same as the taxpayers who are attending who have expressed their views.
21. Tom Bertrand stated that the views expressed to the Board has put a focus on the issue and encourages more comment to the Board.
22. Frank Putman stated that he doesn't have an answer but the paper can help in getting more public comment. Supervisor Putman closed the comment portion of the meeting at 6:45 PM, as there were no more comments.

Old Business

- 1. River Road East Sewer Project** – Bids will be advertised in February and opened in March. Construction may start in April 2011. As an adjunct to the sewer project David Cook from DANC made a presentation to the Board on a GIS records grant that he wanted the town to consider participating in. Village of Canton will be the lead agency and the Town of Morristown will need to do a resolution to participate. A motion was made by Councilman Stout, seconded by Councilman Blanchard to adopt resolution #21 of 2010 as follows:

Resolution No. 21 of 2010

APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE NYS ARCHIVES LGRMIF APPLICATION WITH VILLAGE OF CANTON

Whereas, the Town is interested in partnering with the Village of Canton and various other communities for a cooperative grant application for Geographic Information System (GIS) Implementation to the New York State Archives Local Government Records Management Fund (LGRMIF), and

Whereas, pursuant to the LGRMIF application guidelines, it is necessary that each community formally appoint a Records Management Officer (RMO); formally adopt the appropriate records retention and disposition schedule; and execute a cooperative agreement.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Town of Morristown does hereby authorize and direct its Supervisor to appoint David Murray as its RMO, adopt the MU-1 Records Retention and Disposition schedule for municipal governments, and execute the LGRMIF Grant Cooperative/Shared Services Agreement and Letter of Intent.

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

- 2. 2010 Town Audit/justice Court Audit** A motion was made by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Turner to authorize the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, VanHouse and Co. for a regular audit of the towns books for 2010.

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

- 3. Dog Control Law**-A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, seconded by Councilman Stout to adopt Local Law #1 of 2010-Dog Control Law for the Town of Morristown as presented. Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

- 4. Other**- No other old business was brought before the Board.

New Business

- 1. Budget Mods**-A motion was made by Councilman Stout, seconded by Councilman Turner to authorize the follow budget modifications as presented below:

Gen.A	From	To	Amount
1.	A7510.2	A7510.4	105.00
2.	A7510.2	A5010.4	57.00
3.	A1990.4	A9060.8	5,857.00
4.	A1910.4	A9060.8	1,265.00
5.	A9010.8	A9060.8	1,651.00
6.	A1620.4	A9060.8	6,000.00
7.	A5182.4	A9060.8	1,000.00
8.	A1110.4	A9060.8	2,000.00
9.	A1420.4	A9060.8	7,000.00

Gen.A	From	To	Amount
10.	A1430.4	A9060.8	4,395.00
11.	A3510.4	A9030.8	<u>600.00</u>
		General A Total Transfers	29,930.00
Gen B.	From	To	Amount
	B7310.1	B7550.4	<u>100.00</u>
		General B Total Transfers	100.00

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

2. **2011 Town Insurance Presentation-St. Lawrence Agency** –Tabled until December 28 End of Year meeting.
 3. **Expiring Terms for ZBA/Planning/BAR-** for information only.
 4. **2011 Bridgeport Contract-**A motion was made by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Warren to authorize the Supervisor to enter into a contract for kennel services for 2011 with the Bridgeport Veterinary Office.
 5. Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye
 6. **2011 MFD Banquet-** Invitation for the 2011 banquet was given to the Board.
 7. **Other-**
 1. Councilman Blanchard asked if there was a policy in place for press communications. Supervisor Putman stated that there was.
 2. Jim Lowery asked for a waiver of the permit fee for the upcoming Brier Hill Fire Department Community Center project as the Fire Department, under the fire district was a government body. David Stout stated that any help by the town would be appreciated. A motion was made by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Turner to waive the permit fees for the Brier Hill Fire Department for their project as a government body.
- Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Abstained, Warren-Aye
3. A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, seconded by Councilman Stout to approve the amended Morristown Recreation Committee By-Laws as presented.
 4. Vote : Putman-Aye, Turner-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Stout-Aye, Warren-Aye

Committee Reports

PDM -Kay Davis reported the committee was waiting for Pictography program to arrive.

Department Reports

Code Enforcement Officer-A written report was presented to the Board. Kay Davis also gave the Board her request for changing the permit fees for 2011.

Assessor-Reported that senior and other exemption notices will be mailed right after Christmas.

Highway Superintendent- Written report given to the Board. Also discussed having an open house at the Town Barn to let the public see the energy efficiency improvements that have been completed. The open house will be held at the Town Highway Barn on December 28th from 1-3PM

Sewer District-No report

Meeting adjourned upon a motion at 8:30 PM Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by David Murray, Town Clerk