

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
February 14, 2023**

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

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator; Cherie Shatraw.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Frank Putman at 6:01pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Macauley to approve the January 17th, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes and February 7th, 2023, special meeting minutes as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coffin.

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

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public Comment:

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator: Joe Lightfoot stated that the County is filling some vacant positions. There was discussion about the Volunteer Fire Department services and the exemptions throughout the county. The State budget was a big topic of discussion and how costs are increasing. Some of our County Legislators will be going to Albany, as done in the past, with a book of needs and wants. It is usually very productive with a positive outcome. We are hoping for the same this year.

Councilman Coffin wanted to thank the County for their plans to demolish a vacant property in Morristown.

Old Business:

- 1. Supervisor's Update:** Supervisor Putman stated there are more grants available so well be looking into them. Ann Marie FitzRandolph is willing to assist so we'll be meet with her to discuss the process.
- 2. Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin stated that the RESTORE NY grant application required estimates from 3rd party contractors, so it was not submitted due to the lack of ability to do that.

Councilman Coffin gave a breakdown of the yearend report. There was unprojected revenue for sales tax in the amount of \$126,000, Property sales \$40,000, and 25,000 in additional mortgage tax and we have ARPA funds as well. There was \$7,500 overage in general expenditures, \$23,000 overage in highway expenditures. There was a decrease in sewer 1 and 2 while there was an increase in sewer 3. Water has increased but still \$13,800 down. We were able to relevy water & sewer so that should help.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
February 14, 2023**

After finishing the year there is \$87,000 which will increase cash reserves.

3. **DANC Monthly report** – There is nothing out of the ordinary, things are going well. Every 12 days system is being backwashed due to a filter and breakage.
4. **DWSRF Base Hardship Financing Award:** Supervisor Putman stated there is no updates to report at this time.
5. **Black Lake Project Funds** – There are concerns about the Town giving funds towards the project. Councilman VanArnam stated we should help with the project, but we should not pay over our share and other towns should pay their fair share as well.

Councilman Coffin spoke about his work as Assessor and feels that Morristown did have the higher assessed value bordering the Blake Lake, we could ask for updated information from the other towns involved.

We currently have a motion to contribute 50% toward the Black Lake Association's 15-thousand dollar project to identify sources of pollution with the assumption that the other towns will also be helping financially.

There are questions on whether DEC will even accept the data that is collected by the Black Lake Association. Joe Lightfoot will call Randy Young to see if DEC will accept the data we collect here for the clean-up of Black Lake.

It was suggested to contact the Town Supervisors for a meeting and find out what their Town's intentions are and their input on the issue.

New Business:

1. **Resolution #4-2023 Bay Street Extension.** This resolution needs to be submitted to the State so Bay Street can be eligible for CHIPS funding.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to approve Resolution #4-2023 Bay Street Extension. 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.

2. **CST Group Firewall Protection Proposal:** Supervisor Putman stated we need Firewall Protection for the office and have asked for CST for a proposal. Since we have not received it yet he will table this item.
3. **ARPA Funds for Walkway on Bay Street:** Supervisor Putman stated that a walkway on Bay Street is premature at this time so it will be tabled.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
February 14, 2023**

4. **Lot #6 Appraisal:** This Lot is on Bay street and has been appraised at \$25,000.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to advertise the sale of Lot #6 for the appraised value of \$25,000. 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.

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated that Town & County Tax collection is going smoothly and a full payment has been made to the town for the 2023 Town tax. One payment has been made to the county with another to be sent the middle of March.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman stated that they are struggling but getting through. There was a sewer line break on Bay Street. The contractor is responsible and will repair it properly in the spring.

There is an inspector from International coming Wednesday the 15th, to inspect the truck from the fire. Last Tuesday the second truck, in the bay during the barn fire, caught fire while warming up after being started outside, so they will look at that truck as well.

Last Friday there were water issues at the Farrell's. Water was going into the sewer from the basement. During the last rain there was a broken candy cane on District 1 causing issues so that has been repaired.

We are waiting to hear from the insurance company and Mark. We have only received the one check for \$50,000 and bills are coming in and we are not sure if we should be paying them or what. Councilman Coffin suggested that the town pay the bills and not wait for the insurance.

Engineers state the building needs to come down, the beams are warped and with the age of the structure, it's not safe. The salt barn is 22 years old and side wall are rotting and it is out dated and able to be used again. There was discussion about a new building. Looking into the future, now may be a good time to combine all the town buildings. It was asked if the location is large enough for it to be built on or the land across the road. We probably would not be able to build on the current location or across the road because of the bedrock and the property size. Councilman VanArnam asked about the fixes being done on the building now. Dean stated they are only temporary fixes so we can continue day to day operations and the insurance is coving those expenses. Supervisor Putman stated we will need to look at and get plans in order to even being applying for grants. An engineer would be hired to work up plans.

Gregg Mallette stated that he is the one who suggested combining the town buildings. The current town office building is not good structurally, there are a lot of issues. With all the new regulations such as a pond, will be needed as a water source and that will not work on the current property. We

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
February 14, 2023

have discussed the property off Route 12 which the town owns. Even though we are receiving insurance money, it is not required to re-build on the same property.

Joe Lightfoot suggested meeting with Don Chambers since he just completed two facilities within the county.

Dean suggested to go look at some facilities around the county on Wednesday, February 22nd anyone who would like to go, meet at 402 Gouverneur Street at 9:00 am. He will contact Don Chambers.

There is more opportunity for grant money if applying for a new project.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette stated February was a good month. The Ordinance draft has been sent to the County for review. They meet the first Thursday of the month so hopefully we will have it back for our meeting in March. Gregg continues to work with Andy on the garbage issues. There are currently three e dealt with.

Town Historian: JoAnne Marcelletta provided the board with a written report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman Coffin and seconded by Councilman VanArnam at 7:26 pm.