

**Town of Morristown  
Regular Monthly Meeting- February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
604 Main Street, Morristown NY**

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

Also Present: Mike Bogart, Kay Davis, Kathy Bateman, Tim Burley (engineer)

**Approval of Minutes** A motion was made by Councilman Stout, seconded by Councilman Warren to approve both the minutes of December 28, 2010 End of Year Meeting and the 2011 Organizational Meeting. Councilman Blanchard noted that his comment in the 2010 End of Year Meeting concerning health insurance and Teamsters employees should not be construed as an intent to remove the benefit. He stated that he was suggesting that the health insurance benefit be examined for all employees to look for cost savings.

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, M. Blanchard-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren- Aye, F. Putman-Aye Motion carries

### **Correspondence**

**Public Comment Period-** Michelle Whalen from the health insurance committee spoke on the health insurance committee's findings. She also asked the Board to personally call state senator Ritchie and assemblyperson Russell about the NYS Board of Health cancelling chili cook off's in the north country and her concern that the Morristown event could be cancelled.

### **Old Business**

1. **River Road East Sewer Project-** Project engineer Tim Burley briefed the Board on the status of the project. Temporary and permanent easement requests have been sent out for completion. The DEC has approved changes to the engineering plans. Mr. Burley stated that he plans to have the clerk advertise for bids on February 21<sup>st</sup> and have a public opening on March 21<sup>st</sup> with a special meeting to award contracts on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Health Insurance-** Councilman Stout reported on the committee's work and thanked them for their work. He stated that the committee had met with a benefits consultant to explore options for health insurance for the town. Councilman Blanchard stated that he, too, thanked the committee for their service. Councilman Blanchard further stated that the Boards formation of the committee and their work proved that the Board was not ignoring the public's concerns. Councilman Stout made a motion, seconded by Councilman Blanchard, that effective January 1, 2012 the Town of Morristown will no longer provide health insurance benefits for elected board members and the town supervisor position. ***Health insurance will be available to elected Board members and their dependents at 100 percent cost to the beneficiary.***

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, M. Blanchard-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren- Aye, F. Putman- Aye Motion carries Supervisor Putman stated that the committee and the board will continue to explore better options and lower costs for health insurance. He also stated that employee salaries and health insurance costs are not contained in the same line item in the town budget.

3. **Building Permit Rate Changes**-Tabled until the March Meeting
4. **NYSERDA Energy Programs**- Options will be presented for the March meeting.
5. **Drainage District**-Tabled pending information from Andy Silver.

**New Business**

1. Resolution # 1 of 2011– A motion was made by Councilman Warren, and seconded by Councilman Stout to adopt resolution #1 of 2011 as follows:  
Resolution # 1 of 2011

**HOLDING HARMLESS THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE FOR PROVIDING SERVICE FOR THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN**

By the Town Board Town of Morristown

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Morristown is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of highways providing shared services such as paving, shoulder widening, signage, road stripping, blasting and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

**WHEREAS**, both the Town of Morristown and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and

**WHEREAS**, in this joint cooperative endeavor, the Town of Morristown and the County of St. Lawrence desires to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Morristown hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County of St. Lawrence from and against liability, loss, damage, claim or action resulting from the work performed by the St. Lawrence County Department of highways. The Town of Morristown does not indemnify and hold harmless the County for any liability, loss, damage, claim, or action which arises during the actual performance of services by the St. Lawrence County Department of Highways. Sais St. Lawrence County Department of Highways and the County of St. Lawrence assumes the liability for losses, damages and claims for the actual physical performance of the work, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows:

General Liability Insurance. On an “Occurrence” basis, with the following limits:

\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence

\$2,000,000 General Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Products Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Personal Injury

\$ 50,000 Fire Damage Legal Liability

\$ 5,000 Medical Payment Expense

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG 202

Vote: G. Turner-Aye, M. Blanchard-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren- Aye,

F. Putman- Aye

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2. **Agreement to Spend Highway Funds-** A motion was made by Councilman Stout, seconded by Councilman Turner to approve the expenditure of Highway Funds for 2011.  
Vote: G. Turner-Aye, M. Blanchard-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren- Aye, F. Putman- Aye
3. **Liquor License Application Waiver Request** – A motion was made by Supervisor Putman, seconded by Councilman Stout to waive the 30 day waiting period for a liquor license application for Wendy Goldie DBA Bedrock Café.
4. Vote: G. Turner-Aye, M. Blanchard-Aye, D. Stout-Aye, H. Warren- Aye, F. Putman- Aye
5. **Workplace Violence Review-** The Board reviewed the present policy, noted that there were no reported incidents for 2010 nor were there any issue called to their attention with the policy. The highway department has already conducted annual WVP training for 2011.
6. **Cemetery Rules Review-**tabled to March meeting.
7. **Tug Hill Conference-** Everyone reminded to turn in their application right away if they are planning on attending.
8. **Senior Citizen Income Ceilings-**After a short discussion a motion was made by Councilman Warren, seconded by Councilman Blanchard to keep the income level at 18,000 dollars for 2011.
9. **N.C. Housing Council-** The Board instructed the clerk to send a letter of support to the North Country Housing Council.
10. **Report of damage from Snow Plowing-** The town received a report of damage from a business on County Route 6 to a roadside sign. The sign was allegedly damaged by snow thrown by a town snow plow blade. The Board directed the clerk to submit a claim to NYMIR for the damage.
11. **Other-Wind Law-** Councilman Stout about the wind law and LaBella's comments on it. Councilman Warren suggested a special meeting with a LaBella representative to give them direction on some issues such as setbacks and noise levels. The Board directed the clerk to invite LaBella to attend on March 1<sup>st</sup> for a 4 PM meeting.

**Committee Reports**

1. **Pre-Disaster Mitigation-**Kay Davis is working with DANC on a GIS map of the flood plain areas of the town. Kay will also be attending a pictometry workshop.

**Department Reports**

1. **Assessor-**The assessor reported that parcel aid for 2011 may be in question and that there will be changes to the standard STAR program regarding qualifications.
2. **Codes-**The Code officer presented a written report for year to date 2010
3. **Highway-**Monthly report was passed out.

**Adjournment** –upon motion at 8:50 PM. Prepared by David Murray, Town Clerk