

**Town of Morristown
Monthly Meeting
February 3, 2015**

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Shawn Macaulay, Howard Warren

Absent: Frank Putman

Also Present: Chris Sherwin, Dean Hoffman, Cheryl Shatraw

Also: Brian Hammond (Teamsters)

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes of the 2014 End of Year meeting, and the 2015 Organizational meeting as presented.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Howard Warren-Aye

Correspondence: Correspondence was received by the Board.

Public Comment

1. Michelle Whalen – Asked the Board what the Reduction of Justice Positions Resolution meant and why it was being considered. Councilman Warren responded that it was a move to reduce the number of justices in response to a decline in revenue from the Justice Court. Ms. Whalen stated that Justice Phillips was the longest serving judge in the county and was well respected. Stated the savings didn't add up.
2. Sherry Shatraw- Stated that she was concerned with the process. Stated that it was being done for the wrong reasons, and that the health insurance issue was separate from the justice reduction issue.
3. Larry Kring – Stated he was opposed to the resolution. Feels that the town needs two justices. Further stated that the town needs 2 justices to administer justice, not to generate revenue. He wants more public input into the process. He stated that he is not clear on how the budget is created or if it is created properly. Stated that he thinks that something personal is going on in regards to the attempt to remove the justice position.
4. David Stout – Asked Board to look into a previous action by the Board that grandfathered 4 town employees for health insurance.
5. Darrell Merkel – presented a complaint on the sewer rate increase in District #2. Read a letter with 6 questions he requested an answer to in writing.
6. Junior Aldrich – Asked the Board if they had discussed the proposed action with the 2 justices. He stated that there are rumors in the community that the Town Board is trying to eliminate Mr. Phillips position because they were unable to remove his health insurance this year.
7. Sean Jenkins – Asked the Board if the case load increases because the Town has one justice wouldn't it mean the salary would have to increase.
8. Mary Prinz – stated that she is a police officer with the Sheriff's Department and found that Justice Phillips to be one of the most available justices in the county.
9. Michael Warren – Mr. Warren asked if case load, in relation to the budget influences the budget or does the budget not reflect case load.
10. David Duff – A member of the SASS Steering Committee. Asked the Board to wait to see the final report on SASS and reconsider their support for the designation.

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11. Kevin Thibert – Mr. Thibert asked the Board to carefully review the report and look for hidden rules and regulations. If it benefits the residents of the Town then the Board should support it.

Executive Session - A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, seconded by Councilman Macaulay to enter into executive session to discuss matters relating to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Howard Warren-Aye

The Board entered into executive session at 7:40 PM and came out of executive session at 8:13 PM. Deputy Supervisor Warren reported that the Board took no action therein.

Old Business

1. **Sewer Districts:** Councilman VanArnam reported that District #2 has been experiencing 4 or 5 freeze ups. The Town is looking for a replacement contractor who would be available to deal with frozen pots and lines. The contractor would be taking care of sewer district issues not covered by the Village of Morristown maintenance agreement.
2. **Town Hall:** The Code Officer reported that he has received plans for the municipal building in Brasher for ideas.
3. **Employee Handbook:** A Handbook meeting was scheduled by the Board for Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 PM.
4. **Other Old Business:** No other old business was discussed.

New Business

1. **Resolution #1 – Reduction of Justice Positions** – Action tabled
2. **Resolution #2- NYS DOT Hold Harmless** – A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Turner to adopt Resolution # 2 of 2015 as follows:

Resolution Number 2 of 2015 Hold Harmless Resolution for the NYS DOT

WHEREAS, the Town of Morristown from time to time receives permits from the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to temporarily obstruct, install, construct, maintain, operate or replace any facilities within the bounds of a State Highway right of way, and

WHEREAS, the Town is required by the DOT to indemnify or hold harmless Agencies and/or officials of the State of New York for such temporary obstructions, installations, construction or maintenance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Frank Putman, in his capacity as Supervisor of the Town of Morristown, is authorized to execute this Undertaking in Connection with Highway Permits Issued by the New York State DOT agreement.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Howard Warren-Aye

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3. **2015 Senior Income Eligibility Limits:** The Board decided to keep the limit at the \$18,000 level.
4. **Local Law #1 of 2015- Repeal of 2015 Tax Cap Law:** Tabled. Waiting for the Town Attorney to send a law back to the Town for consideration.
5. **Other New Business:**
 - A. A notice of liquor license renewal from Langbrook Clubhouse was received. The Board had no comment.
 - B. The Board had a short discussion on some possible upcoming grants for the extension of fiber cable through the Town.

Department Reports

1. **Highway Department:** The new plow truck has been ordered for April delivery
2. **Code Enforcement:** Currently rewriting the Code enforcement Local Law to come into line with recent changes to New York State codes.
3. **DPW:** No report available.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:35 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by David Murray, Town Clerk.