

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
January 17, 2023**

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

Others Present: Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator; Jay Carter, Black Lake Association, Taylor Jennings, Barton & Loguidice, Schelin Crosby, Citizens National Bank of Hammond; David Stout, Community Member.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Frank Putman at 7:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman, Coffin to approve the December 12th Town Board meeting minutes and December 27th, 2022 and January 3rd, 2023, special meeting minutes as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Putman.

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

Correspondence:

- 1) A denial letter from St. Lawrence County Water/Wastewater Infrastructure ARPA funds was distributed.

Public Comment:

Schelin Crosby, Citizens National Bank of Hammond: Schelin Crosby presented a proposal for CDs for investing. 6 month - 3.75%, 9 month – 3.85%, and 12 month - 4.00%. Interest payments can be paid monthly by a check or directly into the account. Each CD can be individually labeled to each specific department. These rates are good through January 31, 2023. Councilman Coffin thanked Schelin for the responsiveness to this matter.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to purchase 12-month CDs and designate the balances to the appropriate department funds. 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.

Schelin is suggesting having 2 people as signors on the CDs.

Schelin Crosby stated that they have received a few complaints at the Morristown branch regarding parking. She is asking if there could be 2 designated parking spots for the bank for 15 min parking Monday - Friday 9-5 pm. There was discussion with questions and comments. Dave Stout stated that it's only during the bank business hours is basically when they need the parking. It was tabled for this meeting, until it is researched the reason why other parking signs within the hamlet had to be removed.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
January 17, 2023**

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator: Joe Lightfoot stated that the Counties sales tax received has increased the revenue by 16 million dollars in the budget. The organization meeting took place and appointments were made for additional DOSS workers in Massena to reduce the crowd in the Canton office. The County is contracted with Motorola for the upgrading of the radio system. The project will cost 12 million dollars and all but 4.15 million will be funded with ARPA funds and grants.

When an individual is not able to participate in their court defense they are held in a safe place until they become competent to participate. The state was paying 50% and the county paying 50% of the cost. The State is no longer paying, leaving the County responsible for 100% of the cost.

The County transfer station is being revamped to allow traffic to flow better and not be on the road.

Barton & Loguidice: Taylor Jennings presented the results of the water project study. The surveys were released on November 18, 2022 and the results were given to the Board for review. On 11/29/2023 the Town received a \$5 million grant and up to \$11.789 million interest free financing thru NYSEFC. The Town was not accepted for the County APRA grants. Two additional funding opportunities include Rural Development and STAG grants. The next steps to move forward are 1) Community Outreach - Public informational meetings, 2) Complete additional funding applications, 3) Amend Preliminary Engineering Report. Barton & Loguidice has prepared a proposal to assist the Town to complete the steps. We have until summer of 2024 to secure funding. A district formation bond resolution will need to be done.

Barton & Loguidice submitted an application, in July for an Engineering Planning grant (EPG) for the Black Lake Sewer Study. The Town was awarded \$50,000 for that study with up to 20% of local share, which the Town ARPA funds can be used. The grant program requires an A&E procurement process. The Town will need to release/advertise an RFQ for engineering services to comply with program requirements.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to proceed with the Black Lake Sewer Study. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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

Jay Carter, Black Lake Association: Jay Carter stated that the Association did receive a grant but is still not enough to proceed with the study to monitor the creeks coming in not just in one or two spots. A St. Lawrence Professor has the equipment, but it needs to be updated. Monitoring the lake once or twice a month is not enough. The cost needed for 4 machines that tow behind a boat to monitor the pollution, is \$14,200 and with anchors and cameras its closer to \$15,000. There are no markers in the channel which cost \$2,000 and that is basing the number of markers for the permit.

Joe Lightfoot stated that he didn't ask what DEC was intending on doing because that's what the meeting was supposed to be geared to and he was mis led that they didn't give any answers.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
January 17, 2023**

There was discussion among the Councilman, and they all feel that the Town needs to help.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to give the Black Lake Association \$2,000 to purchase the channel markers needed. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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

Supervisor Putman asked if that was what he would like. Jay stated he was hoping for assistance with the monitoring.

Councilman VanArnam asked if the other towns are helping in any way. Jay stated Oswegatchie is helping with \$10,000 towards the water chestnut issue. Macomb is willing to help with \$6,500 - \$7,000. Hammond is challenging when asking for funds. Councilman Coffin stated he is struggling with how to help. Since our town has the largest amount of shorefront compared to the other towns, Chris feels that 50% from Morristown and the help of the other towns for the remaining 50% would be helpful.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to commit 50% of the funds for the \$15,000 project for Black Lake with the assumption that the other towns to help by contributing funds. Supervisor Putman seconded the motion.

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

Old Business:

- 1. Supervisor's Update:** Supervisor Putman stated he had no other updates than what has already been discussed.
- 2. Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin stated that there is nothing unusual to report in regard to the monthly financial report.
- 3. DANC Monthly report** – There is nothing out of the ordinary, things are going well.
- 4. Highway Equipment** – All the Engineers have been to the Town Barn for the inspections and now we are waiting on the insurance company.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to secure the funds to purchase a loader for the Town Highway. Supervisor Putman seconded the motion.

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

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
January 17, 2023**

New Business:

- 1. Resolution #1-2023 Holding Harmless St. Lawrence County for providing services for 2023:** This resolution is the same as in the past it holds the county harmless within shared services.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to approve Resolution #1-2023 for Holding Harmless St. Lawrence County and to submit it with the insurance certificate. 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. Resolution #2-2023 NY RESTORE Program:** This is a resolution and a \$500 fee is to apply for the NY RESTORE Grant.

MOTION

Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the Resolution #2-2023 for NY RESTORE Program. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.

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

- 3. Renewal of Castle Cable 10-year agreement.** This agreement is between Castle Cable and Town of Morristown for services within the township. The agreement begins October 10, 2021 – October 11, 2031. Castle Cable apologized for the delay with the renewal.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to renew the agreement between Castle Cable and Town of Morristown. Supervisor Putman seconded the motion.

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

- 4. Resolution #3-2023 Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers:** This resolution is to allow the property tax exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers within our town.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to approve Resolution #3-2023 for the Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Fire Fighters and Ambulance Workers. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
January 17, 2023**

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

Other Business:

Historian Position: Interviews were conducted for two candidates for the Town Historian position.

MOTION

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to appoint JoAnne Marcelletta as Town Historian.
Councilman Turner 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 in full swing.

Town Historian: David Murray provided a written report for 2022.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette presented a written report for 2022. It is pretty consistent to the previous year. Revenue is less but there were smaller projects in 2022. He is hoping to conduct more fire inspections this year. Gregg distributed a draft of the Town Ordinance. He is asking for the council to review it and make revision, suggestions or comments. He would like a special meeting in two weeks to make the revisions and send it to the county for their review so it can go to a Public Hearing in March and then back to the Council for approval.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Supervisor Putman and seconded by Councilman Macaulay at 9:10 pm.