

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
June 14, 2022**

Present: Supervisor, Frank Putman; Deputy Supervisor, Chris Coffin; Councilman Gary Turner; Councilman Shawn Macaulay; Councilman Dave VanArnam

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Donnie & Jill Aldrich, Brier Hill Fire Dept., Jay Moore, Morristown Fire Dept., Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Putman at 7:06 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Shawn Macauley and said by all.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to approve the May 10, 2022 Town Board meeting minutes as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Macaulay.

Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Frank Putman – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye. Chris Coffin – Abstention. : Motion carried 4 Ayes, 1 abstention.

Correspondence:

- 1) The minutes of the May 17, 2022 Morristown Recreation Committee meeting were distributed.
- 2) Letter from Mary Ellen Mace thanking the Highway Department for the great job done at the Greenwood Cemetery and inquiring if fencing was still in the making. She also was concerned about why flags were not hung in Brier Hill as they were in Morristown.

Dean Hoffman stated that the flags for Brier Hill were in storage at the Brier Hill Fire Station and when the Highway men went to get them, they were gone. 5 Replacement flags were ordered that day. They were received and hung the following week. Prices for fencing will be obtained.

Public Comment:

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator stated that County currently is in good financial status. They have received over 9 million more in sales tax revenue for the year, than what was budgeted. Half of those funds will be distributed to Towns & Villages which will increase their revenue. The County will pay for one Highway post and bond two others. The County will spend 1 million for bonding. They are currently looking into financing since the state frowns on having more than 37.8 million in unappropriated funds and we are currently at 37 million and some change. The County also has APRA funds available to Towns & Villages. Mr. Lightfoot advised the board to be thinking about

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some projects the town could do and submit funding applications to the St. Lawrence County Planning department.

The County has received the report for DOSS and recommendations for corrections have been made. There has been some resignations and some employees have been transferred to other departments. The new Commissioner is doing well he is demanding for responsibilities and expectations of staff. The medical expenses have increased which has increased health insurance costs. The highway department is able to do more work on Cty Rt. 6 than anticipated. There will be a meeting in Lake Placid on June 23, 2022 with Mohawk Reservation, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties regarding Casino funding. HEAP is hoping for additional funding for this year. There was discussion about investigating those who do receive the benefit for fraud or misuse of benefits.

Jill Aldrich, Brier Hill Fire Department Ems Captain stated that they would like to purchase a LUCAS machine but need help with funding. This is a piece of equipment that performs CPR on a patient. It is effective by not needing extra help for compressions. It will work for a max of 45 minutes. The cost of the machine is \$16 – \$20,000 and it can be purchase outright or on lease payments. The department has raised \$8,600 and receives \$4,000 annually for EMS from the town but is still short of funds.

Jay Moore, Morristown Fire Dept Chief stated that he has had the experience of using the machine in the hospital ER and on a rescue call with Brier Hill and has since brought it up to the Fire District to purchase for Morristown rescue as well. He highly recommends it and feels it is worth every cent spend on it.

There was discussion and the Councilmen were all in agreement that it would be something that could be beneficial to the community and that both departments should have one.

Councilman VanArnam is suggesting purchasing one for each dept, Brier Hill and Morristown but first see if they can be purchased with Town or County ARPA funds and if not, the town assist with purchasing them.

Jay Moore stated that the 4th of July Celebration is coming up and the department is asking if they could count on the town for a donation as in the past. The Town will make a contribution toward the celebration.

Supervisor's Update: Supervisor Putman stated all updates and information he has will be discussed throughout the agenda.

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Old Business:

- 1. Financial Report:** Copies of the financial report were distributed to all Board Members. The report is straight forward with no major concerns at this time. There are a couple accounts over spent and budget modifications will need to be made. Councilman Coffin stated he has spoken to Carol and Judy about the low interest earned on our accounts. We have approximately 2.2 million in total in accounts and only earned \$450.00 for interest. Councilman Coffin did speak to Schelin Crosby and because they are not able to lend money fast enough, she would be in favor of us going elsewhere and not be offended. There was discussion and it was suggested to investigate other options and bring back to the board at a later time.

Joe Lightfoot suggested contacting the County Treasurer for some advice on investing funds. Councilman Coffin will look at the spending pattern from prior years and come up with some figures.

- 2. DANC Reports:** Copies of the DANC reports for the months of May 2022 were distributed to all Board Members. There is nothing out of the ordinary in the monthly reports.
- 3. Surplus Property:** The resolution for the property sale has been revised by Andy Silver and ready for adoption. Lot #4 was deleted from the list of properties for sale.

The resolution is as follows:

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2022, the Town Board of the Town of Morristown, New York, duly adopted a resolution, which resolution is subject to a permissive referendum pursuant to Town Law Article 7 of the State of New York: RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN AT A MEETING HELD ON _____ BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor, Frank Putman, to sell vacant parcels of real property owned and identified as follows: Lots No 1, No 2, No 3 and No 5 as identified on a map of survey attached hereto as Schedule A by Sheppard Land Surveying dated August 2001 File No.: 2021-050. All Lots shall be sold by the Town by solicited bids from the Public. All bids will be for cash with no financing contingencies. All Lots will be conveyed by Quit Claim Deed. The Town will not furnish abstracts of title nor provide title insurance to the Lots. The purchase price shall be paid in U.S. funds at closing by certified funds or wire transfer. Closing and transfer of title shall occur no later than 45 days after the bid is accepted. All transfers are subject to real estate taxes imposed after delivery of deed. All transfers are subject to building and zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants of record, if any. The Town of Morristown will not pay any

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commissions to brokers. A certified check or cashier’s check payable to the Town of Morristown for 10% of the amount of the bid must accompany each bid which will be returned if the bid is not accepted within a reasonable time. The right to reject all bids is reserved by the Town. The successful bidder shall pay all recording costs for the Deed of conveyance and related documents. The sale of the Lots by the Town of Morristown is subject to Permissive Referendum pursuant to Town Law § 64(2) and Article 7. If a petition for a referendum is filed within the statutory period set forth in Article 7, any proposed sale shall be contingent upon approval of the sale by qualified voters at a referendum. The minimum bids for the Lots shall be as follows: Lot 1 - \$12, 000.00 Lot 2 - \$15, 000.00 Lot 3 - \$13,000.00 Lot 4 - Reserved by Town – Not For Sale Lot 5 - \$8,000.00 The deed conveying the property from the Town of Morristown to the successful bidder will include the following permanent restrictive covenants: (1) All Lots shall be used and developed for residential purposes only. Only one single-family residence may be erected, altered, placed, or be permitted to remain on any Lot. Occupancy of each residence is limited to one family. The Lots shall not be used for business purposes of any kind nor for any commercial, manufacturing or apartment house purposes or multi-family dwellings. (2) No Lot shall be subdivided for any reason or purpose. This Resolution shall serve as the invitation to bid to the Public and is notice to all the terms and conditions of any sale and may be published at the discretion of The Town of Morristown. The Lots are no longer necessary or appropriate for Municipal purposes. Bids for the above-described property are hereby solicited. The bids must be delivered in writing in person or by a representative. Do not mail. All bids must be stamped as to date and time of deposit with the Town Clerk. Bids are to be signed, sealed and deposited with the Town Clerk at _____, on or before 5:00 p.m. on _____. The bids will thereafter be submitted to the Town Board and will be opened and considered at the first regular meeting held after the above date. The successful bidder will be notified in writing by the Town Clerk. Bidders may bid on more than one Lot. Bids shall be for the entire Lots identified. No bids shall be submitted for portions of Lots. All bids shall be in writing and shall identify: the Lot or Lots bid upon; the amount to be paid for each Lot; and full name, address and phone number of the bidder. Bids will be awarded to the highest responsible bidder as determined by the Town. The Town may accept/reject any and all bids at its discretion and may waive technicalities. BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

_____, Town Clerk Dated at Morristown, New York, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

MOTION

Councilman Dave VanArnam made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the sale of the property on Bay Street. Councilman Gary Turner seconded the motion.

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

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- 4. Water/Sewer Local Laws:** Supervisor Putman stated the Town Sewer District #1, District #2 and District #3 Local Law #2 of 2022 has been reviewed by Andy Silver and it is ready to adopt. We will begin working on the Town Water Local Law.

MOTION

Councilman Dave VanArnam made a motion to adopt the Town Sewer District #1, District #2 and District #3 Local Law #2 of 2022. Councilman Shawn Macaulay seconded the motion.

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

Gary Turner asked if there is anything we can do about the unpaid water bills. Supervisor Putman will contact Andy Silver and ask him what can be done if anything.

- 5. LWRP –** This was tabled until additional information is obtained.
- 6. Personnel Replacement -** Supervisor Putman stated that Judy has decided to stay in her position longer so we will revisit this later.
- 7. Recreation Committee -** Tabled due to no information to be presented.
- 8. Use of ARPA Funds –** Supervisor Putman would like to add a lite up walkway around the bay on the other side of the property. There was discussion about the project costs, plans and research to be done.

New Business

- 1. Black Lake Chamber Funding Request:** Supervisor Putman stated the Town received a funding request letter from the Black Lake Chamber. In the past we have supported the Black Lake Association by giving them \$2,000. Councilman Turner suggested rotating the \$2,000 contribution to the Chamber one year and the Association the next. Councilman VanArnam suggested splitting the contribution and giving both identities \$1,000.

MOTION

Councilman Dave VanArnam made a motion to give \$1,000.00 to the Black Lake Chamber and \$1,000.00 to the Black Lake Association. Councilman Gary Turner seconded the motion.

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

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- 2. Proposal for Conference Room Technology** - We received a proposal from Chimera Integrations in the amount of \$6,990.00 for AV Conference System for conference room at 402 Gouverneur Street. The proposal includes equipment, installation, and service maintenance. It was suggested to get some other proposals.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Department Reports: All written reports are on file.

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan presented and reviewed a written report to the board.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette presented a written report including a list of permits and violations. Russ Lawrence is helping a great deal while Gregg is off on medical leave. Gregg has signed 4 complaints for Supreme Court while there are 4 or 5 more to process.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman reported that they are ready to start black topping. The Oak Point Rd. will be done this year. The cost is \$72 per ton of asphalt this year up from \$54.00 last year. We will do quick re-load with Hanson to cut fuel costs. We are within the fuel budget right now but may be short in the fall. The repair budget may also need to be increased since costs have increased so much. The kids are destructive and vandalizing areas around town. They have no fear and are very aggressive with no fear or no respect. There have been lots of complaints and we encourage people to call the law. Roof maintenance needs to be done on the one room schoolhouse as well as maintenance on the windmill.

Assessor: A written report was distributed. James will be attending the Annual Conference in the fall.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman VanArnam and seconded by Councilman Macaulay at 8:33 pm.