

Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
March 13, 2018

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Christopher Coffin, Shawn Macaulay, Frank Putman
Also Present: Dean Hoffman, Christopher Sherwin, Kevin Crosby, Joseph Lightfoot, Andrew Silver, Cheryl Shatraw, Carol Woodcock

Pledge of Allegiance-Led by Shawn Macaulay

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Gary Turner, and seconded by Councilman Christopher Coffin, to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 as presented to the Board.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Abstain, Christopher Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Abstain

Correspondence: None

Public Comment 1-Joe Lightfoot briefed the Board on things happening at the County level.

Old Business

1. Economic Development: Councilman Coffin gave a handout to the Board of potential development ideas. He is working on a collaboration for 2019 with the Black Lake Chamber of Commerce. Also interested in a grant to redevelop the Main Street of the village. He discussed using a portion of fund balance for various economic development activities.

2. Town Office Building: The clerk updated the Board on the re-wiring of the building and the IT infrastructure upgrade.

3. Cold War Exemption: The Town's Attorney has existing law and county's suggested changes. Board will receive amended law for review at an upcoming meeting.

4. Other Old Business: Councilman Turner requested the clerk to upgrade the Town website. He asked for more color, pictures and promotion of the Town. The Board gave permission to the clerk to effect the requested changes for design and content.

New Business

1. Junk Storage Law of 2015: Supervisor Putman asked Code Officer Christopher Sherwin to discuss property maintenance issues that are ongoing. Stated he feels the problem with junk is out of control in the Town. Complaints from the public are increasing and he feels there is a need to enforce penalties. Attorney Silver stated that is up to the judges to enforce the penalties. He suggested asking for an order of compliance from the court on these cases. Attorney Silver also suggested the Town make clear to the judges that the Town's position is to request an order of compliance for all cases. He also stated that the Town can increase the penalty amounts. He suggested that in addition to raising penalty amounts, the Town can give itself the ability clean up the blighted properties and have the county add the cost of the clean up to the land owners tax bill. This can't be re-levied if the property owner does not pay it. Attorney Silver reminded the Board of the demographics of the town and low-income offenders could be heavily impacted by increased penalty fees. After discussion the Board agreed to increase fines to a minimum of

**Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
March 13, 2018**

\$350 not to exceed \$650, and order to comply with a specific date attached. The Board asked Attorney Silver to prepare an amended law with the change in fees and compliance order for them. The Board also asked Attorney Silver to prepare a law to repeal the existing Junk Yard Law.

2. Gateway Museum Nature Trails: Trails will open in 2019. The Town Highway Department will continue to work, as time permits, with the museum on the trails. The museum will apply for a grant to improve the trails from the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency. The grant application requires a municipality to be lead agency on the application. After discussion by the Board a motion to adopt Resolution #6 of 2018 was made by Councilman Macaulay, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam, as follows:

Be It Resolved, that the Morristown Town Board approves submission by the Town of a grant application to the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency through its Community Development and Environmental Improvement Awards program on behalf of the Gateway Museum for work at the Bogardus farm.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town of Morristown accepts responsibility as lead agency for the purposes of submitting the Community Development and Environmental Improvement Award grant.

Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Christopher Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

3. Cemetery Contracts: Copies were provided to the Board. Expiring December 2018.

4. Teamsters Contract: Copy provided to the Board. Expiring December 2018.

5. Rabies Clinic: Coming up on Wednesday, April 25th at the Town Highway Barn

6. CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) Program: The clerk briefed the Board on the program offered by the Association of Towns and Conference of Mayors. They directed him to get further information.

Department & Committee Reports

1. Highway Department: Written report handed out. Superintendent Hoffman reported that the 2011 plow truck has had electronic problems.

2. Code Enforcement: Written report was handed out. Chris Sherwin explained that the Board of Appeals fees for variances and interpretations for residential and commercial purposes have not been set and the Town is losing income. He presented a proposed fee schedule to the Board. After review, the Board decided to implement the fees schedule. A motion was made by Councilman Coffin, and seconded by Councilman Macaulay, to set the fee schedule as presented by the Code Enforcement Officer as follows:

Zoning Fees

A. Residential Zoning Board of Appeals

Board of Appeals Area Variance -\$ 75.00

Board of Appeals Use Variance - \$125.00

Board of Appeals Interpretation - \$ 50.00

**Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
March 13, 2018**

B. Commercial Zoning Board of Appeals

Board of Appeals Area Variance - \$150.00

Board of Appeals Use Variance - \$200.00

Board of Appeals Interpretation - \$150.00

C. Fee for appeal to the Board of Appeals in any instance not covered by the foregoing- \$100.00

3. DPW- Wastewater Districts: No report

4. Recreation Commission: Carol Woodcock informed the Board that the Rec. Commission is looking at switching to a baseball league run by the Town of Lisbon in place of Kiwanis Baseball. Currently, Kiwanis charges a fee per participating youth and carries the insurance. The Lisbon League charges a \$25 fee per team only but doesn't carry the insurance. She asked if they decided to switch to the Lisbon sponsored league would the Town continue to carry insurance and be secondary to the parent's insurance. The Board responded that after the Recreation commission checks and if they want to switch that they could do so, and the Town would continue to carry insurance for them.

Public Comment 2: None

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:40 PM.

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