

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
May 9, 2023**

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

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Putman at 6:02 pm.

Pledge: The pledge was led by Shawn Macaulay and said by all.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Macauley to approve the April 11th, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman VanArnam.

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

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public Comment:

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator: Joe stated that plans and the process have been started for a facility “No Dogs Left Behind” to house and provide services to pets. A list was reviewed of where the APRA funds were used throughout the county.

Water Extension: Peter FitzRandolph is representing the citizens of River Rd East regarding the extension of the water district – opposition. He explained the concerns such as unnecessary expense, disruption, newly constructed and other year-round homes have or are drilling wells, there are concerns of the clarity of the survey and how it was distributed to the residents. There was never any expression of the need for public water up the River Rd East unlike the sewer. Councilman VanArnam stated that the board is not forcing it on anyone and that the process has not been completed and there will be a Public Informational Meeting

Matt Cooper clarified the process of the survey. The results as of now with 16% response that 51% are in favor and 49% are not in favor. Matt stated that if someone didn't get one, he would email it to Jill, and they can pick one up at the Clerk's office. Matt explained the grant and the scope of work to be done and that the worry is that if it doesn't go to the park then the full amount of the grant will not be awarded. Matt reported the steps of the process and that we are still on step one which is the interest survey, step two is the public information meeting, step three is to decide to move forward or not. There are two options for the grant one is the extension of water up the River Road East to the state park and to build a new pump station (which must be replaced) and the second project is to extend the water district down Riverview Street Road. Matt gave the results of the Riverview Street Road survey. 129 surveys were sent with a 27% response, 63% in favor and 37% opposed.

We have been very successful with the funding opportunity, and it may never come around again. It came because we are using the existing and adding the extension.

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Supervisor Putman asked if the State Park has confirmed in writing their interest in public water? Matt stated he is certain they have confirmed their interest and will see if they have it in writing.

There was discussion of the construction aspects of the project and the process to establish a new district by three ways for the public say. 1 - Petition, 2 – Referendum and 3 – Permissive Referendum. These options will be discussed at the public informational meeting.

For the current water district 1 the necessary repairs and new water plant will cost 9 million dollars with the possibly of 5 million in funding. The EDU will increase to approximately \$1,055 per year for district 1.

There will be a public information meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 12th, 2023 at 6 pm.

Public Library: Sheila Norman Culp informed the board that there are 3 very old windows that need to be replaced. Supervisor Putman stated that it is a town building so the town will plan on replacing the windows.

Debbie Montieth: Debbie asked who is responsible for the docks below Ella's which are unsafe and dangerous. She has been in contact with the Coast Guard , Army Corp of Engineers, and DEC. She's been told the docks are not in the Navigation Channel, so they are not responsible. Debbie feels it's time for the town Board to get involved and get them taken care of before something happens. Maybe getting in touch with the Legislators, Assembly, or maybe even the Senator.

Wayne Sardullo: Wayne stated he had previously given David information for an application to tie into the Town Website for informational purposes. Such as alerts and notifications for the public to receive. He will pass it onto Jill so she can investigate it.

Old Business:

- 1. Supervisor's Update:** Supervisor Putman reported that we have received the final insurance check for the fire. Dean feels we are still owed \$117,000 and will reach out to Mark. Dean and Frank will meet tomorrow morning.
- 2. Financial Report:** An updated Fire Expenditure sheet was distributed to each Councilman.
- 3. DANC Monthly report** – The April report was not available for the meeting.
- 4. Surplus Property** – We will find out how much land we'll need to build a new water plant and have it surveyed out of the surplus land before selling it. Lot #6 has been appraised and revised and is now in the hands of Andy for the resolution so we can advertise the bid process.

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- 5. Safe Complete Streets:** We received a proposal to sign the Policy but since there are questions and Karen is not available for tonight's we will entertain it at the June meeting.

New Business:

- 1. Harbor Master position:** Supervisor Putman is suggesting creating position specifications for a Harbor Master. He asked all the councilmen to think about it and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated that she continues tax collection and is busy with day-to-day operations. It has been very busy.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman stated that they thought there was a water main break, but it turned out it is collaboration issues with a leak on a hydrant on High Street and system lost all the pressure causing the tower to empty testing has been completed and the tower has since refilled. We are hoping all the water testing passes so the boil water ban can be lifted.

Dean presented an estimate of \$56,083.45 from RP Adams, for the parts to fix the problem. That is for both filters to be repaired. It could take 8-10 weeks for the parts, so we'll have to monitor and be conservative.

Councilman Coffin stated the procedure is that funds can be used from other sources but should have our attorney draw up the necessary documents to do so.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to authorize the ordering of the parts in the amount of \$56,083.00 to fix the water problem. 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.

Dean stated that fences and stones need to be taken care of at the cemeteries. He will get quotes on some fencing for the cemeteries but unsure what to do about the broken stones. It was suggested to look into charitable organizations for cemeteries. Frank will also call the Association of town to find out who is responsible for it. Flag poles and flags are being put up in the cemeteries.

The old highway barn has been demolished by the Town employees and put in a pile. Kimko was not available to do the job. The preliminary documents are being drawn up for a new highway barn. The dimensions have been changed from 70' X 140' to 75'X 140' with the apron. The bathroom was rearranged to accommodate a walk-in shower. In the corner of the mechanical room is the well. The next step is to send out RFP for bids.

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Town Historian: A written report was given. There were questions about charging a fee for genealogy research. Supervisor Putman will reach out to Joanne.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette provided a written report. It has been busy with variance and planning board meetings every month. Andy is working on reissuing the violations. The ordinance updates need to be completed and get it out to the public hearing and get it finalized.

We will hold a special meeting on May 18th, 2023, at 6pm to finalize the revisions to the Town Ordinance

Other Business: There was no other business.

Executive Session: Supervisor Putman made a motion to go into Executive Session for Legations Possibilities. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion. Executive Session began at 8:09 pm and ended at 8:37 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman VanArman and seconded by Councilman Macaulay at 8:38 pm.