

Town Budget Hearing/Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
November 7, 2023

Present: Supervisor, Frank Putman; Councilman, Chris Coffin; Councilman, David VanArnam; Councilman, Gary Turner; and Councilman, Shawn Macaulay.

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; Andy Silver, Town Attorney; Anne Marie Fitz Randolph; and several community members.

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

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

Budget Hearing: Supervisor Putman opened the budget hearing at 6:04 pm. Councilman Coffin gave an overview of the 2024 proposed budget. The town board members have held budget workshops and made a few adjustments to the budget. The Town Clerk contractual amount has increased to \$3,600.00 for IT purposes, the Ambulance Day-time Medic contract has increased by \$1,000, and the ambulance equipment line has increased to \$32,000. There are some small reductions made to sewer district #1 while there is a 5% increase in rates for sewer district #2. The water district flat rate for 2024 is \$320.72 and the usage rate will increase to \$6.49/thousand for 2024 and increase again in 2025 and 2026. We will monitor the water district closely. We will reclassify some businesses who do not have more than 1 bathroom. Due to the town barn fire the expense line has increased within the highway fund and the supervisor's contractual fund.

Adjustments have been made to balance the budget without increasing or decreasing taxes.

The Budget Hearing closed at 6:11 pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Coffin to approve the October 10th, Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

A motion was made by Councilman Coffin to approve the October 17th, Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Putman.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

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Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Old Business:

1. **Financial Report:** An updated financial report as of October 2023 showing the unusual expenditures and revenue from the Town Barn fire. Councilman Coffin will contact the State Comptroller's Office to find out how to classify the fire within the budget.
2. **DANC Monthly report:** The October report was distributed to each member prior to the meeting for review.
3. **Set a date for water district #2 formation:** Matt Cooper was unable to attend this meeting and present the map, plan & report for the proposed water district #2, so this was tabled until December 2023.

Michele Whalen asked how many residents are within proposed water district #2? There are a total of 21 properties - 12 residents; 4 businesses; and 5 vacant parcels.

4. **2023 Budget modifications:** There were some budget modifications presented to be made within the highway department budget because of the fire expenses.

MOTION

Councilman VanArman made a motion to accept the budget modifications as presented. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

New Business:

1. **2024 Budget:** The 2024 budget has been proposed.

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve the 2024 budget as presented. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.

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Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated that the 2023 school tax collection has ended, all remaining payments must go to the St. Lawrence County Treasurer's Office.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman stated that the footers and walls have been poured. Greenhill is scheduled to begin the well work on 11/08/2023.

The sand and salt are ready for the upcoming winter season. The trucks are 98% ready with a few minor things to finish on them. The new truck is 100% ready to go.

All the paving jobs done this year have been covered with CHIPS funding.

Dean received an email from Barbara Potter stating her daughter is interested in building on the property located on the east side of the pumphouse on Riverview Street. She is asking about being hooked up to the sewer and that she would want to hook up to water also. There is no vacuum system there. Dean is asking if the town wants to add this onto the current lines. The Board's suggestion is to first investigate the cost before any decisions are made.

Dean stated he was contacted about moving a sewer pot on River Road East because it is in the way of construction. An addition is being built right over top of the sewer pot. According to Gregg the building plans did not have any plumbing in them when presented. The board said no do not move it.

Historian: A written report was distributed prior to each board.

Other Business: Councilman Coffin stated the windmill needs restoration and Anne Marie FitzRandolph is willing to help the town to find grant money to help. She has an application for an engineering study grant. The quote for the study to be performed is approximately \$39,000 and the Town share to contribute would be around \$10,000.00. Some of the work that has been done on the Windmill has comprised more than helped. Would the Board be interested in pursuing this study? The Board would like exact numbers before deciding.

There was discussion about publishing a Town wide newsletter. It was suggested to form a committee.

Residents thanked the Highway department for the great job done by paving the English Settlement rd. to highway 37.

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Executive Session: At 6:43 pm Supervisor Putman made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into executive session with Town Attorney, Andy Silver, for pending litigations. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

The executive session ended at 7:00 pm with no action taken.