

**Town Board Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
October 10, 2023**

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

Others Present: Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; and several community members. Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator; Matt Cooper, Barton & Loguidice.

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.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Coffin to approve the August 8th and September 12, 2023, Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman VanArnam.

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

Correspondence: Supervisor Putman read a letter from Beverly Sherry who is opposing a new water district.

Public Comment:

Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator stated work will be done on the Emergency Services building for additional office space and enhance the emergency 911 answering system and equipment. Bid proposals went out last week.

The auction for delinquent property was held and successful again this year. Three bridges within the county were under construction this summer and one is near completion. The Chief District Attorney is leaving the county. The County is looking into probation officers being able to be armed while at work. The 2024 budget process is nearly completed. The proposed budget amount is a quarter billion dollars with no property tax increase again this year and for the 8th year in a row.

Michele Whalen: Michele commented and asked questions about the water proposal. Her concerns were whether the 5-million-dollar grant can be obtained if there are expansions. The 5-million-dollar grant is for the repairs and the expansion. The Town would need to submit applications for any other grants available for just the repairs. She also stated that the existing district would pay \$200.00 less than the new proposed district users would pay. Matt Cooper stated that the existing users will be nearly doubled. District 1 will have the cost of the repairs and district 2 will have the cost of the project and repairs.

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Scott Roof: On behalf of the Black Lake Association Scott is asking for a letter of support for the clean-up efforts. They are seeking grant money for the clean-up efforts.

Sean Jenkins: Sean asked Gregg Mallette why he seized and put a stop work order on a dock after the owner had permission. Gregg stated it had a boat house on it without a permit and he stopped the boat house project not the dock.

Old Business:

1. **Financial Report:** An updated financial report showing the expenditures and the revenue for the Town Barn.
2. **DANC Monthly report:** The September report was distributed to each member prior to the meeting for review.
3. **Lot #6 Purchase offers:** There were two purchase offers received for Lot #6 on Bay Street.
 1. Morgan Macaulay – Bid amount \$14,579.00 included a cashier’s check in the amount of \$1,457.90 (10% of bid).
 2. Richard Marshall – Bid amount \$13,100.00 included a cashier’s check in the amount of \$1,310.00 (10% of bid).

MOTION

Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept Morgan Macaulay’s bid in the amount of \$14,579.00. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilman VanArnam – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye, Councilman Macaulay - abstained. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 1 abstention.

4. **2023-2024 Heating Fuel Bid:** One bid was received.
 1. Morristown Fuel & Building Supply submitted a proposal for a \$.22 discount off the variable daily cash price.

MOTION

Councilman Turner made a motion to accept the bid proposal for Heating Fuel from Morristown Fuel & Building Supply as presented. Supervisor Putman seconded the motion.

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Vote: Councilman Macaulay – Aye, Councilman Turner – Aye, Councilman Coffin – Aye, Supervisor Putman – Aye, Councilman VanArnam - abstained. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 1 abstention.

New Business:

1. **2024 Budget Proposal:** There was discussion about the Highway Department Budget and how it has its own budget. The capability to add to the General account fund balance last year was \$124,000 and this year we can add \$166,671.

The sewer department needs some work done to the budget on actual expenditures and prorated funds. Sewer district 1 is healthy but, Councilman Coffin suggested using numbers from expenditure experiences and not the budgeted we could reduce the deficit and it could add \$44,000.00 to the fund balance. Sewer district #2 has a deficit of \$5,600 per year. Sewer district #3 actual experience would be an improvement and substation addition. We will need to think of what to do with sewer district #2 and the water district to increase the revenue to make them self-sufficient. We were able to relevy the water and sewer to taxes this year and we can do the same for the 2024.

We will have a budget workshop on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

2. **Code Enforcement Office Floor Rehab:** Supervisor Putman would like to have the floor looked at in the Code office to see what can be done to stabilize it better. The shag carpet is not tacked down but will need to come up to investigate the problem with the floor. Councilman Coffin stated if we have intentions on consolidating the municipal buildings it's not necessary to deal with these issues at this time. He suggested having a meeting for building 1 in the next couple months to get a closer look at all the issues and figure something out.
3. **Dog Pound Shelter:** There are new regulations for dog pounds to follow and one is that HVAC systems need to be added. Dan Moyer is asking for a one-time sum of \$1,500 toward this expense and is also asking for an increase in the contract rates.

Councilman Macaulay is suggesting reviewing the contract he presents before agreeing to any type of rate increase.

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4. **Alternative Water District:** Supervisor Putman and Councilman Coffin distributed a letter to residents with in the new proposed water district. There were less than 50% of the residents who signed the previously proposed water district petition, so it is in our interest to pursue the new proposed district of 20 properties.

There was discussion about the newly proposed district and the cost of \$899.00 including average water usage to new district users and the cost for current users is \$835.00. Adding water to these properties will increase the value and save money on your current repairs made to your current systems.

The way the grant works is that the more infrastructure the EDU costs will decrease. There are more full-time residents so there are greater benefits for less cost.

Time is of the essence and for the best and quickest results we will hold a public referendum. We have until the end of January to secure the grant.

There were questions about revisiting the grant to see if we can get one for just the repairs. A new work scope will be written, and a new application will need to be submitted.

Residents of the proposed district had comments and questions. There was discussion about the project. Some concerns are the filtration and the amount of chemicals that are added to the water. There will be a public information meeting once there is more information on this proposal. The Grant process was reviewed. At the November meeting we will act on the plan acceptance.

Councilman Coffin suggested to move forward and give a vote a chance for a fair chance.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to authorize Barton & Loguidice to proceed with the map and plan for the proposed water district. 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.

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Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Jill Sullivan stated a written report was distributed.

Highway Department: Dean Hoffman stated that paving has been done on English Settlement Rd, Sand Street, High Street and Columbia Street. After doing inventory we found to be low and well need to order some. We were able to secure a truck for \$49,000 at the auction.

The building is here and ready to be put up. We are waiting for the entrance door. The footers and walls are scheduled to be poured tomorrow.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to authorize the purchase of a truck up to the amount of \$50,000 at the auction. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

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

Dean asked for the bids for the assembly of the building to be opened at the budget workshop.

Historian: A written report was distributed prior to the meeting.

Code Enforcement: Gregg Mallette stated that the Town scored well on the ISO grading. 4 for residential and 3 for commercial which is above the state average. We are trying to close out the REDI grant so if any of the board members have any information on it please let us know. All those involved with the grant are no longer employees and we cannot find documentation.

Other Business: CST Group presented us with a quote for the annual services for budget purposes.

MOTION

Supervisor Putman made a motion to the CST Group quote as presented. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

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

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Executive Session: At 7:50 pm Councilman Macaulay made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into executive session for personnel reasons. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Executive session ended at 8:18 pm with action taken.

MOTION

Shawn Macaulay made a motion to approve the salary increase requested by the Town Clerk as presented. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

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