

Town Board Special Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
October 17, 2023

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

Others Present: Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk; and several community members.

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Putman at 6:03 pm.

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

New Business:

2024 Budget Proposal: Councilman Coffin reviewed the proposal for the water rates to cover operating expenses and to cover the loan. We will need to bring in roughly 50% more in revenue. Councilman Coffin passed out a summary of the water district budget for appropriations, revenue, rates, number of EDU's, and implementation. Councilman Coffin is suggesting to phase in an increase over three years and keep the same flat rate of \$320.72. The rate the first year \$6.33/thousand; second year, \$8.49/thousand; third year, \$10.65/thousand. The cost for a typical Edu (using 282 EDUs): 2024 - \$475.02; 2025 - \$527.67; 2026 - \$580.35. We will monitor each year and see how it's going. The season would remain at the same flat rate and the usage wouldn't really have a huge impact. We will wait until the end of the year to see the surplus and write the repayment plan. The sewer fund balances are Dist #1 - \$57,800.00; #2 - \$89,085, #3 - \$154,096. Councilman Coffin stated there are no increases for sewer at this time.

Pay Levels and Health Benefits: Councilman Coffin distributed a summary of information he obtained from St. Lawrence County for pay ranges throughout the county and health benefits. He is suggesting establishing pay ranges instead of a single rate before asking for any applications for positions. He will produce a policy proposal and bring it to the next meeting for action. There was discussion about the code enforcement position and the pay range with or without benefits. \$55,000 is proposed for a possible starting range. We will be looking for a Bookkeeper and Court Clerk in the near future and will need to figure out the salaries. All personnel issues will be dealt with in executive or special meetings.

Bay Street Walk Around: Supervisor Putman stated the cost for a walkway around Bay Street will cost roughly \$65,000 with two weeks of labor and \$18,000.00 for the striping. We will need to find out where the water lines will be.

Town Dockage: We are waiting for a cost for additional town docks.

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Morristown Fire Department: Jay Moore thanked the town for the continued support for the Fire Department. The Daytime Medic contract rates have increase and we are asking the town for \$26,000 for 2024 to help cover the increase. We would also like to ask for \$1,500 for 2024 July 4th celebration since it is the 200-year anniversary of independence, and we would like to make it bigger. Fire Prevention cost \$4,200 this year. The Town usually gives us \$750.00 we are proposing an increase. It was suggested by Shawn Macaulay to increase the Fire Prevention contribution to \$1,500.

The department is having ambulance issues. Currently the town gives the department \$22,000.00 towards the purchase of an ambulance. The costs have increased by 40% and Jay is asking for an increase to that line item as well. There was discussion about the purchase of a new ambulance and how much the equipment cost.

Councilman VanArnam suggested increasing the \$22,000 by \$10,000 for a total of \$32,000.

This will be presented in the budget at the November meeting.

Meeting Date: The regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Bid Openings for the assembly and completion of the Town Barn: There was one bid received – Bishop Construction. The proposed bid amount is \$535,000 to assemble and to complete the Town Barn building and to include installation of septic system and the material.

Dean stated that he has spoken to Bill at Indian River Lakes about what is needs for completion. This bid has everything that is needed to complete the project. Bishop stated he does not have a completion date, but it will be completed as soon as possible, he knows the importance.

MOTION

Councilman Coffin made a motion to accept the bid proposal from Bishop Construction in the amount of \$535,000 for completion of the Town Barn building. Councilman Macaulay 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.

Water and Sewer disconnect: The owners of the condemned building on Main Street have asked to have the water and sewer capped at 301 Main Street. Supervisor Putman stated this has been done in the past. A letter was signed and notarized by the owners and the town with the agreement that it will not be turned on, the sewer law can be referenced.

MOTION

Councilman Macaulay made a motion to approve the capping of the water and sewer to the condemned building at 301 Main Street with the agreement letter signed and notarized. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.

Fencing around the Cemetery: A fence to be put up around the cemetery has been an ongoing request from residents. Dean had gotten quotes in the range of \$10 - \$12,000. The Town Highway department will go to Tractor Supply and purchase some fencing and install it.

Codes: Cherie Shatraw asked if there is something being done with the garbage and junk around Morristown. It is very noticeable though out the hamlet. Supervisor Putman stated that several cases have been issued tickets and sent to supreme court. So, it is in the works to get it cleaned up.

Proposed Water District: Michele Whalen asked what is happening with the proposed water district. Supervisor Putman stated there will be a referendum.

Executive Session: At 7:05 pm Councilman Macaulay made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into executive session for personnel reasons. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion. No action to be taken.