

**Town Meeting
Town of Morristown
October 8, 2019**

Budget Meeting -6 PM

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Chris Coffin, Shawn Macaulay, Frank Putman
Also Present: Dean Hoffman, Carol Woodcock, Jason Pfothenhauer, Brian Nutting, Cheryl Shatraw, Kevin Crosby, Janet Newtown, John Newtown, Michele Whalen, Tom Bell, Dona Hooker, Joe Lighfoot, Alex Colby, James Walsh, Wayne Moquin, Ethyn Moquin, Bridget Whalen, Cheryl Warren

Supervisor Putman opened the budget meeting at 6:08 PM

- Chris Coffin reviewed the changes incorporated into the budget document.
 - Chris and Carol Woodcock will review the health insurance charges.
 - \$5,000 is in the budget for sidewalks.
 - A decision must be made on the management of the sewer and water systems.
 - The budget can be adopted by November 12, 2019.
 - Each sewer district must be self-sustaining through revenues.
 - The village sewer district has a \$5,041 deficit plus a new loan on the treatment facility. The Board asked for the village costs on disposal. Kevin Crosby mentioned it was important to make sure treatment and disposal costs are incorporated into the budget.
 - The Board discussed plant operation for water and sewer. Admin costs are broken down to 30% water and 70% sewer.
 - The current Teamsters contract is in effect for 2 more years and will need to negotiate the 2 additional positions when negotiations take place.
 - The Board was interested in seeing what the sewer and water overtime charges were for 2019.
 - The Board reviewed sewer and water contractual amounts
 - It was noted that the State Comptrollers Office has approved the budget breakdown process the Town is using.
 - Conversation on the number of extra staff needed for 2020. There are currently 2 additional staff accounted for in the budget. The water district is causing the most issue in budgeting. The Board would like the Village to provide calculations on current reserve funds in the sewer and water accounts. Board agreed that it will be necessary to raise water rates to 10 dollars per thousand in 2020.
 - The Highway Superintendent raised concerns on cuts for equipment and permanent improvements. Those lines will be restored in the next version of the budget.
- The budget meeting was closed at 7:06 PM by Supervisor Putman.

**Town Meeting
Town of Morristown
October 8, 2019**

Public Hearing – Comprehensive Plan

Supervisor Putman opened the public hearing to take comments on the Draft Comprehensive Plan presented by the St. Lawrence County Planning Office.

Jason Pfothauer spoke on the history of the process including 2 public input meetings and 2 public hearings. Members of the Dissolution Committee shared some additional goals for the plan. The Board approved of the additional goals. Michele Whalen will work with Jason Pfothauer to edit the changes that were presented. There were no more comments so the Supervisor closed the public hearing at 7:19 PM.

Regular Meeting - 7 PM

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Chris Coffin, Shawn Macaulay, Frank Putman

Also Present: Dean Hoffman, Carol Woodcock, Jason Pfothauer, Brian Nutting, Cheryl Shatraw, Kevin Crosby, Janet Newtown, John Newtown, Michele Whalen, Tom Bell, Dona Hooker, Joe Lighfoot, Alex Colby, James Walsh, Wayne Moquin, Ethyn Moquin, Bridget Whalen, Cheryl Warren

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Shawn Macaulay

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Macaulay to approve the minutes of September 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coffin.

Vote; Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

Executive Session (If Needed) *

Public Comment 1: None

Old Business

1. Village Dissolution Planning

- a. **Approval and Authorization of Water Withdrawal Permit and Application:** The Board received the final draft of the Water Withdrawal Plan and Application. After a presentation from Matt Cooper of Barton & Delguidice, PC. The Board took action to accept the document. A motion was made by Councilman Coffin and seconded by Councilman Coffin to accept the Water Withdrawal Application and Plan as presented. **Vote;** Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye
- b. **Comprehensive Plan Final Draft:** Covered during Public Hearing Portion of the meeting.
- c. **Next Joint Boards Planning and Operation Meeting October 22, 2019:** Board agreed to hold the joint meeting on October 22, 2019 at 6 PM.

**Town Meeting
Town of Morristown
October 8, 2019**

d. DANC Contracts for Sewer and Water: Brian Nutting from DANC presented more detailed contracts to the Board per their request. Councilman Coffin summarized the 2 options available to the Town. 61,300 per year for operation and maintenance of the systems and 51,700 per year for operations only. Councilman Coffin stated that the higher service option finds and corrects problems before they become more costly further on. Dean Hoffman stated that there will be a need for transition to the new operators and putting them in place sooner than later is a good choice. The Board agreed that they want the higher tier contract and the Supervisor will talk with DANC on what they want in the final contract. The Board will meet to authorize it at a future meeting.

2. Source Renewable Projects: The Board was briefed on current status of the project.

3. OYA Solar: Board was informed that a PILOT Requirement letter was sent to the firm giving them notice the Town will require a PILOT Agreement.

4. Williamson Software Purchase: The Board discussed the proposed purchase and agreed to approve the purchase. A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to purchase the Accounting and Payroll program from Williamson Software for 13,530 plus annual support for 2,300.

Vote; Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

5. 2020 Budget: Covered in the Budget Meeting

6. Phones: The phones are installed and up and working.

7. Verizon Wireless Service: The Board discussed the poor coverage especially in the Brier Hill area and in the Southeast corner of the Town.

8. Bay Street Extension: Mayor Shatraw expressed her thanks to the Town Highway crew and the Superintendent for the hard work in finishing the road construction work.

New Business

1. Tax Cap Local Law: A motion was made to set a public Hearing for October 22, 2019 at 6 PM. The Clerk will place the legal notice for the Hearing.

2. Life Flight Resolution: Councilman Macaulay moved to adopt Resolution # 7 of 2019 as follows: Resolution #7 of 2019 Life Flight Resolution

WHEREAS: North Country Life Flight, Inc. is a not for profit, tax exempt corporation which is responsible for all aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training, medical personnel and administering the medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake, and,

WHEREAS: The New York State Police aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

WHEREAS: The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties receive a vital emergency medical service which is free of charge to critically ill and seriously injured patients, and, therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program;

**Town Meeting
Town of Morristown
October 8, 2019**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the **Town of Morristown** hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North Country Life Flight, Inc. for the purpose of operating the medical component of the Medivac program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of \$150.00, which represents the Town's share for 2020; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the sum of \$150.00 is hereby appropriated to account No. B – 4989.4 for payment to North Country Life Flight, Inc.

Vote; Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

Department Reports

Highway Department: The highway crew are hauling screened winter sand and getting trucks ready for winter. Superintendent Hoffman asked the Board if they wanted to keep the fuel tanks at the old village DPW Garage after dissolution. The tanks are used by the fire department and the school district. The Village would then bill both monthly for the fuel used. The Board were concerned about how the system builds in accountability to prevent abuse.

Code Enforcement Office: Written report available.

Assessor: The Assessor was present and asked the Board to allow him to work 3 hours per day versus the 4 he works now. This will make it easier for him with his full-time position. The Board agreed to allow him to change his hours. They stipulated that he must be available to the taxpayers at times convenient to them.

Sewer Districts: No report available.

Public Comment 2

- County Legislator, Joe Lightfoot, addressed the Board on topics at the county level. The County has a new sanitary code. State mandates continue to increase and impact the budget. Jason Pfothenauer is the new Director of the St. Lawrence County Planning Office and Matt Denner is the new Emergency Services Coordinator.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular Town employee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Macaulay.

Vote; Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye The Board went into executive session at 8:35 PM.

The Board emerged from executive session at 8:45 PM. Supervisor Putman state that no Board action was taken while in executive session.

**Town Meeting
Town of Morristown
October 8, 2019**

A motion was brought by Councilman Coffin to adopt the following action as follows: On May 2, 2019, David VanArnam was ticket for Local Town Law 2010 Section 7 Sub 1, Dog Running At Large, by Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer. This case was transferred to the Town of Oswegatchie as there was a conflict in the Morristown Town Court.

The Town received a letter that Oswegatchie Town Court sent to Town Attorney Andy Silver, stating that he could not prosecute this ticket as he had a conflict. As per that letter, Judge Matthew Denner of Oswegatchie Court, stated as per OCA, due to the cost involved and that this is a local matter it would be the responsibility of the Town of Morristown Board to appoint a special prosecutor.

“As of today’s monthly Town Board meeting, after conducting an executive session to discuss this situation, the Town Board agreed that they decline to prosecute this case and hire a special prosecutor at the Town’s further expense. This matter has been reviewed and it has been resolved satisfactorily”

The motion was seconded by Councilman Macaulay.

Vote; Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Abstain, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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