

**Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Town of Morristown**  
**September 12, 2023**

**Present:** Supervisor, Frank Putman (via phone); Deputy Supervisor, 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.

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Deputy Supervisor, Coffin at 6:00 pm.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The August 8th, 2023, Town Board meeting minutes were tabled for further review.

**Correspondence:** Black Lake Association sent a thank you and the data collected during the study.

**Public Comment:** County Legislator, Joe Lightfoot stated that Legislators met with incoming Sheriff and Under Sheriff. They discussed the needs and the goals for the department. Currently, Manpower is the biggest need.

There was a Policy/Local Law passed allowing 12- & 13-year-old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season but not in tree stands, with supervision of an adult licensed hunter and rescinding local law B for the year 2021.

The county has started a Pilot program since many county attorneys are doing a great deal of work from home. This allows them to go right to the area where they are needed and not have to go into the office first.

There are major issues in NYC with migrants and Massena Airport and hotels have been added to the list of where they can be sent. The Mayor of Massena says no they will not allow it to happen in Massena. The county is supporting the opposition allowing migrants in Massena and other towns, cities, and villages within the county.

The county has resolved a protocol not to shut down the county for COVID.

There have been some issues with the Election Inspectors not getting paid. It has been brought to the counties' attention that they must be employees of the county and not independent contractors. There is paperwork for them to fill out to be put on the payroll. As that process is completed by the inspectors, they will get paid.

**Michele Whalen:** Michele spoke about the proposed water district for Riverview Street. She stated that only 18% of the residents want water and the remaining 82% are opposed.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Town of Morristown  
September 12, 2023**

A petition was submitted to the Town Council, but it was discussed at the public meeting not to accept the petition and hold a public referendum. A petition for River Road East was accepted as the voice of the people and the petition for Riverview should be accepted as well.

Deputy Supervisor Coffin thanked Michele Whalen for a civil and direct presentation regarding the proposed water district.

**Rich Bzura:** On behalf of the Morristown Museum, Rich extended a thank you for closing Main Street for the summer concert series and for the support. It was successful!

**Old Business:**

- 1. Financial Report:** The monthly financial report was distributed to each member prior to the meeting for review. Deputy Supervisor Coffin stated that after the bills were paid for repairs there is a negative balance of \$28,000 in the water district. We will be drafting a plan for repayment. New York State says every district must be self-supportive and have to be repaid and accounted for as well as in writing.
- 2. DANC Monthly report:** The August report was distributed to each member prior to the meeting for review.
- 3. Town Dockage:** There was discussion about adding more town docks for seasonal rental. A work plan and dollar amount will be established for budgeting purposes.
- 4. Riverview Water Project:** There have been previous meetings regarding the Riverview proposed water district. A petition opposing the project has been submitted to the Town Council.

Councilman VanArnham suggested honoring the people and end this proposal. Deputy Supervisor Coffin stated we will need to look at the repairs that are needed and seek additional grant money needed to complete the repairs.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnham made a motion not to pursue the proposed water district on Riverview Street. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Councilman David VanArnham – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Macaulay; Deputy Supervisor Chris Coffin – Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye.  
Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

**Town Board Meeting Minutes**

**Town of Morristown  
September 12, 2023**

**New Business:**

1. **Turner Inn Liquor License Renewal:** It is time for Turner Inn to renew their liquor license and as in the past needs the Town to approve the submission of it to the state.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve Turner Inn to submit their liquor license renewal. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Abstained; Deputy Supervisor Chris Coffin – Aye; Councilman Shawn Macaulay Aye; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 4 Ayes and one abstention.**

2. **Advertising for Heating Fuel and Sand:** An advertisement for bid on heating fuel and sand for the 2023-2024 season will be placed in the paper and bids will be opened at the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.
3. **Power poles on Bay Street:** Councilman Macaulay suggested asking national grid to place at least three new poles with 3 phase connection on Bay Street. It was suggested to request a pole on Riverview Street, as well.

**MOTION**

**Councilman Macaulay made a motion to submit a request to National Grid to install 3 poles on Bay Street and 1 pole on Riverview Street with 3 phase connection. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Shawn Macaulay – Aye; Deputy Supervisor Chris Coffin; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

4. **Town Highway Barn Assembly and Interior completion.** Councilman Macaulay asked about advertising for bids for the assembly and Interior completion of the Town Highway barn. The building is scheduled to be here on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**MOTION**

**Councilman Macaulay made a motion to advertise for bids for Assembly and Interior completion. Councilman VanArnam seconded the motion.**

**Vote: Councilman David VanArnam – Aye; Councilman Gary Turner – Aye; Councilman Shawn Macaulay – Aye; Deputy Supervisor Chris Coffin; Supervisor Frank Putman – Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

**Town Board Meeting Minutes**

**Town of Morristown**  
**September 12, 2023**

**Department Reports:**

**Town Clerk:** Jill Sullivan stated a written report was distributed. School tax collection is in full swing. We had a webinar with Civic Plus for the Residential alert system. Deb Pinger has been working on updating the website and it is about 50% completed.

**Highway Department:** Dean Hoffman had a handout for an R19 belt clip for water meter reading. This will take the reading from the road, and it automatically goes to the machine and then to billing. The readings are more accurate, and it will work with our current meters. The quote for a subscription and set up is \$7,300.

The parts are all here for the water plant so those repairs will be completed soon. The sewer plant is operating nicely. The sludge will be getting pumped out in the next couple days.

Paving in the hamlet will be done on September 25<sup>th</sup>. We have started filling the barns with salt and sand. We have been working on our fleet – which we are still down one truck. The County is in the same situation so we will not be able to borrow from them this season. The insurance did cover rental fees last year, but we haven't asked about this year yet.

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

**Code Enforcement:** Gregg Mallette stated that he has been very busy with new construction.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman VanArman and seconded by Councilman Turner at 6:58 pm.