

**Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Town of Morristown**  
**June 13, 2023**

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

**Others Present:** Dean Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Gregg Mallette, Code Enforcement Officer; Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam to approve the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Macaulay.

**Vote:** David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.

**Correspondence:** A letter from Jefferson County Planning office was received. The letter was informing us of the North Country HOME Consortium re-authorization for 2024-2026 membership.

**Public Comment:**

**Joe Lightfoot, County Legislator:** Joe stated that the County has a resolution in motion for the Black Lake Boat Launch asking DEC to take it over from Parks & Recreation since they have no funds to maintain it. A letter of support from the bordering towns would be helpful. The county is working on adding an additional Family Court Judge. Through the MAT program the county is responsible to pay for any and all medications for incarcerated individuals to break habits, St. Lawrence has 64 out of 115 people needing this. The cost is approximately a half million for 6 months. If taxes need to be increased for that it would be 1% per taxpayer. The County is looking to cover an RN position at the Jail. There are issues with the mandates and the union to allow the county too to provide additional funds to pay someone. 15 contracts were awarded - 14 for SLIC for high-speed internet for people who do not have it, to be completed in September 2024 and 1 for Town for plowing roads for \$59,000 for a year. The county will be paving in the Town of Morristown - the Walrath Rd. to Cty. Rt 5, 1 mile south on 58, and 4 miles of Cty. Rt 6 using CHIPS money.

**APRA Funds:** Carl Bender stated that the Town of Morristown has approximately \$186,000 of APRA funds. There has been discussion of a sidewalk and lighting on Bayside. With the cost of the project and paying prevailing wages there probably are not enough funds to do this project. It may get a bit further with the use of asphalt vs concrete.

An idea for Bayside is to install dockage/slips for rent. For \$186,000 you could go as far as you can until the funds run out and it would bring revenue into the Town.

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Supervisor Putman stated the wall on main street is giving way and needs to be repaired. This may be a way to get that project done.

Peggy Mousaw stated that any contracts for APRA funded projects need to be signed and in order by September 2024. It's important to start deciding on what to do with the funds so deadlines are being met. The next filing report is April 2024.

Councilman Coffin would like to keep the sidewalk and lighting on the table for possibilities. There may be other available funding for the lighting. We could move forward with studies for the wall and Bay Street sidewalk and lighting.

The restrictions for APRA Funds have been freed up for more possibilities.

**Pam Sovie:** Pam stated she was not at the last meeting and asked if there is a noise ordinance in place. It was stated that there is not one in place. It would be very hard for the town to enforce a noise ordinance if there is no one to enforce it. We do not have our own law enforcement within the town.

**Old Business:**

1. **Supervisor's Update:** Supervisor Putman stated that Debbie Pinger will be helping with re-vamping our website and adding a calendar to it.
2. **Financial Report:** Councilman Coffin stated some accounts were shown overspent. This was due to the fire. He stated we currently have 1 ½ million in a CD and it looks like we will be able to move more from operations. Chris and Frank will meet to review the possibilities.
3. **DANC Monthly report** – The April report was reviewed with no concerns.
4. **Safe Complete Streets:** There was a discussion about the policy being presented to the town to sign onto. There were reservations with the language and how it works. The document has a great deal of unnecessary language and is not clear.

After the discussion and the presentation all Councilmen agreed not to enter into the agreement for Safe Complete Streets. Our town employees do a great job maintaining our sidewalks and walkways and repair things as needed. Thank you, Jayson for coming and presenting the program.

5. **Town Ordinance:** Gregg Mallette reviewed the revisions that have been made to the ordinance. Many of the revisions were made to the short-term rentals. There was language added and removed to some definitions for better clarifications. A grace period for notifying the town has been added for existing short-term rentals. Any new short-term rentals must go through the special use permit. Must have adequate parking,

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septic system engineered and annual inspections. Watercraft parking cannot be regulated.

The next step for the Town Ordinance is for a public hearing. It will be put on the website for everyone to review as well as available in the Town Clerk's office.

A public hearing will be scheduled for Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Morristown Fire Hall with the regular meeting to follow.

**New Business:**

1. **Jerry's Run:** Jay Carter spoke about the charity run he would like to hold a special 2-day event with the motorcycle ride being on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The location will be on Cty Rt.6. The charity run is to help support cancer patients. The cancer center helps distribute the money to individuals who are in need. Jerry's run for cancer has a 501 (3c).

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to approve the 2-day special event permit for Jerry's Run for Caner. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

2. **Schoolhouse Roof:** The schoolhouse roof needs replacing. The building is on the historical list. We will need to advertise for quotes and add in the add the well be replacing the roof with synthetic cedar shakers.
3. **NY State Deferred Comp:** NY State Deferred Comp offers ROTH accounts for the employees to enroll in, but it must be approved by the council. There is no expense or work to add this and will be maintained by the employees. No resolution is needed, just a statement saying the council was in favor of the Roth option. All councilman agreed it would be a good thing and to allow the Roth option for our employees.
4. **Property Bids:** There were two bids received for Lot #5 on Main Street.
  1. Richard Bzura – His bid was \$5,000 and included a check for \$500.00.
  2. Barbara Turner - Her bid was \$4,000.00 and included a check for \$400.00.

**MOTION**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to accept Richard Bzura's bid for \$5,000. Councilman Macaulay seconded the motion.**

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**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

Lot #6 description is being prepared by Andy.

Shawn Macaulay asked if the water and sewer will become available to the four lots on Bay Street. He is inquiring so he will know before he invests in a septic system.

**Motion**

**Councilman VanArnam made a motion to exempt Lots #1, 2, 3 and 6 from having to hook up to the sewer system.**

There was discussion and decided not to take action on the motion and check with the tow Attorney.

**Department Reports:**

**Town Clerk:** Jill Sullivan stated that she continues tax collection is done and the final paperwork will be completed and filed with the county.

**Highway Department:** Dean Hoffman stated that things are going well, and there will be some paving in July, which was hired out. Sidewalks and railings and being repaired and replaced on Main Street and will be completed by the 4<sup>th</sup>. Currently the water system is running but struggling with repairs. We are waiting on parts.

The Town Highway building has been ordered and a deposit has been made. Bill has put out the request for doors and other stuff that will need to be ordered and here in a timely manner to get it closed in before winter.

**Code Enforcement:** Gregg Mallette provided a written report. It has been busy with variance and planning board meetings every month. There is approximately \$849,450.00 worth of new buildings in the process. Andy is working on reissuing the violations while there were a couple new ones issued.

**Other Business:** Jay Moore, Morristown Fire Chief stated he would like the Town's approval to shut down Main Street and Chapman Street for the Parade and the 100 block of Morris Street for the Fireworks for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and if the town would continue with the financial support towards the fireworks as in the past.

**MOTION**

**Supervisor Putman made a motion to approve shutting down Main Street, Chapman Street and Morris Street for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and to continue with the financial support for the fireworks. Councilman Coffin seconded the motion.**

**Vote: David VanArnam – Aye, Gary Turner – Aye, Chris Coffin – Aye, Shawn Macaulay – Aye, Frank Putman - Aye. Motion carried 5 Ayes.**

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Chris Coffin asked if the Violations have gone through the Supreme Court yet. Gregg stated that some smaller ones have been dealt with and the rest will be going to the supreme court.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Councilman VanArman and seconded by Councilman Macaulay at 7:53 pm.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by:  
Jill Sullivan, Town Clerk  
June 13, 2023