

**Meeting Minutes  
Town of Morristown  
October 16, 2018**

**Present:** Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Chris Coffin, Shawn Macaulay, Frank Putman  
**Also Present:** Dean Hoffman, Chris Sherwin, Tom Bell III, Wayne Moquin, Matilda Larson (County Planning Office), Joe Lightfoot (County Legislator)

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Shawn Macaulay

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman David VanArnam and seconded by Councilman Chris Coffin, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting.  
**Vote:** Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

**Executive Session (If Needed)**

**Correspondence:** Letter received from James Snyder, Assessor, that he had received a full scholarship to the 2019 Cornell Assessors Seminar. Letter from the Historian, Debbie Murray, that the Pomeroy grant she applied for was fully funded and will place 3 cast signs at 3 historic register buildings. The grant was for \$3, 282.

**Public Comment 1:** No comment received.

**Old Business**

- 1. Village Dissolution Planning-Report:** Matilda Larson from the St. Lawrence County Planning Office submitted a draft work schedule for the Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Putman presented a preliminary list of names for the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The Committee will begin meeting in the middle of November.
- 2. 2019 Budget Process:** Chris Coffin gave the Board revision pages for the budget document. The Board discussed the establishment of reserves for designated expenses. Councilman Macaulay asked the Board to increase library funding by \$2,000 in 2019. Councilman Macaulay moved that the Board increase funding for the Morristown Public Library by \$2,000 in the 2019 budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gary Turner.

**Vote:** Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

- 3. 2019 Fuel Oil Bid Opening:** Only a single bid was received for fuel oil for heating. Supervisor Putman opened the bid envelope and read out the results. The bid was from Morristown Fuel & Building Supply and proposed supplying fuel oil at daily market price less a 22cent discount. A certificate of non-collusion accompanied the bid package. A motion was made by Councilman Macaulay and seconded by Councilman Turner to accept the bid for 2019 heating oil from Morristown Fuel & Building Supply.
- 4. Vote:** Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-Abstain, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

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At this point Supervisor Putman suspended the meeting and opened a public hearing to take comment for or against Local Law #4 of 2018. Michelle Whalen asked the Board what the intent of this law was. Councilman Coffin explained that the Board adopts this local law annually to give them the flexibility to exceed the tax cap if necessary. He explained that unforeseen expenses could present themselves for 2019. He also stated that the Board does not anticipate having to exceed the tax cap for the 2019 budget. As there were no more comments Supervisor Putman closed the Public Hearing and re-opened the regular meeting.

5. **Tax Cap Law 2019:** A motion to adopt Local Law #4 of 2018 was made by Councilman VanArnam. The motion to adopt was seconded by Councilman Coffin  
Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye
  
6. **Other Old Business:** No other old business was brought before the Board

**New Business**

1. **Set Public Hearing for 2019 Town Budget:** The Board decided to move the regular Town Meeting back to the second Tuesday. A motion was made by Councilman Turner and seconded by Councilman Macaulay to set the public hearing on the 2019 budget for Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.
2. Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye
3. **Justice Court Grant Resolution:** A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam and seconded by Councilman Turner to adopt Resolution #13 of 2018-Justice Court Assistance Program Grant as follows:  
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Morristown desires to make continued improvements and enhancements to its Court. And  
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Morristown wishes to make application to the Justice Court Assistance Program Grant for 2019;  
**NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town Board shall seek financial assistance from the Justice Court Assistance Program, grant request not to exceed the sum of \$15,552.00, for needed services to the Town of Morristown Justice Court to include the upgrade to digital security cameras, lateral file cabinet, and digitization of additional court records; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board shall authorize the Supervisor to make all necessary applications to the Justice Court Assistance Program.  
Vote: Gary Turner-Aye, David VanArnam-aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

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**Department Reports**

- 1. Highway Department:** A written report was given to the Board. Highway Superintendent Dean Hoffman reported that he purchased a drag paver at auction for \$1,500. This will help speed surface repairs to Town Roads. Truck #9 needs a new computer.
- 2. Code Enforcement Office:** Code Officer Chris Sherwin reviewed his written report with the Board. PILOT was discussed for possible solar farm in the Town.
- 3. Sewer Districts:** Michelle Whalen asked the Board if sewer rates will be reduced in District 1 now that the bond is retired. Councilman Coffin stated that the Town will be conducting a capital asset review in 2019 as part of the village dissolution. The Board will be in a better position to determine what they will do with rates at that time.

**Public Comment:** Joe Lightfoot spoke to the Board on Eviction of previous owners in County owned properties, Raise the Age Law's impact on the County, the 2019 County Budget, a sharp rise in healthcare costs and grants received by Emergency Services.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam and seconded by Councilman Turner, to enter executive session to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations under provisions of the Taylor Law.

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

The Board entered executive session at 8:05 PM returned at 8:18. Supervisor Frank Putman reported that no action was taken while in executive session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:20 PM

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