

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 7, 2015 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

The workshop began at 6:30 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Preston L. Jenkins, Jr.	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also Present: Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Tim Alden, Town Justice; Jeff McCabe, Town Justice [arrived at 6:40 p.m.]; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent [arrived at 7:30 p.m.]; Donna Nichols, Moreau Community Center [arrived at 6:50 p.m.]; Kathleen Moore, Post Star Reporter; Town Residents: Reed Antis and Gardner Congdon.

The first item for discussion was the Town Court budget. Judge Alden stated that some of the numbers were changed due to JCAP funding. He and Judge McCabe were aware of this change and were both in agreement with this change. The budget items were discussed and the only items in discrepancy were for the salaries of Ron Belisle and Susan MacMore. Judge Alden stated that Mr. Belisle is here only about 1 day per week at 7 hours a day. He fills in as needed but only wants to work minimal hours. Councilman Kusnierz asked if the Judges put in the \$12,023.00 figure and Fran Thibodeau stated that they asked for a salary and she plugs it into 19 hours. The Judges both stated that he won't be working 19 hours per week. Judge Alden stated that this is his only chance to give his opinion on salaries. Questions were asked of the two Judges relating to case loads and revenues. Judge Alden stated that the summer months were down a bit and he related that to the manhunt that took place up north. Judge McCabe stated that the case load usually follows a three year pattern. This year vehicle and traffic is down and criminal is up. The State surcharges keep increasing which reduces revenues for the Town. There is a tremendous amount of turnover. Both Judges stated that Susan MacMore has trained previous employees and will help to train the new employee. She's an asset to the Town. The Supervisor asked Fran to cut Ron's estimated annual hours by 50% as he wouldn't be working that many hours. She changed this amount to \$5,750.00 to reflect this change. He stated that the difference between \$11.44 and \$12.34 for Susan's salary is a difference of \$523.00. Judge McCabe stated that she has 7 1/2 years with the Town and also time before she was hired back. He doesn't feel that \$12.34 is unreasonable. The Supervisor stated that they will look at those salaries. The Judges both thanked the Board for their time and left the workshop at 6:50 p.m.

The next item for discussion was the Moreau Community Center. Donna Nichols was present at 6:55 p.m. and her budget was discussed. Supervisor Jenkins stated that they had asked for a 2% increase and this is what is reported in the tentative budget. She went over their finances and reported on their debt, which is now down to \$222,000.00. They look at their finances quarterly and they make double payments if they can. She reported that they've hired a new employee after Andrea had left. This person holds a new position as Director of Development. Ms. Nichols reported on the number of children and adults that they service and what programs they have to offer. Councilman Kusnierz asked how many employees the Community Center has. Ms. Nichols reported that there are 10 Full-Time employees and between 16-17 Part-Time employees. Ms. Nichols presented 5 copies of the 2014 Auditors report of the Community Center to be passed out among the Board members. Councilwoman LeClair asked about their recycling bin and Ms. Nichols stated that the Company (Green Fiber) moved their operations and they haven't found anyone to replace them. They used to make about \$500.00 quarterly on paper recycling. Ms. Nichols was commended for the great job she's doing for the Community Center. Councilman Kusnierz asked what the Community Center plans to do with the \$5,200.00 increase in their budget and she stated that they are looking into getting the hard wood floors re-done as well as using it to off-set minimum wage increases. She stated that they try to keep the site as nice looking as it can be. She stated that the Community Center rents out their facility at \$100.00 for the first two hours and \$35.00 for each

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additional hour. Ms. Nichols thanked the Town Board and asked them to give her a call with any questions. She left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

The Board had time to discuss other portions of the budget before the next scheduled appointment. Supervisor Jenkins had a four year projection prepared. Not everyone had their copy so the Town Clerk left the room for a brief period to make copies for some of them. The Supervisor went over his 4 year plan and asked the Board to look at the projections as part of a consideration to see where we're going as a Town. The Supervisor is showing \$400,000.00 going back to the County and asked if that really makes sense. He's heard comments before about the Village getting their own sales tax and he understands that. Under State Law because we have no tax outside Village, we can do that if we choose to.

Gardner Congdon asked if the rate for the Town outside is different from the Village taxes. The Supervisor replied yes. He stated that the \$400,000.00 is beneficial to where it should go. He doesn't see why the tax payer outside should beef up the Village budget. The Supervisor stated that the Village tax payers pay for this building and for the Supervisor's salary and everyone else in the room. They also pay for the Highway Building and for all the operating expenses inside the building. They pay for the Highway Superintendent's salary and his clerk. He stated that the Village isn't double dipping, their getting a double pay.

The Supervisor asked Mr. Congdon where we would get the revenues from in the future. Mr. Congdon replied that you've gone on a spending spree. You've built a new Town Hall and a new Highway Garage and you've burnt through a lot of money in the general fund in a very few years and he's hearing that the General Fund is in trouble. The Supervisor stated that this building and the highway garage didn't get built out of the general fund. They were built with reserve funds. The Court expenses are about \$40,000.00 less than what they would have been at the old building.

There was some discussion between the Supervisor and Mr. Congdon relating to property in Water District 2 that Mr. Congdon felt was owned by the Water District. The Supervisor stated that they don't own it by law and that the Attorney for the Town advised him the same.

Jesse Fish entered the workshop at 7:30pm to discuss his budget. Councilman Prendergast asked if he had any big ticket items in his budget this year and the answer was no. He stated that they didn't get the Valve Wrench budgeted for this year. They got a tracer instead. The biggest things are the meters. Some of the meters in District 4 are 30 years old. Supervisor Jenkins stated that they really need to look at the asset management plan before making any decisions. Jesse stated that there are 110 meters left from the pallet that they bought for Water District 1 and if Water District 4 could buy them, it would give them a good jump to start. They would hit the oldest sections of District 4 first.

The Supervisor stated that the Asset Management study was just preliminary. We need to take over the plan and implement it. He stated that they have to make a decision on consolidation. It would cost the Town 10% of the cost of the study which would be around \$1,200.00.

Jesse Fish stated that the weir and meter at Hexion's sewer station is not designed for the application and it was brought to the Town's attention about 3-4 years ago. Their meter was showing more than ours because Hexion had their meter recalibrated. Their meter isn't catching everything that goes by and now ours is showing more than theirs. In order to report to Glens Falls and get the revenue we have coming, we need to have our meter recalibrated just to make sure everything is running right. It would cost between \$1,200 - \$1,500 to have someone look at it. He stated that the pumps are all running well.

The Supervisor stated that he was told the Town approved, years ago, a tracking system for the sewer to measure usage. Jesse stated that Aqualogics is the company that takes care of the water system. It allows the towers to talk to each other to see what's going on. Each new sewer station has been set up with the logics. Hexion is not. Jesse stated that it's been approved a couple times but it's never been done. We need the logics down there because it's the main vein. He stated that if that's running it will talk to the other stations so that everyone can keep running. The Supervisor stated that Jesse has nothing in the equipment budget for this. He stated that we need to look at this and asked Jesse to get numbers.

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Councilman Kusnierz asked what we do for leak detection. Jesse replied that we don't have leak detection equipment. There's money rolled back into the 2016 budget for this item.

\$1,500.00 was added to GI8110.4 to have the meter at Hexion recalibrated.

Councilman Kusnierz asked about the budgeted amount for meters. Jesse stated that there is \$9,600 budgeted for replacement use and that this is the same as last year.

Councilman Prendergast asked if Jesse is using the offices at the old Highway Garage. Jesse stated that he only uses the Highway Garage to park his trucks and back hoe.

Councilman Prendergast asked if there are any areas that need fire hydrants and Jesse replied Connor Drive could use one and a couple places in old District 2. The Supervisor asked if we talked to the Fire Company. They were going to let us know where we need hydrants and then asked if Jesse could make the determination. He replied that according to WWA standards he could, they have to be so many feet apart. If you go by their standards, we'd be putting in a lot of hydrants. He would need approval for the hydrants, which would be \$2,500-\$2,800 each and someone would have to come and tap the lines. He stated that it would cost \$500 - \$600 for someone to tap the lines. He stated that everything else we can do in house. The Supervisor stated that this is something that needs to get done. Jesse stated that it would be a total of \$18,000 - \$20,000 total for the 3 hydrants in water district 2. Fran added \$20,000.00 to Water District 2, equipment to add three hydrants.

Supervisor Jenkins asked Jesse if the Town will need a permanent easement for the sewer pump station to be built on VanBuren Street and he replied yes, the cement company owns this property.

There was discussion regarding the sewer revenues. Councilman Kusnierz asked why the figures were more than last year. The Supervisor stated that there are more apartments in Sisson Reserve and in Schermerhorn's complex. The Supervisor stated that this could end up in the Capital Reserve account at some point but the Board would have to make the decision.

The next topic of discussion was Jesse's payroll. He explained that this year with overtime he will be making close to \$60,000.00. He stated that he didn't know what Mike would have been making if he were still here but he guessed that it would be close to that, without overtime. Jesse stated that Jamie deserves more than what he's making. He needs to work two jobs to make ends meet. He does a real good job for the Town. Jesse stated that he can make the overtime disappear but he wants to be compensated. He wants to make the money he's been making now without having to work weekends all the time. He stated that he's been working weekends for the last three years. He proposes to have one person work Monday – Thursday and Friday come in until 9:00am. On Saturday and Sunday that person would work 2-3 hours, depending on how long it takes to make the rounds and that would constitute an 8 hour day. The other person would work Monday – Friday. The next week, they would switch. He stated that the Village of South Glens Falls have been doing this for years. Councilwoman LeClair asked what training Jamie has compared to Earl. Jesse replied that Jamie has a D License, which is required to handle pipe and to do this and that. Our plant has been upgraded to a 2B plant, which means you have to have a license to treat the water. Earl has this license, Jamie doesn't. He would need to take a course. Jesse thought that it was a 30 Credit Hour course that Jamie would need to attend.

The discussion went back to Jesse's salary. He proposes a flat \$60,000.00 instead of \$62,000.00 that would require overtime. The Supervisor stated that Jamie's salary for 2016 is \$29,536.00 right now and that's a \$4,000.00 raise. He doesn't have a problem with that. Jesse stated that Jamie was quite pleased with this tentative salary.

The Supervisor stated that Jesse's salary is budgeted right now with estimated overtime that's higher than \$60,000.00. He wouldn't have problem going with the \$60,000.00 which is less than what's budgeted. The Supervisor complimented Jesse on the great job that he's done. Councilwoman LeClair agreed with this structure. Fran Thibodeau asked about working 7 days a week. She thought that it was illegal to work 7 days in a row. There was discussion about overtime. Councilman Prendergast stated that casual overtime doesn't get paid only if it's scheduled. If a water line breaks, you don't get paid overtime. The

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Supervisor stated that this is something that the Attorney for the Town needs to look at. He stated that if we go with this, we wouldn't have to worry about overtime. Councilman Vittengl agreed with this. Councilman Kusnierz stated that he would prefer to follow their procedure of discussing salaries after they see how the budget shapes up and also to see Counsel's determination.

It was decided to talk about salaries and discuss the overtime issue after they hear from Counsel.

The meeting adjourned for the evening at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe
Town Clerk

The above minutes are not intended to be a complete transcript of the workshop, only a summary. To hear the complete audio, you may visit the Town's website at: www.townofmoreau.org