

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 15, 2015 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

The Supervisor called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll.

**Town Board Members Present**

Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Preston L. Jenkins, Jr.	Supervisor

**Town Board Members Absent**

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman

**Also present:** Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Steve VanGuilder and John Bonn from the Moreau Emergency Squad; Wayne Palmer, Brian Abare, Mike Shaver, Tim Pease and Chip Flint from the South Glens Falls Fire Co. all arrived at 7:00pm

Supervisor Jenkins welcomed the Moreau Emergency Squad into the workshop at 6:30 p.m.

The Supervisor explained that the New York State tax cap rate this year is 1.5% and that the Town is in a tough situation. He's made cuts to the general fund which is where the Squads budget is. He stated that this is the tightest budget he's ever had. Revenues are limited and expenses are going up. He mentioned that the developers can be approached to see if they can help out.

Steve VanGuilder stated that the Board of Directors had him include the \$30,000.00 into the budget that was excluded in 2010. He asked where that money went. John Bonn stated that it has been mentioned for two years now, that the Town was going to talk to the developers. They keep building and nothing happens.

The Supervisor stated that a Public Hearing is scheduled for November 12, 2015 to consider the Squads request for a fee increase. If that passes, it would help the Squads financial situation. Councilman Kusnierz stated that he was on board when the Town Board allowed the Squad to charge fees but stated that the fees would never be used to offset the Town's budget.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that right now he's ok with the 2% increase for the Squad but will have to see how the final numbers end up.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he's looking into cutting all elected officials salaries but he doubts that they will be able to do any more than 2%.

Councilman Vittengl looked at their budget figures and noticed that their Loan Principal and Interest is up from \$25,000 to \$68,000 and Insurance is up from \$17,000 to \$31,000. Steve stated that the insurance wasn't budgeted properly last year and it was actually \$29,000 not \$17,000.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that it's imperative that the Board move forward with impact fees next year. PUD's require more services. Impact fees would need to be built into the Town Code.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that according to their balance sheet, they're not in a strong financial position right now and with plans to build would put them in more debt. He wanted to state that he's not against the Squad, he's just doing his job. He offered to try and help with fundraising efforts.

Steve stated that a campaign will start soon. Their looking at the language in the contract. John Bonn stated that most likely they will have to purchase a new ambulance within the next 5 years.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 15, 2015 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that their campaign should be focused on a specific goal such as a new ambulance or a building expansion. People want to know where their money is going. He stated that participation is greater if they know what they're paying for.

Councilman Vittengl stated that their hands are tied. Everyone wants to keep taxes low.

Councilman Kusnierz commended the Squad on their services.

Steve VanGuilder thanked the Board and stated that if 2% is what they will be given, they're happy with that.

Steve VanGuilder and John Bonn left the workshop at 6:58 p.m.

The members of the South Glens Falls Fire Co. entered the workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Wayne Palmer, President of the Fire Co. stated that they purchased 44 new air packs this year and they bought at the right time because if they had waited 5 days longer it would have cost them an additional \$180,000.00. They plan to trade in a certain percentage of them every so many years so that they aren't in this position again having to buy all new. He stated that they have an excellent interest rate from Adirondack Trust with their 5 year note. He also mentioned that within the next 5 years they will need \$1,500,000.00 to purchase two new fire trucks. They've added \$10,000 to their budget to put away each year for the next 5 years to help replace these trucks. They're looking at a five year plan. He stated that the Fire Company is looking for a 5% increase this year. The majority of the money will go towards the trucks and they have major repairs needed to their parking lot. The dry wells are caving in.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about the improvements to the building, he knew they had a few problems. Mr. Palmer stated that they had a leak last year due to ice buildup and had to have heat tape put on. Brian Abare stated that they are looking into updating their heating system.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the New York State tax cap allows 1.5% this year. Right now he's put the tentative budgeted amount for the Fire Co. at 2%, which is about \$12,000 less than what they're asking for. He stated that he went through the General Fund today and still has more work to do. He stated that it would be difficult to increase this tentative amount but it can happen.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that there is no question that expenses are going up and that they have no control over that but the Board is challenged to maintain a 2% tax cap and as a Board they need to be very deliberate in what they're willing to fund and how much they will spend. He stated that this is a tight budget and that there's only so much you can expect out of the community.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the State gives credits to homeowners if they stay within the tax cap. If they go over and the homeowners lose the credits, they wouldn't be happy about that. He also stated that they could lose State aid for the Highway Department. He stated that Health Insurance costs are going up, they have an increase of \$300,000.00 for legal fees to fight an article 7 case.

Mike Shaver stated that with State mandates of things that the Fire Company has to do, if they can't get the money then they can't operate. He asked the Supervisor to send a letter to the Governor asking for help.

Chip Flint stated that it's hard to keep up with the mandates and he thought in the near future the State would be requiring mandatory cancer screening of all firefighters.

Mike Shaver stated that last year they talked about adding fire hydrants. He's looking to add some to the Feeder Dam Road area. The Supervisor replied that they had just discussed this with Jesse during his budget workshop. He stated that the funds are available and have been budgeted for next year as well. He asked Mike to get the information to the Town and they will get together with Jesse. He also stated that this is a critical issue and there's money in Water District 2 to do this. Mike stated that he would relay a message to the Fire Chief and will have Pete or John get in touch with the Town.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 15, 2015 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

Mr. Palmer stated that he won't complain about a 2% increase. Mike Shaver stated that they cut all of their own budgets.

The members of the Fire Company thanked the Board and left the workshop at 7:28 p.m.

Councilman Kusnierz asked where he has the sales tax. The Supervisor replied that it's in the revenues. There is \$400,000.00 in the general fund for total revenues of \$1,847,930 and the Town outside will have \$332,700.00. Fran Thibodeau stated that the \$300,000.00 isn't in the tentative budget. The Supervisor agreed but stated that it will go into it.

Fran Thibodeau wanted to go over the Medical Insurance because they have a meeting next week. She stated that the renewal for the CDPHP Medicare will be increasing from \$248.20 to \$279.60 per month. The budget was estimated at \$305.00, which was MVP, because we didn't have the CDPHP rate yet. She proposes that the Town go with the CDPHP renewal. There were no objections.

Fran stated that the Town presently uses Guardian Insurance for dental coverage. There is no rate increase for this year but if we go with this Wrap Minor, it's cheaper by \$6,000.00. Everyone was OK with the Wrap plan.

She stated that the vision is currently through CSEA. Guardian is cheaper but it doesn't have coverage that's as good. The Board was OK staying with CSEA for vision care.

The Supervisor had approximately 6 sheets from the General Fund appropriations that he made proposes changes to and had Fran copy the rest of the Board.

Fran asked if all of the Subdivision Lot Fees have to go into the Rec Capital Project or the Rec Town wide. She stated that that's a lot of money, \$100,000 per year that can be put into Rec programs. The Supervisor stated that it could be done by resolution.

The Supervisor stated that this is the tightest budget he has ever had. Councilman Kusnierz asked if Department heads could look and see if they could all cut 5% from their budgets. The Supervisor stated that he had already cut the budgets by 5%. He also stated that if he eliminates the elected official's salaries, this would save \$3,000.00.

The Supervisor also stated that it will help if they sell the old Town Hall building.

A motion was made by Councilman Vittengl and seconded by Councilman Kusnierz to adjourn the workshop for the evening at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe  
Town Clerk

The above minutes are not intended to be a complete transcript, only a summary. To hear the complete audio of the meeting, please visit the Town's website at: [www.townofmoreau.org](http://www.townofmoreau.org)