

A budget workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 20, 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.

### **Town Board Members Present**

Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman [arrived at 6:35pm]
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman [arrived at 6:50pm]
Preston L. Jenkins, Jr.	Supervisor

### **Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also Present:** Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Francine Thibodeau, Principal Account Clerk and Gardner Congdon, Town Resident [arrived at 6:45pm]

The first item to be discussed was the Highway Department budget. The Board started with Account Code DB 5110 – Highway General Repairs. The Personal Services for Highway Union Employees was reduced to \$337,500.00, which is the same as the 2015 Budget. The Supervisor stated that the rest of the Contractual isn't bad.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that she has spoken with Paul Joseph and went over his priority list. Under Account code DB5112 for overlay (DB5112.493.4) Sweenor Lane has already been done and therefore this cost (\$28,500) can be removed from the tentative budget.

The Supervisor stated that there is work to do on this budget. In the preliminary figures he's showing \$1.8 million in sales tax revenues for the Highway. He stated that there is \$300,000 sales tax that hasn't been allocated and he asked that \$200,000 be added to the Highway sales tax revenues to make it \$2,000,000 and \$100,000 would go to Town Outside Village. Right now were at \$2.9 million in sales tax revenues. \$400,000 to go to General Fund, \$100,000 to go to Town Outside Village, \$2,000,000 to Highway and \$400,000 to the County unless the Board wants to make a change. He stated that fund balances are declining rapidly.

The Supervisor stated that it's hard to discuss the paving portion of the budget without Paul Joseph being here. He stated that they can leave the budget as is but without Sweenor Lane and will speak with Paul.

The Board discussed Account Code DB5130 – Highway Machinery next. The Supervisor stated that Paul is looking to trade the front end loader from the Transfer Station and thought they could get around \$20,000. Councilwoman LeClair reported from Paul Joseph that he's thinking now he could get more for the loader at auction. The Transfer Station would then take the one that Highway has right now, which he paid roughly \$40,000 for. This would leave around \$80,000 needed for a new loader. The Supervisor stated that there is \$250,000 in equipment reserve that can be used towards truck purchases. The Highway Superintendent is asking for two trucks and if they purchase the new 1 ¼ ton 4x4, their old one can go to the Recreation Department. The Highway Department uses it to plow the Fire House, Moreau Emergency Squad and small areas that need attention instead of sending out the big trucks. Councilwoman LeClair stated that Paul thought that he could use \$150,000 of the reserve fund. This would leave \$100,000.

Councilwoman LeClair also reported from Paul Joseph that the old Highway Garage roof will need to be replaced within the next 5 years. His estimate would be around \$140,000 to replace it but will get actual numbers. He stated that the Town may want to establish some sort of reserve fund for this repair.

Councilwoman LeClair reported from Paul that if equipment needs to be cut from his requested budget, his priority would be: #1: Road widener for Bobcat (shoulder machine) #2: Brush Chipper and #3: 1 ¼ ton dump truck. This would create a savings of \$161,000. There was some discussion as to what Paul's

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priorities are and Councilwoman LeClair stated that she would speak with him and verify his order of importance. Supervisor Jenkins stated that we will probably need to cut these items.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the \$80,301 loader (Transfer Station) is. The Supervisor explained that Highway is looking to either trade in or sell at auction the Transfer Station loader to be used toward a new loader and transfer the one presently being used at highway to the Transfer Station for \$50,000. This leaves a balance for a new loader of \$80,301. The Supervisor stated that there's a little over \$60,000 fund balance in Transfer Station.

Councilman Prendergast stated that unless Paul comes in and states that he has to have these three pieces of equipment to operate next year, then he thinks they should be cut from the budget. Councilman Kusnierz agreed. The following items were removed from the tentative budget: #1: Road widener for the bobcat, #2: Brush Chipper and #3: 1 ¼ ton dump truck.

Councilwoman LeClair also reported from Paul Joseph that he will be getting the square footage of the space that the Water Department uses for storage in the old Highway Garage so that they may pay for a portion of gas and electricity. This matter was asked to be looked into by the Attorney for the Town.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if the Board wanted to do anything with the roof. She stated that she would get prices from Paul. Supervisor Jenkins stated that it wouldn't happen in this budget. Gardner Congdon stated that you have to be careful as there are people that will try to sell new. He had a building that he was told would need a new roof and with maintenance, he's had the same roof for 25 years. He will have someone take a look at the roof and see if it can be repaired. Gardner stated, someone who's not in business selling new roofs.

Mr. Congdon asked the Board if he could entertain one more plea on the \$40,000 put into the general fund. Supervisor Jenkins stated that he's looking into this and awaiting an opinion from the Comptroller's Office. He also stated that the question goes beyond that, there are wells and pump houses that have been abandoned and we'll have to decide what to do with that. Mr. Congdon stated that the owners of the property are very clear in Article 12. Mr. Congdon stated that he already has an opinion from the Comptroller's Office and the Supervisor stated that he still wants to talk to them. The Supervisor stated that right now we're talking about the Highway budget. Mr. Congdon stated for the record, that before the budget is finalized, he would like the numbers in the right places. He asked that the \$400,000 be looked at that's in the general fund. He stated that he's opposed to it.

Discussion resumed on Highway Machinery. Contractual Parts was cut to \$35,000 but it was stated that there are funds available if it runs short.

The Board next looked at DB5140 Miscellaneous Brush and Weeds. Contractual-Miscellaneous was cut to \$2,500.

The Board next looked at DB5142. Personal Services - Highway Union Employees – was cut to \$337,500, Contractual – Gasoline was cut to \$70,000, Road Salt was cut to \$170,000 and Sand was cut to \$13,000.

Supervisor Jenkins reported that bids were received for Winter Sand. The Attorney recommends rejecting all bids and sending out RFP's. This will have to be done at the next regular Town Board meeting.

The next item the Board looked at was DB9000. The Supervisor stated that there will be left over funds in the HRA for the Highway Department. Fran stated that there will be \$100,000 in HRA funds in the Trust and Agency at the end of the year that's divvied up between the General Fund and Town Outside accounts. Benefits 9060.8 – Hospital and Medical Insurance was cut to \$272,000. Fran stated that she will readjust Social Security and Medicare.

The Supervisor suggested freezing salaries for all elected officials. They'll have to work on other payroll issues and he suggested doing that on Thursday evening at the end of that budget workshop.

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The Supervisor recapped that they would increase Highway Sales Tax Revenues to \$2,000,000. They will use \$100,000 for Town Outside Village, \$2,000,000 for the Highway, \$400,000 for General Fund and \$400,000 to the County. The Supervisor stated that he's taking a conservative approach to a 4 year plan. He stated that by putting the extra \$200,000 into Highway instead of Town Outside, it makes sense because it will be there next year.

More cuts need to be made. The Supervisor stated that the Highway Superintendent should come up with a list of priorities for paving. Councilman Kusnierz stated that he should make his priorities based on what the Town Board decides he should spend. Councilman Prendergast stated that we need to knock that number down and let him prioritize the roads. DB5112 Highway Improvements – Contractual was cut to \$500,000. Paul can decide how he wants to prioritize.

The Supervisor wanted to go over the changes he had made to General Fund Appropriations.

Justices Account A1110.4 was reduced to \$5750.00

Supervisor Account A1220.2 was reduced to \$500.00

Tax Collection Account A1330.2 was reduced to \$6,200.00

Personnel Account A1430.4 was reduced to \$1,500.00

There was a budgeted amount of \$500.00 for Elections A1450.4. The Supervisor explained that the inspectors are at a general election from 6:00am to 9:00pm and in the past have been brought food by the Political Parties or from people out of their own pockets. This amount was budgeted for the expense of meals. Councilman Kusnierz stated that if the Town were in a good position, he would have no problem with this but we're not. This item was removed from the tentative budget.

Special Items A1990.4 was reduced to \$30,000.00

Police and Constable A3120.1 was reduced to \$13,113.00

Traffic Control A3310.4 was reduced to \$32,000.00

Control of Dogs A3510.4 was reduced to \$3,500.00

Superintendent of Highways A5010.1 – The Highway Superintendent is asking for a Full-Time clerk @ \$15.00 per hour. There was discussion on the Part-Time vs. Full-Time position. They decided to think this over and make a decision on Thursday when they do payroll. The Supervisor stated that he feels it should be a Full-Time position.

Garage A5132.2 was reduced to \$2,025.00

There was discussion of Economic Assistance. The Supervisor stated that it was told to him that in the Village of South Glens Falls, they have fees built into their Building Permits to help with the costs of the Economic Assistance grant writing. Fran Thibodeau pointed out that our Building Permit fees go to Town Outside and this Account A6460.4 is a General Fund item. The Supervisor stated that he was trying to cut this figure down. He will call Shelter Planning to see what their fees would be if they applied for another grant.

Playgrounds and Recreation Centers A7140.4 was looked at and a decision on this budget item will be made after Thursday's budget workshop.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that it was mentioned before that the Town might collect impact fees. He stated that you can't charge that for the Fire Co. but may be able to for the Community Center and Emergency Squad. Supervisor Jenkins stated that he would speak with the Attorney for the Town to see what we can do.

There was some discussion regarding the Health Insurance plans and HRA's. The Supervisor stated that they will have to make a decision.

The Supervisor stated again that they will let the Highway Superintendent decide what he wants to do with \$500,000.00.

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The Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget was scheduled for November 4, 2015 at 7:00pm. Fran stated that she has to have a budget ready when this is published.

Another workshop was scheduled for October 26, 2015 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned for the evening at 8:20 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, you may visit the Town's website at: [www.townofmoreau.org](http://www.townofmoreau.org)