

A workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on September 28, 2016 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York for the purpose of discussing Recreation Fees and Sewer Fees.

Councilman VanTassel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **Town Board Members Present**

Alan VanTassel	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman [arrived at 6:33 p.m.]
Gardner Congdon	Supervisor [arrived at 6:35 p.m.]

### **Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also present:** Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Pete Corlew, Recreation Maintenance Director; Sandy Mahoney, Recreation Program Director; Reed Antis, Planning Board Member and Town Resident; Town Residents: John Hogan, Chris Scarincio; Village Residents: Brigid Martin; Town of Wilton Residents: Tom Young and Rebecca Ring

Councilman VanTassel gave a presentation starting with the Agenda for the evening to: review the objectives of the meeting, current state overview, programs supported, cost model review for a softball tournament, field usage charges of surrounding areas, discussion on fee schedules, discussion on field usage.

The objective of the workshop is to establish a base understanding of the current state and the challenges that exist. To propose a policy for field usage. To Propose a policy and procedure for field use requests. To propose a policy and procedure for field use assignments and to propose policy and procedure for contract completion.

The lack of a structured fee schedule that is aligned with operational expenses is creating a significant financial burden on the Town. The lack of defined and published policies, procedures and fees is causing a tremendous amount of unnecessary confusion for the Town and the organizations that want to use the Park. The Park is busier today than it has ever been and problems that exist today will only multiply if no actions are taken to add better structure. There needs to be additional funds to re-invest into the Park.

The programs that are supported by the Park are: Non-Rec Programs – SGF Little League (incl. spring and fall travel) Softball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Football; Rec Programs – Flag Football, Basketball, Wrestling; Misc. Programs – Cross Country, SGFSD, General day use requests.

Councilman VanTassel presented a cost model example using a Softball Tournament. The actual costs involved are estimated at \$1,798 based on a tournament consisting of 58 games. In 2016 the Town hosted 10 tournaments with an average field use fee of \$625.00, which totaled \$6,250.00. The actual expenses were \$17,980.00. The concession stand currently has no fees charged and the Town has the expense of the power, water and propane. Field drying has not been included in the fee but has a real cost if requested of \$616.00 per day.

The proposed fee schedule is as follows:

Raked & Lined (1) time per day = \$25.00 per game

Raked & Lined between each game = \$50.00 per game

Concession usage = \$100.00 per day

There was discussion on field usage requests & the assignment policy, with the following questions:

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What % of players that are from SGFSD should be required to qualify the team as “local”?

For softball there are 6 key weekends and many more requests.

Should local get priority?

Should seniority get priority?

Should we let the local organizations meet and work it out amongst themselves?

Should there be weight given to sanctioned organizations?

Should we give each local organization 1 slot and then do a lottery for the balance?

What criteria do we use to prioritize the “waiting list”?

Some of the comments were that if the fees are too high, the Town may lose the tournaments. Councilman VanTassel replied that the fees are still a good value but that they could stop hosting the tournaments all together and that would save the Town money.

It was asked if there would be different fees for out of Town users and it was replied that there could be but it wasn't included in the model shown above.

There was discussion regarding profit vs. not-for-profit.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that the State Tournament held this past spring charged each person \$9.00 to park and watch the games. Pete Corlew stated that the fee was only charged to those who came to the quads to watch the games. The State paid the Town \$1,600.00 for the Tournament. Councilman Kusnierz stated that they need to address the issue. He wasn't aware of the fee.

The Supervisor commented that the Park wasn't built to create a venue for profit making.

Councilman Kusnierz suggested a scoring system that would give percentages to each category to weight the priority for assignment of fields. Pete Corlew agreed with this thought.

The discussion continued on to contracted users. Councilman VanTassel stated that they haven't done a very good job. He would like to set up a system where the Organizations would contact the Recreation Department within 90 days of using the fields. The Town would get a contract to them within 30 days for their signature and to be returned to the Town within 15 days of starting. Councilwoman LeClair stated that a triplicate form would help with the process. There was discussion as to what the contract fees should be. In the past, they've allowed in-kind services. Councilman VanTassel stated that there needs to be standardization.

Councilman Kusnierz gave an example of how percentages for each category would receive a score. Such as 80% would be an 8 and 40% would be a 4. Those in attendance were agreeable to this suggestion.

It was suggested because scheduling is already done for this coming season that the rates take effect in 2017 and the scheduling system take effect in 2018.

The Recreation portion of the workshop concluded at 8:00 p.m. with Councilman Kusnierz asking Councilman VanTassel to draft the suggested prices along with the scheduling suggestion and present it to the Town Board. Councilwoman LeClair stated that they would send a letter to the entities involved notifying them of the new fees and scheduling requirements.

There was a brief recess between topics.

The workshop continued to sewer fees. The Supervisor quickly explained how he needed figures to complete his tentative budget. He stated that he's looking for a fair way to make the general fund whole and suggested a fee that would be charged to the users of the force main to help pay back the debt. He stated that he got the Attorney to agree that the use of the force main should be changed. He also stated that he would be working with Attorney O'Hara to work out the legal end. His goal is to make the taxpayers whole. He stated that he and Fran worked up numbers.

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Councilman Prendergast stated that he thought this was the right thing to do. Councilwoman LeClair agreed and Councilman Kusnierz stated that it sounds legally permissible. Councilman VanTassel stated that based on what he's heard, he agrees.

There was discussion relating to the Recreation Department employees getting paid overtime for their attendance at Town meetings. Councilman VanTassel stated that Pete is paid hourly so he would have to adjust his hours so that he wouldn't be charging for overtime. Councilman Prendergast stated that they should be given a message that they aren't required to be at the Town meetings. Councilman Kusnierz stated that there are questions asked, that sometimes they can't answer. He suggested that they come to the meetings if there is going to be discussion on a matter that needs their input. Councilwoman LeClair suggested putting them first on the agenda if they will be required to attend.

Jesse Fish asked how the proposed sewer rate will impact residential users that may be able to hook up.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that they need to have a conversation at the scheduled sewer workshop.

The workshop adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe  
Town Clerk