

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 17, 2016 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

The meeting was officially called to order at 6:20 p.m.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman [arrived at 6:20 p.m.]
Gardner Congdon	Supervisor

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Alan VanTassel	Councilman

Also present: Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Peggy Jenkins, Assessor; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent; Reed Antis, Planning Board member and Town Resident

The Assessor was first to discuss her budget with the Town Board. The Supervisor made comment that he had agreed with her comments about her salary and with regard to buyout policy.

The Assessor stated that she knew the Full-time clerical position, which she had requested, had been removed and gave her comments as to why the position is needed. She also stated that if put back in, the position could be shared by both her Department and the Building Department. Having a Full-time clerk would give her the opportunity to get back out in the field to do assessing.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that there is no Assistant Building Inspector and asked the Board if they aren't going to hire another, does the Town continue with Jim Martin, do they hire a Code Enforcement Officer. She suggested someone with a law enforcement background for Code Enforcement should they decide to go in that direction. Peggy Jenkins stated that she and Kathy Perez have been doing all the Code Enforcement.

There was discussion that the Village has no assessing unit and that the Town's Assessor handles all of the assessments.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that Peggy will eventually retire and it would help having someone who knows what's going on.

The Assessor asked the Town Board to reconsider the Full-time position.

They discussed litigation next. The Supervisor had cut her request from \$302,000 to \$50,000. Ms. Jenkins recited the importance of having the funds available for litigation and stated that if it's not used it can be put back. She stated that she has some very big cases right now. If they need to fight the assessment an appraisal would be between \$50,000.00 & \$75,000.00. She suggested leaving at least \$250,000 in the budget. There was discussion regarding Home of the Good Shepherd and Ms. Jenkins stated that they're questioning whether they should be exempt or not. They have cases with Malta and Wilton for the exemption status as well. Councilman Kusnierz stated that by having a low figure budgeted, it may seem as though the Town may not want to litigate. Supervisor Congdon stated that there should be about \$200,000 left over from this year. Francine Thibodeau stated that they would have to be careful with the 2% tax cap unless they're going to use fund balance. There was discussion relating to the cases that she has right now. She's hoping that Home of the Good Shepherd settles before the end of the year but if not, she thought having at least \$15,000.00 for that case would be prudent. She stated that the other case will depend upon decisions of the Town Board. It was agreed that the line item for litigation (A1355.4 - Contractual) be increased back to \$125,000.00

The Assessor stated that last year she and the Building Department had requested money in their budgets for tablets and the Town Board decided to wait until Councilman VanTassel came on board as he has experience with electronics. She had requested \$1,000.00 budgeted for one next year and the Supervisor had cut the request to \$500.00. She stated the request was based on the cost of the tablet as well as the

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software needed to run the programs. She advised the Board that it would be an asset to her for her field work. Prices vary and she suggested purchasing something that will last more than a couple years.

Ms. Jenkins also stated that her desk and the Building Department Clerk's desks are falling apart. She also thought that there was money budgeted this year. She'll sit down and talk with Kathy.

The Assessor thanked the Board for their time and left the workshop at 6:47 p.m.

Jesse Fish was next to speak with the Board regarding the Water Department budget. They discussed the purchase of meters for Water District 4. There was discussion regarding a Full-time assistant for the Water Superintendent. Jesse stated that he was looking for someone who can take over if and when he retires. He stated that there are certain qualifications that would need to be met in order to take a civil service test or they would have to change a title.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if they were interested in getting bids to tear down the old pump house. There would have to be testing done to determine if there is asbestos and the methods needed to tear it down. The Supervisor asked that they wait on this for now until he knows more and stated that after that, he'll work on it right away.

The Water Superintendent questioned as to who owns the road going into the water plant as there have been problems with people tearing it up. Councilman Kusnierz asked about establishing a fine for operating an ATV on Town property. Jesse stated that a couple of signs would help but thought that by putting up cables would be the easiest way to keep people out. He did say that Mr. Sweet owns the property beyond that and that he dumps his brush back there. Mr. Fish stated that he would speak with the Assessor to see who owns the road.

This concluded the discussion on the Water Superintendents budget.

Councilwoman LeClair mentioned that the Saratoga Plan reached out to her about the horse trail that Bob Vittengl had been working on and also the other plan that the College students designed. She stated that she would reach out to Bob Vittengl for information as she really didn't know much about it.

The workshop concluded at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe
Town Clerk