

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 26, 2017 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

Town Board Members Present

Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Alan VanTassel	Councilman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman

Town Board Members Absent

Robert Prendergast	Councilman
Gardner Congdon	Supervisor

Also Present: Tammy Daley, Deputy Town Clerk; Fran Thibodeau, Principal Account Clerk; Jeffrey Cruz, Principal Account Clerk; Jim Martin, Zoning Administrator; Town resident; Nathaniel Smythe.

The meeting started out with the Zoning Administrator, Jim Martin. He stated the Comprehensive Plan is almost done and that there will need to be a public hearing for the Town Board. He hopes to have all the deadlines met by the end of the year. After that is done, they will start on the Zoning update.

Mr. Martin wanted to talk about Zoning and say a few things. He stated that the Chazen Company had done almost a complete Zoning ordinance and he believes the Town spent around \$17,000 on it. He believes that it is almost completed and that it included a map. He stated he doesn't know what ever happened with it and it never got adopted. His thoughts were, money was invested in it and maybe it should be looked at. He stated that there might be things that need to be changed in it, but maybe it's a good place to start. Councilman Kusnierz stated it would have to be matched up with the Comprehensive Plan. The second thing he wanted to talk about was that he has been in the Zoning Administrator's job for about a year and half and he feels pretty strong that the land use pattern in this community is set and that the district boundaries are serving the community well. He stated the Zoning needs some work on the uses within the districts and also that the code is in need of a lot of work on definitions.

There was some discussion on how Saranac Lake put their two boards together, the Planning and Zoning. He stated that they call it the Development Board. It has been working for them for about two years. Maybe the Town Board might want to consider doing something like that.

Councilman VanTassel asked Mr. Martin what he thought about his time here at the Town and if he thinks he needs less time here or more time here. Councilman VanTassel stated that he thinks he has spent too much time on code enforcement. He hoped by now the Building Inspector would have a handle on that and maybe would only need to lean on him if needed. Mr. Martin stated that there are a number of principal aspects of the Building Department. There is Building Inspector, Code Enforcer, Zoning, and Zoning Administrator. He said it is rare to find someone to do both when you have a high volume of activity. The Town of Moreau does have a lot of activity and he doesn't think that will change. Another aspect to consider is Storm Water. Mr. Martin stated it takes a lot of time to do it and do it right. The last thing he mentioned was local code. Many times there are a lot of people walking in or calling to ask questions about the local code or Zoning questions. This slows down certain times of the year like late fall and winter, but once spring and summer come around it is nonstop.

Mr. Martin said another job he does is for the Planning & Zoning Board. He reviews the applications and makes sure they are complete. He believes the Planning and Zoning Board appreciate the advice. He stated most of his time is under the 10 hours a week. The only time he comes really close to the 10 hours is when he has to attend a Planning, Zoning, or Town Board meeting. He would stay at the \$110.00 rate, which is up to ten hours a week. He stated that he doesn't fill in time just to make it to the ten hours. Jim Martin finished at 6:55 p.m.

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The next discussion started about the mortgage tax. Fran stated that she talked to the County and with the figures they gave her they are going to be short approximately \$60,000 for the year. They are also down \$148,000, which was to be the payback for the force main and Court is down about \$30,000. Councilman Kusnierz stated that they have a problem even before they get to next year's budget. He stated that he thinks only emergency expenses should be approved from here on out, in the General Fund. Councilman VanTassel and Councilwoman LeClair agreed. There was some discussion to call some Department Heads and have them not purchase certain things they approved earlier. They also agreed to tell the part time employees to not go over their hours and not to work over- time hours. It was agreed that a memo would be sent out the next day to Department Heads on no spending without Board approval unless it is absolutely necessary. It was also decided to take \$750.00 out of the 2018 budget for the Assessor, which was to purchase a new laptop computer. There was discussion on the Verizon Wireless and other utility phone lines to see if some plans could be changed or merged together.

The discussion moved on to purchasing of trucks for the different departments. The Highway Superintendent's truck was ordered for this year. The truck he has now is a 1998 and won't pass inspection and wants to sell it at auction. Pete Corlew is looking at a 2018 Dodge. The truck they have now is a 2002 Chevy Silverado with 150,000 miles on it. It will also not pass inspection. The Water Superintendent is looking at a 2018 Ford F250 with a plow for \$34,000. The truck he has now is a 2009 with 108,000 miles on it and with a good plow. He thought it would be a good truck for the Recreation department. Councilman VanTassel wants to make sure that the Water department truck could handle what the Recreation department needs it for. It was decided to get a new Water department truck and give the Recreation Department the old truck.

Fran stated she talked to the Comptroller's office and they told her the Highway Department can charge rent for the Water Department to use the old Highway garage. They would need to come up with a fee for that and that money would go into the General Fund. Fran stated they would have to budget for that and it would have to be split between all the water districts and the sewer.

It was decided to take out the \$3,000 in the Transfer Station Contingent fund, as it hasn't been used. Fran stated they don't need it in there, the Transfer Station has enough revenues to cover the expenditures. There was some discussion on the security camera at the Transfer Station. The \$2,000, which was budgeted is to remain.

There was some discussion on the lighting districts. Councilman Kusnierz suggested maybe next year they could look into getting more efficient light bulbs for the districts to save money.

The Moreau Industrial Park fund SP7110 was next. There was \$10,000 put in tentatively. After a short discussion it was decided to lower that to \$1,000.

The budget workshop concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Daley
Deputy Town Clerk

The above minutes are not intended to be a complete transcript, only a summary. To hear a full audio of the Budget Workshop, please visit the Town website at www.townofmoreau.org