

A workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on March 6, 2018 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York for the purpose of discussing water billing.

The Supervisor called the workshop to order at 6:03 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

John Hogan	Councilman
Kyle Noonan	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Alan VanTassel	Councilman
Theodore Kusnierz	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also present: Tammy Daley, Deputy Town Clerk; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent; Jeffery Cruz, Principal Account Clerk; Reed Antis, Planning Board Member and Town Resident.

The Supervisor stated, the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the frequency of water billings. This was at the request of the Town Clerk, to have all districts billed twice per year.

There was some discussion on all the Water Districts rates and the minimums that are charged. Supervisor Kusnierz stated that Water District 1 would not be an issue because they are billed two times a year in March and September. Water District 2 is also billed two times a year and there is no minimum charge. They would just need to adjust the billing months to March and September. Water District 3 is billed three times a year. He stated currently there is only one customer in Water District 3 and they are billed monthly. Water District 4 is billed three times a year and there is no minimum charge. The issue arrives in Water Districts 5 and 6 that are billed three times a year and have a minimum charge.

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that billing all Water Districts two times per year will be more uniform in the Clerk's Office. It will also help, down the road, in consolidating all the Water Districts. Jeff Cruz stated the focus needs to be on Water District 5 and 6 because they have minimum bills and are billed three times per year. Councilman Vantassel stated that Water District 3 is also billed three times a year but it is just one account. Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the one account is billed monthly because it has such large usage. His recommendation is to leave that one account as billed monthly.

Jeff Cruz stated in District 5 and 6, we would lose one of the minimum bills in each district, if they changed those two districts to two times a year billing. Councilman Noonan suggested maybe charging more for the minimum usage or maybe up the gallons used.

Jeff Cruz stated that in Water District 5, in his opinion, the minimum gallons billed should be raised to 15,000 gallons instead of 10,000 gallons. This way, the minimum would be 30,000 in two billing cycles instead of three billing cycles. He also stated that they could take the minimum charge of \$33.50 and multiply that amount by three and divide by two to get the price for two times a year billing. This amount would be \$50.25, billed two times per year. Councilman VanTassel stated, with doing this, the Town would not lose any revenue, and the customers would only receive a slightly larger bill twice a year.

Jesse Fish stated, if the minimum is the issue in these two districts, maybe they could eliminate the minimum charge like they did in Water Districts 2 and 4. Councilman VanTassel had a few questions about water. He asked how the rates and minimum bills were determined. He also asked how the fund balances were in these districts. Supervisor Kusnierz stated, as the districts were formed, it depended on the construction cost, debt service and number of users. The previous Boards used these factors to determine what the minimum bills would be and what the rates would be. He stated, that over the years

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they've had to raise and lower the minimum usage and rates. Most recently they've made changes in Water Districts 2 & 4. Supervisor Kusnierz talked about the fund balances for each Water District. He stated Water District 1 has a few issues which would need to be addressed at budget time. Water District 2 continues to grow. Water District 3 is in a healthy condition. Water District 4 had a slight decrease, this was due to the purchase of Radio Read meters. The fund balance for this District should see an increase again. Both Water Districts 5 and 6 are continuing to grow. Councilman VanTassel asked which Water Districts have water towers. Jesse Fish stated Water Districts 1, 2, and 6. He also stated that customers in all districts use all the towers. Jesse also stated that the Water Tower in district 6 is the only one without utilities on it and maybe if they could get some tenants on that Water Tower, it would help with the fund balance.

Water District 6 was discussed next to see if they could change that Water District billing to two times per year. Jeff Cruz stated the same scenario plays out in this District as it does in Water District 5. The minimum gallons billed would be 15,000 gallons instead of 10,000 gallons. The minimum charge in this District is \$40.00. If you multiply the \$40.00 by three and divided by two. This would mean a minimum bill of \$60.00, two times per year.

Water District 2 is already billed twice a year, so only the billing months would need to be changed. There is no minimum bill in this District. The customers only pay for the water they use. Water District 4 is billed three times a year with no minimum bill. They are only charged for the water they use. The customers may have a larger bill in March and September because of the elimination of the July billing.

There was some discussion on the accounts that are billed monthly in each Water District. It was decided to leave these accounts as is. Billing them monthly helps spread the cost out over a year, instead of higher billings two or three times per year.

All Councilmembers were in agreement with the changes that were proposed. Supervisor Kusnierz stated they would address this at the next regular Town Board Meeting, where there would be a resolution to change the Water Billings to two times per year in all Water Districts, excluding the monthly accounts.

The discussion went back to Water District 1. Jesse Fish stated, that in this District, the customers in the old Fenimore part of the Town were told that their bills were going to go down when they started using the Town water. As of now, that is not the case, their water rates will probably increase. Jesse stated that this is a shame, since that District has had that infrastructure since 1952. Councilman VanTassel asked why they were in this situation. Jeff Cruz stated he wasn't quite sure why they used fund balance for 2017 to cover some of the expenses. He also stated that the loan in Water District 1 increases slightly every year. He doesn't know why that wasn't taken into consideration. Jesse Fish stated, if there was a cell tower on the Sisson Road water tower, that would help with some of the loss in that district. Councilman VanTassel was going to look into a common firm to help manage the property of tenants on our Water Towers.

The workshop concluded at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Daley
Deputy Town Clerk