

A workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on May 4, 2021 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York, for the purpose of discussing rate increases for the Building Department Fee Schedule.

Supervisor Kusnierz called the workshop to order at 5:47 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

John Hogan	Councilmember
Kyle Noonan	Councilmember
Alan VanTassel	Councilmember
John Donohue Jr.	Councilmember
Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr.	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also Present: Jill Bennett, Deputy Town Clerk.

Supervisor Kusnierz welcomed everyone to the workshop regarding Building Department Fees. The Supervisor handed out papers to Town Board members containing Building Department fees from the following Towns in Saratoga County: Town of Hadley, Town of Northumberland, Town of Greenfield, Town of Wilton, Town of Milton, Town of Corinth (current and proposed), Town of Clifton Park, and the City of Saratoga Springs. Town Board members were also given a copy of Moreau’s current & proposed Building Department Fees.

Supervisor Kusnierz asked Councilmember Donohue, who requested the workshop, to go over what he’s found. Councilmember Donohue said the Town’s Building Department has a set fees for permits and services provided in their office. He didn’t know how long the current fees had been in place, but he said it’s been a while. He met with Kathy Perez, Matt Dreimiller and Jim Martin from the Building Department to gather information about the current fee schedule and to get their feedback on updates. Together they put together a spreadsheet with the information. Councilmember Donohue told Town Board members he feels the Town is missing out on revenue because the current fees are too low. Town Board members discussed the current fees and agreed changes should be made.

Supervisor Kusnierz made a point that the Town’s Code is currently being updated, so it’s a good time to update the fees in the Building Department. He stated that his focus is to make sure the Town is positioned to handle the current growth as well as anticipated growth in the next few years. After doing some research he realized that Moreau’s Building fees are significantly lower than other towns in the area. Councilmember Noonan recognized that other towns break down their fee schedule in more detail than our Town. Supervisor Kusnierz agreed with Councilmember Noonan’s observation and stated that he would like to see our Building Department fees broken down into more detail.

Supervisor Kusnierz commented that he’s had several conversations with Town residents regarding updates to the Town’s recreation areas. When he looked at the Recreation Fee charged in other towns, he realized the Town of Moreau fees are substantially lower. Recreation fees collected go directly into a Town Wide Recreation Fund and are only used to create, update and maintain recreation areas within the Town. Supervisor Kusnierz stated that he would like to see the Town’s Recreation Fees increased sooner rather than later. After a discussion among Town Board members it was decided that the fees would increase from \$700.00 per lot to \$1,250.00 per lot. It was also decided that this would be added to the agenda for the next Town Board meeting. Supervisor Kusnierz added that all other updates to the fee schedule should be effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year, January 1, 2022. Town Board members agreed. They felt the additional time would allow them to create a fee schedule that will bring in additional revenue in key areas of growth.

The Town Board members discussed what information would be helpful to move the discussion forward. The decision was made that a side-by-side comparison spreadsheet of our current Building Fees with fees

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from surrounding towns would be helpful. A suggestion was also made to review the proposed Town Code and Town Laws to be sure nothing conflicts with the proposed fee schedule changes. Town Board members also wanted a breakdown of what has been collected in the Building Department over the last 3 years. Supervisor Kusnierz would like the fee update to be done before the beginning of budget time in August.

The workshop closed at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Bennett

Deputy Town Clerk