The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Town Board Members Present

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

Also present: Dianne Lewis, Deputy Town Clerk; Lisa Sperry, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor; Alex Portal; Maureen Dennis; Nicole Haddadnia

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following minutes were prepared and presented to the Town Board members in advance of the meeting for their review, comment, correction, and approval:

- August 29, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting
- September 12, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting
- September 26, 2023 Audit Meeting

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the minutes for the September 12, 2023 – Regular Town Board Meeting are being tabled for further review.

Resolution #2023-303

A motion was made by Councilmember Noonan, seconded by Councilmember VanTassel, and carried, to approve the minutes as prepared for the August 29, 2023 - Regular Town Board Meeting.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Abstain
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

Resolution #2023-304

A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember VanTassel, and carried, to approve the minutes as prepared for the September 26, 2023 – Audit Meeting.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Abstain
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Resolution #2023-305

A motion was made by Councilmember VanTassel, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, and carried, to approve changes made to the Town of Moreau Recreation Winter Basketball Program registration forms for Grades K-2 and Grades 3-6. (See attached)

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that because the cost for the Pole Barn Construction exceeds the threshold according to General Municipal Law the Town will have to go through a sealed competitive bid process. Town Attorney, Karla Buettner stated that under General Municipal Law § 103 (1), when procurements involving expenditures in excess of \$20,000 and contracts for public work involving expenditures in excess of \$35,000 are subject to competitive bidding. Buettner stated that the Board would have to first approve the bid packet, send it out, and give potential bidders 30 days to respond. After the 30 days, the sealed bids would be opened, and then the Board can move forward with the project. The Town Attorney stated that she would get together with the Recreation Director and discuss further before moving forward.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the Highway Superintendent had asked the following vendors for three quotes for tree removal services:

Adirondack Tree Surgeons Price Quote: No quote was submitted.

354 Gurn Springs Rd Gansevoort, NY 12831

Richard Sears Tree Experts Price Quote: **See Attached Proposals**

16 Harold Harris Ave. Queensbury, NY 12804

Tree Masters Price Quote: No quote was submitted.

712 Clark Rd

Gansevoort, NY 12831

Resolution #2023-306

A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember VanTassel, and carried, to approve tree removal service from vendor Richard Sears Tree Experts at the proposed amount submitted, to be paid from account DB5110.457, which as of 10/5/2023, had a balance of \$226.00.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

Supervisor Kusnierz thanked the Highway Department for their work on Birch Road. Kusnierz stated that the Highway Department did a phenomenal job with getting the road issues, which were brought to the attention of the Town Board in mid-August, completed. Kusnierz added that they redesigned, paved, and marked the new entrance and exit and now comply with safety standards.

TRANSFER STATION

Resolution #2023-307

A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Noonan, and carried, to hire Randy C. Ryther, as a Part-Time Laborer at \$14.20 per hour, with start date of 11/6/2023, pending completion of a background check and pre-employment physical.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the owner of six (6) properties in the Town of Moreau has requested to haul brush to the Transfer Station for free. The property owner referred to the Transfer Fee Schedule, in which Mobile Home Park Owners hauling brush on behalf of their park residents are not charged. Councilmember Stewart and Councilmember Noonan agreed to have the Town do further research before producing a decision.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the Town has received Change Order #4 from New Castle Paving, LLC, in relation to Moreau Sewer District No. 1, Extension 5 project. Kusnierz stated that the Change Order is good news for the Town because it will reduce the total contract amount by \$566,348.10 to reflect the actual quantities for items installed.

Resolution #2023-308

A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Noonan, and carried, to authorize the Supervisor to sign Change Order # 4 in relation to the Sewer District No.1, Extension 5 Project.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

Don Rhodes, Project Engineer, stated that there may be minor changes before it is actually finalized and that he will connect with the Supervisor's Office prior to the signing.

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that in light of the recent Draft of Map, Plan, and Report that was done for the Sewer District Consolidation, there are many reasons for the Town to move forward with the Consolidation of the Sewer Districts. Kusnierz stated that when going through old Map, Plan, and Reports the Town uncovered disturbing information. Some of the items that the Town discovered was that the former Water Superintendent failed to ensure payment of sewer connection fees totaling \$1,046,500. By allowing undersized pipes and ultimate pump systems to be installed, contrary to the approved plan. Most troubling

is the fact that Certificates of Occupancy were issued after the Water Superintendent concluded sewers were fully complete, even though state permits and qualified private operators were not in place. Kusnierz stated that the Town has reached out to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and asked that our new Water Superintendent and Special District Council work collaboratively to resolve these outstanding permit, technical and legal issues. While the Town may seek collection of the unpaid sewer connection fees, the Town must start charging sewer users fairly and end the practice of special treatments without delay. It is important to remember that the Town of Moreau taxpayers funded the original Industrial Park sewer system, hoping for a return on investment from commercial value growth. Unfortunately, the most significant users of the Town funded sewer system were Residential Apartment Developers who escaped paying over \$1 million in connection fees. It is also important to recognize that recent sewer investments in Sewer District No. 1, Extension 5 that provide access to affordable sewer treatment from Saratoga County will benefit every town sewer user townwide. Since 2011, the Town has been unable to afford the purchase of treatment capacity needed for new developments. This problem would be permanently resolved with this Consolidation Proposal, with the substantial investments made in Sewer District No. 1, Extension 5, and the Town will finally have the sewer system needed to further economic development and groundwater production goals along Route 9 and in our Industrial Park. Kusnierz added that now is the time to ensure that users share an infrastructure cost equitably.

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that by moving forward with the Sewer District Consolidation , the Town can address all of these issues.

Resolution #2023-309

A motion was made by Councilmember VanTassel, seconded by Councilmember Noonan, and carried, to declare the Town of Moreau Lead Agency for the proposed Sewer District Consolidation.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

Supervisor Kusnierz asked William Ryan, Attorney for the Town, to go over the next steps in the process. Counsel briefly described what needs to happen next in order to move forward with the proposed Sewer District Consolidation. Ryan stated that under Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law, the first step is for the Town of Moreau Town Board to endorse a Joint Consolidation Agreement (JCA). The JCA, the Summary of the JCA and the Map, Plan, and Report that was prepared by Laberge Group, is going to be filed in the Town Clerk's Office, put on the Town's Official website, and advertised in the Post Star Newspaper for four (4) consecutive weeks. Prior to the expiration of that fourth publishing, a resolution to schedule a Public Hearing to be held after the 4th publication on the proposed JCA needs to be made.

The Supervisor read the following Resolution aloud:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSEMENT OF A PROPOSED JOINT CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 751 2(a) AND 752 OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW CONSOLIDATING ONE TOWN OF MOREAU SEWER DISTRICT, SIX SEWER DISTRICT EXTENSIONS, TO WIT: SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1 (MOREAU INDUSTRIAL PARK); SEWER DISTRICT NO.1, EXT. NO. 1 (LEONELLI APARTMENT COMPLEX); SEWER DISTRICT NO.1, EXT. 2 (BLUEBIRD VILLAGE APARTMENTS); SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1, EXT. NO. 3 (THE NEST); SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1, EXT. NO. 4 (HARRISON PLACE APARTMENTS); SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1, EXT. NO. 4 (HARRISON QUARRY/BLUEBIRD TRACE

APARTMENTS); SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1, EXT. NO. 5 AND FOUR CONTRACT USERS INTO ONE CONSOLIDATED SEWER DISTRICT SUBJECT TO THE COMPLETION OF PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 17-A OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the Town of Moreau has heretofore established the following Town of Moreau Sewer District and Extensions, to wit: Sewer District No. 1 (Moreau Industrial Park); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 1 (Leonelli Apartment Complex); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. 2 (Bluebird Village Apartments); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 3 (The Nest); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. 3 (Harrison Place Apartments); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 4 (Harrison Quarry/Bluebird Trace Apartments); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 5; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Moreau has four contract users consisting of parcel numbers SBL 51.-2-19.12; SBL 77.1-1-71; SBL 77.1-1-73.2; and SBL 50.-2-100.11; and

WHEREAS, the said Town of Moreau on behalf of the one existing sewer district, six sewer district extensions and the four contract users wishes to consolidate all of such areas into the Town of Moreau Consolidated Sewer District No. 1, a municipal corporation existing pursuant to the Laws of the State of New York and created pursuant to the provisions of Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Board by and through its Supervisor is desirous of endorsing and subsequently entering into the annexed proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement consolidating the one sewer district, the six sewer district extensions and four contract users into one consolidated sewer district serving the following sewer districts: Sewer District No. 1(Moreau Industrial Park); Sewer District No.1, Ext. No. 1(Leonelli Apartments); Sewer District No.1, Ext. 2 (Bluebird Village Apartments); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 3 (The Nest); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. 3 (Harrison Place Apartments); Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 4 (Harrison

Quarry/Bluebird Trace Apartments); and Sewer District No. 1, Ext. No. 5 and further serving the four contract users; and

WHEREAS, the new Consolidated Sewer District will assume jurisdiction over all areas previously served by the one sewer district, the six sewer district extensions, and the four contract users; and

WHEREAS, in order to consolidate the one sewer district, the six sewer district extensions and the four contract users, it is necessary that the Town of Moreau comply with all the provisions of Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Moreau acting on behalf of the Town of Moreau, hereby endorses the attached proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement; and it is further,

RESOLVED, the Town personnel and officers shall undertake the steps required under the aforesaid Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York to comply with the provisions thereof to effectuate such consolidation.

Resolution #2023-310

A motion was made by Councilmember VanTassel, seconded by Councilmember Noonan, and carried, to approve the foregoing resolution as read into the record by the Town Supervisor.

Supervisor Kusnierz asked if there was any discussion.

Councilmember Donohue stated that this proposal is nothing more than an effort by the Town to shift the burden of the debt for the Sewer District No. 1, Extension 5, to other taxpayers with other districts in the Town. Residents have nothing to gain but this big debt that Sewer District No. 1, Extension 5 has become.

Supervisor Kusnierz responded by giving a brief summary of the project. Kusnierz stated that the Town Board did not have to put it to a vote, however the Town Board recognized that the people who were going to pay for it, not the taxpayers, it's the ratepayers and the proposed district. The board felt it was only proper that those individuals that would have to pay for the project would have a direct say in whether the Town Board move forward on that. The Town Board put it to a referendum, that's the democratic way. Kusnierz stated that he committed to ensuring that he would do all he could to make it as affordable as possible, reach out and secure grants as necessary. The Town was able to secure \$4 million in grant funding that hasn't cost rate payers anything. The Town also has the authority to borrow up to \$12 million at a zero percent interest rate for 30 years on behalf of the rate payers. The Town also just discussed a Change Order that will reduce the cost by over half \$1 million. The benefits of what this infrastructure development has been doing for our community is obvious when you drive up and down Route 9. The. The Town has several new businesses, a new Stewarts, Hudson Headwaters, Hoffman's Carwash, Saratoga Oil, and the new All

Town Fresh. The value of properties that are on Route 9 have tripled. This is a great investment for our community and will bring the tax base even higher by millions of dollars, and that will continue to grow, which will drive down the cost of the rate payers in that district. Now people are saving, wow, you're incurring more debt. The ratepayers in the district to do all it can to make it affordable, we've applied for an IG grant for our County portion for doing the County Connection, which will give the town unlimited capacity without having to buy in that we would have had to do if we went across the river to the City of Glens Falls, where they want a 3.4 million supply capacity, and we put a pipe in the ground for 3.5 million to have limited capacity going to Saratoga County. Another great story for our community positioning us. For next generations to come, so those are the facts on the matter. I am in support of the consolidation because what it will do, as I articulated all the issues that we uncovered that will clean them up and moving forward will have unlimited capacity for economic development growth in our community without having to spend \$1.00 on capacity as the County doesn't require it. The Supervisor in the Town of Moreau has a seat at the table as a member of the Board of Supervisors will be able to have input on sewer authority. Kusnierz stated that he is proud of what the Town was able to accomplish. The grant funding that we were able to bring to make this project before consolidation is going to drive down the cost for everybody in the district and the more investment that we have in the district, the lower the rates will be moving forward. Councilmember Stewart stated that he looks forward to hearing what members of the public have to say regarding the proposed consolidation. He agrees with Supervisor Kusnierz on a lot of the items that have been discussed, that the ability for the Town to either negotiate with the City of Glens Falls or negotiate at the County level is beneficial. Stewart mentioned that there is old infrastructure and that will eventually have to be replaced. Stewart stated that he is in favor of moving forward with the consolidation and having a Public Hearing.

Supervisor Kusnierz asked the Town Clerk to do a Roll Call.

Councilmember Stewart	Aye
Councilmember Noonan	Aye
Councilmember VanTassel	Aye
Councilmember Donohue	No
Supervisor Kusnierz	Aye

Supervisor Kusnierz asked Counsel what other action needs to be taken. Counsel stated that the consolidation process can't be less than 35 days, and no more than 120 days. Kusnierz stated that at the next board meeting a date and time for the public hearing will be established.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the Board has been working on developing an updated Employee Handbook and that there were some minor changes as a result of new state law policies. The first change now includes Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) which is a new law that requires covered employers to provide "reasonable accommodations" to a worker's known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, unless the accommodation will cause the employer an "undue hardship." The second change is that Employers are now required to have labor law posters be available and posted digitally.

Resolution #2023-311

A motion was made by Councilmember VanTassel, seconded by Councilmember Noonan, and carried, to Adopt the Town of Moreau Employee Handbook that was put together by Public Sector HR Consultants, LLC.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart	Aye
Councilmember Noonan	Aye
Councilmember VanTassel	Aye
Councilmember Donohue	Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz	Aye

SENIOR CITIZEN REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the Town Assessor has submitted a recommendation to the Town Board to update the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption rate, The rate has not been changed since 2021. In order to qualify for the program, you must be 65 years of age or older, and the exemption would only be given to the property owner of the primary residence. Kusnierz stated that the Town has created the draft of the Local Law, and the next step would be to schedule a Public Hearing. It is the Town's intent to have this Local Law adopted before the end of the year so that the exemption would take effect for the 2024 taxable status year.

Resolution #2023-312

A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Noonan, and carried, to schedule a Public Hearing on a new Local Law changing the Senior Tax Exemption , to be held on November 14, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

SUPERVISOR ITEMS

Supervisor Kusnierz read aloud a letter in which he read aloud from Essity. (See Attached)

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that he received news of the Saratoga County Airport Expansion Project. A grant for the Saratoga County Airport expansion had originally secured \$27 million in grants per project at approximately \$33 million. Saratoga County was just notified that we received a grant for another \$1.5 million generated. And from New York State and \$900,000 from the FAA for the terminal project.

Supervisor Kusnierz and the Town Board received a memo from Jeffrey Cruz, the Town's Principal Account Clerk regarding GASBY (Governmental Accounting Standards Board). This sets the standards for governmental accounting and financial reporting. These are the accounting standards that the Town uses, in preparing the AUD (Annual Update Document), the financial report that the Town has to submit each year, GASBY has issued Statement Number 75 Accounting and Financial reporting for post-employment benefits other than pensions. Statement number 75 seats to improve financial reporting by requiring the OEB liability recorded in the financial statements rather than in the company notes. Examples of OPB liabilities include post-employment, medical benefits, dental benefits, vision benefits, prescription medicine, disability benefits, and other health benefits that are not part of the pension plan. In order to maintain confinement, as we said, 75 the town is required to report the total OPB liability and statement of net position on. The governmental wide. Financial statement over the calculation, the total, EB liability involves the actual evaluation to be completed every two years in accordance with standard practice. New York State Control's office does not endorse or recommend any specific actual firms comply with GASBY 75, however, the procedure for obtaining the petrol services such as this is to use the request for proposals process. So therefore, Jeffrey is looking for town board authorization to put the requested work out for RFP (Request for Proposal). And if the board requires remembers, we have budgeted \$3,250.00 for this program.

Resolution #2023-313

A motion was made by Councilmember Noonan, seconded by Councilmember VanTassel, and carried, to put the requested work out for RFP (Request for Proposal).

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember StewartAyeCouncilmember NoonanAyeCouncilmember VanTasselAyeCouncilmember DonohueAyeSupervisor KusnierzAye

Supervisor Kusnierz read aloud a letter that the Town received from the Commissioner of the Saratoga County Department of Social Services regarding the 2023-2024 HEAP Program. (See attached)

Supervisor Kusnierz read aloud a letter that the Town received from the Town of Queensbury Water/Wastewater Department. (See attached)

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that Saratoga County officials announced on Oct. 24 its Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, administered by the Department of Aging and Youth Services, provided \$11,095 in fresh, local produce to Saratoga County seniors during the recently ended 2022 season. Each year, the Saratoga County Department of Aging and Youth Services distributes coupon booklets to qualifying seniors through its Elderly Nutrition Program. Qualified individuals are those age 60 or older who earn a monthly income of no more than \$2,096 a month for a one-person household or no more than \$2,823 a month for a two-person household. The coupons can be redeemed at participating farmers market locations throughout Saratoga County, Last year, the Department distributed 3,325 coupons valued at \$16,625. Saratoga County seniors redeemed 2,219 of these coupons, which provided them with a total of \$11,095 in fresh, local produce to support their health and nutrition. 2022 is the most recently completed season for which statistics are available. Supervisor Kusnierz stated that the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program not only helps our low-income seniors access fresh, locally grown produce, but it also supports our local farmers, which are a vital part of the Saratoga County economy. The Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is designed to provide low-income seniors with access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, and cut herbs; increase the consumption of agricultural commodities through farmers' markets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Supervisor stated that he does not need an executive session.

OTHER BUSINESS

No one from the Town Board had any other business to discuss.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Cynthia Nick, residing at 513 County Route 24, Corinth, NY expressed the atmosphere during her employment at Saratoga County. She proceeded to read aloud a letter that she had written to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors.

Resident Chris Scarincio, 21 Fifth Street, Glens Falls, NY discussed his dissatisfaction of the Town's lack of having a policy regarding giving refunds to teams that have signed up to play in tournaments but due to inclement weather were not able to participate.

Sandy Mahoney, Sisson Rd, Fort Edward, NY asked where the Town of Moreau / Saratoga County stands in regard to giving EMS and Fire Tax Exemptions. She mentioned that Warren County currently gives someone that has been in this service for at least 20 years a lifetime exemption.

Mike Shaver, Pine Valley Dr, asked if the Town could do something about the tree on Pine Valley Drive that has caused drainage problems.

Maureen Dennis, 21887, Route 22, Hoosick Falls, NY discussed her concerns regarding comments made by the Town Supervisor about Schermerhorn (a local developer), for water and sewer billing that was erroneously done by the previous Water Superintendent. She requested that the Draft of the Map, Plan, and Report be updated immediately because she feels as though it insinuates that Schermerhorn does not pay their bills. She spoke about several different meeting minutes from several different years, regarding construction of sewer districts.

Jesse Fish, retired Town of Moreau Water Superintendent, stated that he was not responsible for setting fees or collecting fees. Fish stated that it was the Board that set the fees and passed the resolutions.

Dominic Tom, 7 Cedar Lane, discussed a past incident in which a resident of the Town took a picture of a Town employee using a Town truck to visit a bar. Tom conveyed scathing allegations about members of the Town Board accusing them of covering the incident up and that the resident who took the picture was evicted from the town Republican committee because of this.

Elizabeth Bennett, Gansevoort Rd asked several questions about the previous Employee Handbook, and the newly adopted one.

Mike Shaver stated that the job description of the Town Water Superintendent is clearly defined in the town code.

No other member of the public wished to be heard.

Resolution #2023-314

A motion was made by Councilmember Noonan, seconded by Councilmember VanTassel, to close the meeting for the evening.

Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Stewart Aye
Councilmember Noonan Aye
Councilmember VanTassel Aye
Councilmember Donohue Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz Aye

The motion carried 5:0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Brenda Hutter Town Clerk

(Amended 5/23/24 by Erin Trombley, Town Clerk)