

PRESENT:	John Donohue, Jr.	Councilmember
	Patrick Killian	Councilmember
	Mark Stewart	Councilmember
	Jesse A. Fish, Jr.	Supervisor
	Kyle Noonan	Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT:	Jeffrey Cruz	Principal Account Clerk
	Dianne Lewis	Deputy Town Clerk
	Jeremy Brogan	Recreation Director
	Leah Cronin	Sole Assessor
	Kristian Mechanick	Water & Sewer Operator
	Elizabeth Bennett	Confidential Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Maureen Jackson; Reed Antis, Town Historian

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Director Brogan started with account A7140, Playgrounds & Recreation, discussing equipment. He stated that he was requesting a couple of new bleachers for \$15,000.00 because a lot of the bleachers are not up to code for insurance purchases since there are no backs to them, others of them are just old. He said he is just trying to replace them a little bit at a time and trying to replace the Miscellaneous Tools that are in the park, as \$1,000.00 is allocated there to update what they need. They also need to purchase another couple of AED Units for \$3,200.00, he said, because NY state changed the rules and they must have one for every program including flag football and soccer for next year. They also need more Garbage Cans, he said, which are getting expensive at \$2,000.00 for four garbage cans. The Softball Concession Fryer is on its last leg, he said, so he requested \$1,500.00 to replace that one. He said he believed he could sell the old one for about \$200.00. The last request was for \$2,000.00 for Park Signage, which Director Brogan said can have the opening & closing times slid in and out. Recreation Director Brogan stated that he could buy everything that he has requested in this category this year. He said about \$40,000.00 left over from the beach could be transferred over and used to purchase everything ahead of time.

Councilmember Killian asked how much he would have left over this year if he transferred the money over from the beach. Councilmember Stewart stated that it would be \$13,200.00 if we spent it all this year. He also asked if it was better to budget the money for next year and let some of Jeremy's funds roll back into the General Account this year so we can earn some interest on them. In the end, it would be a question for the Principal Account Clerk, whether it would make more sense to make the purchases now, or wait for them to go through next year's budget. Councilmember Stewart asked if there were any lines in the 2025 budget that potentially be overspent before the end of the year. PAC Cruz stated that there is the potential for that to happen, to which Councilmember Stewart said that he would rather see the money go back into the General Account for 2025, then. PAC Cruz said that he would investigate it.

Councilmember Stewart then asked about the One-Piece Game Mound being listed again this year for \$2,100.00, as it was already adopted last year for 2025. Rec Director Brogan stated that he was requesting a second one, because during tournaments the boys need two. Councilmember Stewart mentioned moving the funds from the Beach Account to General Contractual and purchasing it this year if PAC Cruz and the rest of the Board agreed. Councilmember Stewart polled the Board, and no one objected. Rec Director Brogan then spoke about Park Improvements. He said it would cost \$18,000.00 for Field Care Fertilization because he guessed that it was going to go up a little bit. The My Rec program will have to be transferred over to our new webpage. He is asking for \$500.00 to integrate the design. He stated that he added more money for Portable Toilets, because he had to get more this year since the park was busier in the fall. He also added an additional line of \$1,250.00 for Showcase Expenditures, as we must pay for umpires, bags, balls, etc.

The next discussion pertained to salaries. Jeremy requested a 3-4% raise for Bruce, to bring him up to \$60,000.00. He asked for Bob Shippee's rate to go up to \$22.88 an hour. He also requested another Full-Time Laborer at \$40,000.00. His other request was to get Part-Time Laborers French & Gould \$20.00 an hour because they do mechanical, irrigation, roofing, etc. Councilmember Stewart stated that we are incredibly lucky to have the skill set that they bring and the challenging work that they do in maintenance. He further explained that if we could use some of that \$40,000.00 that is in the Beach Fund to purchase equipment for next year, then he would be comfortable moving those two employees to \$20.00 an hour and it would not affect the total appropriations request. He added that those two employees are saving the Town money on having to get sub-contractors to do the electrical work, plumbing, etc. and they currently earn \$18.03, and would be making \$19.00, but they are worth \$20.00. Because they are working part time, they are never going to work overtime, he said. The Board and the PAC agreed.

Regarding Youth Programs/Beach, A7310, Recreation Director Brogan said he must check New York State law to verify if all the returning lifeguards qualify as Senior Lifeguards automatically. He said they all stated that they want to return next year, except one who may have an internship. He said he would then need fewer Lifeguards, saving \$18,000.00 between the Requested Amount and the Tentative Amount. They need \$1,000.00 for some more Ropes and Floats (buoys), he said, to replace what is there, and the Contractual values have not changed.

In Cemeteries, A8810, Mr. Brogan said he increased Mowing from \$3,500.00 to \$3,640.00. He said he had a dedicated part-time mower, Bill Noonan, who works approximately two days a week depending on the weather. Mr. Brogan said they are looking to get a Weed Whacker just for the cemeteries for \$500.00 because sometimes Bill needs to take the only one at the park. He said they budgeted \$3,000.00 to do Tree Removal and trimming and are looking at quotes. He budgeted a Miscellaneous amount of \$1,500.00 for oil, gas, and other supplies.

Town Historian Reed Antis spoke regarding the cemeteries saying he has been speaking on it for about fifteen years. There are seven to eight cemeteries that the Town should be taking care of instead of the three or four that we currently maintain, he said. He said fences should be put around them, and there is debris that needs to be taken care of. Mr. Antis added that if we do a little bit every year, it would be doable. We should also get easements from the property owners to get access to them, he added. Councilmember Killian asked if the Town has permission from the landowners at this time. Historian Antis explained that we do from the current owners, but that could always change. Councilmember Killian asked how many cemeteries there were. Historian Antis explained that there were seventeen so-called abandoned cemeteries, but only eight or nine need care currently. All that New York State requires is that the Town mow them twice a year, he said. Councilmember Killian asked if bushhogging needed to be done, or just mowing. Historian Antis explained that Rogers' cemetery needs bushhogging for the entrance, but the rest of them just need mowing. Councilmember Stewart remarked that \$3,000.00 is a good start to get a program going to take care of these other cemeteries on a rotating basis every few years.

HT7180, Town-Wide Recreational Capital Project: The first line that says, "Utility Vehicle," which Mr. Brogan explained is for the John Deere Field Rake that was going to be purchased this year. He said they are going to roll the \$12,500.00 over for next year. He added that the budgeted Backhoe Attachments are for the Water Department's backhoe, which is only used for Water Department emergencies, but is stored at the Rec Park. Director Brogan said that since they have an additional full-time employee, they need another truck. He said in the past they had to use their personal vehicles because they only had two trucks. Councilmember Donohue stated that a truck does not seem like it should be coming out of Capital Projects. Councilmember Stewart agreed and asked where else they could pull the \$65,000.00 from for the truck, since the plowing is not done specifically at the Recreation park. He also stated that we do not have a Maintenance Truck or a Maintenance Department, but the truck should not be taken out of Recreational Capital Projects. PAC Cruz stated that it could come out of the General Fund, instead of the Recreation Department. Councilmember Stewart stated that \$65,000.00 would pay for 1/2 of the playground that is being put in. PAC Cruz stated that they were close to being maxed out in the General Fund. Councilmember Stewart asked if the \$40,000.00 from the Beach could be used to bring the contractual amount to \$25,000.00. PAC Cruz agreed to investigate it.

Park Improvements include blacktop sealant for the adaptive playground. Highway Superintendent Abrams said that \$8,500.00 was a safe number for that project, in his budget discussion. The 30' x 60' Pole Barn was budgeted for two years ago, but the Town never got quotes. Councilmember Stewart explained that it was needed to protect the equipment. He recommended working with Highway Superintendent Abrams regarding the prefabricated building company he found out of Corinth, whose buildings meet the snow load requirement but are much cheaper than new construction. Rec Director Brogan stated that they just do not have doors, so he would have to figure that part out.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Assessor Leah Cronin started by discussing account A1355: Special Services. It is currently at \$47,500.00 for maintaining our 100% equalization rate of fair market values, & a site called GAR Pros. Ms. Cronin said that next year they should complete a Townwide reassessment. New York State has been reaching out, she said, and that according to IAA standards, a town should experience a full revaluation technically every six years or so. She said the Town of Moreau has not done one since 2010. Back then, GAR also came in as a contractor and collaborated with the Assessor. She said it was a little different back then and the cost was \$250,000.00, most of which was for boots on the ground data collection. She said at the time the inventory for the Town was not kept up to date as well as it should have been, to no one's fault. She said the former Assessor maintained the permits but could not do much else because of the lack of staffing. She said she had been maintaining inventory data. The price for GAR is going up from \$47,500.00 to about \$67,000.00, she said. The reason is that Leah and Matt will be doing all the data collection, and all the residential valuation. GAR will be doing all the commercial valuation. The price goes up this year because all the work is done the year prior to the valuation, according to the Assessor. The Change of Assessment Notices will be mailed in April of 2027, she said. To maintain, the Town would be back to the contracted \$45,000.00 a year.

Ms. Cronin stated that the point of a revaluation is to sign a contract with New York State called Annual Aid for Cyclic Reassessment. She said she and the Supervisor would sign a contract committing to another revaluation in the future, in four or five years. After the revaluation is complete, adhering to all of New York State's standards, the Town is issued a check for up to \$5.00 per parcel, which is the incentive for the Town to do it. There is \$750,000.00 allocated for it, split between all the Towns in New York State that do a revaluation. The Town of Malta, which is the same size as Moreau, got \$13,000.00 when they did theirs, according to Ms. Cronin, so it would cost the Town \$20,000.00, with the potential to get \$13,000.00 back. She said the Town could back out of the contract with New York State in five years if the Town were unable to complete the revaluation at that time.

Supervisor Fish asked what the benefit would be to the current workflow. Councilmember Stewart stated that the State is requiring the Towns to do revaluations and keep their equalization rate at 100%. GAR currently helps analyze the market in each neighborhood and the trends, and the land tables, and they maintain the models for Leah. Councilmember Noonan states that GAR works as an additional employee, providing multiple people to do work for the Town, versus hiring one more employee in the Assessor's Office, and having additional expenses for that. Councilmember Stewart likened it to the hire of an engineering firm to work on a project, versus hiring an engineer so you have different people with different expertise working on it. Supervisor Fish asked if we had to let the public know. Ms. Cronin stated that they would have a public meeting, and GAR would come in and speak. She said her office will send out inventory questionnaires. Supervisor Fish stated that he did not have a problem with it, since the total budget for the Assessor's office is only going up \$500.00. Councilmember Stewart stated that both Malta and Wilton have three people working in their Assessor's Offices, but we only have two, and we are the same size. Supervisor Fish stated that they have 400 parcels more than we do, and Assessor Cronin stated that with the three new subdivisions in the works, we are within about 100 parcels.

The other thing that came up is the GAR pros website. It was stated that Saratoga County had used Image Mate in the past, and when that company was bought out, Saratoga County decided not to go with them. Moreau also uses GAR Pros. The County is not getting the full package. What would make our website different and better would be that it can be customized, and we can include more information. Saratoga County updates owners

twice a year. GAR would allow our office to update the ownership as often as the Assessor's Office wants. The Assessor's Office is looking to get all the tax bills linked to it. (Town and County, the Village of South Glens Falls, and South Glens Falls Central School District.) The Supervisor's Secretary suggested being able to view prior assessments. The Assessor also stated that she would be able to update the values prior to Saratoga County updating them, thus giving the residents more time to come talk to the Assessor's Office prior to Grievance Day. Councilmember Stewart stated that it is a way for our office to be more transparent.

The Assessor also requested higher salaries for both her and her Clerk since they are doing the work of three people with only the two of them.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

PAC Cruz mentioned the overarching spreadsheet that is the front of the Water Sewer section. He was asked about the charges that went to the City of Glens Falls versus how much is going to Saratoga County. PAC Cruz did not change any of the numbers inside of the account because it is the first year that we will be splitting sewer into three different funds, and he did not know what it is going to look like at the end of the year. Councilmember Stewart asked if it affects the amount of how we are going to allocate the money to pay things. PAC stated that we are just budgeting a number. We are going to look at invoices, and the Water Clerk will look to see where they should go, and we will pay them based on that. PAC Cruz also stated that there is an overarching page showing the costs of certain things. The yellow pages will break them down.

The utility box truck is something Water Operator Mechanick thinks that we need fully for the purpose of sewer since they do not have a dedicated vehicle for sewer emergencies. He said it would make their reaction time faster, instead of having the resources split between multiple vehicles. Councilmember Noonan asked if Glens Falls and Queensbury had similar vehicles. Mr. Mechanick stated that they do. Water Operator Mechanick stated that they currently have one that is a 2013 that is pretty rusted out. He is hoping to have the old truck auctioned off, to recoup some of the money that we would have to spend. Councilmember Stewart asked if a trailer would work for the tools, but Operator Mechanick stated that he is trying to streamline the process. Supervisor Fish stated that they would also want to be able to attach a crane to the truck for when they must lift pumps, and that would be cumbersome with a trailer on the back. There was discussion about the size of the truck versus the size of the crane. Councilmember Stewart asked if we could use the money, we get from selling the other truck to buy our own crane, so we would not have to hire an outside company to come in when we need it.

The next item discussed was Storz fittings for the fire hydrants, at the request of the Fire Company. It is a safety issue. Councilmember Stewart asked how many fittings could be switched out in a year. He then asked how much it would cost to switch out all the hydrants so that the Fire Company does not need to think about what hydrants to hook up to. He asked if we could take it out of Sales Tax. Supervisor Fish asked PAC Cruz if we could take it out of the fund balance.

Water Operator Mechanick stated that trying to clean up the water tower on Nolan Road has been difficult. He is looking to have it power washed, instead of painting it. Supervisor Fish stated that when he was Water Superintendent, they had the towers power washed, and it looked like it was brand new. They could save money on painting the water tower, and use the money to buy new hydrants, instead of buying the fittings.

There was discussion about Master Meter Radio Read Meter Heads. There are close to 100 that Master Meter is going to exchange them so that we can upgrade them. They are going to honor the price that we had for the ones at the shop. We are going to trade them in and get Allegro meters. They have not told us the new price yet, but we have the legacy price because of the issues with the old meters.

There was discussion about pumps at Farnan Road for the Industrial Park. We always had three submersible pumps, two that were being used, and a spare thirty five horsepower pump for when one broke. Then we would take the broken one down to Troy to be fixed. That way we always had two pumps going and did not need to get a pump truck for the sewage if something happened. It is important when needed for the price. Kristian stated that

they are \$47,000.00. If we do not get it, it will cost us more to pump the sewage out until we can get a new one. Jeffrey asked which Sewer District the pump would benefit. Councilmember Stewart asked how we were looking Contractually for 2025. PAC Cruz stated that he can go back and look.

Water Operator Mechanick then brought up salaries. He requested a larger pay raise due to overseeing both the Water and Sewer systems. He has an expanded workload and is responsible for 24/7 emergencies. Councilmember Stewart asked if he would still be expecting overtime for 24/7 emergencies. Water Operator Mechanick stated that he would waive overtime if his salary was what he requested. Supervisor Fish stated that if he worked over 40 hours, he should be paid overtime. Water Operator Mechanick stated that he averages about 10 - 12 hours of overtime per week. Councilmember Stewart stated that with the pay raise he would be getting, plus overtime, he would be earning more than he requested. Kristian asked for part-time help during the busy months with mowing and week whacking the hydrants, for twenty hours a week.

PAC Cruz did ask the Board for ventilation for the Computer Server room. Supervisor Fish requested a \$13,200.00 raise for Jeffrey Cruz for next year because he had been offered another position elsewhere for \$90,000.00 and turned it down to stay with the Town. We would need to move money around to make that work, which Jeffrey will try to make that work. There was then discussion about other line items that had not been discussed, such as Attorney's Fees. It was suggested that we should put it out to RFB, the same with our IT Managed Services. Councilmember Stewart stated that we do not normally spend the budgeted amount in that account and asked if we could take some of the money out of there that we need for PAC Cruz's pay rate.

There was additional discussion about what some of the line items that had not been discussed were for.

The workshop adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Lewis
Dianne Lewis
Deputy Town Clerk