The Town Board of the Town of Moreau held a 2026 Budget Workshop at 7:00 p.m. on October 20, 2026 at the Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, Saratoga County, New York.

PRESENT:	John Donohue	Councilmember
	Laura Garrant	Councilmember
	Patrick Killian	Councilmember
	Mark Stewart	Councilmember
	Jesse A. Fish, Jr.	Supervisor
ALSO PRESENT:	Krystal Smith	Bookkeeper
	Erin Trombley	Town Clerk
	Elizabeth Bennett	Confidential Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Richie Wiltshire, South Glens Falls Fire Co.: John Cox, President; Bruce Lant

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RESOLUTION 359-2026 A motion was made by Councilmember Garrant, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to waive peddler's license fees for the Trunk or Treat event planned for October 25, 2026.

Asked if all were in favor, the responses were as follows:

Councilmember Donohue	Aye
Councilmember Garrant	Aye
Councilmember Killian	Aye
Councilmember Stewart	Aye
Supervisor Fish	Aye

The motion carried 5:0.

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SOUTH GLENS FALLS FIRE COMPANY

Bookkeeper Smith she had distributed revised budget packets the week before. She directed them to SF340 in the back of the budget binder under Miscellaneous. She thanked Messrs. Cox and Lant for attending the workshop that evening, and said a 4% increase had been budgeted across the board, for a total of $747,760. She invited the Fire Company representatives to speak on the apparatus requests they had made.

Mr. Cox said they had reduced expenses as much as possible, and to serve the public they needed equipment like hoses, nozzles, and equipment for extrication. He said figures for the dive team may look high, but they had added three new divers. He said their organization offered one of only two dive teams in Saratoga County, the other being in Corinth. He said they handle emergencies in all of Warren, Washington, and Northern Saratoga County as well as the Western part of Vermont. He said the more divers they had, the better for the public because it is hard to maintain coverage during the day when people are working. He added the divers are not recreational divers, but rescue divers, requiring better equipment.

Mr. Cox said in the past their Boards had no tplanned for apparatus replacement, which he said was a problem. He said you can't always go to the bank and get a loan. To remedy this, he said he listed each piece of apparatus and budgeted in such a way that over 10 years, each item can be replaced as it ages. He said a 22-year-old truck (#582) was next, using Village of South Glens Falls and Fire Company funds that would be available in December. He described the truck's condition as not always shifting into drive, or arriving on the scene of a fire and it not pumping water. He said they got a terrific deal on a truck--$799,900 for a $1.2 million truck. To reduce cost, he said it even had crank windows.

Next on the list, trucks 601 & 602, a tanker and engine rescue, which he said were both purchased at the same time, which he called a "stupid move" because they age out at the same time. He estimated the cost to replace

them at about $3 million. He said they had to be replaced, pulled from "front line" service after 20 years by NY State law. He said with the dive truck, they removed the pump, and stripped it so it was no longer a front-line apparatus, and use it as dive truck transport. He said they keep air bottles and a compressor on it. He said he was not looking for funds to be turned over, but for funds to be allocated for apparatus, as it had been in the past few years. He expressed flexibility with how the Town could allocate funds, saying he understood the different municipalities are in different financial situations, and he said they are taxpayers, and they didn't want to rob themselves.

Asked how many years were left on trucks #601 & #602, Mr. Cox said they would be due for replacement in 2038 and 2039. He said they might be able to get them in 2040. He said the company's 2004 ladder truck was being replaced with a tower in 2030, and there is about a 4-year lead time on new trucks. He said truck #586 was a 2009 engine rescue from Station 1 that needed to be looked at. In relation to a Mercedes Sprinter on the list, he said he would prefer a pick-up truck. He said truck #603 was a 2017 Chevy pickup truck, equipped to tow boats, a fire police trailer, and that its main function was for the FAST Team, which does not fight fires, but rescues firefighters when things go badly at the scene of a fire.

Mr. Cox said truck #582 was the 2006 being planned for replacement at that time. He said truck #604 was a brush truck, which he said had been stripped, rewired, and body work had been done recently. He said brush trucks go into the woods and sustain damage, so they did not want a new truck for that type of work. He said this was a first-time plan they had made, understanding how a budget is supposed to work. He said the price of fuel was ridiculous, and as a result they cut down on driver training and using trucks for other non-emergencies to save fuel. He added their insurance was rising also.

In a recent fire in Schuylerville, Mr. Cox they had lost three trucks – the pump on truck #582 wouldn't work, truck #602's hydraulic lines blew, and the transmission failed in truck #601, he said. He said the latter was a 2019 truck with 8,000 miles and it was not covered by insurance. He said it cost the company $21,000 for the transmission. He said the year prior they had a little extra money at the end of the year which they applied to the principal on truck #602, which he said would be paid off in 2027. He said the money they planned to pay on truck #602 in the future would be applied to the new tower truck, which would be $2.5 million. Despite that, he said they would need help from the municipalities.

Councilmember Killian asked about maintenance protocols. Mr. Cox said routine maintenance was performed on the trucks, but the maintenance company could not explain the blown hydraulic lines. He described the series of maneuvers a truck goes through on the scene of a fire. He said the transmission was engaged continuously. A semi-annual inspection completed on the trucks is a broad look, he said, and the annual inspection was extremely thorough. He said they need replacement hoses all the time due to damage sustained on scene. He said they had just completed a full set of hoses. Nozzles need to be replaced every 10-15 years, he said, but they are not been fully updated. He explained that new nozzles use less water, which is important, especially in South Glens Falls Village, where he described very poor supply. He said if they connect to more than one hydrant, the system collapses. He said that when they were fighting a fire at McDonald's, they drained all the water supply and had to draw water out of the river. He said one truck they were acquiring would have a 1,000 gallon capacity, which he said would be a good start to fighting a fire, but in the Village, he said they have to call for mutual aid every time because of the water supply.

Councilmember Killian asked about a pump at Betar Park. Mr. Cox said there was a hydrant there that doesn't work that goes to the river, which has no strainer on it. He said they had actually sucked fish into their trucks in the past, which caused problems. He said at the Nolan Road boat launch there is a dry hydrant and another one toward the sand bar beach. He said there was a hydrant in front of Tanglewood Elementary school that does not work, and a hydrant behind the school that does work. When companies respond for mutual aid, they don't know which hydrants don't work and they try to use them, he said, and that they had asked for color coding to indicate rates of flow on individual hydrants, but the company doesn't own them and he said his requests had fallen on deaf ears. He said the Town of Moreau had consistent water pressure except in Fenimore, and mentioned the investment the Town had made in updating hydrant connections. He said in the Village, they had

a type of connector only South Glens Falls Fire Co. could connect to, and during mutual aid calls, his company would have to provide adapters. He said this was a waste of time in a time when houses burn down in 6-7 minutes. He described something of an internal battle among the company's Board members to determine what was a need and what was a want, prioritizing the needs for this budget.

Councilmember Stewart asked if the tentative budget of ~$747,000 contained no money for the fire truck. He said the year prior they had committed $200,000 for the truck. He said they had the benefit of being able to use outside sales tax revenue, which he estimated to be $346,000 above 2025 figures, just through September 2026. He asked Ms. Smith if the tentative budget was more conservative to eliminate the deficit budget of the prior years, and whether they could agree that all excess 2027 sales tax revenues go to the Fire Company truck. He said there were multiple billion-dollar companies being built in Saratoga County which would strengthen sales tax revenue. He pointed out there was a $105,320 gap between the tentative budget and the fire company's request and added that he found about $70,000 that they could remove from the deficit as they had gone through the budget so far. Ms. Smith said some line items had increased and others decreased.

A question was asked about the $827,000 truck replacement, and whether that was already addressed. Ms. Smith said on the third page of the revised tentative budget there was a combination shown of 80% Town and 20% Village to make up the funds that had already been agreed to. Mr. Cox said the 80/20 split was based on historic numbers of calls, with 80% of the company's service to the Town, and 20% to the Village. He said $827,000 is the amount of money needed for new trucks over 10 years, or ~$80,000 per year. The split would be $661,600 for the Town, and $165,400 for the Village for a future truck. He said the truck coming in December was already paid. He said the Town had previously committed $150,000 out of the apparatus fund, and $200,000 had been committed in the 2026 budget, and he said the new truck will have no payments. Mr. Cox said they were working out a deal to replace truck #588, the 1993 dive truck, explaining that the Town of Wilton buys used equipment to try it out, and if they like it, they go buy a new one. He said they had a well-maintained 2010-2011 heavy rescue vehicle they would sell in 2027 that would suit the South Glens Falls Fire Co.'s needs for a dive truck, which he said was not considered front line apparatus.

Councilmember Stewart asked again about deficits. Ms. Smith said that despite supplementing the figures with $162,000 of fund balance, sales tax would still need to be used. She said using fund balance is a last resort, and encouraged grants and sales tax to be used to remain in balance. Reviewing a revised budget sheet, Councilmember Stewart asked if $427,000 in fund balance had been eliminated using sales tax. Ms. Smith confirmed that it had. Supervisor Fish suggested adding $100,000 to the truck fund. Councilmember Stewart said that would still leave the company short of funds and that he would not support a large cut. Mr. Cox said he had offered to return insurance funds the company had received for the failed cascade system, which the Town had assisted with financially. The Councilmember asked if the company could operate at $747,600. Mr. Cox said it would put them in a bind because of rising costs. The Supervisor asked if fund balance could be used for the fire company. Ms. Smith said it could. The Supervisor asked if they could leave the figures as they were and use fund balance as needed later to stay under the tax cap. Councilmember Stewart expressed confusion, to which Ms. Smith said the Town was at a 3.3% fiscal stress due to past budgeting and to reduce it there were two options: 1) break the tax cap and raise taxes, or 2) cut the budget. There was discussion about expanded staff and services, and that it was up to the Board to determine how much general fund balance can be transferred, similar to the Moreau Emergency Squad budget.

Mr. Cox said the company was okay at that time, but that in 2030 the tower truck would be coming and the company would take a financial hit. He said if he had to work with $747,760, he would, mentioning cutting back on training where possible. He said he would fight with his Board to make further reductions. Councilmember Donohue said he had a problem with cuts to the service. Ms. Smith suggested keeping the budget at $747,760 and after making calculations, she would make an assigned fund balance transfer to make up the difference, but did not include funds for a truck. The Supervisor said $100,000 should be contributed for the truck, for a total of $205,320 of funds to be identified. Councilmembers Donohue and Garrant agreed that funds should be assigned similar to Moreau Emergency Squad's (MES) arrangement. As with MES it was suggested that the funds remain in the Town's account to accumulate interest. Since fund balance can't be applied to operational costs, a list of

equipment provided by the fire company was referenced. In the end the determination was to allocate $753,080 for the contract, $100,000 for new equipment and $100,000 for the fire truck. Bruce Lant remarked that in his 60 years with the fire service, the past few years was the first time the Board understood the issues and worked together with them to meet their needs.

RECREATION

Account A7140, General Fund—Ms. Smith made some corrections to the adopted 2026 figures and said she proposed adding an additional $100,000 be added to the .4 account in the preliminary figures, bringing it to $102,500. On the .1 account she said the actual figure should be $292,800 out of a budget of $352,800. With seasonal payroll changes, it was estimated payroll would slightly exceed the budget. On the .02 line for 2026, $116,000 was budgeted with a year-to-date figure of about $24,000. It was recommended to use some of the balance to offset the shortage on the .1 line. On the .4 line, which includes waste management and utilities, year-to-date 99% of the had been used. Ms. Smith proposed $100,000 for contractual because of climbing costs. She said the tentative budget was unchanged. Councilmember Stewart clarified that the 2026 figures did not include maintenance positions.

Recreation Director Brogan said an upcoming expense on the .2 line was a plow, which he estimated to cost $8,000. This would be separate from a facilities plow. Ms. Smith recommended using one-time assigned fund balance to offset the expense. Councilmember Stewart mentioned that developers pay into the HD fund when they start development and that there were projects expected to get underway in the near future. He estimated this could bring in in excess of $100,000. Supervisor Fish added that the sale of property in the Industrial Park and buildings that will be erected on them would also bring revenue. Ms. Smith said they would use HD funds before fund balance and that she would look into eligibility. Councilmember Stewart expressed agreement in using HD funds first and said that park improvements were what the HD fund is for.

There was discussion about replacing bleachers that were out of safety compliance. There was also discussion about a striping machine to line fields, and whether or not it could be an item the Town and school district share. Mr. Brogan said it takes 2-3 days to line soccer and football fields, and the new machine uses less paint and does the job in under two hours. The cost of the item would be $18,000 the first year and $16,000 on a lease each year after that, or $65,000 to buy it. The Board members discussed waiting to see what HT funds came in.

Account A7310, Youth programs—Requested were walkie talkies and a rake, and it was suggested there may be enough money in the 2026 budget to make those purchases in the current year. Councilmember Donohue said the equipment was needed, especially as the park was expanding. Mr. Brogan said he was hoping to buy replacement softball backstop nets to replace those with holes in them. Councilmember Stewart suggested buying things Recreation needed each month, saving the largest expense for December. Regarding lifeguards, based on the square footage of the beach it was discussed that senior lifeguards were not needed, and that raises would be 4%.

Account A7990, Community Garden—The current spending figures were not correct because a soil pH tester had recently been approved. $850 was the request for this for soil, lime, and other supplies. It was mentioned that the master gardener did a great job and secured grants as well to help offset costs.

Account A8810, Cemeteries—the adopted 2026 budget was $3,640 with year-to-date spending at $0. Employee Bill Noonan had asked for an increase, bringing him to $20 per hour. Mr. Brogan said cemetery maintenance would stay in Recreation until Mr. Noonan retired and then it would move to Facilities. Ms. Smith said $3,640 at $20 per hour equals 182 hours dedicated the cemeteries, and asked if that figure was realistic. Mr. Brogan said it would depend on the weather, and that almost all his 2026 hours were in cemeteries. Mr. Brogan provided a quote of $2,889 for removal of three trees at cemeteries. Councilmember Donohue said they should take care of them all, and the price from Richard Sears is under a contract rate and they would pay by the inch of tree diameter.

There was discussion about field fertilization and porta potties and park improvement materials. Councilmember Stewart said $20,000 could be cut on improvements, and a committee should be formed to make a plan for the long-term with additional HD funds, which would include a building with offices to be built at the park.

ASSESSOR

Sole Assessor Cronin thanked the Board for their support of her office and maintaining 100% valuation in the Town since 2020. She said they had climbed a mountain and that Moreau is a model in Saratoga County and New York State. She said she had seen the benefits of this in sales tax revenue and mortgage tax. She said she was very proud. She said she was in the thick of a 2027 revaluation, and having done much of the data gathering in-house she estimated this saved the Town around $500,000, which is what the Town paid GAR Associates for this type of service in 2010. She said they were halfway through the process with valuation in March 2027, assessment notices mailed in April, informal hearings, and then the tax roll is finalized. By revaluing and maintaining 100% value, she said the Town would get a refund from New York State of up to $5 per parcel. In the second half of 2027 she said there would be maintenance and analysis of sales to determine what actions need to be taken to maintain 100%.

Supervisor Fish asked what GAR was paid in 2026 per month. Annually it increased from $47,500 to $67,800, and Ms. Cronin said it is very expensive to hire a contractor. She said doing the data gathering in-house was labor-intensive, that she is doing ¾ of the total valuation herself, and GAR was handling commercial and modeling. She said the monthly cost was reduced back to $47,500, a reduction of $20,000 and she estimated a refund of $14,000 from the State with a possible total up to $31,000. She explained all the Towns who do revaluation and apply divide the total NYS funds.

Councilmember Stewart said the department tentative budget included everything that was requested. He said her Senior Clerk, Matt Espey, would receive a 4% increase as would all the other Clerks, bringing his salary to $50,133. Ms. Cronin said it was difficult to compare the Clerk's roles from office to office because their duties vary widely. As an example, she said gathered, organized an analyzed mobile home data across to assign values to mobile homes in Town. By adjusting their value, she said, $10,000,000 were added to the tax roll. Additionally, he analyzes and interprets building permits, sketches to make the information compliant in their system, and collects data in the field, she said, and that he assists senior residents with income information to determine if they qualify for an exemption. She described him as motivated and driven, having taken courses over the past 2 years and said he had recently earned a perfect score on testing. She said she was proud of him, and that there was a County test planned for November 11, which was canceled because the test was ordered too late, but she thought he should be paid according to the level of duties he performs.

Councilmember Stewart said all the department heads advocate for their staff because they are passionate about it, citing Judge McCabe's advocacy for his Clerks who process a heavy caseload, work with confidential information, and receive specialized training, Town Clerk Trombley's staff processing death certificates and receiving Town & County taxes as well as school taxes partly from residents of Wilton and Northumberland. The Building, Planning & Development Clerk also covers zoning, he said, and all go above and beyond. To be fair, he said they had kept them all the same with a 4% increase. Supervisor Fish said every Clerk was worth their weight in gold.

Councilmember Stewart asked what it would cost the Town to increase the Clerk rate to 5%? The Supervisor said the year prior Principal Account Clerk Cruz had set it at 4%, uncomfortable with doing more, and that this year the budget was even tighter, citing an increase of 16% for insurance. Ms. Smith said adding a percentage to increases would mean taking away another role. Councilmember Stewart asked for a figure to increase the Clerks to 5%. Councilmember Donohue said $50,000 was not a lot of money at that time. The Supervisor also said he wanted to see the numbers and suggested keeping insurance contributions the same instead increasing 16%. An additional 1% would be an increase of an additional $481 per Clerk. There was also discussion of giving flat

dollar mount raises in the future rather than a percentage, and the potential of a longevity increase in addition to a cost-of-living rate. Ms. Cronin said it would encourage people to stay knowing there would be an increase after a certain amount of time. She said a number of years prior the amount of vacation time given was a week longer than it is currently, and there is one fewer paid holiday, which she added were interesting choices because they had no impact on the budget, but did impact morale. To the differences in compensation between Department heads and Clerks, Ms. Cronin mentioned that Department heads have higher responsibilities.

There was mention of other municipalities cutting budgets and laying off employees, where the Town of Moreau was looking to expand staff. Councilmember Stewart said he was not afraid to raise taxes because the residents want services. Councilmember Killian said it was best to avoid staff leaving and the crippling effects of staff turnover. Discussion turned to whether the Board wanted to break the tax cap. Ms. Smith said if they wanted to add personnel items, they would have to break the cap, in which case she would recommend at the budget as a whole to see how to better support the whole community. There was an exchange about fund balance use, and if there was an acceptable level of use. Ms. Smith said she would discuss it with the Comptroller's staff. She recommended against running a deficit budget, against breaking the tax cap, trying to get fund balance use to $0, and no financial stress designation. Once the deficit is addressed, she suggested making other changes. Assessor Cronin asked if she could donate back $3,500 in her 2026 budget for Clerk raises. She said the money was budgeted for training and was not used because they won free training. Ms. Smith said she could not because it could only benefit the A fund.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Smith said the insurance contribution rate was 23% for the employee and 77% Town contribution. She estimated the employee portion for an individual plan at under $100 per paycheck. She said they could look at these figures again before the Tuesday Board meeting. Ms. Smith said she had worked with the Comptroller's office on water and sewer figures and handed out an updated sheet. She said she would take the changes from the workshop and make the updates the following day so the Board would have them. She said making changes to the water & sewer had taken about 5 hours to do. Changes included changing GV to 8%, and GI & GH to 1%. MS. Smith said she had spoken to Water & Sewer Operator Mechanick who said the Clerk's role in water is bigger than sewer, and between GI & GV, he was spending more time on GV. The EDU rate was unchanged, Ms. Smith said, despite not having an EFT payment in 2027. Asked if it was okay to bill for it without having the loan payment, Ms. Smith said the Comptroller's office is okay with it because they do have a payment to Greene County Bank. She recommended building up fund balance and looking at the rate again the following year with new businesses coming in. Fund balance policy states the Town should have 3 months' worth of reserve operating expenses, and the GV does not have that much built up. Ms. Smith said the Comptroller's staff was still working on the sewer balances.

Ms. Smith asked for clarification on the figures the Board wanted her to work with for the Fire Company. $75,380 would be the quarterly payment plus $100,000 for the truck, and $100,000 for new equipment, which would be in their contract, and the Fire Company would provide invoices for purchases.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Trombley
Erin Trombley
Town Clerk