

A workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on April 25, 2012 in the Town of Moreau Office building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the Transfer Station hours and days of operation and the Recreation Commission abolition.

Supervisor Jenkins called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll.

Town Board Members Present

Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also Present: Barbara Porter, Deputy Town Clerk; Karla Buettner, Attorney for the Town; Nancy Ryan, Transfer Station Clerk; Scott Winans, Transfer Station Clerk; Garth Baker, Recreation Commission Member; John Farrell, Recreation Commission Member; Steve Gram, Recreation Director (arrived at 7:20 p.m.) Town Residents: Reed Antis.

Supervisor Jenkins handed out paperwork showing the number of residents who had used the Transfer Station on random days.

Nancy Ryan stated that it is very busy on Saturdays.

The following schedule was suggested:

Monday—4 to 4 1/2 hours
Tuesday—4 to 4 1/2 hours
Wednesday—Closed
Thursday – 4 pm to 8 pm
Friday—8 hours
Saturday—8 hours

This would eliminate 12 hours of payroll. We may have to hire another part time person.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that we will have a change in personnel. We should have all part timers on different cycles so that we wouldn't have to offer benefits.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that we would need one and possibly two part time people.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the gap is that we are trying to close.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that it will take at least two months to see if the volume goes down. This may cause an impact on our hauling contract for next year. We may not get as good a deal as in the past. Sales are going down 8% to 10% per year.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that the afternoons are definitely slower. If we can keep track, it will tell us if we are covering payroll in the afternoons.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that if we can retain 75%-80% of volume, we will be fine financially. We will have to let the public know about the new hours.

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Councilman Kusnierz asked if we had a framework as to hours of operation.

Supervisor Jenkins stated: Monday and Tuesday—4 to 4 1/2 hours, Wednesday—closed, Thursday—later hours, Friday and Saturday—8 hours. These hours seem to make sense.

Councilman Vittengl asked if there were going to be two people working at one time. It was stated that there would be two.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the booth could possibly be moved down by the compactor.

Councilman Prendergast stated that at this time of year, we will see an increase in yard waste.

Nancy Ryan stated that more people come in with yard waste in the afternoon after having worked in their yards in the morning.

Councilman Vittengl stated that we are looking at saving \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that we do not have enough fund balance to replace any equipment.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the amount of the fund balance was.

Supervisor Jenkins said that it was approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Councilman Vittengl asked why with the increase in population there has been a decrease in waste volume.

It was stated that many more residents are opting for trash haulers.

Nancy Ryan stated that some of the residents are coming back to the Transfer Station because the price has increased from the haulers.

Nancy asked what they were going to do regarding tires. The Town picked up 19 off one road.

Councilman Vittengl stated that there is a company that will buy tires.

The cost for tires without a rim is \$2.00 and with a rim \$3.00-\$4.00.

The following hours were decided upon:

Monday—7:30 am--12:00 noon
Tuesday—7:30 am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday—Closed
Thursday—3 pm-7 pm—Summer Hours
Friday—7:30 am – 3:45 pm
Saturday—7:30 am—3:45 pm

The County recycling will be open from 7:30 am – 3:45 pm

These new hours will become effective May 29, 2012. An Ad will be put in the paper reflecting these new hours.

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Councilman LeClair stated that we should have new employees on the books by the week of May 14th. Interviews could be held on May 7th, 8th and 9th, 2012.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that we need to get the ad in the paper as soon as possible so that we can review the applications.

The second part of the workshop was to talk about the the Recreation Commission.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he has had nothing but issues with the Recreation Commission. They have a lot of power and it is an extra level of government that is not accomplishing what we really need to do. Councilman Vittengl and Councilman Kusnierz are assigned to the Recreation Commission. They have been working together to get things done. This Commission was developed when there was not a full time Recreation Director. We have had situations where the Recreation Director has been taking orders from several different directions. Supervisor Jenkins does not believe that the Recreation Commission is needed any more. We have a simple change which would be Local Law #1 of the year. If we decide we would move ahead on May 8, 2012 to schedule a public hearing to discuss this issue.

Councilman Prendergast stated that he has been here a long time and he did not dispute that there had been clashes. Several times the message had to be sent that the Town Board had the final say. Over the years some members did not accept it because they didn't like it or they just didn't think that it should be done that way. Some members would come to the Board and say that they wanted something done and the Board didn't do it. This is not the way it works. Some members over the years just didn't get it, not all, but some. Councilman Prendergast does like the idea of a voice from somewhere. The law needs to be clarified. Somehow we need to set up some sort of voice. There will be no power, but they will still have a voice.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he would like to change the Commission so that they do not have the power they have now, but there would still be a voice giving suggestions. We could set up a committee similar to the Conservation Committee. His personal feelings are that the Commission has outlived what it was set up for.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that the Conservation Committee was told when it was established that a spokesperson would be selected and they would take the ideas to the Town Board. Councilwoman LeClair said that she tells the Conservation Committee that she cannot make decisions. Any ideas have to be presented to the full Board.

Garth Baker, Recreation Commission Member stated that he completely agrees that the Recreation Commission no longer works the way it was intended. We have a full time Recreation Director now. It has outlived its time. He agreed with Councilman Prendergast regarding having a voice. He likes the format of the Recreation Commission including public input, two Board Members and the Recreation Director. We could then have an advisory committee including input from organizations such as Little League, Pop Warner, Lacross, etc. Their voice would then be heard by the Town Board.

Councilwoman LeClair stated she feels the public's voice is being heard at the Town Board meetings. If there are a couple of people attending meetings, they have a lot of power. She feels that if anyone has something to say, the Board will listen and give their thoughts.

Having Board Members on the Committee is an advantage as they can help pave the way when they give their presentation to the full Board.

Supervisor Jenkins talked about the workshop that Councilman Vittengl and Councilman Kusnierz had regarding the projects that needed to be completed. There was quite a bit accomplished as there was a common purpose.

Garth stated that the Board has the final say.

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Councilman Prendergast stated that the only reason that the Board has to have the final say is they are held accountable.

John Farrell stated that he did not think that the Recreation Commission has outlived its usefulness. John stated that when he got on the Commission the dog park was an issue. The Recreation Commission analyzed and tried to figure out where a dog park could be located so that the children of the Park would be safe. He thought that something didn't feel right. They did a lot of work and served as a buffer and if this is eliminated the Town Board will have to handle everything and they have a lot of other items to deal with. He has gotten discouraged.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he just wanted to get rid of the law. He still wants input from a committee to help the Recreation Department grow.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that ideas would be sent to the Recreation Commission and they would send it back to the Town Board and the Board didn't like it and it was sent back to the Commission. Nothing was being accomplished. The public was not getting any answers regarding the dog park and concession stand. We are looking into using recreation funds to do a comprehensive plan for the park. What is the future for our park? We need to find a direction. We have recently acquired 59 acres and we do not know what we want to do with this. It has to stay park land. It can never be sold.

Councilman Vittengl stated we have to find out what the needs are and then handle these needs. The needs you find out through committee. When he was down at the Park the other day there was a conflict with fields. Eventually we are going to need a couple of more fields. This was brought up by just being down at the Park. We need a quicker way of getting things done without all of the hoopla. He stated that he has been on both sides and when it takes three or four years to get anything accomplished, it is very frustrating.

Garth stated that we still want the public voice. We do not need the law to make policy. If we can keep the input and get rid of the law, we can move forward.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that it gives the members the ability to do more. They will not have to deal with the managerial part. She feels that this would be more fun to do.

Reed Antis suggested that we have an advisory committee with one member from each organization. He feels that there is no strong leadership.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that we have a recreation director who can make day to day decisions.

Councilman Prendergast stated that there are some decisions that he cannot make.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the recreation director's hands were tied when he had to go to the Recreation Commission, then the Town Board and then back to the Commission. There are only three full time employees. He feels that the director's leadership has improved over the years. He deals with 5 or 6 volunteers who have their own special interests and this is not an easy job. Compared to 2008, the Park is much cleaner, we have a lot more activities, and we have winter programs.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that he does not agree with Supervisor Jenkins when he says that the Recreation Commission is a layer of government. Unlike the Planning and Zoning Members who are paid to attend a meeting to serve a governmental role, this is a volunteer member organization appointed by the Town Board Members to do a specific role. We can make changes that would benefit our role as Town Board members and that would help the Park immensely to move forward. We are going to have huge opportunities to have the best Park in the State. When we have a mechanism where we have volunteers from the community serve in a role, where everyone has a common interest, we can have a great Park. He would like the Commission to continue. He would like one of the duties of the Commission to be to present a 5 year plan and annually update that plan and present it to the Town Board for comment and review.

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When this plan is presented, the Board will review it. He thinks that the Commission code can be restructured. We can enumerate specifically what we are looking for from the Commission.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he misspoke when he called the Recreation Commission a layer of government. He stated he didn't care what we called the Commission. He wanted it changed so that the Commission does not have authority over employees. Supervisor Jenkins stated that he did not know why it couldn't be called a committee and we can ask for volunteers to apply.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that he would like to see the term for the Commission changed from 7 years to possibly 2 years.

Attorney Buettner stated that according to the law the Commission had to be a 7 year term.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that we would put something on the agenda for May 8, 2012. He also stated that we have to take a look at our fee schedules for field usage.

Steve Gram stated that either all have to pay or none have to pay.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what we were going to do now. He will not vote for abolishing the Commission until something else is set up. We can schedule a public hearing at the next Board Meeting.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that she wanted a committee to cover all of the recreation areas in the Town; the beach, riverfront, etc. The Conservation Committee meets approximately 4-5 times a year. The Recreation Committee would probably have to meet more often.

Reed asked that once a year every organization send one representative to the Committee Meeting so that every voice is heard.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that we may have someone who wants to be involved but is not involved in any organization.

A motion was made by Councilwoman LeClair and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to adjourn the workshop at 8:30 p.m.

Roll call resulted as follows:

Councilman Kusnierz	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Yes
Councilman Vittengl	Yes
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Porter
Deputy Town Clerk

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