

A joint meeting of the Town Board and Recreation Commission was held on August 26, 2010 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York.

Supervisor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll, which resulted in the following Town Board Members being present or absent:

Town Board Members Present

Bob Prendergast Councilman
 Gina LeClair Councilwoman
 Preston Jenkins Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

Tom Cumm Councilman
 Todd Kusnierz Councilman

Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Steve Gram, Recreation Director; Recreation Commission Members: Bob Vittengl, John Farrell and Garth Baker; and members of South Glens Falls Youth Baseball and the general public

Supervisor Jenkins advised everyone present that this was a workshop setting between the Town Board and the Recreation Commission to discuss recreation fees and if there was time at the end the Board could open it up to public discussion.

Bob Vittengl, Chairman of the Town of Moreau Recreation Commission, handed out a proposed fee schedule as follows:

Softball/Baseball	
Local Tournaments	
\$500.00 up to 16 games additional games \$20.00 per game	Concession Stand \$250.00
Non Local Tournaments	
\$750.00 up to 16 games additional games \$30.00 per game	Concession Stand \$450.00
Soccer	
Local Soccer \$50.00 per game	
Non Local Soccer \$75.00	
Softball/Little League 60' Diamond	
Local \$35.00 per game	Concession Stand \$250.00
Non Local \$50.00 per game	Concession Stand \$450.00
Legion Field 90' Diamond	
Local \$50.00	Concession Stand \$100.00
Non Local \$75.00	Concession Stand \$150.00
Fields for People Using Pavilions	
Local/Non-Local \$35.00	

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Supervisor Jenkins stated that the definition of out-of-town was if we have a Town team that brings in six, eight or fifteen other teams.

He was told this wasn't correct. What was considered out-of-town was if a team was comprised of about 80% of youths from outside the Town. An example given was Pop Warner. Not all of the youths on the South Glens Falls Falls Pop Warner Team are Town of Moreau residents. If their roster is made up of 80% youths from outside the town then they are an out-of-town team.

Bob Vittengl recalled that they settled on 75% rather than 80%. As far as the tournaments go, they didn't really discuss the tournament schedule and what constituted a local and an away tournament.

Councilman Prendergast asked if they ran into any problem with the percentage structure.

Steve Gram replied only once.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Board looks at this from a cost analysis standpoint. In the fall we need full-time staff on weekends plus overtime, which costs more for payroll than the fees taken in. We want to cover our costs. There is no reason why a taxpayer should bear the cost for out-of-town teams to use our park.

Councilman Prendergast asked if they are finding that they are scheduling more games.

Steve Gram stated they average 47 to 49 games. However, one team could play 16 games and another could play 47 games and they pay the same price. That is the reason for the proposed fee for up to 16 games and then a charge per game over the 16 games.

Bob Vittengl stated that when they put together the proposed fee schedule they took into consideration the cost of lime, the cost to drag the fields and maintenance.

Councilman Prendergast asked why there wasn't a fee for concession stand use before and the answer was that it just wasn't thought of.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that when the concession stand first opened softball was going to have total use of it and be responsible for maintenance and that didn't work out and we never changed anything and didn't charge a fee. He thought we were going to get a deposit though in case whoever used it didn't clean it and left it a mess.

Garth Baker stated that another reason for the concession stand fee is to help cover the cost of water and electric to the concession stand, trash removal and we recently had to have the septic pumped out.

Steve Gram stated that the electric this past month was \$323.00 just for the little league building and it was more for the quad building.

Councilwoman LeClair stated we should get a deposit for use of the concession stand in case we have to get somebody to clean it.

Bob Vittengl stated that the reason the concession stand fee is less for the American Legion field concession stand is because there is less in it.

Councilman Prendergast asked if they knew what other Towns charge for use of their concession stands and the answer was they didn't know. He asked them to find out.

Councilwoman LeClair stated it was the goal to send out a letter in January to anybody using the fields or concession stands to let them know about the new fee schedule.

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Steve Gram advised that they have to send letters before January.

Councilwoman LeClair also suggested that insurance certificates be turned in when they pay to use the fields. Steve Gram is chasing down the tournaments for their certificates of insurance.

Bob Vittengl noted that this proposed fee schedule isn't for little league. This schedule is for the tournaments after little league ends.

Lisa Wrobel asked what the breakeven point was.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that we are a long way from the breakeven point from a cost standpoint. There is a lot of work that goes on during the week at the rec. park for total preparation. The rec. park is supported by taxpayer's money. It is his goal to have as many kids as possible participate in sports and events at the rec. park. We are a non-profit organization so there isn't any breakeven point.

John Otoupal stated his concern was that the cost was going to get passed on to the kids. It isn't a money maker for them either. There is a lot of volunteer work. He also stated that his organization couldn't have held successful tournaments without Steve Gram. He does a great job and it is a great park.

Councilman Prendergast stated that we don't want to make money we want to cover our costs.

John Otoupal presented a petition to the Town Board members from youth baseball. He said that the petition was circulated during the closing ceremony for baseball so it wasn't the most organized petition. He spoke to the Board about the proposed location of the new concession stand and how it isn't going to be centrally located to the three main baseball fields. The petition was an attempt to persuade the Board to reconsider the location. He stated that he was aware that the plans were to provide office space for the recreation director and he doesn't begrudge him that, because he knows that Steve doesn't have the best of working conditions right now. The concession stand should be in a location that is easier for parents to keep their eyes on their children.

John Otoupal advised that he has lined up the following companies to donate products: Duke Concrete, Curtis Lumber, Yates and Rich Aluminum. He is still looking for help with heavy equipment and electrical.

He stated that it would be hard for him to sell the project to any one of these companies if the plan is to build the concession in a different location.

Supervisor Jenkins advised Mr. Otoupal that the Town Board hasn't seen a single proposal, but they were aware of the difference in opinion between baseball and the Recreation Commission over the location of the concession stand. He stated that the Town Board has an open mind, but will be very limited on what we can do and any decision the Town Board makes will be based on what is best for Moreau and then for the park and the people who use it.

Councilwoman LeClair noted that they weren't looking to build a new concession stand to house an office for the recreation director. Steve Gram is going to keep his office where it is.

Bob Vittengl stated that the Recreation Commission met with little league in July 2009 to discuss an upgrade to the concession stand. Little league hired an engineer to draw up plans. The footprint is tight where the existing building is. The Recreation Commission was looking to put a concession stand in an area where there was more parking. The estimated cost came in around \$200,000.00 plus the cost to build it and three bathrooms was estimated at \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00. The Recreation Commission tried to explain that the project would have to be scaled back.

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Councilman Prendergast asked what would have to be done to the existing building. Could it be renovated or would it have to be demolished.

Bob Vittengl stated that the footprint is tight, but it could be renovated.

John Otoupal suggested they push the footprint of the building four to six feet closer to the field 3 and closer to the road. If the building is moved farther out then they would lose money on concessions and that could affect their program. He would like to keep it at \$40.00 per kid to play. There are just fewer than 400 children who play in youth baseball.

Councilwoman LeClair stated she would like to keep it away from the road. When she pulls into the area with her car she always worries about children running out into the road in front of cars.

Steve Gram stated that the concession stand really couldn't be put much farther away and he thought with the playground nearby it would make more money. He also mentioned about building a pavilion in place of the old basketball court.

Pete Dudley stated that as a contractor it would cost less to leave the existing structure where it is than to move it across the baseball fields vs. razing the existing building and rebuilding it four to six feet the other way.

John Otoupal stated that they wanted something more functional. There are more outlets in the existing building that don't work than do. The windows don't work and the building has been broken into so the windows have to be boarded up when not in use. He foresees this being a community effort to build the concession stand. He was sure that if he went back to his Board and told them they could keep the building where it is now, but that they needed a reasonable plan that they would pay for an engineer. His organization has money earmarked for new equipment, but they don't want to buy equipment and put it in the old building. They would like the concession stand to look like the girls softball concession stand.

Lisa Wrobel stated that from a public relations standpoint it would be easier to sell a new building to the community if the community was involved. It appears that people want to donate time and materials. She would favor a smaller building after what she has heard tonight.

John Farrell stated that the location of the concession stand should be where it is accessible to little league and soccer.

John Otoupal stated that he was hoping for a project manager who is qualified to drive the project.

Discussion followed.

Supervisor Jenkins thanked everyone for coming and stated that it will be the goal of the Town Board to do what is best for the community.

John Otoupal asked if there could be a meeting of the Recreation Commission, Town Board and little league.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that he read her mind and suggested that the meeting take place at the rec. park so they could look at the location of the fields, etc.

John Otoupal said he would discuss it with his Board and asked the Town board to get back to him with a date.

Supervisor Jenkins said he would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

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A motion was made by Councilman Prendergast and seconded by Councilwoman LeClair to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk