

A meeting between the Town Board of the Town of Moreau and the Moreau Emergency Squad was held on January 27, 2010 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York.

Supervisor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

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

Town Board Members Present

Tom Cumm	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman (arrived at 6:10 p.m.)
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
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Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Executive Board Members from the Moreau Emergency Squad: Andre Delvaux, Chief Operations Officer, Steven VanGuilder, President, Kylee Baker, Vice-President, Stephen Olshefsky, Financial Secretary, Helen Glen, Secretary, Carrie Morrison-Baker, Treasurer; Dennis Tarantino, Attorney for the Moreau Emergency Squad; Nick Reisman, Post Star Reporter; the following Town and Village Residents: David Bennett, Dan Albert, Jay Webster, Niki Baker, John E. Blanchard, Jr., Gordon Hadsell, Adele Kurtz, Chad Flint, Scott Whittemore, Glen Delk, Andrey Korobovsky, Sarah Korobovsky, Brigid Martin

Supervisor Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Jenkins asked those present to turn off or put on vibrate any personal communication devices. He understood that there are a lot of emergency personnel present who made need to receive communications and that would be forgiven tonight.

Supervisor Jenkins advised that the format of this meeting is a workshop and that means the dialogue will be between the Town Board and members of the Moreau Emergency Squad first and then members of the public present who are non-members of the emergency squad can speak up.

He apologized for only three board members being present. He stated that Councilman Prendergast and Attorney Auffredou were not feeling well and could not attend and Councilman Kusnierz is still working in Albany.

Supervisor Jenkins said he wanted to start by covering a few things that have been a problem for them as a board. They have received a lot of questions from people who used to be volunteers on the squad and some who were not. One thing they questioned was the paid group and unpaid group of the squad. The Town Board is bound by law to properly expend Town money. We can't spend anything without it being approved and there may be a limitation to that. He explained how vouchers are audited by the Town Board and signed by a department head.

He asked if the new vehicle purchased by the Moreau Emergency Squad last year went out to bid.

Andre Delvaux replied that it was purchased under state contract.

Supervisor Jenkins asked if they competitively price things that they purchase.

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Andre Delvaux said this was correct.

Supervisor Jenkins asked if they maintained a voucher system or do they just file invoices or do they use purchase orders or how do they approve purchases.

Stephen Olshefsky replied that he discusses the purchase with the president, they check the funds available and a decision is made and the receipts are recorded.

Kylee Baker added that the request is also sent to the membership in its entirety and it is discussed and they make a recommendation at the general meeting each month and the entire volunteer organization votes on it.

Supervisor Jenkins asked if any of the board members are also paid staff.

Kylee Baker replied that Dr. Al Jagoda is. He is their paid medical director plus two others.

Supervisor Jenkins said that he looked at their financial statements and a few things stood out to him as follows: Payroll in 2008 was \$278,985.00 and in 2009 it was \$387,227.00. In 2007 the excess revenues over expenditures were \$8,341.00. There was a deficit in 2008 showing in the amount of \$27,088.00. In 2007 there was a decrease in cash at the end of the year in the amount of \$20,235.00 and a decrease in cash again at the end of the year 2008 in the amount of \$20,923.00. Also, between 2007 and 2008 it appears that the fund balance was cut into in the amount of \$20,000.00. He said this was a concern to him.

He asked if they looked into refinancing their debt. There is 2% to 3% in interest rate that could be saved. The rate of their mortgage right now is 7 ¾%.

He stated that he would like to audit their finances beyond what their independent auditor does. He said it wasn't to question anything that they have done rather to perform what they believe they should do. It is the Town Board's job to make sure that the funds the Town Board expends are expended properly. He said the Town expends a large amount of money to the Moreau Emergency Squad who does a great job. He said he is one person who benefitted most by the squad, they saved his life.

He went on to say that a proposed contract for the month of January was submitted to the squad for signing and it hasn't been received back. Before we can expend funds to the squad we need a signed contract.

Councilman Cumm stated that the emergency squad does a good job. We contract out to the Fire Company, the Moreau Community Center and the Moreau Emergency Squad. All do an exemplary job at what they do. The Moreau Community Center is completely transparent. We can get any information about the center, salary wise, expenditures, every check is accounted for and we can see exactly what they are spending money on. We came to the Moreau Emergency Squad back at the end of last year and asked for some information and got a letter from their attorney. That immediately sent up a flag with him. We cannot continue to operate in a vacuum anymore. People are looking for transparency in organizations and they want to know where their money is going. This is not to say that anything has been done wrong or is being done wrong in the squad. People have come to him and asked what is going on in the squad and he couldn't answer them. One of the rumors he heard is that the squad has lost a lot of volunteers and he asked if this was true.

Kylee Baker replied no, they have 36 volunteer members and 20 paid staff members.

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Councilman Cumm asked how many volunteers have quit or resigned in the last three or four years.

Kylee Baker said she would have to look into this.

Councilman Cumm said the number he heard was 35.

Kylee Baker said that was incorrect.

Councilman Cumm stated that we have Town Board liaisons that sit on the Moreau Community Center Board and one of the things he was going to insist on with the new contract with the Moreau Emergency Squad is that we have one or two Town Board Members act as a liaison and they would sit in on all Moreau Emergency Squad board meetings and give input on issues with non-voting status. He would want the same thing done for the Fire Company when their contract comes up for renewal. He asked if they would be amendable to that.

Kylee Baker said they discussed something similar to this in the past with their attorney, but at the time it wasn't a pertinent issue and it got no further discussion.

Supervisor Jenkins asked if their board meetings were open to the public.

Kylee Baker replied that their general meeting is.

Attorney Tarantino stated that the executive board meetings are for executive board members only. He said they are not a public corporation they are a not-for-profit corporation.

Councilman Cumm replied that the Moreau Community Center is too, but their board meetings are totally open to the public.

Attorney Tarantino said it has never been an issue about people wanting to attend their meetings and he wasn't sure it would be an issue.

Steven VanGuilder stated that nobody has ever come to him in all the years he has been president asking to attend a meeting. He told Supervisor Jenkins before that anytime he wanted to look at their books, even at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, he has his number. They have nothing to hide.

Helen Glen said she has been on the squad for nineteen years and she has never heard of anyone wanting to come to one of their meetings.

Councilman Cumm asked Helen if she was paid or unpaid and she responded that she was a volunteer.

Councilman Cumm said one of the rumors he heard was that the paid side of the squad was trying to force out the volunteers. He asked if this was true.

Steven VanGuilder said this was totally incorrect. He told Councilman Cumm that he needs to step up to the plate and come to them personally. There was a lot of animosity going on in the squad and there are people sitting behind him that are part of that animosity. He was part of the animosity. He had a lot of problems in the squad. Was he right? It doesn't matter if he was right or wrong. He got over it and they moved on as an agency. A lot of people chose sides. A lot of people chose the ex-president's side and a lot chose the captain's side who is now the chief. When he first joined the squad it was always him and Andre and that is how he became an EMT. He was always with him.

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Kylee Baker stated that 70% of the board is volunteer members. 36 are volunteers and 20 are paid. The general membership who has voting rights is volunteers. There are three paid staff members on the board with voting rights. One is Dr. Al Jagoda. All the decisions are made by volunteer members.

Steven VanGuilder stated that any paid staff issues that come up whether it is a hiring or firing issue, salary increases or decreases are voted on by volunteer members. The only ones on the board that are paid is Andre Delvaux, Mike Seney and Dr. Al Jagoda and he didn't think that Dr. Al Jagoda votes.

Kylee Baker stated that he usually abstains.

Councilman Cumm stated that the Town of Horican and Chester are fighting with their squad about paid members being on the board of directors. His personal opinion is that paid members shouldn't be on a board of directors.

Steven VanGuilder stated that the reason they are on the board is because there are two sides to their organization executive and operations.

Kylee Baker told the Town Board that they could look at their meeting minutes. Andre and Mike and Dr. Jagoda act as liaisons. They have voting rights, but she can't remember the last time they voted on matters dealing with the paid staff. They have a conflict of interest and abstain from the voting. They vote as a board and they keep them on there, because their expertise is far beyond theirs. They keep the squad oiled like nobody else can. They are an asset.

The volunteers gave them the power to vote.

Helen Glen asked why it was wrong not to take advantage of their expertise.

Councilman Cumm stated they could still use their expertise, but they don't have to sit on the board. They could bring them in like a liaison.

Councilman Cumm asked what the role of the volunteer portion is vs. the paid portion.

Kylee Baker stated that Stephen VanGuilder is the Executive President, she is the Vice-President, Helen Glen is the Secretary, Stephen Olshefsky, Financial Secretary, Carrie Morrison-Baker, Treasurer.

Helen Glen added that Carrie has an accounting degree from Plattsburg State University.

Operations Staff is Andre Delvaux, Mike Seney, Jay Webster also volunteer, Ron Quinn also volunteer, 1st lieutenant and executive board member, John Blanchard also Health & Safety Officer and executive board member.

Councilman Cumm asked why these rumors are coming out.

Kylee Baker replied, because people are extremely disgruntled.

Stephen Olshefsky said that being a volunteer takes a lot of work. They have jobs and families. He doesn't even live in this township and he comes up here to volunteer. It takes a lot of time and effort.

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Steve VanGuilder stated that he doesn't live in this county and he volunteers here. He mentioned the letter from their attorney. He said that he received a letter from the Town Board asking for a workshop. He is a volunteer and his board is volunteers. He gave the Town five different dates for the budget workshop. He asked the Town Board if they get paid to go to the budget workshops and said they don't. Not one of the dates he gave was good for the Town Board. In 2008 he came in at budget time with Kylee Baker and Andre Delvaux and got lambasted. He wasn't going to go through that again alone.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Town Board is paid, but they were here tonight because they care. They didn't have to schedule this meeting. They want to get this issue resolved so everybody is happy and can move on. We are happy with the service. We need more openness and transparency. We are probably going to expect additional information in order to forward monies to them.

Kylee Baker replied that she thought they have been more than transparent. The Town Board asked for information regarding the money given to them from taxpayer's money and they sent the Town Board a letter. She said that they also give the board monthly statements and information from their CPA in regards to all the money from the Town. She asked what more information they could give the Town.

Supervisor Jenkins said he is a CPA by profession and the monthly sheet he receives means absolutely nothing, it is incomplete information at best. It may be totally honest. He isn't questioning that, but it gives him no idea of the facts. The budget information he received wasn't anything he could work with and we couldn't get together. He referred to the comment from Stephen VanGuilder about the five dates he gave to the Town Board. At the time the Town Board had nine meetings scheduled. The Town Board wasn't dealing with the Moreau Emergency Squad only. They were dealing with the Highway Department, Moreau Community Center, Water Department, etc. We had budget meeting after budget meeting and none of the dates the squad gave fit in with the Town Board's schedule.

Helen Glen asked what information the Town Board needs.

Supervisor Jenkins said we need more data. Invoices and those type transactions. It was his belief that the Town Board could FOIL any information the squad has, because most of their money depends on government money. That is not what we want to do. We want to work together so when people ask questions we can answer them.

Attorney Tarantino advised that he spoke with Jeff Beecher today and he wanted to clear up any misconception that the squad was running in a deficit. The loss that showed in December was recouped in January with revenue. If we were on an accrual basis you probably wouldn't see that alleged deficit. There has never been an accusation, allegation or charge made that this corporation has done anything improper with any of the money whether it is the Town money or third party billing money. Jeff Beecher said a separate account could be set up just for the contract money that comes from the Town. Whatever is done with that contract money could be disclosed without any problem. The third party billing funds are used exclusively to pay for staff and that is not Town source money.

Supervisor Jenkins said the Town has looked at that part of it and we don't have a question about that part, but we look at the fact that the funds you receive from the third party billing technically comes to the Town and are definitely public funds even though the squad has earned them.

Attorney Tarantino agreed and said that if Attorney Auffredou was present he would also agree that we had to go through that mechanism according to the opinion from the State Comptroller that said that the funds had to hit the Town of Moreau first before going back to the people who earned the money. The Town monies are in no way being used to pay staff and if they were then there would be a transparency

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issue on that side as well. This is a corporation that is run very well with volunteers and paid individuals who handle a lot of money every year and do a good job with it. As far as my clients contacting him about these issues he doesn't know why his involvement should raise any red flag. We are on the same team and we are trying to provide services to your constituents. He believes there has been transparency and they want the contract to move forward. He will take the fall for not working with Attorney Auffredou on the temporary contract. He thought perhaps after tonight's meeting they could move forward with a full annual contract.

Supervisor Jenkins said that is the Town Board's goal also, but right now it was his opinion that they should ask for another monthly contract for February. He suggested that he and another Town Board member meet with a member of the Moreau Emergency Squad board in a setting where there wouldn't be a quorum and wouldn't be a public meeting so they could discuss things in private and try to get to the bottom of some of the issues.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about the third party billing. He asked if they submit to a third party billing or directly to the insurance company.

Andre Delvaux replied directly to the insurance company.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if Councilman Prendergast was going to be attending the meeting.

Supervisor Jenkins replied no he wasn't able to be here he wasn't feeling well.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if Councilman Prendergast had intended to attend and Supervisor Jenkins replied yes.

Councilman Kusnierz said he was shocked that counsel is not here, because when this meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. he indicated to all board members that he would be unable to attend at 5:30 p.m. and as everyone is aware he is unable to attend any meeting before 7:00 p.m. It was indicated to him that two boards are involved and everybody else on the two boards could make it and that this was the only time our Town Attorney could make it. Our Town Attorney is not here.

Supervisor Jenkins said Attorney Auffredou went home sick today and called the Town Clerk around 2:30 p.m. today to let her know he was sick and couldn't attend.

Councilman Kusnierz said on an issue that is as significant as this it is highly imperative that you have a full board and counsel there so that we can get these issues resolved.

Supervisor Jenkins said he has no problem with how they do it. He just wants to get it done.

Councilman Kusnierz said that is fine, but he didn't know what the message is when you schedule a meeting knowing full well that he couldn't be there until 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Jenkins said first of all he didn't schedule the meeting. His staff contacted everyone trying to get the majority of the two groups together and this was the date and time and with a group this large to try and do it again would be very hard. He told Councilman Kusnierz that he already told him that he didn't know what he could do about it under these circumstances.

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Attorney Tarantino asked Supervisor Jenkins if he was suggesting a meeting between the two of them and Attorney Auffredou, Jeff Beecher and somebody from the squad and Town Board to discuss this contract and the issue of transparency. If it is going to be about the rumors then it will be a waste of time. If you have some concrete issues then fine they would be willing to discuss them, but there aren't. Every time he asks Attorney Auffredou if there are any real problems he is told no and he has asked Supervisor Jenkins the same thing and the answer is no. If Jeff Beecher saw something funny he would be telling them.

Supervisor Jenkins said he has looked at the audit report and he doesn't have a problem with that report. He also reviewed the 990 and doesn't have a problem with that either. The current contract asks for certain financial information and we don't get enough information that we feel comfortable with. We need more detail in order to do our job properly with taxpayer money.

Attorney Tarantino said we know what the real issue is. He said he has had a dialogue with Supervisor Jenkins about this and he sent a letter to Supervisor Jenkins last year that said under no circumstances will this squad divulge personal salaries. He said if they were to have some form of executive session meeting or non-public meeting to discuss confidentiality issues with the consent of the employees then fine, but there is no consent. He said that the board knows what the lump sum of the salaries is and the number of the people they employ. He said the bottom line is that, that is not something this board is going to divulge or they will get sued.

Supervisor Jenkins said he doesn't care what anyone's salary is. He does feel that if he FOILED the information he would get it, because it is public money that is used for all of it.

Attorney Tarantino said he disagrees with this.

Supervisor Jenkins said the Town Board wants to be able to verify that the money from the Town is spent according to the same requirements that we are required to follow.

Kylee Baker said she speaks for the whole board when she says that she doesn't understand what more the Town Board wants. What haven't they given the Town Board? They have given the Town Board everything that they know of.

Steven VanGuilder asked if they wanted a copy of every check.

Attorney Tarantino stated that there are some valid questions that could be answered in a workshop session as the Supervisor has recommended.

Councilman Kusnierz stated he has been involved for eight years now developing the contracts for the squad and he asked the Town Board what part of the contract has not been met.

Supervisor Jenkins stated a year ago we requested more information and it wasn't particularly salary information.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if it was required as part of the contract.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that the contract requires monthly financial information, which we didn't get for the first three or four months and then we did start getting a monthly sheet with some dollar amounts on it.

Attorney Tarantino stated that they could improve on that and suggested they sit down and decide how to do that.

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Helen Glen said their budget is published monthly in the minutes.

Kylee Baker said they get that. That is what we send them.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the squad's total budget was and Steve VanGuilder asked if he meant the amount the Town gives them. Councilman Kusnierz asked what the Town's portion was and Steve replied \$225,000.00. Councilman Kusnierz asked what percentage of the squad's budget that amount was. Councilman Cumm said in 2008 their total operating expenses were \$860,812.00.

Councilman Kusnierz said that out of their total operating budget only $\frac{1}{4}$ was being financed by taxpayer dollars. He asked the Town Board if they were looking for total accountability of not only the \$225,000.00 but also additional revenue. He asked what we are looking for.

Supervisor Jenkins said in 2008 it was \$283,000.00 that includes the amount that Northumberland gives the squad. Northumberland is very concerned about what they have heard also. They have talked to the Town of Wilton about using their service. The insurance bills are technically public funds by law. Our main interest is to account for taxpayer funds and it shouldn't be a big issue. The information the Town receives from the squad each month includes 20-21 items of expenses and the board is looking for documentation to support that. We have to do it here in Town Hall, because we are spending taxpayer dollars. You can go on the internet and check salaries of any employee working for the state. We are asking to be able to verify by way of documentation what the expenses are for and how they are accounted for. Internal control is what makes the system stay honest and working properly.

Attorney Tarantino said that the squad works very closely with their accountant. If Northumberland has the same questions then he would tell them that they aren't here to talk about rumors rather facts.

Councilman Cumm said a liaison from the Town Board would be a good answer.

Kylee Baker said she hopes the Town Board feels that they can always come to them and ask questions and they would be more than willing to answer them.

Steve VanGuilder said he didn't know how much clearer he could make it. He has given the Supervisor his phone number. Anytime the Town Board wants to call him they shouldn't hesitate.

Supervisor Jenkins said he would like to receive a copy of their minutes each month.

Attorney Tarantino asked about setting up a meeting with Attorney Auffredou and himself and Jeff Beecher to discuss these issues.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that from what Councilman Kusnierz said he didn't think he would be comfortable with that. He said they could schedule another meeting and go into executive session if it is an item that they could go into executive session about.

Attorney Tarantino stated that they have a \$25,000.00 insurance bill due so the sooner this can be done the better.

Supervisor Jenkins said the January contract is the same as last year except the change in dates.

Attorney Tarantino stated that it was pro-rated rather than a lump sum.

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Councilman Kusnierz asked if they went forward with the pro-rated amount would they be able to meet their expenses and the answer was no. He asked how much they were short.

Steve VanGuilder stated about \$18,000.00.

Andre Delvaux said they have electric bills, phone bills, fuel, building payment and insurance bill. Their monthly expenses go above that.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what information we need to put this to bed.

Supervisor Jenkins said monthly data that shows total amount expended and back up material and then the board would determine if that fits our standards to justify to our citizens.

Councilman Kusnierz asked why we can't receive a report of total monies expended certified by the accountant.

Supervisor Jenkins said that doesn't happen monthly.

Attorney Tarantino said it would be very expensive.

Supervisor Jenkins said we could audit the information quickly by our staff. It wouldn't take more than an hour or so.

The meeting was opened up to the public present for questions.

Dave Bennett said he heard a figure mentioned of \$860,000.00 and he asked if that is the money from the contract and the third party billing.

Councilman Cumm said it is total program expenses for 2008. He didn't know what that entailed.

Supervisor Jenkins stated the total revenues for 2008 were \$873,956.00.

Dave Bennett said he heard tonight that there was an increase in payroll from year to year.

Supervisor Jenkins said yes and there was an increase in revenues also.

Dave Bennett asked if there was an increase in expenditures.

Supervisor Jenkins stated obviously there was an increase in expenditures, because they provided more services, payroll went up, educational expenses increased, insurance went up, building supplies and expenses showed a substantial increase.

Dave Bennett asked what kind of insurance. Was it health care insurance for employees or insurance for the building?

Supervisor Jenkins said he wasn't sure.

Dave Bennett stated that last night it was mentioned that the money was raised and brought into the Town and paid out through the Town and it is considered Town money.

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Councilman Kusnierz corrected Mr. Bennett by saying it is not raised by the Town. The Town plays no role in the money that comes in. It comes in from insurance.

Supervisor Jenkins said it is public funds.

Councilman Kusnierz said it becomes custody of the Town of Moreau per directive from the State Office of the Comptroller. No taxpayer paid for it.

Supervisor Jenkins said nobody said that.

Councilman Kusnierz said there was an innuendo that it is taxpayer money and it isn't.

Dave Bennett said he heard mention last night at the Town Board Meeting about a check for \$39,000.00 and he asked what that was for.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that it is insurance money that we will be turning over to them. It is used primarily for payroll and some of it gets used for other things without definition.

Dave Bennett asked how many calls they went on last year.

Steve VanGuilder replied that he did not have that information with him.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Steve VanGuilder to provide that information to the Supervisor.

Steve VanGuilder said he would.

Steve VanGuilder said he listened to the minutes on the internet and heard a comment from Dave Bennett. Dave Bennett never came to him and asked any questions about the squad. On a professional level he used to deliver to Dave Bennett's place of employment and he refuses to do that now. He said that Dave Bennett feels that a door was closed in his face. He never told Dave Bennett that he couldn't have any information, because he never asked for any. This is where the animosity starts and it keeps going.

Adele Kurtz referred to the comment about Jeff Beecher suggesting that a separate checking account be set up and she asked the Town Board if they would be willing to do that. It seems like a simple solution to her.

Supervisor Jenkins said they don't have a problem with any method. The Town Board gets an audit report that doesn't give the breakdown that they would like to see and the monthly information can't be verified very easily.

Adele Kurtz asked why they couldn't put that in the contract and be done with it. It seems to her to be such a logical solution.

Supervisor Jenkins said we should be able to resolve this very easily. That is our goal. The squad is probably more important to him than anybody else in the room. He took a fall three years ago and the squad was there and Andre put him on a helicopter to Albany. It is because of them that he is here today. He isn't an enemy of the squad. He was just trying to do his job.

Adele Kurtz said there does seem to be a lot of animosity. Councilman Cumm keeps referring to all the rumors in the Town and if the Town Board really only wants to see an accounting of where the taxpayer

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money is spent she didn't see a problem with that. As far as monthly audits of the EMS she asked if the Town Board does a monthly audit of the Moreau Community Center and Fire Company.

Supervisor Jenkins said the Town receives monthly information from the Moreau Community Center, but we are probably going to go in those directions too. The Fire Company doesn't have paid employees so it will be easier. We started out this conversation with what we have to do as a municipality with funds we spend yet we send a lot of money out to the community in lump sum amounts and we need to be more comfortable with what we are getting and he told Adele Kurtz that she mentioned that last night too.

Adele Kurtz said she did, but she told Supervisor Jenkins that she didn't realize that he wanted to perform a monthly audit on this group. She wanted to know if they would perform a monthly audit on the community center. She didn't know why there would be a discrepancy between what you are doing with this group and another.

Councilman Kusnierz said he didn't want to perform a monthly audit.

Councilman Cumm told Adele Kurtz that he said last night the Moreau Community Center sends us monthly a 10-12 page audit report that shows the breakdown of every check spent, who it went to, what it is for. He and Councilwoman LeClair are the liaisons and either both or one of them attends their meetings.

Adele Kurtz stated that we give the community center \$228,000.00 and they have a \$600,000.00 debt service coming due and they don't have revenue to pay for it. If we aren't concerned about the community center the same way we are concerned about this then it doesn't make sense.

Councilman Cumm said they were.

Supervisor Jenkins said we met with the Moreau Community Center last week.

Adele Kurtz asked if the Moreau Community Center pays to have a monthly audit from a CPA.

Councilman Cumm replied no it is all done internally by them.

Attorney Tarantino stated that he spoke with Jeff Beecher about that and he charges them.

Supervisor Jenkins said they go in each month and enter all the checks on their system it is all part of their audit procedure.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what they have all agreed on here.

Supervisor Jenkins said he wants to get the contract for January signed.

Attorney Tarantino added with extra money perhaps.

Councilman Kusnierz asked again what was needed to get the contract done.

Supervisor Jenkins stated we need an agreement that we are going to get the information we want monthly.

Councilman Kusnierz asked the squad members if they were in agreement with what was being asked.

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Attorney Tarantino said he thought so. Earlier they were talking about whether or not Jeff Beecher was going to be involved in this process. He suggested a separate bank account and invoices on a monthly basis. He said that he could draft some language for the contract and Attorney Auffredou could do the same thing.

Supervisor Jenkins said it would be foolish for the Town Board to try and tell the squad to have Jeff Beecher do something monthly and spend \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00 when we could take the invoices and have someone downstairs go through them.

Councilman Kusnierz asked who was going to do it and Supervisor Jenkins said probably Rudy.

Sarah Korobovsky spoke next and said she used to be a member of the volunteer squad and is a taxpayer and resident of the Village of South Glens Falls. She and her husband both left the squad, because they were disgusted on how the money was being handled and how it was "going in people's pockets".

Councilman Kusnierz asked her to elaborate.

Sarah Korobovsky said that when it went to the paid program several people's salaries were substantial and if they asked where the money was going they weren't forthcoming. She said it became a shady, deceptive organization and they didn't want to be a part of that. They forced a lot of volunteers out. They either quit or asked a question and were brought up on charges of conduct unbecoming to members and put on suspension and forced out. Taxpayer's money is going to this organization and there isn't any accountability.

Councilman Kusnierz said money going into somebody else's pocket is fraud. He asked her if she had evidence of that, because that is a very serious accusation.

Sarah Korobovsky replied saying that taxpayer's money isn't being taken care of. They can't even explain where it is going.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if she has evidence that is happening. He told her we need evidence if she does.

Sarah Korobovsky replied saying do an audit you will find it.

Supervisor Jenkins said they already had an audit and the only question anybody would ask is were the pay scales and hours approved properly by someone in charge. If they were approved then there is nothing to audit. That isn't part of the issue for us assuming the payrolls are done properly and approved by proper authority within the organization.

Helen Glen said they are paid so much that in 19 years working there as an EMT she couldn't go to become a paid professional, because they don't make enough money. She would have to take a cut in pay.

Glen Delk spoke next. He jotted down 18 members who left the squad while he was sitting here at this meeting and he probably could come up with more. He said he was forced out of the squad. One of the members here at the meeting told him he had better hop on the train, because it is coming you are going to go with them or you are going with us. He said he could give the board names, signatures anything they wanted.

Helen Glen said it is personal animosity and it has no place in the work place.

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Glen Delk said he used to do three or four nights a week at the squad. He was in charge of the building and was on the E Board. He is now a member of the Fort Edward squad. He said when he left there was 55 members with a waiting list and now we are in the 30's. The squad wasn't ALS equipped originally. Then they started bringing in the paramedics and the volunteers were somewhat upset. If you didn't go with the flow you were out.

Councilman Kusnierz asked how he was forced out.

Glen Delk replied that he was written up for something stupid that he said to somebody and he had to give up the E Board seat.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if the E Board was the governing board, the officers, and Glen Delk replied yes. He asked if it is a board decision when somebody is written up.

Glen Delk said he resigned before he was tossed out so he could save his position in Moreau and not be tossed off as a member. He still stood as a member.

Councilman Kusnierz asked again if the Board of Directors makes the decision on any kind of reprimand.

Glen Delk said yes if you don't resign. If they have issues you are brought before them and they decide if you are going to be suspended or whatever. The person you offended does the write up.

Helen Glen stated that when the paid program went in initially it was paramedics. An EMT cannot treat at the same level as paramedics. They needed paramedics in order to provide advance life support and there was a lot of animosity or disagreement between the paid and unpaid yet the EMT can't provide the same level of service as a paramedic. She asked what were they to do go back to just being a basic life support agency?

Councilman Kusnierz said he was on the Town Board when the squad came before them and asked them to consider allowing them to go to paid employees so they could provide a higher level of service to our community and surrounding community. That is the reason the Town Board was in favor of allowing third party billing because of the benefit to the community in having that advance life support and the Town Board understood that in order to get that rating they would need paramedics and EMT's.

Glens Delk said paramedics make more than EMT's.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the starting salary was for a paramedic.

Andre Delvaux replied about ~~\$17,000.00~~ **\$17.00** per hour. **[Amended 2/5/10 jf]**

Councilman Kusnierz asked how much the starting salary was for an EMT and Andre replied about ~~\$11,000.00 to \$12,000.00~~ \$11.00/\$12.00 per hour. **[Amended 2/5/10 jf]**

Supervisor Jenkins said he thought those were ranges approved as part of the contract.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if anyone in the squad exceeded those ranges.

Kylee Baker replied that they get annual raises.

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Andre Delvaux added that they get annual performance evaluations and they are reviewed by the medical director, chief, deputy chief and executive board.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what a paramedic at the top end would get per hour and Andre replied \$20.00 an hour.

Councilman Kusnierz asked about EMT and Andre replied just under \$12.00 per hour.

Kylee Baker added for clarification purposes that they have had paramedics on paid staff for more years than EMT's.

Steve VanGuilder said their volunteers are available to sign up first before they put paid staff into that schedule.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if they provide a service with volunteers and paramedics and EMT's that have the same credentials and Steve VanGuilder replied this was right.

Councilman Cumm asked if a volunteer and a paramedic would go on a run together.

Andre, Kylee and Steve replied that it could be all volunteers. It depends on what the schedule is and who is available.

Councilman Kusnierz asked how many paramedics were on the paid staff and Andre replied 15.

Councilman Kusnierz asked how many unpaid and the answer was 3.

Councilman Kusnierz asked how many EMT's and the answer was 12 paid and 20 unpaid.

Councilman Kusnierz asked when a position becomes available in the paid staff how do they decide who will be considered for a paid position.

Andre replied they would be interviewed and put through a clinical scenario based exam.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if they could be from outside the community and Andre replied yes.

Councilman Kusnierz asked how many paid members reside in the Town of Moreau and Andre replied 5 out of 27.

Attorney Tarantino said the squad has a very detailed set of by-laws and they operate under the not-for-profit corporation law. He has been their attorney for a lot of years and not once has a former member brought an action against the squad for unfair treatment. It is a democracy, members vote, people get elected, people lose office and people disagree. They run a business and at the same time they run a corporation. He can say from experience that the rumors about unhappy people may be true, but it hasn't affected the operation of the squad. If anything it has made it stronger.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that one thing he would like to see changed and that is that on their executive board they shouldn't have paid members and he asked if they had a problem with this.

Kylee Baker replied yes. The paid members that serve on the board are invaluable to them. Their knowledge is far beyond theirs and she mentioned Dr. Al Jagoda.

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Councilman Kusnierz asked what about other than the medical director.

Steve VanGuilder said operations runs that side.

Kylee Baker said the information they provide and expertise in the field of EMS is invaluable to them.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if they have the same weighted vote as any other member of the executive board.

Kylee Baker replied yes, but like any other member if there is a conflict of interest they don't vote.

Steve VanGuilder added that they do not vote on paid issues at all they abstain.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if they would change the by-laws to accommodate that.

Steve VanGuilder said the volunteers voted on the by-laws that the COO and the CO sit on the executive board.

Kylee Baker said they couldn't tell the Town Board tonight if they would do that. She didn't think they would want to. The entire membership is not present here, but she thinks they would say no.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that as long as they abstain from issues that affect them directly it shouldn't be a major issue. He stated that we have a check for \$39,000.00 that is insurance money that we need to release. He also stated that the contract for January is in the amount of 1/12 of the amount the Town budgeted for the squad. He asked what they need to cover their cash flow with this January payment until we can get this all finalized.

Attorney Tarantino said they would have to get back to the board. Then he said 2/12 plus the insurance money.

It was decided that Attorney Tarantino and Attorney Auffredou would get together and make a small amendment to the contract for January and get it signed and then they would work on the language in a contract for the rest of the year.

Councilman Cumm asked the squad when their meetings were, because he planned on attending them.

Steve VanGuilder replied that they meet the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if anyone from the public could attend.

Steve VanGuilder replied that no one has ever asked to attend. He would have to ask Attorney Tarantino.

Attorney Tarantino asked that if anyone hears any rumors that they get them in writing and the squad would reply to them right away.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if everyone was clear on what they need to do and where we are going and the answer was yes.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk