

The Town Board of the Town of Moreau held a budget workshop on October 1, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York.

Supervisor Jenkins opened the workshop at 6:30 p.m.

**Town Board Members Present**

Tom Cumm                      Councilman  
Preston Jenkins              Councilman  
Todd Kusnierz                Councilman (arrived at 6:42 p.m.)

**[At the meeting of 10/13/09 Councilman Kusnierz asked for the record to show that he wasn't late for this meeting as indicated above. Councilman Kusnierz pointed out that the meeting was originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and he was contacted the day of the meeting to see if he could come early, because somebody had another engagement afterwards. He indicated that he would try and make it for 6:30, but didn't know if he could be there at 6:30. The above notation about his arrival at 6:42 p.m. gives the impression that he was late for a meeting that was for 7:00 p.m. He wanted the minutes to reflect that it was a 7:00 p.m. meeting.]**

**Town Board Members Absent**

Bob Prendergast              Councilman  
Gina LeClair                    Councilwoman

**Also Present:** Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Fran Thibodeau, Account Clerk; Nancy Ryan, Transfer Station Clerk; Mike Montgomery, Deputy Highway Superintendent; Paul Joseph, Highway Department Laborer/MEO; Maureen Leerkes, Highway Department Clerk

Nancy Ryan, Transfer Station Clerk, met with the Board first to go over the Transfer Station Budget.

Supervisor Jenkins began by stating that if they look at the budget it shows a balance of \$17,916.00 in the Transfer Station Account and what we need to do is reduce the contractual amount by \$20,000.00. We haven't been close to that number in three years. This means we have to look at the fees and the Board may have to increase them. We currently have a fund balance of \$57,000.00 in Transfer Station and we may generate \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 by end of year so we may end the year with a \$60,000.00 fund balance if we don't do anything between now and then. We know we have a problem with the front-end loader. We don't know what we will have to do to it to keep it running or if it will even last. A lot of this boils down to what we are going to do in the Highway Accounts. More than likely we would purchase a new front-end loader for Highway Department and transfer their old loader to the Transfer Station.

Councilman Cumm had asked Maureen to get quotes on a front-end loader, tar machine and pickup truck and bring them to this meeting.

Fran Thibodeau stated they have two pickup trucks and Councilman Cumm said they will have to explain why they want a new truck.

Supervisor Jenkins again stated that he wanted to reduce the contractual in the Transfer Station Account by \$20,000.00 TS8160.4 from \$135,000.00 to \$115,000.00.

Fran Thibodeau asked if he wanted to reduce contractual by \$20,000.00 or just the fund balance.

Supervisor Jenkins said he wanted to reduce contractual by \$20,000.00 to show a surplus by \$3,000.00.

Nancy Ryan reminded them that the Waste Management Contract is up in December.

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Supervisor Jenkins then said it might make more sense to reduce contractual by \$15,000.00 rather than \$20,000.00 and not get stuck, because we only have \$2,000.00 in the Transfer Station Contingency Account.

Following brief discussion the Transfer Station Contractual TS8160.4 was reduced by \$15,000.00 from \$135,000.00 to \$120,000.00.

Councilman Cumm stated the Transfer Station needs a front-end Loader and Nancy Ryan said this was imperative.

(Councilman Kusnierz entered the workshop at 6:42 p.m.)

Nancy Ryan suggested that when the Board discusses the Transfer Station fees that they consider dropping the pickup truck fee and go strictly by the bag.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that five Board Members will have to be present to discuss the fees. He then recapped for Councilman Kusnierz what they discussed on the front-end loader and the reduction in the contractual amount.

This concluded the discussion on the Transfer Station Budget and the Board's meeting with Nancy Ryan.

Before the Highway Department personnel were invited into the Budget Workshop Supervisor Jenkins stated the estimated Highway Budget that Fran has is \$467,397.00 and it is really going to be about \$600,000.00. He analyzed the current year and what we will have left and the fund balance will be about \$600,000.00. Fran pro-rated it through August assuming the appropriations are going to be spent and they aren't. In the Tentative Budget for Highway they cut back on the equipment request for a truck and some of the roadwork. He said if they looked at the budget sheet and if we stay at this we will be using up all the fund balance except maybe \$100,000.00 and we are appropriating \$568,000.00 and we can't afford to do that. More than likely we have to cut another \$200,000.00. Otherwise, we would go into next year in a situation of where we will get the funds from.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if there was an opening in the Highway Department and then stated that there will be in January after the election probably.

The reason he brought this up was because personnel was the big ticket item along with the benefits and maybe we should put a hold on that until we take a look at the rest of the Budget.

Supervisor Jenkins said his concern was that the way the Highway Budget is now there would be a 31% increase and he didn't see how they could justify it even though we could justify the projects and equipment and we would be in a position next year whereby we wouldn't have the fund balance. Sales tax revenues have been down. He projected \$2.1 million based on what the county has said. \$1.6 million would go into the Highway Fund; \$400,000.00 would go back to the county and applied against the county tax rate in the Town and \$100,000.00 to Town Outside.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that the Board could always amend the budget during the year if we get increased revenues.

Supervisor Jenkins agreed and added that there are funds in Town Outside that could be transferred to the Highway Fund if there is something that really has to be done. He said they really needed to drop the Highway Budget another \$200,000.00 and the Highway Department has to tell us where we can cut. We are down to equipment and road paving. There is no other place to cut.

Fran Thibodeau stated that if they did cut wages it would be about \$65,000.00 for one person.

Supervisor Jenkins said "if" and the question is can it really be done and is it the right thing to do.

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Councilman Cumm stated that at least they would be hiring at a lower rate.

Supervisor Jenkins stated there are other suggestions. If we get the equipment to fill cracks it would help protect some of the roads. We may want to look into this. The only thing he cut from the equipment request was the big truck for \$205,000.00. We can't afford it this year.

Councilman Cumm stated they may have trouble keeping Truck 14 and 16 going. We will have to discuss this with the Highway Department.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if we can't afford to do a lot of paving then do we really need all the manpower right now.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that is something the Board has to think about.

Councilman Kusnierz said that it doesn't mean we wouldn't ever replace them.

Supervisor Jenkins said even with his cuts of about \$412,000.00 the Highway Budget is going to be \$530,000.00 more than last year and even if we cut another \$200,000.00 they will still be \$330,000.00 over last year, which is the biggest increase in their budget in six years.

Councilman Cumm stated he could see where they could save \$200,000.00 in blacktopping, but he suggested they meet with the representatives of the Highway Department and discuss it with them.

Maureen Leerkes and Paul Joseph entered the workshop at 6:55 p.m. Mike Montgomery joined the workshop a little farther into the discussion on the Highway Budget.

Supervisor Jenkins advised Maureen and Paul that they couldn't afford the truck and paving may have to be cut. We will start the year with a fund balance of about \$600,000.00 and if we continue on with the budget the way it is now we will use \$567,000.00 of that and then where will we be next year. Hopefully the economy next year will pick up a little and more sales tax revenues will be generated. He made some slight adjustments in the payroll. He and Fran came up with different numbers.

Maureen asked the Board to start with the Highway Garage Account A5132. She is concerned over the condition of the salt shed. It isn't up to compliance.

Supervisor Jenkins said they would keep it in mind. We may look towards the USDA for grant money and low interest loans. Our old Highway Garage will need some clean up. We may have to look towards a capital project for both, but it depends on when the funds will be available in order for us to do the work.

Paul Joseph stated that the walls are caving in on the salt shed and the roof is leaking. The ground is white around it all summer.

Councilman Cumm stated that the salt shed that Wilton has cost about \$150,000.00 and it has a tarp for a roof.

Maureen asked if the \$21,000.00 in B8540.411 was for Garry Robinson for the storm water management plan, MS4. The answer was yes.

Councilman Cumm stated it includes the entire infrastructure in the Town.

Paul Joseph referred to account A5010 and asked if there was a way that Maureen's hours could be increased if she signs off on the insurance and agrees not to take it. It wouldn't be every week.

Fran Thibodeau stated that when there is any kind of consistency in hours then the county considers it full-time and that means benefits.

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Councilman Cumm asked Maureen when she would put in the additional hours when she drives a bus in the morning and afternoon.

Fran Thibodeau asked Maureen why they didn't hire another part-time clerk. There was money budgeted.

Maureen stated she doesn't have time to train somebody. At one time Steve was thinking about the lady that worked for the Transfer Station, but she didn't seem interested. There is a lot more that should be done in that office.

Supervisor Jenkins asked who was doing the storm water record keeping and Maureen raised her hand.

Councilman Cumm stated that was a major undertaking.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that there is an additional \$1,000.00 in the Tentative Budget for additional hours.

At this point other than union employees nobody is getting more than 3% based on the Tentative Budget. The sales tax revenues are going to be off about \$250,000.00 so that is going to have an impact.

Supervisor Jenkins stated he reduced the engineering fees in the Highway Garage Account. The request was for \$25,000.00 and he reduced it to \$5,000.00, because we haven't spent any.

DB5110 General Repairs was discussed next.

Supervisor Jenkins stated he reduced wages based on calculations that he and Fran did.

Maureen said she had to question the wages. She took 52 weeks and divided them between the five accounts. She came up with 19 weeks in 5110, 7 weeks in 5112, 3 weeks in 5130, 3 weeks in 5140 and 20 weeks in 5142. The base salary for eleven men with no overtime, 40 hours is \$9,630.00 per week. She multiplied that by 19 weeks in 5110 it comes up to \$177,840.00.

Fran Thibodeau said she takes the base pay based on longevity and increases and based on an eight hour day for 261 days a year she came up with \$540,000.00 for base pay. Maureen came up with \$524,000.00.

Fran stated that as far as the weeks they haven't really played with that. It is very hard to split it in the system for payroll.

Supervisor Jenkins stated they could explore the number again.

Maureen said in 2008 it was \$178,000.00 for ten men.

Fran said she couldn't really go by that. We switched everything around last year. We were splitting up payroll and it was useless. Harry Gutheil wanted it split by what the men did and it didn't really get done that way. We didn't really care where the wages came from and we split it by one or two weeks' pay. She told Maureen that she would have to take the total of all of the .1 accounts and asked if she did it that way would they be close.

Maureen said no they would be short \$37,000.00 and that doesn't include overtime. According to what is budgeted for 2010 it came up to \$524,000.00 and she came up with \$486,000.00 based on 52 weeks times at \$9,260.00. That leaves \$37,000.00 for overtime. That only gives them 1,570 hours of overtime for the month when using Mike Montgomery's salary, the highest salary. If you factor in time and a half that is only 1,000 hours of overtime. If you look at with double time it is only 753 hours for eleven men.

Maureen asked if they need all five payroll accounts.

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Fran stated that was up to the Board to decide.

Supervisor Jenkins said he didn't see any value to having five.

Maureen said it means nothing to the Highway Department. She would rather have two accounts and suggested DB5110 General Repairs and DB5142 Snow Removal.

Councilman Cumm asked why not one.

Supervisor Jenkins said that two may help with planning (overtime and those type issues).

Councilman Kusnierz noted that the Snow Removal Account was up to \$227,000.00 from \$215,950.00 in 2008.

Mike Montgomery stated that Steve Barody used to try and run six routes and they normally run five routes. They run six if they have the manpower. They ran a couple of trucks last winter without the wings and it wasn't productive, because they had to go back through the roads to push the snow back. In an emergency in bad storms these are the type things they do, but normally the trucks should be fully geared with two people in them.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Highway Budget requests were \$942,000.00 higher than last year and now it is down to about \$500,000.00 higher, which is a 31% increase and there is only going to be a \$600,000.00 fund balance in Highway and the way it stands now they would re-appropriate almost all of that into the 2010 Budget. He also explained that they don't anticipate sales tax revenue to increase and from a financial standpoint it is going to be a difficult year.

Councilman Kusnierz referred to the equipment request and asked Supervisor Jenkins what he removed.

Supervisor Jenkins said all he took out was the truck for now. The rest of the list the Highway Department should prioritize for the Board. He stated that we could transfer funds from Town Outside Village into Highway next year if something is really needed. However, right now there is a zero tax in the Highway Fund and he would like to keep it that way.

Paul Joseph stated that Truck #14 was supposed to be replaced last year the box is rotted and it is a first run truck.

Councilman Cumm asked if they needed a pickup truck.

Paul Joseph stated they are short vehicles now.

Mike Montgomery stated that one pickup is used by a crew and Truck #1 was the truck Steve Barody drove.

Maureen stated that the mid-size dump was going to be used as a backup truck for Truck #6.

Mike Montgomery stated she could call it a backup truck, but they have a patching truck and if it isn't used it sits. Truck #6 is a 550 Ford with sand/dump box and they use this truck to plow the parking lots and if they need to do calcium wash outs they need to wash the box out daily and transfer it to a different use. If they had another truck they could use it for picking up debris and calcium to open dry wells and carry tools and load gravel. It would utilize the vehicles better. We are constantly transferring a truck and having to clean it out.

Councilman Cumm asked about the request for a tractor with mower.

Paul Joseph stated that it would replace the Heston. They have put a lot of money into it this year.

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Maureen Leerkes stated that he got a quote on a new front-end loader and the cost is about \$240,000.00.

Councilman Cumm asked Maureen to get a price on a tar machine and she stated that Paul and Mike think we are better off renting a tar machine.

Paul Joseph stated that if we owned one, we would need certificates from En Con to use the solvents to clean it.

Maureen also got a price on a pickup truck. She called Van Bortel where the Water Department bought their truck and the price is around \$33,000.00. That would be with a diesel engine for the longevity and the extra cost for the 2011 emissions regulations.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about the request for a flow boy trailer.

Paul Joseph said this is a piece of equipment they could live without if they had to. It was going to be used during paving jobs to haul sand and stone. He preferred they buy a tandem in place of the flow boy if they couldn't get both.

Mike Montgomery concurred that if they had to make a cut the flow boy could be the first to be cut.

Supervisor Jenkins asked if a pickup truck was really necessary.

Mike Montgomery said yes. Ron Gilligan has used a dump truck, which is a gas guzzler to go pick up parts, because the other trucks are on the road. Crews aren't always set up on one road. Tools are needed on different roads at the same time. They can't throw tools on the back of a big dump truck.

Mike Montgomery stated that Truck #16 has a good motor. The box needs replacing.

Paul Joseph stated that Truck #14 needs a complete brake job.

Discussion turned to grinding and paving of roads.

Paul Joseph stated that there is a problem culvert on Hatchery Road that the Highway Department can't handle. The culvert is too deep and they don't have equipment to reach down in. He suggested they only grind the east half of the road and that would reduce the cost to \$49,000.00 from \$97,000.00. This is without the culvert being fixed and then they would have to eventually do the other half.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he requested funding from the Federal programs, but got shot down. It has to go through the Transportation Council. He is going to submit the two culvert projects and ask them to improve left turn lanes and new light at Feeder Dam Road and Route 9.

Councilman Cumm asked about Thornapple and Burt that was on the list and asked if it would be a final coat and the answer was yes. He asked if Thornapple was done last year and the answer was yes and asked if they could wait another year on it and the answer was yes. He asked if they could wait another year on Burt Road. Mike Montgomery replied that 1/2 of Burt Road was done four years ago, but they could wait another year.

Councilman Cumm asked if they could remove Thornapple from the list and tentatively the answer was yes.

Councilman Cumm asked about Michael Road and Jon Kay Road.

Mike Montgomery said they were worse than Wynnefield and Jacobie.

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Councilman Cumm asked if they could remove Wynnefield & Jacobie from the list and the answer tentatively was yes.

Councilman Cumm asked about Paris Road vs. Old Bend. He said that Old Bend Road is really bad.

Maureen stated that he was talking two different things. Paris Road would be just an overlay.

Mike Montgomery stated that Old Bend Road would be in two phases. The lower end would be reclamation. He said it makes a better job if you can take two roads that come together and pave them in the same time frame and then they are both in the same cycle and you don't have to cut the joints. Old Bend is very bad, but Paris isn't that great either.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the cost per ton was that these projects were estimated at and the answer was \$60.00 per ton.

Maureen called two other Towns and asked what they were projecting per ton and they said \$60.00 per ton. They said if we use \$55.00 per ton we could be cutting it too close. Steve Barody figured \$80.00 per ton for 2009 and it was less so they were able to do more.

Councilman Cumm asked about the blacktopping of Hatchery and the \$195,600 budgeted amount. He asked if they were cutting the grinding in half would that affect this amount.

Paul Joseph said that amount would drop to \$97,800.

Maureen stated that they would only blacktop the amount they grind so ½.

Councilman Cumm asked about Sweet Road.

Paul Joseph replied that 1987 was the last time it was done. Paris Road was done in 1990.

Councilman Cumm said they cut \$191,400.00 so far. He listed the following:

Thornapple Nova Chip	\$36,000.00
Wynnefield Overlay	\$42,000.00
Jacobie Overlay	\$14,400.00
Hatchery Road Blacktop	\$100,000.00
Hatchery Road Grinding	\$49,000.00

Supervisor Jenkins said he came up with \$204,000.00. We still have the whole equipment list except the tandem and then add for a pickup truck at \$33,000.00.

Councilman Kusnierz stated we should just be taking recommendations, but shouldn't be making decisions now.

Councilman Cumm and Supervisor Jenkins said absolutely. They were just thinking about possible cuts.

Supervisor Jenkins reminded them that they have to think about whether or not they are going to replace an employee.

Paul Joseph stated they will run more overtime if they don't. They are running 4 to 4 ½ hours overtime for a single storm now with six trucks and if we delete a person then we would be down to five trucks.

Supervisor Jenkins stated he didn't see how they could fund a tandem truck.

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Maureen referred to DB5130.492 Highway Machinery, Parts. The request was for \$50,000.00 it was dropped down to \$35,000.00. At the end of August their parts account balance was \$1,400.00. Paul has a list from Ron of equipment repairs needed.

Paul stated they had two trucks that needed springs replaced. An alternator was replaced on gradall. Truck #16 needs a tire. There are no spare chains for the sander.

Supervisor Jenkins said he didn't have a problem bringing it back up to \$50,000.00 as long as they could show the Board why.

Maureen stated that she was afraid that they will have to go into the contingency for ~~sale~~ salt before end of year. They haven't gotten the salt prices yet. **[Amended 10/7/09 jf]**

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he and Fran would review the Highway Department wages again and look at the equipment issue.

This concluded the discussion on the Highway Budget and the workshop.

Workshop adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury  
Town Clerk