

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

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

Town Board Members Present

Tom Cumm	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
-----------------	------------

Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Fran Thibodeau, Account Clerk; Shelley Englert and John Telisky, Town Residents; and John Weber from Capital Financial Group, Inc.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the workshop was basically for the Board to discuss the Tentative Budget and when they were through the Board could entertain comments from the public. During the Board's review of the budget if anyone from the public wanted to speak the Board could accept short comments.

John Weber from Capital Financial Group, Inc. was present to address the Board about health insurance.

John Weber began by reporting to the Board on what was going on in the health care industry.

He has estimated rates only. The HMO rates haven't been released. They have to be filed by December 1st. Currently the Town has an HMO with a \$10 co-pay and a \$5/\$15/\$25 drug card and there is no better plan available. He explained how he has been working with area unions and what they have been doing is raising their co-pays and drug cards and reimbursing the employees under HRA. For example, if the Town went with a \$25.00 co-pay and reimbursed the employee \$15.00 each time this would lower the premium by 4%. The CSEA is doing this in Warren and Washington Counties right now and he will be talking with the City of Glens Falls tomorrow about doing this.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about the accounting process for this and John Weber said his firm uses a company called EBS and he explained the process.

John Weber suggested that when the Town goes to negotiate a new union contract with the Highway Department that he be allowed to participate. One of the things that should be negotiated is a reopener clause for health care only. He has had success in negotiating this with other unions once he sits down with them and explains how it works.

John Weber suggested the Town go with a \$25.00 co-pay and a \$10/\$25/\$50 drug card and go with the same plan for union and non-union employees and the Town "rebat anything they paid more this year". Example: If an employee goes to the doctor and pays \$25.00 the Town rebates the employee \$15.00.

If the Town does nothing the estimated increase will be 18%.

Councilman Kusnierz asked where the money to reimburse the employees for their co-pays would come from and John Weber explained that normally a savings account is set up by the Town and for example if an employee is contributing 5% towards their health insurance then $\frac{3}{4}$ % to 1% of that is put into this savings account to be used towards the reimbursement of co-pays. The Town would net out 4%.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

Fran Thibodeau asked if EBS charges for their service and John Weber replied \$2.00 per employee per month. The $\frac{3}{4}\%$ to 1% that is put into the savings account would cover this cost. He stated that he doesn't get any compensation from EBS for using their service.

Councilman Cumm asked John Weber if he looked for other providers besides EBS and John Weber replied that they send out RFP's every year. So far EBS has been the best one for service and everything.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if the Town would get an accounting report from EBS and John Weber replied yes, every week when they cut checks.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if the \$2.00 charge covered the employee and their families and the answer was yes.

John Weber handed out spreadsheets showing the different scenarios of co-pays and drug cards with Blue Cross and how they affect the rate of increase or decrease.

He referred to the union spreadsheet and showed the Board where they could get a 4.4% decrease in premium if they went with a \$10/\$25/\$50 drug card and a \$20.00 co-pay with a reimbursement to the employees of \$5/\$10/\$25 for their drug card.

If the Board decided to go with just an increase in co-pays from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and kept the drug card the same the increase in premium would be 10.5%.

If the Board decided to increase the co-pays for union employees from \$10.00 to \$25.00 and keep the drug card the same the increase in premium would be 2.3%.

John Weber stated that there is also Blue Shield, MVP and CDPHP, but none of them have a \$10.00 co-pay and you have to do an HRA.

He stated that the Board has until November 15th to get ready to go on a plan to meet the 12/1 deadline.

He asked when he could expect to hear back from the Board on which direction they want to go.

He said that he would do a spreadsheet for the union on the co-pays and drug cards and Fran could set up a meeting with him and the union to go over it.

Councilman Kusnierz said the Highway Committee should be in on this meeting.

John Weber said he would show the Board the spreadsheets first and how he plans to proceed. He would like a meeting at the end of next week if possible. We have to meet quickly and make a decision.

This concluded John Weber's presentation at 7:40 p.m.

The Town Board started discussing the budget page by page.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Town Board needs to set the elected officials salaries. A 3% increase for all officials and employees is in the Tentative Budget. He stated that he didn't plan to take a raise in pay for himself even though the Tentative Budget shows a 3% increase.

Councilman Cumm stated he wouldn't take a raise and asked that his raise be put towards employees' raises.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that in these tough economic times there shouldn't be any increase in salaries for any elected official.

Councilwoman LeClair said that was fine with her.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that there is a difference between elected officials and either salaried or hourly employees full-time. There aren't any set hours for elected officials.

The Board Members present agreed not to increase any elected official salaries and agreed upon the following salaries for elected officials:

Town Councilpeople	\$10,800.00 each
Town Justices	\$24,926.00 each
Highway Superintendent	\$48,472.00
Town Clerk	\$38,633.00
Supervisor	\$45,076.00

Councilman Kusnierz stated that they may as well go to the bottom number a compilation of Receiver of Taxes and Supervisor Jenkins agreed and said they are all spread out and the total is \$47,027.00.

Councilman Kusnierz said he didn't have a problem with that.

Councilman Cumm said he would like to let Councilman Prendergast know about this decision and Supervisor Jenkins said that they would, but there are four members who agree.

Fran Thibodeau advised that by November 1st the Board has to pass a resolution setting the amount of sales tax revenue to send back to the county.

Supervisor Jenkins stated right now he was suggested \$400,000.00 be sent back to the county.

Councilman Cumm stated he wasn't in favor of a percentage increase in salaries across the Board. The higher salaries end up with more of an increase than the lower salaries and the gap keeps getting bigger and bigger. It should be a flat dollar amount and hourly should get 3%.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that the Board normally does salaries last. In the past he has suggested a percentage increase for employees making up to a certain amount and then a flat rate increase for those above that cut off.

Supervisor Jenkins stated the equipment requested in the court account A1110.2 has all been requested in the JCAP Grant application.

Councilman Kusnierz commented on the phone system requested. He asked if they don't get the grant what happens. Do we have to do a budget amendment?

Supervisor Jenkins said no it would already be in the budget. The Board would have to decide if they want to purchase new phones or not.

Councilman Kusnierz said that he didn't mind budgeting for a phone system and if they get the grant fine then it isn't coming out of our taxpayer's pockets at all. If for some reason they don't get the grant then he would have a problem spending \$8,000.00 on a phone system. He said it was one of the higher quotes.

Fran Thibodeau said they would still need to get Town Board approval to purchase it.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

Supervisor Jenkins said he purchased a phone system about three years ago for his business with a dozen lines and new board for about \$1,800.00. He agreed it did seem high.

Fran Thibodeau suggested moving the \$11,199.00 that is in A1110.2 Town Court Equipment Account into A1110F Town Court Grant.

Supervisor Jenkins thought this was a good idea.

Agreed

The ambulance fund A4540 was discussed next.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the 2009 budgeted amount shows \$225,000.00, but it is really \$210,000.00. They gave us back \$15,000.00. The Tentative Budget amount includes a 4% increase from the 2009 budgeted amount. The information we received really doesn't tell us very much. The reason he included a 4% increase is because that is what we are increasing the volunteer fireman's budget per their contract.

Councilman Cumm was inclined to keep the budget for the squad at the same amount as 2009 given the situation at the Moreau Emergency Squad and their unresponsiveness to our requests to meet with us.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he also has a problem with the fact that they took some of the money we gave them and hired an attorney to tell us they won't give us any information. He said they have paid paramedics and they have EMT volunteers and others and the last he heard several of the EMT's left, because they were tired of being gophers and drivers and not actually being allowed to practice anything or be involved. However, they do provide a critical service so he didn't have a problem leaving an increase in the budget.

Councilman Cumm said we should contact another agency like Empire and find out what they charge.

Supervisor Jenkins said he wasn't against proceeding in that direction. He would like it if they could get some clarification from the organization as to what is happening and if we could get some financial information that would tell us something.

Councilman Kusnierz said the problem with an outside agency is that, as was explained to him, we have access to certain levels of advanced life support that other agencies don't supply.

Supervisor Jenkins said he wasn't questioning their level of service or what they do, they saved his life.

Councilman Kusnierz said that he was comfortable with leaving the amount in the Tentative Budget as is.

Councilwoman LeClair said it was a shame that they don't work with our citizens who want to contribute and volunteer and be EMT's, but what she has heard is that they are being pushed aside.

Supervisor Jenkins said he thought that every volunteer organization goes through transition periods where they have problems and they get rid of members and get new members and usually the problems boil down to the leadership. We are going through the same thing with our volunteer Fire Department. If you read the papers you will read what they have done to their volunteers. He was going to address a letter to the Fire Company and ask them for some clarification of these issues. The auxiliary served them well for years and all of a sudden they are thrown out. He said he didn't know why and they don't want to talk to us about it. The taxpayers of the Town provide a lot of funds to them and they provide a great service, but they ought to answer us. We had the same problem with the Emergency Squad. We asked for information and instead of providing it they ran to an attorney and said they don't want to give us

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

information and instead they give us back \$15,000.00. He finds this a strange thing. Until then these are emergency services we need in this Town and we don't have any choice. He would stick with the 4% increase for the Moreau Emergency Squad the same amount the Fire Company is getting per their contract.

Councilman Kusnierz agreed. He stated that even though we have concerns about the internal workings of the management down there he doesn't think our community as a whole should be penalized by decreasing or not increasing their current funding level, because we aren't happy with what is going on.

Councilwoman LeClair said she would like to get more information from them before she makes a decision to give them more money.

Supervisor Jenkins said we don't make the final decision until November and we have some time to get clarification on the issues.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that in regards to the Dog Control budget he did some calculations and said if we add the \$13,200.00 for the contractual services and the \$2,185.00 we send to the county plus \$300.00 for the cell phone bill we are up to \$15,700.00 and we have \$16,500.00 budgeted. Should we increase it \$500.00?

Councilwoman LeClair and Supervisor Jenkins didn't have a problem with increasing A3510.4 \$500.00 changing the tentative amount from \$16,500.00 to \$17,000.00.

The Highway Garage budget A5132.2 was discussed next briefly. \$1,000.00 was requested in the equipment line item for a generator and this was removed from A5132.2.

Fran Thibodeau stated that Royce Pixley has requested that a tractor be purchased that is suitable for mowing cemeteries that can go around the headstones. The quote he got was \$3,000.00 and \$3,500.00 with a bagger. He would like the Town Board to consider his request.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that Steve Gram has an old John Deere that needs a hood replaced and Royce has said that the John Deere won't hold up. He is currently hauling a mower around on his own trailer. We know that Royce will take good care of a new mower and it will be used solely for mowing of cemeteries. What he is using now isn't made for the use it is getting.

Councilman Kusnierz looked at the brochure for the tractor requested and said it was for residential use.

Councilwoman LeClair said the Town would recoup the cost of the mower in the amount of time that Royce is spending now raking.

Following discussion it was agreed to leave A8810.2 Cemetery Equipment at the \$2,000.00 that is in the Tentative Budget.

Fran Thibodeau noted that the Court Revenues A2610 were increased to \$220,000.00 after the last budget meeting.

The Pilot Revenues in A1081 under Supervisor were increased to \$52,000.00 from \$45,000.00 that was in the Tentative Budget and the Board will check with Peggy to find out if a company is coming off the Pilot and when. Bakers Falls may be coming off Pilot.

Councilman Kusnierz recommended that for accounting purposes they should add the anticipated court grant in the amount of \$11,199.00 to A3089F Revenues line item under Supervisor. No objections.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

Fran Thibodeau stated we have been taking in Transfer Station Brush Fees, but not recording them in any specific line item and should. **\$5,000.00 was added to the revenue account A2130 under Supervisor and an appropriation account sheet A8160 will be established in the amount of \$5,000.00.**

Councilman Kusnierz noticed that he didn't see a revenue line for Field Use Fees.

Fran Thibodeau stated that we collected \$2,250.00 in 2008, but we aren't budgeting it.

Supervisor Jenkins asked what we collected this year and Fran replied \$1,570.00.

Supervisor Jenkins said we should budget \$1,600.00 in A2089.11. No objection.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about the Pavilion Rental Fees and Fran corrected her prior statement and said we collected \$1,182.00 in Field Use Fees to-date and we collected \$1,570.00 in Pavilion Rental Fees to-date.

Supervisor Jenkins questioned the amount of \$1,182.00. He wondered how many tournaments were held at the Rec. Park, because the charge to use the fields for tournaments is \$500.00 so the \$1,182.00 fee doesn't make sense to him. He said they would have to take a look at this.

The Town Clerk said she would give the Supervisor a print out of what makes up the \$1,182.00.

It was agreed to add \$1,200.00 to A2089.12 for Field Use Fees and \$1,600.00 to A2089.11 for Pavilion Rental Fees.

Supervisor Jenkins reported that truck #12 at the Highway Department has 112,000.00 miles on it and it needs brakes, front-end work, hub replacement, shaft kit. Whiteman's estimated the parts would cost \$1,776.63 and Weller/Napa estimated \$944.37. He told the Highway Department they could order the parts from Napa at a cost of \$944.37. The truck was all torn apart so it was an emergency purchase. He wanted the Board to be aware of this when the bill comes in.

He also reported that the site where the Village dumps brush and leaves has been shut down temporarily and they are dumping them in a parking lot. They want to know if the Town can help them out by allowing them to bring the brush and leaves into the Transfer Station. The easiest way to accomplish this is to pick a number say \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 to charge them and allow them to bring it into our Transfer Station. The money would go into the General Fund and could be used to take care of the brush coming into the Transfer Station. This would be a temporary measure for a couple of months. Leaves aren't a problem. The brush is.

Councilwoman LeClair asked how many yards they were talking.

Councilman Cumm said it was only for a couple of months until they get a permit from DEC.

Councilwoman LeClair said it costs us to have the Highway haul the chips and asked if this was correct.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that was exactly their problem. Somebody offered to take their brush, but they didn't want to truck it. The only cost was for them to truck it.

Supervisor Jenkins said he didn't have a problem helping them, but how do we do it. He said it could be \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 and if that is the case we could put a line item in General Fund for \$3,000.00 and half would be theirs and half would be ours. Otherwise, the only other way he knew how to do it was

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

to charge them and he didn't know what to charge them. He suggested the Board think about this and maybe they could talk about it tomorrow night.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if they were going to do anything about dog control tonight.

The Town Clerk stated that she notified the press that the Board may be taking action on this topic tonight.

Councilman Kusnierz said if they were going to act on it he wanted an executive session first.

Councilwoman LeClair said they should do it tonight or tomorrow night when Councilman Prendergast will be present.

The Town Clerk said if Councilman Prendergast was present it would be better to wait. There is a section of law on special meetings that reads that all Board Members should be present and participate in order to take action.

The Board decided to wait until tomorrow night to discuss this topic.

John Telisky asked if the Board was going to hire somebody and Supervisor Jenkins said it was likely.

John Telisky asked if they canvassed and Supervisor Jenkins said no basically because it was an emergency and we don't have anybody to do it. He picked up a dog last Friday himself and Councilwoman LeClair has also and they don't have the equipment or qualifications to do it. The Board interviewed two people.

John Telisky asked if they would be taking action on this tomorrow night and if it would be a long-term situation and Supervisor Jenkins replied that he would think so if all the Board Members were present.

John Telisky asked how somebody would get involved in the interview process or was the interview process closed.

Supervisor Jenkins said the Board hasn't made a final decision yet obviously.

John Telisky asked if the other person quit.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that we terminated his contract.

John Telisky asked "recently" and Supervisor Jenkins said yes last Tuesday.

Councilwoman LeClair said they thought they might be able to put dogs in their cars or put them in a kennel at home, but the Saratoga County Animal Shelter didn't recommend this. If they pick up a dog with parvo or some other disease they would be exposing their own pets to this and they don't have the equipment or supplies to do it. We are keeping our fingers crossed that a situation doesn't arise that isn't an emergency in which case the county won't come up and take care of it.

Supervisor Jenkins asked John Telisky if he was interested in an interview.

John Telisky said he would be interested in hearing the terms and conditions. He has a suitable means and the transportation.

Supervisor Jenkins stated the amount paid per contract is \$13,200.00 a year.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

John Telisky asked if it was a full-time position or 24/7.

Supervisor Jenkins stated it isn't defined as such. It would be on an as needed basis. It could end up being seven days a week he supposed.

John Telisky said he works in Albany for himself and an organization that he is elected to and doesn't have any hours. If there was an emergency situation he could be paged or called, but he would have an hour response time at least. He asked if they are considering someone who is retired or available 24/7.

Councilwoman LeClair said that for this amount of money it is hard to tell someone they can't hold another job. If you have a cell phone it would be nice if you could take calls and talk to the people. We are trying to work out something whereby when a Dog Control Officer takes a vacation or is not available there is coverage. Whether we look at an employee or inter-municipal agreement is something the Board has to discuss. Our attorney tells us both options are feasible and our insurance company said, in the case of an employee it would be minimal and it would not cause a problem even though the actual Dog Control Officer is a sub-contractor so they would get paid on a 1099 and be responsible for filing on their tax return. The Board hasn't discussed what they are going to do yet.

Councilman Kusnierz told John Telisky what was in the contracts over the previous years.

John Telisky asked if a person who holds this position would have to be self insured and the answer was yes.

He asked if there was a rider on the Town's policy.

Supervisor Jenkins said they would have to have their own personal liability insurance and name the Town of Moreau as additional insured.

Councilwoman LeClair said she believed it ran around \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 per year for the insurance.

John Telisky asked where dogs are taken when they are picked up.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that if the dog isn't identifiable then it goes to the Saratoga County Animal Shelter in Ballston Spa. Most of the time if there is a loose dog or barking dog they get noticed that they have to comply with Ag & Markets Law, Article 7. That is what it should be. The person we terminated turned it into a full-time job and was supposedly patrolling all the time and that wasn't required by contract. All we are looking for is a resolution to dogs running loose and taking care of dogs hit by cars.

Councilwoman LeClair added that the county gets involved with rabid dogs and the sheriff gets involved in animal abuse cases so they aren't taking care of this all on their own. He would have a key to the county shelter to deliver dogs to the shelter after hours.

Councilman Kusnierz stated the contract delineated requirements that a person doing the dog control services has to follow and he listed them as follows:

- They have to do investigation and corrective action, cases involving state and local dog laws
- Issue summons and appearance tickets
- They have to be on-call (we are looking to modify this)
- They have to supply all their own equipment and supplies to do the services
- Remove and transport dogs to a licensed veterinarian or other secured facility as designated by the Town.

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 20, 2009 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing the 2010 Tentative Budget for the Town of Moreau.

Councilman Kusnierz said as far as the contract goes this is what they expect a contractor to abide by.

Councilwoman LeClair told John Telisky that he should contact the Supervisor in the morning if he was interested in setting up an interview with the Town Board and suggested it be held before the Budget Meeting tomorrow night.

Budget Workshop was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk