

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 22, 2014 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York

Supervisor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

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

Also Present: Leeann McCabe, Deputy Town Clerk; Francine Thibodeau, Principal Account Clerk; Tim Johnston, Recreation Maintenance Director; Reed Antis, Town Resident

Discussion started with account A7140 – Playgrounds and Recreation

Tim Johnston is asking for a working foreman position, as we've had in the past. Supervisor Jenkins stated that we would have to reinstate this position with civil service. The rate of pay would be between \$12.00 to \$15.00 hour. One staff person is making just under \$14.00.

Tim Johnston said he is only there 20 hours a week or less so a working foreman is needed. Between all the crew members there is probably two hours of wasted time and if there was a working foreman he could take those 15 minute or 30 minute increments and make them work. At two hours a day it will pay for itself. A working foreman would probably send them home on a rainy day when he isn't there. He thinks he has managed the budget with the laborers very well. Some guys go into a late lunch and sit around until 3:15 and say they have to go to the other end of the park and do xyz and then they are into overtime and he has already gone home. A working foreman would prevent this.

Councilman Kusnierz asked about overtime.

Fran said there isn't a lot of overtime in the rec. dept. She said there may be some overtime when there is a tournament going on. She said it is more extra help than overtime. Tim said there was some overtime this past winter when they had to deal with snow removal.

Councilman Kusnierz wanted to make sure he was clear, the person he has in mind is making close to that.

Tim Johnston and Supervisor Jenkins said no he is making around \$12.00 an hour. The person just started working in the rec. dept. in April. Tim Johnston stated that "Pete" is the go to person when he isn't there. He has been taking care of the beach all summer. The baseball/softball leadership role he has taken on. He has proven himself.

Councilman Kusnierz said he was shocked to learn recently that we don't always have staff in the park. He asked Tim how he envisions that changing with a working foreman.

Tim replied that there are days such as Tuesdays during the daytime when there are four or five people walking their dogs in the park and they have boxes to move or something at the municipal building then that is the day they do it. When there are sports going on the park we always have somebody there. Daytimes during the week, unless there is something specifically going on, we are town-wide maintenance. He doesn't think it is totally possible, even with a foreman or not, to have someone in the park at all times.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if wouldn't they be creating a working foreman for playgrounds and rec.?

Fran Thibodeau replied that they split them. We had the rec. director last year and we have the maintenance now.

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Councilman Kusnierz said what he is hearing then is that it's not strictly recreation and playgrounds and the person will be working foreman in charge of other stuff.

Tim said they are town-wide maintenance.

It was mentioned how they plow, how they take care of the bike trails, maintenance at the municipal building and sheriff's department, they maintain the lawns and electrical problems with the lights. They are really a full maintenance department.

Councilman Kusnierz asked why all the money would be in playgrounds and recreation then. Shouldn't part of the salary come out of another account?

Supervisor Jenkins said they could allocate it between the building account and recreation and they would have to track their time spent on each job. It is the same tax base.

Park Improvements were discussed next.

Tim mentioned a drainage problem on the legion field. The last two Sundays he has had to cancel games due to drainage issues. There is an inch of red clay dust and four inches of old green slate dust underneath that they used to use and it is the slate dust that is retaining water. A fix would be to dig down six inches to get all the green slate dust out and put four to five inches of sand and top off with 1 inch to 1 1/2 inch of red clay dust.

Supervisor Jenkins asked if BOCES could help. Tim said he plans to talk with them about this.

The other area where there is a drainage problem is at the bottom of the hill from the main entrance at Jan Avenue as you go back to the quad there is a dip and the water has been up to four feet high near the drain and they have had to close the roadway. People would have to trudge back to the ice rink on foot. He talked to Paul and one or two extra drains would be good. It would be about \$3,000 for one drain in materials only.

Rain gutters are needed on the concession stand. The rain runs off the roof onto the ground and goes straight to fields three and one. Also, the water puddles in front of the concession stand door and eventually it will rot the side of the building. The estimate he got was \$800.

Field fertilization and care is estimated at \$6,000. There are a lot of grub issues on the fields. It absolutely has to be addressed. Pete Corlew has six hours left of course completion and hopefully by November they can get it done.

Park signs were addressed next. Right now we are open 7:30 to dusk. At times we may be open later. He wants an interchangeable sign so the park times can be changed and posted. As you come in from Jan Avenue where it splits at the main building, there should be signage directing people to the different fields and signs on posts by the roadways directing people to the pavilions.

Field two and one railings are needed on the side of the bleachers. This was the result of an insurance inspection. The cost is unknown right now, but it shouldn't be bad.

There is a need for a dump trailer. He has to borrow a dump truck from highway many times and it is challenging at times to borrow it when it isn't in use at the highway department. They could use it all year long. Right now they are starting to build a playground by the quads. This is where they used to dump all the grass clippings and it smells pretty bad. He wants to have the staff take the grass clippings out of there and dump them at the highway department. There's no place to move them to in the park right now, unless they build a trail and take them way out into the woods. Supervisor Jenkins suggested they take them to the Transfer Station.

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They brought the XRT club car to three different mechanics and all three said there is very little compression in two of the three cylinders. It will be at least \$1,000 to pull the engine out. It could be up to \$4,500 to \$5,000 to fix it. To replace the actual engine would be \$5,000. They could try and pull the piston and rings first. They bought it in 2009 Tim thought and it was bought used. Councilman Vittengl said it was allocated in 2010 and purchased for \$8,595.00.

Councilman Vittengl suggested they take it to VOTECH and leave it with them for the winter and see what they come up with.

Councilman Kusnierz said it wasn't worth fixing for \$5,000 and he would rather put it in an auction or whatever we have for our equipment for highway and put the money towards a new one down the road.

They just took delivery on a new one for \$13,000 and Tim said he would love to get this one running so they would have two. All summer they use the Gator, which is a 1986 model and it broke down three times during the summer and luckily it was easy to fix. They also have golf carts, but they can't use them to get work done. Tim said having another XRT club car would be great. It isn't 100% needed, but it would definitely help. He was all for having VOTECH taking a look at it. Councilman Vittengl said at least then they would know if it could be fixed or if it should be scrapped.

Supervisor Jenkins was of the opinion that they could leave the money in the budget and decide later. This budget is \$131.00 less than the 2014 budget.

Tim said the 7hp generator is needed. They have one generator, but they pump so much water off several fields that they need another generator to get the fields cleared all at once. Having one generator limits what they can do.

Fuel transfer tank. Right now they have five gallon gas cans that they run back and forth to fill up. There is one flammable cabinet. Safety and tracking wise a fuel transfer tank would be easier and limit the time we spend going to the Town highway department and he would be able to track it easier with the gages and it is safer than having five gallon gas cans laying around.

Bleacher for softball fields. During the girls' softball tournament this year they borrowed bleachers from the South Glens Falls Central School. Right now there is only one set of bleachers for the girls' softball fields.

Councilman Kusnierz said one of the things that stands out to him looking at recreation in general is that there are a lot of requests for equipment to help personnel. What are we doing to grow our park to make it better for either new types of recreation or playground equipment?

Tim said BOCES is clearing an area right now where they would like to create new fields. They are stressed for fields. Soccer and Lacrosse season there is a huge conflict. Some of the Lacrosse games have to be played at the school. There just aren't enough fields. He hopes to have at least one new field there by the year 2016. Tim said they are having a hard time taking care of the park they have now. His main goal right now is to get what we have up to par and then if we need more fields we build more fields, but they have to get the current fields up to speed. He said to build more fields right now isn't realistic manpower wise.

Councilman Kusnierz said he and Councilman Vittengl had discussed more jungle gym type of equipment and rock climbing equipment. We should be expanding with more diverse types of activities, because with field usage comes families with smaller children and they aren't playing on the fields, it's something we need to be sensitive to.

Tim said that is why the piece of equipment is being installed down by the quads.

Supervisor Jenkins said it was budgeted for four years.

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Councilman Vittengl said you can build natural playgrounds by utilizing piles of dirt, rocks, stones, logs, tractor tires, tree stumps and if you utilized VOTECH you wouldn't be spending a zillion dollars. You keep expanding year after year with natural resources.

Councilman Kusnierz saw where there was \$5,000 budgeted for split rail fencing and he asked Tim if he had to replace that much fencing this year.

Tim said it could be reduced. If he could do a little bit each year that would be okay.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Tim to prioritize his list for the board.

Tim ranked his requests as follows:

Equipment:

- #1 - The dump trailer
- #2 - The XRT club car to be fixed.
- #3 - The generator.
- #4 - The fuel transfer tank.

Park Improvements:

- #1 - The drainage for the parking lot and the legion field.
- #2 - The rain gutters on the concession stand.
- #3 - The field fertilization

Councilman Prendergast said if you ask the people they would say the signs.

Supervisor Jenkins said he didn't see anything on the list that isn't important and this was the only department that came in with a budget less than last year and the only department that came in with a real budget.

Councilman Kusnierz said he has a real problem spending \$5,000 to fix the club car that we paid \$8,500 for.

Tim said worst case scenario is that it would cost \$5,000 to fix it, but it may only cost \$2,500 when they get into the nitty gritty of it.

Councilwoman LeClair said even if BOCES can't fix it, they are a viable option to look at it. Tim said it can be a good piece of equipment and it seems sad to just let it sit there.

Tim said they are now tracking the maintenance on the equipment.

Councilman Prendergast said he would like to get what we have there where we want it and then move forward. He has said it several times. He can understand the thought process of we need more, but when he has been down there over the years and seen things falling apart that is a problem. We have had buildings falling apart down there and yet we were working on something else.

This concluded the discussion on the recreation budget.

The Moreau Emergency Squad budget was discussed next. Present from the Squad was: Steve VanGuilder, Helen Glen, John Bunn & Josh Jacobs.

Line item A4540 - Ambulance

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Steve VanGuilder stated that there were a couple of mistakes in the budget he gave the board that he picked up on. The building mortgage of \$19,448 will be paid off in August 2015. The amount for Worker's Compensation for Saratoga County Self Insurance is correct, but the insurance for the squad itself through USI is not the \$17,680 as listed, rather it is around \$29,000 to \$30,000. At the bottom there are some items not listed. One is the durable replacements coming up, our life pack 15, they have five of them. They are setting aside \$2,000 for each unit, yearly, so that is where you will see the \$26,000 come in. Four stretchers at \$2,000 each. Four CPR devices at \$2,000 each. So the figure of \$26,650 is a rough estimate.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about the Workmen's Compensation and Steve VanGuilder said the \$17,680 figure is an estimate and it went down to \$11,400. So that number will change to around \$11,400.

Steve VanGuilder said they purchased a fourth ambulance. He and Glen Ward flew out to Springfield, MO to look it over and they purchased it. He said it was \$18,500 and they paid for it out of the Town of Moreau contractual account just because it was a weekend and a last minute decision. He drove it back 1,200 + miles and didn't have one problem with it. It is being serviced right now and it should be in service by Thanksgiving. They took a loan out for the ambulance and the ambulance payments are going to be about \$900.00 a month for 5 years at an interest rate of 3.75%. Another member of the Moreau EMS said that is a lot cheaper than \$185,000 for a new one. Questions were raised about the \$18,500 and the \$900 a month and how it doesn't equate. It was then stated that they took a loan out for about \$30,000 at GF National. They put \$18,500 back in the Town of Moreau contractual account and they put \$11,500 in the Town of Northumberland to pay on their credit card. The credit card is at around \$1,900 now. Councilman Vittengl said if they are going to be paying \$900 a month for 60 months then the loan has to be for more than \$30,000. It was then stated that it was more than \$30,000 and Steve VanGuilder said he doesn't remember exactly what it was. Councilman Vittengl said it has to be around \$45,000 to \$50,000. They said the equipment cost more than the rig. Steve VanGuilder said now that he thinks about it, it was around \$60,000. It is a 2002. They roughly put \$10,000 into their 5852 this year. They had a lot of problems with it and it is going in for service again this week for an oil sensor problem. It will put them down to two rigs. Their call rate has gone up about 22% and they have gone on about 1,638 calls this year due to the growth of the Town. When VaVaVoom (Home of the Good Sheperd) was before Planning Board they said the Moreau EMS wouldn't be called there much and in fact they could park an ambulance there. There are all the new senior apartments going in as well. They approached Schermerhorn and he said he was willing to donate to them and they haven't heard anything from him.

Councilman Kusnierz said the Commissioner of NYS DOH issued an order for summary action regarding the Ebola issue. What he is hearing from three counties in the North Country and especially the ambulance services is that it is an unfunded mandate and they have to purchase things they may never use, training and patient tracking. What does that do to their budget? He asked the Commissioner if it is a mandate from the Feds and it isn't, it is a NYS mandate.

The answer was that they bought supplies for Ebola. They charged the cost to the credit card and that comes out of the Town of Moreau contractual.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what this increases the budget by and the answer was they hadn't received a bill yet.

Discussion followed on training.

Steve said they want to talk to the board at some point about a fee schedule increase over a five year period.

Councilwoman LeClair went back to the \$60,000 that they borrowed. She asked what is the \$60,000 made up of.

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Steve VanGuilder stated that \$31,000 is just for the life pack 15 heart monitor. It will be about \$65,000, because they had to stock the ambulance at a cost of about \$4,500.

Councilman Vittengl said didn't they say part of that was to pay off their credit card too.

Steve VanGuilder said yes \$11,500 roughly and the balance on their credit card is \$1,900.

The Physio Contract is for the life pack 15 in case one goes down or breaks.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if they were okay with the Tentative Budget figure.

Supervisor Jenkins said it was \$212,242 a 2% increase from 2014.

Helen Glenn said never look a gift horse in the mouth.

There was no other response about the \$212,242.

They said they are doing a feasibility study on a proposed expansion of their building. They are getting tight on room down there.

Discussion followed on the feasibility of storing an ambulance in another building in the Town rather than adding on to the existing building. One squad member said it would be a logistical nightmare dealing with vehicles and crew in two different spots. Councilman Prendergast said the Fire Company does it.

Supervisor Jenkins said they are at their tax cap with these numbers and he doesn't think they can do any more than that.

This concluded the discussion on the Moreau Emergency Squad budget.

Supervisor Jenkins said he discussed the ceiling fans for the highway garage with Attorney Buettner and she said it would be a bad idea right now.

Supervisor Jenkins said as for the engineering fees he doesn't understand why the general fund would pay for engineering fees for repair of town roads. There is \$15,000 in A5020 Engineering and Transportation that is for a grant to repair two town roads and he doesn't know how we could do two town roads and charge the general fund.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that by November 1st we have to pass a sales tax resolution. They could take it up at the next meeting of the Town Board.

Supervisor Jenkins said it is time to seriously consider not sending sales tax back to the county that we preserve our fund balance, because it is going to disappear. It is a decision this board has to make.

Councilman Kusnierz asked everyone to keep in mind that the town tax rate has been fairly flat compared to last year, but if you look at our lighting districts, the increase, which we have no control over, but at the end of the day it comes out of the taxpayer's pockets depending on where you live. We are looking at a 6% increase in the Fire Company budget and these things are adding up. We are looking at a proposed use of fund balance for Village outside another additional \$140,000 over last year and another \$230,000 for highway. These are huge numbers. Looking at the fund balance, it is unsustainable. Some people may not like the way I question how they are spending, but we really need to look at every dollar we are spending. Even if it is \$3,000 or \$4,000 we need to take it out. It is the only way we are going to keep control.

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Supervisor Jenkins stated that we have addressed trying to upgrade highway on both equipment and road repair and in some ways we are still behind, but closer than we were three years ago. He said there is still the question of a paver and he doesn't know if we really need to buy one in 2015. Do we really need one? The question is if we do what year do we buy it in.

Fran said the Preliminary Budget has to be ready when the Public Hearing notice hits the newspaper.

Another workshop on the budget was set for Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Kusnierz asked that everyone come to the workshop on Monday prepared with ideas on where they think they can save.

Supervisor Jenkins said they have to straighten out the \$15,000 for engineering and take a serious look at the highway equipment request. He said if you look in 2008 our tax levy was \$1.6 million. The tax levy proposed for 2015 is \$762,222 or \$900,000 less than in 2008 and \$762,222 is the most that it can be. We have been using fund balance and that is going to disappear if we don't take some of this money back and not give it to the county.

Supervisor Jenkins said our main concern is where we are going. If we just take \$100,000 and send \$700,000 back to the county that is money we will never see again. We have almost \$2 million in Town Outside Village as the result of sales tax and if we didn't send money back to the county then we would have had \$4 million in Town Outside Village.

Councilman Kusnierz asked if they were wedded to the 6% increase for the Fire Company. We all sat here last year and we were castigated by the Fire Company by them saying we were putting lives on the line, it was a crisis, and we need to do this, and they weren't happy with us. We gave them a means to do it and it wasn't that important. What changed from last year to this year other than last year? Other than the fact that at that time we as a board said we will help you out and entertain it.

Supervisor Jenkins said last year they reacted to a change in equipment that they thought they were going to have. He mentioned the discussion last year on the air packs and how this year they are now going to somehow phase them in and repair them when last year that was impossible.

General discussion followed.

Councilman Prendergast said the only problem he has in regards to the Fire Company is that when they walked out the door they thought they knew what they were going to get and now we are going to tell them that they are not going to get it.

Councilwoman LeClair said that she thought the Fire Company understood that we needed to talk about it. She stated that when she went home that night and thought about them saying that they were spending \$4,500 more because of confidentiality issues over the Supervisor's nephew owning that firm. Isn't it our understanding with them that they have to show us their books anyways so why are we looking to spend \$4,500 more when they are supposed to show us everything anyway?

Councilman Prendergast said that when they walked out the door they thought they were getting the 6% and Councilman Vittengl agreed.

Supervisor Jenkins said there are still some things we can decrease in the general fund that would decrease the fund balance we are using. We have a little extra money in our HRA and we could put it in the HRA now and use it next year and it doesn't affect the current budget. We aren't essentially going to change the fund balance much.

Councilman Prendergast said again that the Fire Company is convinced that they are getting 6%.

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Councilman Kusnierz stated that anything over 2% would be putting them ahead of anywhere else we were looking, the Community Center, the Moreau Emergency Squad, employee's and raises. It is all a balance. They should know about it. We shouldn't adopt it without them knowing about it if we come to a change from where we are at tonight. Somebody should call them so they can come to the Public Hearing and talk with us about it. It probably would have helped some last year too, because he thinks there is a potential this year for a little misunderstanding with the Fire Company.

Health Insurance was discussed next.

Supervisor Jenkins said Fran Thibodeau feels she has a preference to who we have now. They represent Saratoga County also. He is comfortable with them. There is not a single employee who has had a problem with CDPHP.

This concluded the workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe
Deputy Town Clerk

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