

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing a Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant received by the South Glens Falls Central School District.

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

The Town Clerk called the roll.

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; Donna Nichols, Director of the Moreau Community Center; Jean Tedesco, Assistant Superintendent of the South Glens Falls Central School District; Steve Gram, Recreation Director; Adele Kurtz, Town Resident (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Supervisor Jenkins started the meeting by stating that this special meeting of the Town Board was called so the board members could discuss the PEP Grant received by the South Glens Falls School District and how the Town of Moreau, Moreau Community Center, and School District can work together to all benefit from this grant program.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that when she talked to Donna Nichols she told her that Steve Gram had attended a meeting and Steve Gram brought it up at a budget meeting. She thought that it would be nice if we could work together with the School District, the Moreau Community Center, and the YMCA on spending this money as wisely as possible so we can get the “most bang for our buck”. If the School District or the Moreau Community Center has a program they are looking at implementing and the Town can work with them on it then that is something the Town should consider before they make any decisions. She had asked Donna Nichols to invite Jean Tedesco to come to this meeting and explain the process to the Town Board. She congratulated Jean Tedesco on being the School District being the recipient of this grant.

Jean Tedesco gave the board members a paper copy of a power point presentation that explained how the grant came about and a little about the grant. She suggested that the Town Board review the information at their leisure.

Jean Tedesco stated that three years ago Carrol White came to our school district with prior experience in applying for PEP Grants. He proposed a grant that year, with Ms. Tedesco’s assistance and the assistance physical education teachers, and was unsuccessful. The second year they applied again and were unsuccessful, although they improved some. This past year the school sought assistance from a grant writer and was successful in securing a \$2.1 million PEP Federal Grant. Federal grants have very strict requirements and the main focus of the grant will be on fitness and nutrition. The Federal Government will want the School District to provide a lot of feedback and data to the government. Nick Fitzgerald is in Washington, DC as part of the grant training process. The grant will involve an outreach and community partnership over a three year period with the Town of Moreau, Moreau Community Center and YMCA. Each entity will receive \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 cumulatively over the three year period to purchase equipment, supplies, run camps, or any kind of creative ideas that may be out there. The School District is in the process of hiring a project manager and support personnel. She said that they are working a lot with elliptical machines and treadmills. Students will take home pedometers to clock their fitness

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing a Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant received by the South Glens Falls Central School District.

participation at home. She stated that there was a meeting about a week ago with Steve Gram, Donna Nichols, Brian Bearor and John Hurlleman, from the YMCA and Nick Fitzgerald and herself to discuss how this process will work and how to move forward. As a partnership they wanted it to be a collective effort of everyone, while understanding that the Moreau Community Center may have needs or areas of interest that are different from those of the Town of Moreau. The key requirements of the grant are fitness and nutrition. They are going to meet with Brian Bearor at the YMCA this Friday to obtain his ideas. They will meet with the Moreau Community Center to discuss the backpack program and how it may fit into this grant program. She said the Town of Moreau may want to think about a summer fitness camp or any ideas out there that are creative. One idea that was suggested by the School District that the Town of Moreau or Moreau Community Center or YMCA may want to dovetail off of is the idea of "Fitness Nights". Members of the community could participate in fitness activities or they could televise programs going on at the school. She stated the School District doesn't have a set focus on what they want the Town of Moreau to do. They wanted to roll out the concept and have people think about it and bounce ideas back and forth with her and Nick Fitzgerald. She said that a lot of minds bring a lot of good ideas.

Donna Fitzgerald stated that there is a possibility of expanding the backpack program from Harrison Avenue Elementary School into Moreau Elementary School and possibly some of the other elementary schools. They want to make sure that whatever they do, it is sustainable. It is a three year grant. They thought about working with the Recreation Department and expanding "Camp Moreau" to include more fitness into the program.

Jean Tedesco stated that one idea they tossed around at the initial meeting was a "Teen Night" that would be opposite the one that the school coordinates. Expanding that concept could be another area to look into.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Town is looking into a community garden. He stated that many students are not athletes and this might be an outreach program that those students could take advantage of and it would fall within the category of fitness. He said there aren't many programs for non-athletes.

Jean Tedesco mentioned a "Life Program" referred to as "SPARK", lifetime activities. She said that part of this grant will be used to purchase snowshoes. They also talked about cross country skiing. Maybe this is an area the Town would be interested in.

Steve Gram stated mentioned how it has been discussed about using the building the Town owns on Route 197 as a teen center. A place where teens can go after school to get help with their homework or to learn about nutrition, or fitness and speakers could be brought in. It was discussed with Nick Fitzgerald about a low ropes adventure course or the purchase of snowshoes. He said that they talked about creating a fitness lab in the building next to the recreation department office in the rec. park and moving the equipment outside to the barn. Children that can't afford to go to the YMCA would have a place to go after school hours and use the fitness equipment there free.

Councilwoman LeClair asked Jean Tedesco if this would be duplicating school facilities.

Jean Tedesco said that part of the goal would be to have the programs be an extension of the school. There is no opportunity for construction under this grant, so as far as building a weight room or fitness center, it couldn't be done. They would have to use existing facilities.

Councilman Cumm asked if the grant was limited to the students in the school or the whole community.

Jean Tedesco replied that it does encompass the whole community by the fact that they are reaching out to other organizations, but it is student focused. However, because there will be some community focus, there will be some participation by adults. If they do a family fitness program, then the goal will be to

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing a Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant received by the South Glens Falls Central School District.

bring parents in and educate them as well on fitness. Nick Fitzgerald will be the grant facilitator, but there will be an in-house grant manager that the School District will hire, hopefully within the next couple of weeks. Then they can work on curriculum development.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that a person who geo-caches asked her if geo-caching could be included. She explained what she knows about geo-caching.

Jean Tedesco stated that they would have to look at this and it would depend on what the goal was and what the integration of that would be. The government wants to see the children change their habits outside of school to become more physically active.

Councilman Cumm asked if he could get a copy of the grant application and Donna Nichols advised that it was available on-line under PEP Grant.

Councilwoman LeClair asked Jean Tedesco when the Town needs to get back to her.

Jean Tedesco stated that she didn't know if there was a deadline, but the sooner the better, especially if they have to order equipment. They want to make sure they spend the money so they don't lose it next year. She thought that Nick Fitzgerald wanted to brainstorm with the Town and get some ideas. She suggested the Town Board discuss what direction they want to go in and then they will have a dialogue about it and make sure it fits with the grant.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Jean Tedesco if he heard correctly that there isn't a deadline.

Jean Tedesco said "no, but they want to make sure they are moving forward to utilize the money".

Councilman Kusnierz said he asked this, because this meeting was scheduled outside of a regular Town Board Meeting and he was given the impression that there is something time sensitive about it.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that she thought there was.

Donna Nichols stated that at a meeting they had, Nick Fitzgerald said he needed our ideas a.s.a.p. and within 10 days.

Councilman Kusnierz stated there is a Town Board Meeting scheduled for 7:00 tonight and another one at 6:30 p.m. The maximum amount of time this discussion would take is ½ hour. When he was contacted six days ago about this meeting he said he was unable to make it and he knew that Councilman Prendergast was unable to make it and a decision was made to move forward with the meeting. This left him to think it was time sensitive. He doesn't believe that is the case and he asked if this was fair to say.

Jean Tedesco stated that it is time sensitive, but she didn't think they needed to know by Monday, October 31st, but they need to move forward on this. It was ten days ago that they met and had an initial discussion on the grant.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that he had to make some serious adjustments to be able to attend this meeting at this time tonight.

Jean Tedesco stated that they appreciated that.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that he read the article in the paper about this and said that they got some very nice press that reflected on the School District in a positive light. In the memo about this meeting

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing a Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant received by the South Glens Falls Central School District.

there was a sentence that talks about the Town's share of the grant money, but based on what he heard tonight, it is the School District's money. He asked if this was correct.

Jean Tedesco stated that it is School District's money, but part of the allocation of the money goes to the collaborative groups.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the percentage is, that the Town will be able to use.

Jean Tedesco replied that \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 for each year over a three year period.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that the article in the newspaper didn't mention this and that is why he asked for clarification.

Councilman Cumm asked what the Town Board needs to do, to move this forward.

Steve Gram replied that the Town Board needs to decide how to spend the money.

Jean Tedesco replied, "Following your board's protocol and it may be different from the School Board's, so I apologize if this isn't the proper process, but if you have a meeting tonight and if it is appropriate to bring this topic up for discussion the Town Board could discuss it. Brainstorm some ideas or target a couple of people to work on it and have some dialogue with Nick Fitzgerald over the next couple of days."

Councilman Kusnierz stated that there should be a meeting of the Town Board with the Recreation Commission. The larger number of people involved in this process the better.

Councilman Cumm stated that if the Town doesn't have its act together and doesn't use the money then he hopes that the money goes back to the School District so they could spend the money accordingly.

Jean Tedesco stated that she didn't want to speak for Nick Fitzgerald, but her initial reaction would be that if it had to wait a week she would rather have it wait a week and get the input and have the Town be able to utilize the money for additional programs for children.

Jean Tedesco recapped what her understanding was of the appropriate type of programs that the money could be utilized for as follows:

- Low Ropes Type of Course
- Fitness Camp
- Lifelong Sports - Activities in the Winter Months
- Family Fitness Nights
- Teen Nights

Councilman Kusnierz stated that anything that gets our youth involved in greater level activities would be his priority.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if they needed to have a plan before the end of 2011.

Jean Tedesco stated that the grant program started October 1st. They weren't notified until the middle of October.

Donna Nichols replied to Councilwoman LeClair's question by saying yes and that is what the urgency is.

Jean Tedesco stated that if the Town Board has a meeting coming up or if the Recreation Commission has a meeting coming up and if they would like Nick Fitzgerald to attend he would be happy to.

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing a Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant received by the South Glens Falls Central School District.

Councilman Cumm asked if the grant money could be used to enhance programs that the Town has in place already and Jean Tedesco replied, as long as it is related to fitness and nutrition.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Recreation Commission is meeting on November 7th and that is only ten days away. He thought that was when the joint meeting could be held.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that we are already at the ten day period from when they originally met. She explained how she talked to Donna Nichols and asked Donna to speak to Jean Tedesco and she spoke to Supervisor Jenkins and she thought that if we were going to do this we should do it on a timely basis. She was thinking ten days and she didn't want anything to happen to the funds and she wasn't trying to create a problem.

Donna Nichols stated that if Nick Fitzgerald comes back tonight and they meet tomorrow then perhaps they will get a better time line.

Jean Tedesco stated that she spoke with Nick Fitzgerald mid-day today and he is learning a lot. There is a lot of information coming out that may vary from their prior meeting.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that in every single grant that the Town was eligible to receive and was awarded it has never been a problem if we have had to adjust the time frame a little bit.

Jean Tedesco said she understood. She stated that in their excitement over the grant they wanted to get started right away. Their enthusiasm about it probably played a little bit of a role in them saying that they wanted ideas right away. She would rather go a little bit slower and have it thought through and have everybody be comfortable over the direction that the Town was taking in collaboration with the School District.

Councilman Cumm asked Supervisor Jenkins if he wanted to try and set up a joint meeting of the Town Board and Recreation Commission for next week and invite Nick Fitzgerald.

Supervisor Jenkins stated they could schedule a special meeting of the Town Board and name it a Joint Workshop with the Recreation Commission for next Wednesday or Thursday night.

Donna Nichols said they don't want a duplication of efforts and that is why she thought a collaborative effort would be better. She doesn't want the Moreau Community Center to do something that Steve Gram is going to do and that will step on the toes of the YMCA also.

Supervisor Jenkins explained what the Town of Moreau has tried to do with winter programs in the rec. park. He said maybe there could be some improvement there.

Councilman Cumm stated that it seems like there are quite a few groups to coordinate here and he wondered if it would be better to have a couple of Town Board Members meet so it doesn't have to be a public meeting.

Councilman Kusnierz said it should be a public meeting and the public should be involved and give public comment.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if they could hold a meeting in the format like the one for the River Front Park Workshop. People broke into groups and shared their ideas and then came together and shared their ideas.

Supervisor Jenkins said they could. It would have to be advertised as a public meeting.

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 25, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of discussing a Physical Education Program (PEP) Federal Grant received by the South Glens Falls Central School District.

Councilwoman LeClair asked if they could do it in conjunction with the School District, the Moreau Community Center and the YMCA. Then we are all involved and the community comes out and they say what they would like to see done, then it gives them all ideas. She asked if this would be too hard to do.

Supervisor Jenkins said that type of meeting could be held at the high school where there is more room.

Jean Tedesco stated that from the School's prospective, they had a collaboration meeting and their understanding was that the perspective personnel would go back to their groups and have a dialogue and then bring it back to the School District. That is what was anticipated. However, they would be happy to do whatever will move this forward.

The board thanked Jean Tedesco and Donna Nichols for attending this meeting.

This concluded the special meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk