

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 29, 2013 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Fort Edward, New York.

Supervisor Jenkins called the budget workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll.

**Town Board Members Present**

Robert J. Vittengl, Jr.	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman (Entered Meeting 6:35 p.m.)
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Preston L. Jenkins, Jr.	Supervisor

**Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also Present:** Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Fran Thibodeau, Principal Account Clerk; Amanda Metzger, Post Star Reporter (Entered meeting at 6:36 p.m.); Karla Buettner, Attorney for the Town (Entered meeting at 6:47 pm.); Reed Antis, Town Resident and Planning Board Member (Entered meeting at 6:50 p.m.); Members of the South Glens Falls Fire Company (Entered meeting at 7:03 p.m.)

Supervisor Jenkins stated he researched the Town Law and read from Section 184 and said that the Town Board can't give the Fire Company any funds unless it is part of the tax levy. He recommended that the Town Board give the Fire Company a 6% increase for the next three years and have them sign a three year contract with the Town and require them to put \$33,000.00 a year away in an equipment reserve fund strictly for turnout gear, air packs and hose. If they lowered the assessment to \$738,216 then the town rate would be .5554 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Discussion followed amongst Board Members.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Supervisor Jenkins if he heard him say that he was willing to offset it with a corresponding reduction in the tax rate and Supervisor Jenkins replied yes and stated that if they reduced the assessment to \$738,216 then the town rate would be .5546 and it would be about a 3 1/2 cent savings per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Councilman Kusnierz said he liked the idea of offsetting it with a reduction in the town tax rate, but he had a problem with a multi-year contract as there is no corresponding slide on the town side. He then said that he can't recall the Town ever giving the Fire Company a 6% increase. It is a sizable increase.

Discussion followed.

**Supervisor Jenkins stated that they could give the Fire Company a 6% increase in 2014 and require them to put \$33,000 into an equipment reserve fund and have them sign a one year contract and reduce the general fund down to \$738,000.**

**Councilman Kusnierz was agreeable to this suggestion. He said it would give future Town Board Members leeway.**

**The rest of the Board Members were also in agreement.**

**The Town Court had in their budget \$11,600 for the JCAP Grant and it was agreed to reduce this amount in revenues and appropriations to what was actually applied for and that was \$8,687.00.**

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Supervisor Jenkins reported that Tim Johnston, Rec. Maintenance Director thinks the seasonal employees who work in the Rec. Department should get more of an increase in their hourly rate than the \$9.00 and \$10.50 per hour that is in the tentative budget.

Discussion followed on laborers in general and what they make per hour in departments like Rec. and Transfer Station.

**It was agreed to set the hourly rate for part-time, seasonal, laborers at \$9.00 to \$11.00 per hour.**

**It was also agreed to increase the hourly rate for Ted Monsour to \$12.50 per hour for 2014 and to freeze the salaries of the other Transfer Station employees for 2014.**

Members of the South Glens Falls Fire Company were present to discuss their budget with the Town Board.

Supervisor Jenkins advised them that the Town Board was contemplating a 6% increase for one year and require the Fire Company to put \$33,000.00 into an account towards the purchase of the equipment that the Fire Company has said they need. Next year the Town Board will consider a similar approach. This will put them in the right direction to solve their equipment issues. He also explained how the Town Board can't give them a lump sum for equipment replacement it has to be part of the tax levy per law.

Rick Meyers explained how they are trying to catch up from the years that they received 2% increases and they are struggling to get to a point where this doesn't happen again. They established an equipment replacement plan four years ago, but haven't been able to accomplish it with the increases they have been given. They are trying to use their money wisely. He doesn't know how they are going to be able to do it with the 6%. They will still be behind. A truck just broke down and the cost to repair it is going to be \$6,000.00 and another one needs repair and they haven't gotten the cost for that one yet. They have been trying to do fundraising for the purchase of hoses and compressors and things like that. New York State may be phasing out the equipment that they currently have and if they do then there will be no place to go to get the equipment they have fixed. They also had about 2,000 feet of 5 inch hose fail and they had to replace it and that was an unforeseen expense.

Councilwoman LeClair stated Rick Meyers if the Town was able to give them the \$91,000.00 that they were asking for what would happen next year.

Rick Meyers replied that it would get them to even and then each year after that they could make do with a marginal 2% increase.

It was noted that the cost for air packs was \$5,000.00 each and that effective in January 2014 they could be facing a 15% increase minimum.

Discussion followed.

Supervisor Jenkins advised that the Town Board would put in the Preliminary Budget for now what has been discussed and that is the 6% increase and a one year contract. Between now and the public hearing on the Budget he would like more information on equipment facts and then the Town Board could decide before the Budget is adopted what they want to do.

The highway budget was discussed.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that so far they eliminated the purchase of a new paver and made some minor adjustments to supplies.

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Councilman Kusnierz asked if they agreed to keep in the purchase of a new skid steer at a cost of \$52,000.00 and Supervisor Jenkins replied yes.

Councilman Kusnierz noted that the \$52,000.00 estimate is a new skid steer without a trade in. He said the skid steer we have now should be worth about \$15,000.00 as a trade in.

Supervisor Jenkins noted that there isn't any highway tax so there is no impact on the highway budget and they don't want to eliminate a piece of equipment that may prevent us from paving roads. He suggested that they leave in the \$52,000.00 for now until we determine the trade in value of the skid steer we have now.

Councilman Kusnierz then found a note in the budget from Paul Joseph that read that the hydraulic pump needs replacement in the skid steer we have now so the trade in value would only be about \$12,000.00. He said if the repair was made it would increase the trade in value.

Councilman Kusnierz asked about the wood chipper and why highway would need one if we have one in the recreation department.

Discussion followed.

It was decided to leave in the wood chipper for now and the Board will talk to Paul Joseph about it.

This concluded the Budget Workshop at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury  
Town Clerk