

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on January 26, 2021 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building (via Zoom), 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York for the purpose of hearing public comment on the proposed 2021 contract between the Town of Moreau and the South Glens Falls Fire Co.

The Supervisor called the public hearing to order at 6:40 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

John Hogan	Councilmember
Kyle Noonan	Councilmember
John Donohue, Jr.	Councilmember
Alan VanTassel	Councilmember
Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr.	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also present: Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Jeffrey Cruz, Principal Account Clerk

The following notice of Public Hearing was published as a legal ad in the legal section of the Post Star Newspaper on January 16, 2021:

TOWN OF MOREAU

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 184 of the Town Law and Section 122-b of the General Municipal Law, that the Town Board of the Town of Moreau shall conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment on a proposed contract between the Town of Moreau and the South Glens Falls Fire Company, Inc..

The Public Hearing will be held on January 26, 2021, beginning at 6:35 p.m. at the Moreau Town Complex, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York 12828, via videoconferencing as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law and Executive Order 202.1 and all extensions. Due to public health and safety concerns, the public will not be permitted to attend at the Town Hall, at remote locations where Town Board members or Department Heads will be situated or in any other location. The public will be able to fully observe the videoconference meeting and will be able to comment during the public hearing. The link for the videoconference hearing is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81919082390>

Under the agreement, the South Glens Falls Fire Company Inc. will furnish fire protection services within the Town during calendar year 2021. The funds to be paid by the Town of Moreau to the South Glens Falls Fire Company, Inc. for these services are **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY- NINE 00/100 DOLLARS (\$549,629.00)**. A copy of the proposed contract is available at the office of the Moreau Town Clerk located at the Moreau Town Hall.

Published: January 16, 2021

Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk
Town of Moreau

The Supervisor gave a brief summary of the contract, stating that the compensation would be paid out at the same intervals as the Emergency Squad: \$273,314.50 on January 31, 2021, \$136,657.25 on May 15, 2021 and \$136,657.25 on September 15, 2021. He stated that the Town also compensates the Fire Co.,

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80% of the cost of enhanced cancer disability benefit insurance, which is required pursuant to General Municipal Law 205-cc, up to the sum of \$3,000.

The Supervisor gave instructions to those viewing or listening to the public hearing as to how they could be heard.

Gregory Eddy, acting President, of the South Glens Falls Fire Company was first to address the Town Board. He thanked the Town Board for working with the Fire Company. He stated that he had an email conversation with the Supervisor regarding the payment schedule and is asking at this time for the Town Board to consider a change to the contract and to go back to the single lump sum payment. He stated, that if it's not possible, they'll have to work with what they have.

The Supervisor congratulated Mr. Eddy on his new position as President of the Fire Company and that he looks forward to working with him. The Supervisor stated that he wasn't sure if Mr. Eddy was part of the conversations over the past several years during the budget workshops. He stated that there were conversations about this issue and that the Town Board has been accommodating for two years. He stated that the challenge for the Town is that the sales tax revenue collected monthly won't cover the contract for the end of this month. He stated, that from a financial standpoint, it's frowned upon by the Comptroller's office, to front money from fund balance to make these payments, when funding it through sales tax. He asked Mr. Eddy if he had or if he would be willing to provide a detailed listing of their payments, that can be submitted to the Town Board, so they can consider his request. Mr. Eddy stated that he would speak with the Treasurer and see what they can come up with. The Supervisor asked that he email the information to either himself or Lisa Sperry. He stated that the Town Board wants to work with the Fire Company, but that the Town needs to modify how they structure their payments. He stated that it was in fairness to how they operate with other entities in the community. The Supervisor also commented that the Town is subject to periodic audits and that they don't want to run afoul with the Comptroller's office. He stated that they look for things like this. He stated that they want to do everything above board. He stated that he would get the information that Mr. Eddy provides to the Town Board and suggested that they might be able to restructure the dollar amounts, at least to meet their immediate needs. The Supervisor reminded Mr. Eddy, as he had stated in an email, that any changes to the contract would require a new public hearing, which would prevent the Fire Company from receiving any funds from the Town. He stated that the next Town Board meeting isn't until February 9th, which pushes them further away from getting a paycheck from the Town. He stated, that with this contract, they would get their paycheck by January 31st. Mr. Eddy stated that he wanted to make sure that he's conveying the thoughts of his entire Board. He stated that he would bring the information to them and get back to the Supervisor. Mr. Eddy thanked everyone and commented that he's the acting President right now and still the Vice President until they hold elections again.

Wayne Palmer was next to speak. He addressed the Supervisor by stating that this had been discussed three years ago, when he was President of the Company. He stated that he had brought all this information to him and thought they were past this. He stated, that with the structure of their payments, 60% to 80% are done in the first quarter of the year. He stated that this includes their mortgage, the loans on the trucks and the maintenance on the trucks. He stated that they burn through \$400,000.00 in the first quarter of the year. He stated that he had met with the Supervisor three years ago and had given him all this information. He stated that nothing has changed since then. Mr. Palmer stated that he hoped they could get past this and continue with the lump sum payment.

The Supervisor thanked him for his comments and stated that they would take all comments into consideration.

Being no further comments from the public, the Supervisor asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember VanTassel, seconded by Councilmember Noonan and carried, to close the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.

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Asked if all in favor, the following responses were given:

Councilmember Hogan	Aye
Councilmember Noonan	Aye
Councilmember Donohue	Aye
Councilmember VanTassel	Aye
Supervisor Kusnierz	Aye

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe
Town Clerk