The Town Board of the Town of Moreau held a 2026 Budget Workshop at 7:00 p.m. on October 15, 2026 at the Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, Saratoga County, New York.

PRESENT:	John Donohue	Councilmember
	Laura Garrant	Councilmember
	Patrick Killian	Councilmember
	Mark Stewart	Councilmember
	Jesse A. Fish, Jr.	Supervisor
ALSO PRESENT:	Krystal Smith	Bookkeeper
	Erin Trombley	Town Clerk
	Jeff McCabe	Town Justice
	John Hogan	Town Justice
	Chris Abrams	Highway Superintendent
	Kristian Mechanick	Water & Sewer Operator
	Reed Antis	Town Historian
	Elizabeth Bennett	Confidential Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Maureen Dennis (Schermerhorn Real Estate Holdings)

TOWN COURT

Account A1110F – Judge McCabe said there were $16.04 unused from the last JCAP grant which he was unable to close out, so they lost the opportunity to apply for the 2027 JCAP grant. He said the grant of $7,800 in 2026 paid for the new magnetometer, which he encouraged the Town Board to use during meetings. The Judge said records between 1957-1983 were completely digitized and with $20,000-25,000 more, all the court records to the present would be digitized. What remained in the basement archive, he said, was traffic ticket information, which has a 6-year retention schedule (unless the ticket was related to a DWI or criminal actions), and they are required to keep some records of a certain age as archival records, which they considered donating to a museum. He said the file room was now functional and not just full of clutter. The court had also removed all the court records that had been housed in the Annex building in 2026, according to Judge McCabe. He said they would get another $30,000 grant the next time around, and the loss of the grant for 2027 would not impact the court's contractual budget.

Account A1110 – Judge McCabe had asked for a 10% increase for the Court Clerks. Ms. Smith said Clerks had been given 4% across the board, bringing their salaries to 50,132, and an increase for hourly employees from $20.80/hr. to $21.63/hr., which is an $.83 raise per hour.

Revenue – Ms. Smith said that in 2025 estimated revenue was $100,000, and the court brought in $162,000+. In 2024 she said it was just over $132,000, and the Justice agreed. She suggested they increase the figure for 2027 to $120,000, and Judge McCabe said they considered $130,000 or as much as $150,000. They agreed $130,000 was safe, and though the court had received as much as $150,000+ in the past, NY State changed policies so courts can no longer suspend or arrest someone who does not pay their tickets. If people do not pay, he said, the court keeps a running total of what they own and after a period of time, places liens, preventing them from buying a new car or house until they pay what they owe. He clarified that someone could get 15 days in jail or a $150 fine with $93 surcharge, and said if they sentence someone to jail they receive no revenue and the State frowns upon jail time for traffic and vehicle infractions. He said before the COVID-19 shut-down, revenue was at $145,000-$150,000 because if you failed to pay, your license would be suspended, and that is no longer the case. He said they were not supposed to be revenue-generating, but administering justice, and that was the justification for the change.

Judge Hogan said that they let everyone know they can pay any amount they can afford—even $4 a week. Judge McCabe said NY State says a minimum payment should be $25, but they accept small payments because that's

all some people can afford. He indicated that he believed that was the reason for the increase in revenues—showing compassion.

Councilmember Stewart said the request had been for $25 per hour for hourly employees, which was already a few dollars below the hourly rate of full-time employees. He asked if there was a possibility of raising those hourly employees' rates to $22 per hour. He added that the custodian made more. The Supervisor and Ms. Smith agreed to increase the proposed rate by $.37 to $22 per hour.

Judge McCabe said Ed Scalo would be resigning from doing court security, having taken a job providing security with Saratoga County, and a new candidate was being considered—Mike Wells, a retired NY State Trooper who had worked in the BCI, was friends with Kyle Hutter, who also provides court security, and who the Judge said he had known for 40 years. The Judge added that Mr. Hutter had stepped up to help during the transition, and had been doing a great job. The volume of work the court was handling, he said, was in the top 10% of New York State courts. He said it was not because there is a higher crime rate in Moreau, but that Moreau is in a busy corridor. He said they were handling it because they have the best staff in the world.

Judge McCabe said he had done some research, and found that the Chief Clerk in Malta was making $75,000, and Deputy Clerk made $57,000, doing the same volume of work as Moreau. He said in Clifton Park, where the volume was much higher, the Chief Clerk makes $68,000 and a Clerk makes $56,000, and that they have 8 Clerks. He said Moreau has just 2 full-time Clerks. He said the Chief Clerk in Halfmoon, which has a bit lower volume than Moreau, makes $70,000. He said he wanted to make the Board aware of this because if any of those Clerks retire, he said he would hate to lose his staff to more lucrative positions. He said they had already lost Jen Miller, who is earning $73,000. He said they do not have Chief Clerks, because those are civil service positions, but they have two Senior Clerks. He suggested they could reclassify them as Confidential Secretaries since the Town already has one. He said he didn't want to do that, but that was done in Halfmoon to obtain a raise. He reiterated that they did not want to do that, wanted to keep them as Court Clerks, said they were amazing, and that they are frugal, so they have as little financial impact on taxpayers as possible.

TRANSFER STATION

Ms. Smith said she had overlooked the Transfer Station when scheduling workshop sessions, because in 2026 the Transfer Station was being overseen by the Highway Superintendent. She said she had spoken with Transfer Station Manager Marsha Morehouse, and looking into 2027, the cost of garbage and refuse disposal would be increasing due to the shutdown of the trash burning plant in Hudson Falls.

Ms. Smith also said with restructuring staff to create a facilities department and changes to the Supervisor role, she suggested adding an additional Workshop meeting the following week. The decision was made to squeeze in those discussions during the current meeting.

SUPERVISOR

Account A1010, Town Board—A $1,000 figure for contractual was retained, and a 4% increase for Councilmembers would bring their salaries to $15,338. On account A1010.4, Ms. Smith said she had reduced the budget from $1,350 to $600. A consideration raised on that line was whether any Board Member would attend the Association of Towns Annual Conference and Training in New York City, or the Newly Elected Training in Albany. Councilmember Stewart said the training was good and he would support it if someone wanted to attend. Councilmember Garrant said she would like to attend, that Albany was convenient, and that she had heard great things about the Conference in New York. Councilmember Stewart said the room at the Marriott in NYC was a nice setup, and it was decided that $1,000 should cover the expense.

Account A1220—Ms. Smith invited Supervisor Fish to talk about proposed changes to the Supervisor salary. He said this had been in discussion for a few years, and that the Moreau Supervisor's compensation is the lowest in Saratoga County among what he called "big towns." He said Moreau is the 6th largest Town in the County and had the lowest Supervisor salary. He said if the Town wanted to attract someone younger, he felt the pay needed to be raised. He said even the proposed figure was $10,000 behind the next lowest. Councilmember Stewart said he had been a supporter of this change for three years. Each Supervisor had declined when it was discussed, the Councilmember said, and they always had a reason. He described the salary as neglected, and said the increase was well overdue. He equated the role with being a CEO of the Town, and he said there were employees who make more than the Supervisor. He added there was also a County stipend. He said they would not attract candidates for the role in the future unless they offered a competitive salary. Councilmembers Garrant and Donohue agreed, with the latter stating this had been discussed for years, and that there is a lot of responsibility in the Supervisor's role, and the salary was "a pittance." He said the proposed figure was a good start. Councilmember Killian said he felt $72,000 was too low, with Councilmember Donohue voicing agreement. The Supervisor said Clifton Park was at $109,000-$110,000, but they are larger and have more money. Councilmember Stewart said he wanted to be clear that Supervisor Fish was not asking for this, and that it wasn't a question of fairness when the rest of the staff was getting a 4% increase. Ms. Smith cited the County salary comparison document, confirming that Moreau's Supervisor pay was the lowest.

Ms. Smith said the proposal included a second financial position, which she strongly recommended. She said all the departments have increased, and the burden in Human Resources and payroll has grown, which comes back to the Supervisor's office. She said it was difficult wearing three hats and staying on top of everything. She had proposed $55,000 for that second financial role. She also proposed removing accounts payable responsibilities from Anna Labiak, the Water & Sewer Clerk, so she could work exclusively on water and sewer duties.

Councilmember Killian asked about new software. Ms. Smith said they were still using old accounting software that the Town procured when she was in high school, and that it needed to be replaced. The Councilmember clarified that he was asking about money collection for dog licensing and water payments using the new website which would potentially reduce volume in the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Smith said it had not yet come to fruition, and was unrelated to the financial volume in the Supervisor's office.

Councilmember Stewart said he supported the new role, with the only consideration being that Department Heads were told that newly hired Clerks would receive $48,000 unless there was a staffing change between departments. He urged caution when posting a new position, and proposed the starting Clerk rate for an outside hire. Ms. Smith said the available position titles did not fit the position well. Councilmember Stewart said he was initially hesitant, but following conversations with staff members he agrees that the staff has grown and Human Resources tend to be overlooked. He said further investigation into compensation would be held later, and he was okay with the $55,000 figure for the purpose of budgeting.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Ms. Smith said Highway Superintendent Abrams had done a great job with his budget by providing want lists and capital improvements. She said there would be a number of personnel changes under account DB5110.1. Ms. Smith said she had a breakdown of salaries, the total of which approach $510,000, and included "wiggle room" for overtime. They discussed some staff changing roles and therefore salaries, and a retirement creating a vacancy to be filled. Mr. Abrams said it would not be that much of a budget change and it was written into the contract after 24 months. There was nothing to discuss under DB5110.2 except that the increase would be $1.50 per person. Account DB5110.4 was unchanged.

DB5112, Highway Improvements—The Selfridge Road culvert line item was questioned, and Mr. Abrams said he hoped to complete the project in 2027. There was a reduction from a proposed $496,000 to $318,711 in the tentative budget. Mr. Abrams estimated that in 2026 only $50,000 was used on engineering, but that did not account for the reduced figure. Ms. Smith apologized for the confusion and said she could create an

encumbrance for the balance of the 2026 budgeted sum, which would eliminate the tentative $318,711. Mr. Abrams confirmed that only engineering would be completed on the project in 2026, and that they were waiting to hear from the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). He said they indicated that they liked the plan presented by engineers, but NYSDEC had not formally approved it. Councilmember Stewart suggested that it could help with the 2026 deficit if the project was eliminated from the 2026 numbers, since it was included in the 2027 figures with a balanced 2027 budget. Ms. Smith said Highway funds can only be used for Highway, and she could not provide a 2026 deficit projection at that time, but did say it was a good idea. She asked Mr. Abrams if the $496,000 figure was solid for 2027. He responded that culvert pipe would be significantly more expensive and fuel costs alone were growing the cost of the project. A CHIPS increase had been accounted for in the balanced budget.

DB5130, Machinery—Listed were a bulldozer, cold planer, and ¾ ton pick-up truck. Superintendent Abrams said the dozer did not need to be new, but needed to have far fewer miles on it than the current one. He said they had taken the old one apart and there is nothing left of the undercarriage, the pins are shot, links are worn, and bushings can't be turned. When asked if he was seeking a D4, which is the type they currently have, Mr. Abrams said new D4s are bigger than theirs, and a D2 or something that size with low hours would be ideal, easy to maneuver. Councilmember Killian asked if it would be leased. Mr. Abrams said they usually lease larger, more expensive equipment like a tandem dump truck that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. He estimated the bulldozer would get an average of 200 hours a year.

Councilmember Stewart said he supported getting new equipment because the staff takes care of it and it lasts for decades. He said the requested figure was on the mark for a new D2 bulldozer. Councilmember Killian advocated for used equipment because it is possible to get a good deal. Mr. Abrams said he had no opinion. Supervisor Fish said to budget for the new bulldozer, and if a good deal is found on a used piece of equipment, it will be a savings.

DB5140, Brush and Weeds—in an effort to reduce discretionary spending, Mr. Abrams had budgeted $15,000.

DB5142, Snow Removal--$510,000 had been budgeted, an increase based on the price of diesel. Mr. Abrams said his 2026 fuel budget was already almost fully spent. He suggested an increase of $15,000, and a total of $95,000 was agreed upon. Councilmember Stewart suggested reducing the .1 line to $505,000 for snow removal. Mr. Abrams said he has enough sand to make it through the end of 2026. On the subject of employee benefits, Ms. Smith said updated figures were expected for retirement, which were expected to rise significantly. She said she added $10,000 to cover the increase.

Revenue—Sales tax was projected at $2.835 million.

Account DB3501, CHIPS—Ms. Smith said the projection had been about $382,000, and she had put $375,000 in the tentative budget. She asked if the higher figure was solid, and agreed to adjust the figure to $381,000. There was a discussion about projected interest and that the projection for 2027 was the same as 2026.

Account A3310—It was agreed that there would be a need for additional money for fuel, so an increase was made. Under Miscellaneous Signs and Road Striping, Ms. Smith said Supervisor Fish had requested radar speed control signs. The Supervisor said residents had asked for them in certain locations, such as Sisson Road, where cars pass at 50-60 miles per hour and police are not enforcing speed. He said the signs would hopefully deter speeding, and that he hoped that they could be paid for with a grant. Councilmember Donohue said he hoped the sign would be portable so it could also be used on Bluebird Road. He said he didn't think people realized how fast they are driving, including himself. Councilmember Stewart said that people don't speed when they can see the police car and Sisson Road was a hard road for police to sit on. Councilmember Garrant asked whether the device records data on the speeds of passing cars so it could be used when addressing law enforcement.

Account A5010—Ms. Smith applied a 4% increase over 2026, bringing the Highway Superintendent's salary to $91,798, the Highway Clerk to $51,032, and the Cleaner at $22,028.

Account A5132, Highway Garage—the 2027 projections were flat over 2026. There was a question regarding funds that had been designated for a pole barn. The response was that funds would be carried over, so it wasn't needed in the 2027 budget.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

CW8310—Ms. Smith directed the Board to see that the Water Clerk's salary had been moved to this line. A part-time position had not been hired so the allocation for that line in 2027 had been zeroed out. Mr. Mechanick said he did not see a need for the position at that time because they were getting a lot of work done with the current staff. He added that Jeffrey Guy had recently completed W20 training and obtained a raise for that, bringing his salary to over $28,000. Councilmember Stewart expressed concern that the Water Clerk's salary had such a small amount allocated to sewer, particularly with the number of bills to be issued to Sewer District 1 Extension 5. Ms. Smith said she had to make sure allocations aligned with revenue, and said 5.5% was the historical calculation for GV, .5% for GH, and 9% for GI with the remainder of her salary allocated to the Supervisor's budget.

GV9730, Debt Service—Bookkeeper Smith explained that the debt service was set up with steps, increasing annually, and surplus funds had been applied to the debt, so there would be no 2027 payment required. She said the payment was still in the tentative budget, that there wasn't an interfund loan, and the Greene County Bank loan had a flat payment, so she said she would look at the numbers again and talk to Anna about the percentages of work she will perform.

Under .2, there was an allocation of $117,740 in 2026 which was not yet spent. Water & Sewer Operator Mechanick said he would not spend it. There was discussion about the current water meter system, and that it needed to be replaced, or they would need an $800,000 upgrade with the current company. The Supervisor said he thought there was a grant opportunity to help pay for it. He said people could be getting the minimum charge on their water bills because the meter isn't transmitting readings properly, and then when the meter is read manually, the homeowner could get a $2,000 water bill because the water is being used and the meter is running but the meter isn't transmitting. He said that while the homeowner owes for the water they did use, it's not their fault the equipment is not working correctly. The current equipment has a 20-year warranty which is prorated after 10 years, and that the warranty is not being honored by the company, the Supervisor said. Mr. Mechanick said he contacted other municipalities and looked at other options, and he did not like two of them because a subscription is required. He said currently 162 meters are not working, and he has replacements. He said MasterMeter was supposed to do an upgrade on the replacements but did not, so he was planning to just install the replacements he has on hand.

Under .4, $210,000 had been budgeted to paint a water tower in 2026, and Ms. Smith said she would potentially encumber some of that money to use in 2027, reducing the total in the budget. She said, in talking to Mr. Mechanick, that it would be about $300,000 to paint. Mr. Mechanick said that would include stripping and painting. He said he also added tank inspections at the last minute, which is $3,700 for three tanks. He said the inspections are due every few years and it had been quite some time since they were last inspected. Following the inspection, he said a report would be given telling what work was needed on each tank, including paint. Also under contractual is water from Queensbury.

Account CW9730—Ms. Smith said the BAN payment due in October is increasing to $168,257, but she said she would check that number.

Revenue—Bookkeeper Smith said metered water revenue was based on current usage, but she would confirm the figures after talking to the Water Clerk, and that leases were the same as 2026.

GH8110—Ms. Smith said she was working closely with the Comptroller's Office to divide sewer by percentages, and said the tentative figures were very tentative. For GH revenue she estimated at $22,823.

GI8110—The .4 budgeted figure had been reduced after Ms. Smith said she reviewed other contractual amounts.

GV8110—Ms. Smith said the figures were based on balancing revenues with expenditures and that they were tentative figures. The .4 line she said was reduced to $165,000. She said she would update the loan figures before the preliminary budget was released.

GV Revenues—Working with the Water Clerk, Ms. Smith said revenue was increased to $550,000 from $470,000 in 2026. She said everything else was unchanged. At the time the tentative budget was prepared, she said reimbursements were at $57,000, and as of the day of the meeting reimbursements $70,000, with a year-end total projected at $85,000. She said this would be helpful in offsetting the cost of equipment replacements. Sewer reimbursements were a new line this year, she said, under 2122.1. She explained that if there was damage to sewer equipment caused by a user, the user is being billed for repairs.

There was a discussion about the open public hearing on sewer rates, and how many EDUs were in Sewer District 1 Extension 5. Ms. Smith asked if the rate would be set by the deadline for the preliminary budget. Councilmember Stewart said they could have an additional meeting if needed to make the budget deadline. Ms. Smith recommended building up the GV fund balance.

CW8310.02, Clothing Allowance—$1,500 had been allocated, and there was discussion about raising the allowance to $2,000 for three people so they could get chemical bibs because pants had not been included. Mr. Mechanick said the chlorine they work with ruins their clothes and feces weren't good for them either. Confidential Secretary Bennett said the Highway crew gets $300 in hand for clothing with no receipts required. The way the allowance for boots is written, a receipt is required, she said. There was a suggestion of $2,500 in clothing plus $1,000 for safety gear. Councilmember Stewart said an accountability arrangement would be made with the Supervisor's office, adding that he had no problem with adding an additional $1,000 for protective gear.

Related to the spare Route 9 pump, the warranties have already expired and Mr. Mechanick said he is repairing them already. Councilmember Killian offered to meet with Mr. Mechanick the following morning to review the situation. Ms. Smith said $94,000 had been budgeted for Miscellaneous Equipment plus an encumbrance of $4,127, and asked if a purchase could be made with that money. The Confidential Secretary suggested the Farnan Road spare pump should have be paid from that account.

FACILITIES

A1620, Facilities—The $22,028 salary of Chris Rich, the Cleaner, would be moved from Highway to this line. There was agreement that this raise, representing 4% increase, was acceptable since his wage was higher than other part-time employees already. The Facilities Manager role was set at $58,240 or $28.25/hr. A second Laborer's wage was set at $52,000 or $25 an hour.

Under contractual for the municipal center, equipment such as a truck and plow would be purchased using fund balance, Ms. Smith said, so they did not appear on the .2 line, and she said shebelieved she could use fund balance to make the sidewalk and Town Hall door handicap accessible, but wanted to do some research. It was suggested they budget for it in case they could not use fund balance, and in case they do not successfully secure a grant. Ms. Smith said they should look at lighting and baby changing tables. In addition to staffing, Councilmember Killian expressed a desire to invest in Town Hall facilities, which had not had any improvements since it was built. An interior door in the Building, Planning & Development Office was mentioned specifically. Councilmember Stewart and Ms. Smith discussed excess sales tax, and the property at the Moreau Industrial Park, as factors in considering available funds.

HISTORIAN

Historian Reed Antis said some information had come to light about Big Bend Cemetery. He said the land was owned by National Grid as part of a right-of-way which is a total of 51 acres; 250 feet wide beginning at Butler Road and extending to the Hudson River. He said he had done some research in old records and there was nothing among the deeds about a cemetery there. He said the line needed to be surveyed, and the Town should work with National Grid.

Mr. Antis asked about Building & Grounds staff maintaining cemeteries, which was previously discussed in a Board meeting. He recommended prioritizing removal of two trees at Rice Cemetery in the Village of South Glens Falls, and brought photos of the damage the trees were causing. $3,000 had been budgeted for tree removal in the 2026 budget and none had been spent. Mr. Antis said he was aware of the contract between the Town and Richard Sears, and said the trees are 100 years old and 100 feet tall so he did not think Town employees could handle it. He questioned whether he should get a quote on tree removal, or rely on the Highway Superintendent, since the Town Highway Department has a contract with Richard Sears through the end of the year. Councilmember Stewart said there was a price list based on the diameter of the tree. Mr. Antis asked if he should measure the trees. The Supervisor said Mr. Antis could reach out to Richard Sears for information.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Trombley
Erin Trombley
Town Clerk