

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on November 6, 2014 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York, on the 2015 Preliminary Town Budget.

The public hearing commenced at 7:00 p.m.

The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll.

**Town Board Members Present**

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

**Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also Present:** Leeann McCabe, Deputy Town Clerk; Francine Thibodeau, Principal Account Clerk; Paul Joseph, Highway Superintendent; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent; Town Residents-Vince Spoorer, Reed Antis, Pete Corlew, Brian Abare, Logan Marino, Keith Dickinson, Tim Pease, John Pease, Mike Shaver, Nick Quinn, Pete Lemery, Terry Clarke, John Teliskey, Adele Kurtz and Village of South Glens Falls Resident-Harry Gutheil

Supervisor Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following order setting the public hearing was published as a legal ad in the Glens Falls Post Star Newspaper on October 31, 2014:

TOWN OF MOREAU

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Moreau, County of Saratoga, State of New York, will hold a Preliminary Budget Public Hearing for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 on November 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York. At such hearing any person for or against any item therein contained or in favor or against said budget as compiled may be heard. Further notice is hereby given that said Preliminary Budget is on file in the Town Clerk's Office at 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during business hours. Copies of said budget will be available for distribution at the Preliminary Public Hearing to be held on November 6, 2014. Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law the proposed annual salaries for 2015 of Elected Officials are hereby listed as follows:

Supervisor	\$45,076.00
Council people	4 @ \$11,300.00 ea.
Town Justices	2 @ \$27,478.00 ea.
Town Clerk	\$43,491.00
Highway Superintendent	\$54,567.00

Dated: October 29, 2014

Preston L. Jenkins, Jr. Town Supervisor  
Town of Moreau

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Supervisor Jenkins welcomed everyone to the public hearing on the 2015 Preliminary Town Budget and asked if there was anyone present with questions or comments.

Vince Spoorer asked about the \$611,079.00 increase in appropriations. He asked if that was an 8% increase and how does the 2% tax cap fit in. He stated that the \$200,000.00 listed under the Emergency Squad is a revenue and an expense for the same amount so it has no effect. It's insurance money that comes in from the Emergency Squad and gets paid back to them. It has to go through our books. The actual total change in appropriations is really \$411,000.00. Supervisor Jenkins stated that it's the tax levy that determines the tax cap and not appropriations. It applies to how much money is taken out of the taxpayer pockets. Currently the tax levy is 4.35% with a 1% cap and 1% growth, 2.35% where we had a carryover of funds we haven't used in previous years for the cap.

Mr. Spoorer asked what was driving up the expenses. Supervisor Jenkins stated that \$20,000 under the Assessor's budget is the anticipation for legal fees to fight Article 7's. In the Buildings, a sound system for the Town Meeting room and ventilation for the computer room. Mr. Spoorer asked if these were things we have to spend money on. Councilman Prendergast stated that the money in the Assessor's budget for Article 7's is needed. He stated that he wouldn't have a problem removing the sound system from the budget as he doesn't have a problem hearing and he speaks up when he talks but there are people in the public who can't hear who have requested that. Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Superintendent of Highways budget is higher due to the part-time clerk position being changed to full-time. He stated that there have been a lot of complaints that the phones aren't answered when the clerk isn't there.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the maintenance for the new Town Hall building is a little higher than before because we have to protect it for a long time.

Mr. Spoorer stated that with the increase in infrastructure comes the need for upkeep. Such as the new bike path, walking path proposed. Someone will have to be maintained. He sees that the stress of increasing the infrastructure will lead to the increase of more people to maintain and that will drive costs up. Supervisor Jenkins stated that they're not looking to increase more people with the exception of a part-time code enforcement officer.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that Health Insurance will have an increase \$63,000. He also stated that he has been through every account to see if it could be brought down.

Mr. Spoorer asked what the general fund balance was. Supervisor Jenkins estimated it around \$1,300,000.00 from August and that it may be more since the sale of the old Highway building on William Street. It may end up being closer to \$2,000,000.00 maybe a little bit more than that.

Mr. Spoorer stated that he has no children but pays school taxes. He stated that everyone coming into this community should pay their fair share of taxes.

Harry Gutheil stated that on page 1 of the budget Tax Collection A1330.4 has doubled and asked if anyone knew why. Councilman Vittengl stated that it was for software. He stated that on page 2 Buildings was up 60% in two years. He stated that the new building wasn't supposed to cost the taxpayers any more money. He sees these increases and wanted to know why. Supervisor Jenkins stated that they went through these items as best as they could. Payroll is up 2% except for the five elected officials. Mr. Gutheil stated that it was a shell game they were playing by taking the money out of sales tax. This Board has spent money over and over. You gave 5 and 6% wage increases last year. He stated that it's catching up with them. He stated that they were taking money out of sales tax that they've never done before. He stated that the Village gets their own sales tax. Now we're sharing our portion so they'll be getting the benefit twice at the expense of the Town taxpayers. This Board is raising our taxes.

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Supervisor Jenkins stated that our tax levy on our citizens is \$900,000.00 less than what we received in 2008, the last budget that Mr. Gutheil prepared and asked why that was so high.

Mr. Gutheil stated that the Town has budgeted this year \$40,000.00 to fight a lawsuit that when he was in office spent \$1,300,000.00 on one and \$300,000.00 on another to save the community \$18,000,000.00 in refunds. He stated that \$40,000.00 isn't going to buy any defense at all.

Supervisor Jenkins and Mr. Gutheil discussed fund balance and Mr. Gutheil stated that there was too much in the water accounts and that some of the rates could be lowered. He also asked why there is overtime in the water department when there are now two full-time and one part-time employees. The Town has \$12,000.00 budgeted. Supervisor Jenkins stated that we have a lot more water users, a lot more water lines and more sewer usage. Mr. Gutheil stated that they should manage the man hours better and the Town wouldn't have to spend money on overtime.

Mike Shaver agreed with Mr. Gutheil that water rates should be reduced in water district 2. Councilman Prendergast stated that Tim Burley, engineer for the Town, has performed an assessment of all water districts and has given the information to the water committee and now he's looking at future needs. He stated that the water rates would be looked at. Supervisor Jenkins stated that a good deal of the reserve money will end up in a capital reserve once the engineer tells us how much we should set aside for any future repairs. He's looking at a long term decision and won't support a rate change until he knows from the engineer what he thinks we should do. Mr. Gutheil stated that the Board has had all year to work on this and should start thinking about the community. He stated that the Town Board is doing a terrible job.

Mr. Spoorer asked what the final rate increase for Town Tax will be. Supervisor Jenkins stated that they are looking at an increase of .01 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Mr. Spoorer stated that sales tax should stay here and not be sent to the County. He said they need the heat put on them to keep their budget down as well.

Mr. Gutheil asked about the Recreation budget and asked if they were really going to spend \$370,000.00 this year. Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Capital Projects technically aren't a budget item. They are estimates of maybe what they could spend. Under State Law they can't budget for a Capital Project until it's been established.

Mr. Gutheil asked about the 36% increase in health insurance. Supervisor Jenkins stated that they met with several brokers and this is the best we can do.

Mike Shaver stated that the Town had budgeted for dry hydrants last year and never used the money. Supervisor Jenkins said that they keep putting the money into the budget and nothing gets done. He stated that the Fire Department needs to tell us where to put them. Mr. Shaver asked if they would put the \$10,000 back into the budget for this coming year. He said they could get at least one dry hydrant done.

Mr. Gutheil asked if there was a reason that on page 10 of the budget it is showing zero interest earnings. Supervisor Jenkins stated that our interest is in the range of \$7,000.00 to \$9,000.00 and the interest rate is about 3/10 of 1%. Mr. Gutheil stated that the number should be in the budget.

Mr. Antis asked if there was money budgeted to get rid of the old Town Hall building and also asked if the Town really has a use for the Annex building. Supervisor Jenkins stated that the Town Board hasn't made a decision on the old Town Hall building and he stated that the Annex building property is a good deal of the entrance to the new municipal building. He stated that we wouldn't want to land lock ourselves by selling it. At this point it hasn't been discussed.

Mr. Antis asked about the Sand Bar Beach building and if there were any funds set aside for that. Councilman Vittengl replied that the Recreation Director was handling that. They're waiting to hear from

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her and the engineer that volunteered his service. They'll try to get any work done by volunteers. Supervisor Jenkins stated that historically they've used BOCES to help get work done. The Town is using them right now.

There was more discussion on Water District rates and the County Pump Station. Supervisor Jenkins stated that we have a contract to use 150,000 gallons per day

John Teliskey asked how the \$50,000.00 inter fund transfer affects the tax levy. Supervisor Jenkins stated that it doesn't.

There was more discussion on Health Insurance and questions were asked about RFP's and buy out options.

Adele Kurtz asked about the \$31,000 budgeted under Home & Community. Supervisor Jenkins stated \$24,000 was budgeted to update the zoning law and \$31,000 was to update the comprehensive plan and included in the \$31,000 is \$7,000 to update our subdivision regulations. Ms. Kurtz stated that in 2010 the Town paid a company \$30,000 to do update the zoning and they never finished it and asked why we were going to pay \$30,000 again for a project that they should have finished in the first place. She asked if the board ever got a final product from this company and Supervisor Jenkins replied no they never got a final product. Supervisor Jenkins stated the re-zoning committee left them in the dust and Adele Kurtz said that wasn't true. Supervisor Jenkins said we need to finalize the rezoning. It should have been done in 2010. We have a great deal of information from that company to finalize the update to the zoning code so it shouldn't be a huge job. He said it won't be difficult to update the comprehensive plan. He said the company that started the rezoning back in 2009 has said that to rewrite the zoning would be extensive and it wasn't included in their bid.

There was a brief discussion on the Transfer Station budget.

Mr. Antis had questions regarding the Maintenance Director and his duties.

Mr. Antis had questions about the Part-Time code enforcement officer that is being asked for and asked if they would get reports showing what is being done. Supervisor Jenkins stated that right now there is no code enforcement unless someone complains. Councilman Kusnierz stated that all department heads do monthly reports. The Building Inspector's report shows the number of inspections done, if there were problems and how they were resolved.

Nick Quinn asked if the new Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer would help with Fire Company calls after hours. He also asked if this position could be Code Enforcement/Fire Marshall to take care of annual inspections. Supervisor Jenkins stated that in January the Building Department will be inspecting the water lines that were installed in Water District 1 extension and that the Town is taking it seriously. He stated that we don't want more problems.

Ms. Kurtz asked about code enforcement and whether our full-time officer and the part-time Village officer was a shared service. The answer was no.

There was more discussion on the Recreation budget and youth programs.

Kevin Dickinson stated that the fire company has had fires after hours and the building inspector states that he won't come out after 4:30 because he doesn't get paid. Supervisor Jenkins stated that he would talk with the Building Inspector.

There was more discussion on the Recreation budget with regard to fields, drainage improvements. Councilman Vittengl stated that Pete Corlew is in the process of getting his pest control license. The Town didn't have anyone last year.

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Mike Shaver asked about using wells at the park to save money on water. Councilman Vittengl stated that the pressure is better with Town water and Supervisor Jenkins didn't think the Town could use wells as part of the General Electric settlement. He stated that the plume is still running and it doesn't go away fast.

The public hearing was left open.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leeann McCabe".

Leeann McCabe  
Deputy Town Clerk