

A budget workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on November 1, 2016 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York.

The workshop was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **Town Board Members Present**

Alan VanTassel	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman [arrived at 7:15 p.m.]
Gardner Congdon	Supervisor [arrived at 6:36 p.m.]

### **Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also present:** Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Francine Thibodeau, Principal Account Clerk; Reed Antis, Planning Board Member and Town Resident; Brigid Martin, Village Resident

The workshop started with account A1315.1 by Francine Thibodeau stating, that based on the Special Project Aide's hours, she reduced his salary by \$1,324.00. In 2015 he only worked 891 ½ hours.

The next item for discussion was the Landfill (LF8160). Francine Thibodeau stated that she had spoken with Liz Rovers regarding the monitoring. With new regulations, the Town can monitor less. The goal is to have it in place for September 2017 but it's not automatic. She stated that an application has to be filed for custodial care. The Supervisor had cut the contractual line from \$20,000.00 in 2016 to \$10,000.00 for 2017. His reasoning was that the Town could do repairs and mowing on their own. Councilwoman LeClair stated that Liz Rovers recommended \$9,000.00 for mowing and \$6,000.000 for the vents and erosion. Ms. Thibodeau asked the Supervisor if he had spoken with Ms. Rovers and he replied that he couldn't get a hold of her.

The conversation switched over to the Supervisor asking the Board about making the Highway Clerk position full-time. He commended her for doing a good job and also stated that if she were full-time she could take care of the Storm water reporting. The Supervisor made comments about how the MS4 reporting had been done and that corrections had to be made. The Supervisor stated that the future looks good with sales tax. Ms. Thibodeau stated that her salary would come out of the General Fund which would have nothing to do with sales tax. There was discussion as to how the full-time position would be paid. The Supervisor stated that he would look at this tomorrow to see if she could be paid by the Town Outside with sales tax.

Councilman Prendergast stated that they were discussing the Landfill portion of the budget and the Supervisor had spent 20 minutes on Highway. He asked that they get back to the budget and discuss the Landfill. The Supervisor was unhappy with the conversation and left the workshop at 6:51 p.m.

It was agreed that they should increase LF8160.4 back to \$17,000.00.

Account LF1990 was discussed and decided to keep this contingent account at \$0.

The next topic for discussion was the Recreation Department (A7140). There were two items added into the .4 account. A 0 turn mower in the amount of \$3,887.00 (with an older mower being recycled out) and \$5,100.00 for 3 AED's. Councilman VanTassel stated the need for new soccer goals and it was decided that these could be put into the HT7180.4 (Town-Wide Recreational Capital Project). \$11,100.00 was put into this account for 3 sets of goals.

Councilman VanTassel stated that there is no re-investment into lawn care at the park and thought that it was not logical to take this out of the budget. \$9,000.00 was put back into the budget (A7140.4) for fertilization. There was conversation as to the Schools using the Town's fields at no cost. It was decided that there should be a meaningful conversation with the School as the Town is footing the bill for all the

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maintenance. He stated that Sandy will set up an appointment with the Athletic Director at the School for discussion on the matter.

The total contractual was increased to \$60,000.00 (A7140.4) plus the fertilization of \$9,000.00 brought this account to a total in .4 of \$69,000.00.

Councilman VanTassel commented on field usage and the red clay dust that's not as thick as it should be. If the fields aren't flipped as often as they should be, the sand comes up to the surface. The cost for the dust is \$800.00 per truck load and they would need 22 loads to cover the 10 fields. Right now the fields have about 2" of dust and it is recommended that there be 3" - 4". Councilman Kusnierz thought that a 4 year plan would be best. He recommended doing a 1/4 of the fields this year and then 1/4, 1/4, 1/4 for the following three years. \$6,000.00 was put into account HT7180 for red clay dust.

Discussion on account A7310 was next. Sandy Mahoney is to be checking on the requirement for having a row boat as the one at the beach is leaking. They also need a new safety board as the current one isn't repairable.

\$500.00 was added to A7310.2 equipment for a safety board and the total contractual was increased from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00 (A7310.4).

Recreation revenues were discussed next. Field use fees were reduced from \$38,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Councilman VanTassel stated that they need to stay away from in-kind services otherwise the Town won't continue to run. He also stated that they're looking to break even on the programs at the Park, it shouldn't be at the Town's expense.

The next line item for discussion was B1990 Town Outside Village Contingent Account. Fran stated that these funds are used only if they run out of money someplace else. She stated that you can't use the money out of this account, you would need to transfer to the account that it's needed. The Supervisor had reduced the amount from \$10,000.00 in 2016 to \$5,000.00 in the tentative. It was agreed that this amount would remain at \$5,000.00.

Account B3410 has a line item for Dry Hydrants in the amount of \$2,400.00. The intent was to get this taken care of out of the 2016 Budget but in case it can't be done, it's budgeted for in 2017.

Account B3620 was discussed next. Councilwoman LeClair asked why Ben Marcantonio wasn't using the Town Truck and it was replied from Francine Thibodeau, that she heard the truck wasn't safe. Councilwoman LeClair stated that she would speak with the Highway Superintendent to see what's wrong with it. The Board members were in agreement, that any time the Town truck isn't safe, they should be made aware. The Contractual (B3620.4) was reduced from \$16,000.00 to \$13,000.00.

Account B4020.4 was increased from \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00.

Account B8010 was discussed next. There was \$36,000.00 budgeted for 2016 and they've used \$20,000.00 up to September. It was stated that if they're going to be using Jim Martin for the Zoning update, they'll need what's in the tentative and most likely more. Reed Antis stated that Mr. Martin has been getting the Planning Board up to speed. They discussed the Zoning Administrator position who has a wealth of knowledge vs. an Assistant Building Inspector who would have the same qualifications. The Town's strategy was to offload the work of the Building Inspector onto a Zoning Administrator. Councilman VanTassel stated that Mr. Martin has created a flow chart that helps the department understand the work flow process so that everything runs better. Councilman VanTassel stated that he's been writing his own letters with regard to code enforcement and he wants to get this job off his plate. Councilman VanTassel stated that they would like to see him concentrating on Zoning matters and get the value out of the money that they're spending. They didn't feel that Matt was ready to handle the Zoning Administration for the Town. Councilwoman LeClair stated that when they re-negotiate his contract, they can tell him what they want him to do and what Kathy should be doing. Councilman VanTassel stated that they can cancel the contract at any time but they need to budget for this not changing. The contractual line items for both (B8010.4) and (B8020.4) were both increased from \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

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There were no changes made to the tentative budget for B8160 – Refuse and Garbage.

The next topic of discussion was Drainage (B8540). Councilman Kusnierz stated that MS4 reporting comes out of this account. It was reported that there are new DEC regulations and there will be more regulations in the spring. The tentative budget request was for \$16,000.00 and it was reported that the Highway Superintendent thought this was a firm number. The Supervisor had cut this number to \$5,000.00. It was agreed that they would put this number back up to \$16,000.00 for account (B8540.411).

There were no changes to account B9901.9.

There was discussion on revenues for Planning and Zoning. Councilman Kusnierz asked about the sales tax (B1120). Francine Thibodeau stated that all the sales tax is going into the Highway Fund, the Fire Company and to Saratoga County. Councilman Kusnierz asked how they make up the \$100,000.00 that was previously in this line item. Ms. Thibodeau replied that it's coming out of Fund Balance (Town Outside), which has an estimated \$2.2 million balance. Councilman Kusnierz asked if there was going to be no Fire Tax this year and Ms. Thibodeau replied that this was correct. Councilwoman LeClair reported that 100% of Sales Tax is going to Town Outside. Any excess sales tax at the end of the year would be put into the Building Department. Councilman Kusnierz asked why they wouldn't be putting less sales tax toward the Fire Co. budget. Francine Thibodeau stated that the Village gets their own sales tax money so technically our sales tax should go more toward the Fire Co. than the General Fund. Councilman Kusnierz stated that by eliminating the Fire tax it puts a significant burden on the other funds. The discussion continued as to the application of sales tax to offset the Fire Co. tax. It was explained that the residents inside the Village will have an increase in their portion of the tax rate, on top of the 15% increase they just received from the Village and the rate for residents outside the Village will be a \$.09 savings. Ms. Thibodeau stated that this is the fair way to handle the sales tax. Councilman Kusnierz asked for clarification on the amount budgeted for the Fire Co. Ms. Thibodeau replied \$505,000.00 in sales tax for fire protection. Councilman VanTassel stated that the Fire Co. agreed to put \$50,000.00 of that aside toward the purchase of a new truck. Councilman Kusnierz stated that they funded the Fire Co. with \$480,000.00 this year. He suggested, that if you divide the \$480,000.00 in 1/2 and subtract that from \$505,000.00 and came up with a tax rate, you would be cutting the fire tax and generate revenues in the General Fund. Ms. Thibodeau explained that because of the tax cap between the Fire Co. and the General Fund, the Town can't use more than \$1.2 million. If the Fire Co. is \$0.0, the General Fund can use the entire \$1.2 million. She stated that if they split it, the \$240,000.00 would have to come out of taxes and that would be shifted over to the Fund Balance. Councilman Kusnierz stated that he was concerned with the structure. Councilwoman LeClair asked if the Fire Co. splits as they are intending to do, what happens with the tax cap to the Town. She asked if it would make a difference as to how they're handling it this year. Ms. Thibodeau didn't know and was asked by the Comptroller's office to give them a call when she had more information. Councilman Kusnierz stated that they would be their own political subdivision and would have their own 2%. Councilman VanTassel asked about the split in the Fire Co. and Councilman Kusnierz explained that they would no longer be a fire protection unit and could set their own taxes. The concern was for next year and Ms. Thibodeau stated that it all depends on sales tax. Councilman VanTassel stated that he wasn't overly concerned the way it is but also stated that he doesn't have the experience that the other Board members do. Councilwoman LeClair stated that there's no easy answer. She did say that people don't care how much they pay for certain line items, they care about the overall bill.

Discussion moved to A5132.489 – cleaning (Highway Garage). After discussion as to who would do the cleaning and whether or not it would be in someone's job description. Ms. Thibodeau stated that it was previously budgeted in A5010.1 but that was when they had an employee doing the work. We now have a subcontractor and so it should come out of .4 account. Councilman VanTassel asked what the \$1,600 was for in the A5132.489 account. Ms. Thibodeau thought it was for the cleaning of tanks or some requirement that they have. It was decided to increase the amount from \$1,600.00 to \$2,900.00.

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They discussed the requested Nova chipping on Farnan Road (DB5112.493.4). It was stated that if they don't put down a top coat now, they will have to pay double later. It was decided to leave the request as is for \$78,350.00 in the grand total of \$426,050.00.

They discussed DB5110.457 – Trees and it was decided to leave the tentative amount of \$10,000.00 as is.

There was discussion as to whether the Board wanted to move the Board meeting from Election Day (November 8, 2016) to Wednesday (November 9, 2016). Councilman Kusnierz stated that it would depend on Kevin Feuka from C2ae and if he is able to attend on Wednesday. There was a thought that they might have the Board meeting on the night of the public hearing. Ms. Thibodeau stated that the Board needs to adopt the budget following the public hearing and asked if the Board wanted to schedule a special meeting directly after. The budget has to be adopted by November 20, 2016 and there's no regular Town Board meeting before November 20, 2016 so a special meeting would have to be scheduled. Councilman Kusnierz stated that he would contact Mr. Feuka to see if he's available on November 9, 2016 before they change the date of the Board meeting. He stated that he would let the Town Clerk know tomorrow.

A motion was made by Councilman Prendergast and seconded by Councilman Kusnierz to set the Public Hearing on the Town of Moreau Preliminary 2017 Budget for November 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman VanTassel	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Yes
Councilman Kusnierz	Yes
Supervisor Congdon	Absent

Ms. Thibodeau stated that she would have all the changes calculated for tomorrow night's meeting. The topic of discussion tomorrow will be on salaries. Councilwoman LeClair stated that she would be meeting with Judy Dahoda tomorrow. There was some discussion as to how they will proceed with salaries this year. Councilman Kusnierz stated that there will never be a solution that makes everyone happy. His opinion to make headway this year is to give 2% across the board and have a longevity bonus. He would like to see a 10 year bonus, then a 10-15 year bonus and a 15-20 year bonus with a % of the salary being paid out at the end of the year. He stated that the Board doesn't have a lot of time to get into the nitty gritty of it. He stated that would be a whole year process. Councilman VanTassel stated that the 2% across the board won't address all of the issues. Councilman Kusnierz stated that the benefit package the Town provides is better than the private sector. Councilwoman LeClair agreed and stated that the medical and retirement packages are far more superior to those in the private sector.

The workshop adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe  
Town Clerk