

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on November 5, 2020 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road Moreau, New York for the purpose of hearing public comment on the proposed 2021 Preliminary Budget.

The Supervisor called the public hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Town Board Members Present**

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

**Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also present:** Tammy Daley, Deputy Town Clerk; Jeffrey Cruz, Principal Account Clerk

The Supervisor gave a brief overview of the preliminary budget. He stated due to many reasons but primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has had a great impact not only on the 2020 budget but also how they structured the 2021 budget. He stated this is a very conservative budget but continues to meet the needs of the residents, and it also reflects an anticipated drop in sales tax. He said they realize now and continue to realize that. He also stated they know based on the County Treasurer's estimates they will begin to see a reduction in year to date for the sales tax in 2021. It's a major factor in putting together this budget because so many of our funds rely on funding through the sales tax that they receive from the County.

He stated they conservatively estimated the sales tax for 2021 to be around \$2.39 million dollars. He also said in this budget the tax rate remains essentially flat with last year, just over \$97.95 per assessed thousand. So what this will do based on the Town's assessed value is that we will be raising \$1.441 million dollars in taxes. The good news he stated was that they were able to increase the funding for first responders. They were able to increase the allocated sales tax by 2% for fire protection. He said this budget also stays within the State's tax cap, it was a primary focus for the Board when the budget was put together. If the tax cap is broken it has a negative effect on the residents who receive certain types of property exemptions.

The Supervisor stated they were able to do such a conservative budget because in 2020 they had earmarked some big projects that needed to be taken care of. One was the Highway Garage roof, that alone was an expense of \$467,000. Also there were two unfilled positions in the Highway Department. They decided not to include them in this 2021 budget. That was a savings of \$121,000 in savings. He stated that was also equally important that one of his goals when he took office was to put a budget together that was sustainable and didn't rely on fund balance. They have been slowly weening themselves off the amount of money that they use for sales tax. He stated the General fund balance that they need to use in this budget alone was reduced by 81%. He said they reduced using fund balance in Highway DB fund by 49% from last year. The Town outside B fund was reduced by 59%. They were also savings of fund balance for the water districts 2 and 5, they will be using zero fund balance in those accounts. Also water district 4 was reduced by 36%.

Councilmember Noonan stated he thinks the Supervisor did a great job for a tough budget year, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilmember Donohue said he thinks with the uncertainties with the Sales Tax it's a fair budget, save what we can and keep it to the minimum because we don't know what we are going to be facing. Councilmember Hogan stated that between Supervisor Kusnierz and Jeffrey Cruz the budget that was put together was fair, and considerate to the community.

Supervisor Kusnierz wanted to add one more thing and thought the public would be interested in knowing. He stated that there was a story in the paper regarding whether or not we are going to send sales



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Council people	4 @	\$12,607 each
Town Justices	2 @	\$29,161 each
Town Clerk		\$47,076
Highway Superintendent		\$60,837

Dated: October 30, 2020

Theodore T. Kusnierz Jr., Town Supervisor  
Town of Moreau

Supervisor Kusnierz stated that they would open up the public hearing officially. He said he would just like to note by resolution they typically limit each individual to speak so everyone has a chance to speak. He stated under the circumstances the Town Board is in agreement and will let people speak for an appropriate amount of time. He stated the public hearing is now open. There were no members of the public that had any questions or comments.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hogan, and seconded by Councilmember Noonan and carried to close the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget at 6:50 p. m.

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

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

Meeting ajourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Daley  
Deputy Town Clerk