

PRESENT:	John Donohue, Jr. Patrick Killian Mark Stewart Jesse A. Fish, Jr.	Councilmember Councilmember Councilmember Supervisor
ABSENT:	Kyle Noonan	Councilmember
ALSO PRESENT:	Jeffrey Cruz Erin Trombley Chris Abrams Elizabeth Bennett	Principal Account Clerk Town Clerk Highway Superintendent Confidential Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven VanGuilder (Moreau EMS Executive Director), Jeff Beecher CPA (Moreau EMS/Jenkins Beecher & Bethel), Billie-Jo Krug (Moreau EMS Financial Secretary), Ron Quinn, Jr. (Moreau EMS), John Cox (South Glens Falls Fire Co. President), Benjamin Vaillancourt (South Glens Falls Fire Co.), Brandon Hayes (South Glens Falls Fire Co.), Maureen Jackson, Sheila Itzo

At the top of the workshop, Principal Account Clerk Cruz said the Town received over \$400,000 for October sales tax, and about \$300,000 had been budgeted for. He said part of it would be used for 2025 budget obligations and the remainder would be excess sales tax.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Chris Abrams Said the final John Deere rotor lease payment would be made (when?). He said it was a great machine in good shape, that they could probably use it for another 15 years. He estimated the buyout amount would be approximately \$71,000 in March or April 2026. Tandem 1 was financed at a rate of 5.7%, he said, and the final payment for Tandem 2 will be due in late fall 2026. He said he wanted to buy a replacement for Truck 5 because it was in “rough shape,” which is why he said he did not recommend giving it to the Recreation Dept. He suggested selling it at auction. He said he was looking at an F350 or F450 3-season, 4-wheel drive dump truck, and asked for \$90,000 toward this purchase in his 2026 budget, but he said it would be closer to \$80,000. Councilmember Killian asked if the dump could be removed, to which Mr. Abrams responded that the truck would sell better intact, adding that the accessories were “junk.” He said Truck 5 was on its second motor and the transmission slips. The Councilmember asked when the truck would be auctioned, and Mr. Abrams replied that it would be in the spring.

Mr. Abrams said he wanted to replace the tractor because it is also in poor condition, and that he was told he could get a good used one for \$120,000, that a new one starts at \$200,000. He said he didn’t see the need to get a new one. The current vehicle is a 1995 with ~700,000 miles on it he said, and that the corresponding trailer is an ’09 with original tires and is in good shape. Councilmember Killian asked what it was used for, to which the Superintendent stated it was used to move equipment. Mr. Abrams said he wanted to purchase a single-axel highway dump truck with plow to replace a 2008 MAC with ~90,000 miles. He said in the past few years they have put a lot of money into it, and with trucks are two years from order to delivery, he said it was a good time to start the process. When asked, he said the Town’s truck was larger than the Village’s. At that time of the meeting, he said the price for the truck was around \$293,000. The Supervisor remarked that was expensive. Mr. Abrams agreed, saying that 6-7 years ago this truck was \$180,000.

Mr. Abrams suggested replacing an F550 with an F350 or F450 three-season dump truck with an aluminum box for around \$80,000. He said the aluminum box was lighter and sufficient for 3-season use. When questioned about gas vs. diesel by Councilmember Killian, he replied that gas was better than diesel. He said he didn’t see a benefit in his experience and diesel costs more. The Councilmember said he heard that farmers were getting 300,000 miles from a Chevrolet. PAC Cruz said \$90,000 was budgeted for said an F350 and the \$293,000 for

the dump truck is not in the 2026 budget because the truck won't be paid in 2026. Mr. Abrams said that once new vehicles are delivered, the old can be auctioned, and he estimated they should fetch \$25,000 combined.

Under highway garage and capital improvements, Mr. Abrams said he would like a 3-sided pole barn for vehicle storage. He said the old shop is a "jigsaw puzzle" of equipment from November to March. He said they had two new mowers and nowhere to store them. He said they could fill a 30' x 60' barn easily. He said he had a price of around \$30,000 for a metal building but the bid was retracted when they learned of the prevailing wage requirement. John Sweet gave a \$20,000 price for a wooden pole barn, the Superintendent said, and that no concrete or blacktop was required. In his budget he said he also has a figure for a culvert on Selfridge Road, for which engineering had already begun. Councilmember Stewart did some calculations and said the price was good for the current market. Mr. Abrams said he would still pursue pricing on metals buildings to see if he can get a competitive price. Councilmember Stewart said they had found it difficult to get a pole barn for the Recreation Department, which requires cement or blacktop, which can account for 30-40% of the total cost of the structure.

Under account A3310 – Traffic Control, the Highway Superintendent said there were no changes to road signs and striping. He said it was hard to get an accurate price from the County for striping. Councilmember Stewart said the Town makes a request and the County doesn't tell the Town what it will do. The Superintendent said there were many variables. PAC Cruz said salaries had gone up 4%.

For account A5132.2 PAC Cruz highlighted safety jacks and a pole barn. Mr. Abrams said they had been using 4"x 4" and 6"x 6" lumber, and he said a year prior a 4"x 4" had split. For building repairs, Councilmember Stewart asked Superintendent Abrams if he had budgeted for exhaust fans to address condensation concerns and lighting needs. The roof was replaced in 2022, Mr. Abrams said, and a few years ago, his predecessor had requested some Big Ass Fans (brand), which had been stricken by the Board. For heat, he said they had radiant heat with space heaters. Mr. Abrams said the shop was assessed and the determination had been made that the radiant heat was running too often, and the overhead units weren't running enough, contributing to condensation. He said three exhaust fans were running currently. Mr. Abrams said the roof had been patched the year before and it had held up so far.

Councilmember Killian asked if the power was 3-phase and commented on the jump in budgeted utility costs from 2024 to 2025. For energy costs, Mr. Abrams said National Grid estimated a 20% increase for 2025, so be budgeted for that. He said they run all LED lights and received a rebate from the State and/or National Grid, and in the office they heat and air condition with splits. He said in 2025 he had added sensor switches in the bathroom, closets, and other locations. In the old shop he said lights are left on and the heat turned up too high sometimes so he put a cage over the thermostat, but he said due to its block construction, that shop gets cold. The Supervisor agreed that it gets cold in that shop. Councilmember Killian asked what the energy source was, to which the Superintendent replied it was gas. The Supervisor added that the roof on the old shop needs to be replaced.

On account DB5110 the Superintendent said they didn't need dry hydrants and had enough drywells. He said he wanted to maintain trees at \$12,000, road materials and culverts were budgeted somewhat higher for 2026, and guardrail numbers are down. He said he did not need a new hire in 2026 or 2027 but in 2028 they would need to hire. Grinding was reduced from \$134,000 to \$50,000, he said, and that he hoped to repave a 3,000-foot section of Burt Road from Route 197, but he hadn't committed to it yet. He increased the black-top allocation, including part of the Highway Department parking lot at the old shop, which he estimated to cost \$15,000. He said Meadow Drive would be contracted out. Under revenue, he said they had about \$360,000 coming back.

Under DB5130 Mr. Abrams mentioned minor changes, including trimmed contractual figures. He said he hoped to save money on parts with newer vehicles and maintenance agreements. Under DB5140, for landscaping he mentioned grass seed, fencing and hay. Under account DB5142 Mr. Abrams said they had supply issues obtaining salt in the past. The State had held to three contractors but everyone ran short in 2025, he said, so they opened the market to all vendors. He said the issue there is that as time passes in the season and the lowest price

vendors sell out, the price will increase. He said this year's starting price is similar to last year at \$61-62 per ton, and reaches \$120 at the top end. Councilmember Killian asked if the Town could get more up front, to which the Superintendent responded that they were limited by the size of the salt shed. He added that the Town has 85 miles of road and is growing. Supervisor Fish asked if sand could be used to supplement the salt. Mr. Abrams said they rely more on salt because it saves a lot on spring cleanup cost. He said the cost of street sweeper brushes was astronomical. He said in the past they would use a dozen brooms, and now they use two.

Councilmember Stewart asked if there was anything left in the account for 2025. Mr. Abrams said they had \$114,000 or \$140,000 left and that he had 400 tons of salt in stock. PAC Cruz said if there was money left at the end of 2025, they could initiate a purchase with a purchase order that will bring those funds forward into 2026. Councilmember Killian asked how much capacity they had for salt. Mr. Abrams said 500 tons. In 2025 he said he had spent about \$100,000 on salt.

Under DB3501 The Highway Superintendent said they would be getting \$360,000 back for CHIPS (NYS Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program) and that he hoped equipment would bring more than the budget estimated \$7,000. PAC Cruz said he would update the CHIPS total on that line and that the Town was making 4% on funds across the Town accounts. He said this was an important piece of revenue for the Town, adding that if the rate changes, the Town could look into CDs and other options to make up the difference. Mr. Abrams wanted to add they had done over two tons of blacktop at the Transfer Station.

MOREAU EMS

Councilmember Stewart said though it may not be a legal or ethical issue, that Moreau EMS was looking for bids for their building expansion project, and since his company bids on projects like this, he recused himself from the discussion.

A4540 - Steven VanGuilder said they would be before the Zoning Board the following day and asked that the \$120,000 reserve funds be put into the contract line because the funds would be needed for payment on the new construction. He said the architect calculates the project cost at \$4.7 million, that the new facility will be 9,000 square feet with operating offices on the ground floor and sleeping quarters on the second floor. He said their current building has two bedrooms. He said the Town of Moreau was very busy. Councilmember Killian asked for clarification, that Moreau EMS was asking that the 2026 requested amount under account A4540.2.409 Contract – Reserve be moved to the contract for a building payment. Mr. VanGuilder said yes, adding that the monthly payments will be around \$16,000 on the new building.

Mr. VanGuilder said five Lifepak 15 heart monitors were at the end of their lives at 15 years old. He said they applied for a USDA loan at 4.2%. He said the building was financed at 4.25%. Mr. VanGuilder said they had secured grants in the sum of \$500,000 and \$750,000 from Paul Tonko and TASNY, Ways & Means/Marchione, and \$125,000 from Assemblywoman Woerner. Councilmember Killian asked the number of heart monitors needed, and Mr. VanGuilder said there are five—one for each ambulance and one for the emergency response vehicle. PAC Cruz asked if they wanted to keep the reserve amount of \$100,000 or increase it to \$125,000. Mr. VanGuilder said he wanted to take it out of reserve and put it into the budget. He said the USDA had committed to \$3.2 million, with another NBT loan for about \$800,000. He said they would only be paying interest. Councilmember Killian asked when they would start paying, to which Mr. VanGuilder said he had hoped to break ground in September 2025, but that didn't happen, so it would begin in spring 2026 with an estimated year to completion. The Councilmember asked about rate changes, and was told the rate was locked in with USDA. Once the Zoning review was complete, the Moreau EMS will go before the USDA, Mr. VanGuilder said, and mentioned they are on furlough now.

Councilmember Donohue said he didn't have a problem with giving them what they asked for. He said this project had been in the planning phase a long time and the project is just starting to move forward. He stated that Moreau EMS is an important asset to the Town of Moreau. He said people can take for granted that if they call 9-1-1, someone will show up. Councilmember Killian said he agreed and that it made sense in light of what

they have done in the past. Supervisor Fish said he was fine with it but had questions. He said from the monthly report, that someone gets \$1,000 stipend per month. Mr. VanGuilder said it was for the supervisors. Supervisor Fish said he didn't get that. (Laughter) Mr. VanGuilder said there are certain responsibilities for which the supervisors are compensated, just as the Town Supervisor is compensated for the work he does at the County. He continued, saying if the supervisor is not on the clock and goes out on a call, the stipend covers them. He said there was always a paramedic on an ambulance unless they are on calls. He also said the stipend doesn't impact the budget because it comes from payroll, and payroll funds come from insurance payments. Supervisor Fish asked about an IRA stipend. Mr. VanGuilder said in lieu of a raise, this stipend pays into an IRA for him. After some discussion, they came to consensus that a stipend of \$270 is paid to Mr. VanGuilder twice a month, totaling \$540. Councilmembers Donohue and Killian agreed to add the additional \$25,000 requested under A4540.

SOUTH GLENS FALLS FIRE COMPANY

Councilmember Stewart returned to the Board room for the session. PAC Cruz had the Board members turn to account SF3410.4. The budget provided by the Fire Company was a total spend, not based on what each municipality pays, Mr. Cruz said, therefore he had input numbers from their budget and asked for discussion. He said he had allocated \$715,000 for the contract with \$4,000 for cancer insurance. Councilmember Stewart asked if the \$1.1 million total was the ask from the Town. Ben Vaillancourt confirmed, and said negotiations were underway with South Glens Falls Village because they had previously done an 18-month contract. \$125,000 was the current ask of the Village, and was for 6 months, according to Mr. Vaillancourt. Councilmember Stewart said the Town gave extra in the 2025 budget, and asked how they were doing with the 2025 sums. Supervisor Fish asked if the Town had received the audit, to which Mr. Cruz replied affirmatively. Councilmember Stewart asked if there was anything in reserves going back into savings. Mr. Cox said he was there to support Messrs. Hayes and Vaillancourt because he was very new and not as familiar with the finances.

Councilmember Stewart said the 2025 budget went up from what was allocated, and asked what the biggest need would be for 2026. Mr. Vaillancourt responded that the biggest need is fire trucks. He said they had a tower truck on order for \$2.3 million which will take four years to build. He said they won't need to pay for the truck until delivery. Councilmember Stewart said the allocation for 2025 of \$200,000 was increased to a request for \$367,000 in 2026. Councilmember Stewart asked if the trucks are budgeted separately. PAC Cruz said it was separate because at the time of the workshop, nothing had been input. The Councilmember said that from 2020-2024, \$50,000 was allocated annually, and in 2025 \$200,000 was the allocation. Mr. Vaillancourt said the typical contract amount prior to 2025 was actually \$100,000. Mr. Hayes confirmed, the contract amount had been \$100,000. PAC Cruz said he would check on that.

Councilmember Stewart asked PAC Cruz how much the Town could designate for the truck. \$845,000 was penciled in between the Town and Village according to the Supervisor. Councilmember Stewart said the firetruck request was within that amount, and of the \$1.1 million, \$367,000 was for the truck. Mr. Hayes said the allocation wasn't just for the truck on order, but spread across all the trucks. Mr. Vaillancourt said even with the money they have accumulated, they will still need a \$1 million loan. Councilmember Stewart spelled out that the total budget was \$1,167,568.00, \$367,000 or \$368,000 set aside for the truck, and \$800,200 is the remaining ask. He continued, saying the Village typically contributes \$85,000, which meant the amount allocated by the Supervisor covered the whole request, plus an extra \$4,000. The Councilmember said again they needed to discuss how much they could afford to allocate to the truck and asked it again of Mr. Cruz.

Councilmember Killian asked about a \$25,000 contingency. The Fire Company representatives said this is an emergency fund. Councilmember Stewart said it seemed like standard operating expenses, and that needs and wants were covered. Mr. Vaillancourt said any extra is put toward the truck. Councilmember Stewart asked how much surplus there was in 2025. Fire company representatives indicated that they didn't know, but Mr. Vaillancourt said it had been \$30,000-50,000 in years past. Councilmember Stewart asked Mr. Cruz if the Town could match the 2025 allocation of \$200,000. PAC Cruz said they could. The Councilmember said he wanted to allocate \$200,000 toward the truck, which will be delivered in 2029. This would be \$167,000 less than the

amount requested for the truck, he added. He also said with this total amount, the Town would be spending \$78,600 less for 2026 fire service than in 2025. The Supervisor questioned what the Village was covering. Councilmember Stewart said the Village covers \$85,000, that more discussions with them are pending, and that 2025 may be the final time discussing the budget in this manner with the Fire Co.

Supervisor Fish asked is the projected budget enough for the company's needs. Mr. Hayes said a big expense in 2025 was radios, and that they had just been informed that new \$3,000-6,000 radios would be needed to communicate with the County. Councilmember Stewart said he didn't want the "headline" to be that the Town is giving the Fire Company \$78,000 fewer dollars, and that the Town covered all of the Fire Company's expenses and doubled the typical allocation for trucks. He asked if the Fire Company had been more efficient. The Councilmember pointed out that the 2025 Fire Company budget had been increased \$160,000 over the 2024 budget. He asked if it was fair to say operational costs were down for 2026. Mr. Cox said a big expenditure for 2025 had been six air packs at more than \$10,000 each, one for each truck. Mr. Vaillancourt said they were also asking for funding from the Village of South Glens Falls and if they don't contribute, the Fire Company falls behind. The Village ask was \$125,000, according to representatives of the Fire Company. Councilmember Stewart asked if they get about \$85,000 of that amount, and said combined with what the Supervisor's budget offers, everything the Fire Company requested would be funded.

Mr. Vaillancourt brought up the cancer bill, and said that was done under the prior administration and was a bill to the Village, that the Town not responsible. Supervisor Fish said they put in \$4,000 for cancer insurance. Councilmember Stewart said the Town pays 80% as agreed upon by previous Supervisor Kusnierz and Mayor Gutheil. He said Village residents are Town residents, so he was okay with covering part of it. Councilmember Stewart said they were saving \$78,000 and had allocated \$200,000 for the \$2.3 million truck coming in 2029. He asked PAC Cruz if they could raise the allocation for the truck to \$250,000. PAC Clerk nodded. The Councilmember added that by doing so they could still say they saved \$25,000 in taxes for fire service and put more dollars ahead for a known expense coming later. Councilmembers Killian and Donohue voiced agreement. Councilmember Stewart asked the Supervisor if he was comfortable committing this sum to the truck if PAC Cruz can confirm that it can be done later in the office. Supervisor Fish indicated he would if PAC Cruz could confirm the numbers the next day.

The Fire Company representatives said they agreed with the adjusted figures as well and thanked the Board.

The workshop adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Trombley
Erin Trombley
Town Clerk