

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on May 11, 2010 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York.

Supervisor Jenkins opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll, which resulted in the following Town Board Members being present or absent:

Town Board Members Present

Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

Tom Cumm	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman

Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent; Steve Gram, Recreation Director; Martin D. Auffredou, Attorney for the Town; Town Residents: John Blanchard, Donna Blanchard, Vince Sporrer, Huguette Delvaux, Reed Antis, Stephen Hunt, Ed Loftus and Elizabeth Lanfear

Supervisor Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Jenkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone turn off all electronic devices during the meeting or put them on vibrate.

MINUTES

The following minutes were prepared and presented to the Town Board in advance of the meeting for their review, comment, correction and approval:

April 22nd, April 27th and April 28th

The board members could only approve the minutes of April 22nd. Councilman Prendergast did not attend the meetings on April 27th and 28th and Councilman Kusnierz was not in attendance at the meeting on April 28th. Therefore, since Councilman Cumm and Councilwoman LeClair were absent from this meeting there weren't enough board members present at this meeting who attended the meetings on April 27th and 28th in order to approve those minutes.

MINUTES – APRIL 22, 2010 – TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP RE: MOREAU EMERGENCY SQUAD

Correction : Page 242 – 3rd paragraph – 4th line – delete the “s” off the word “gives”

A motion was made by Councilman Prendergast and seconded by Councilman Kusnierz to approve the minutes of April 22nd as corrected.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Cumm	Absent
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Absent
Councilman Kusneirz	Yes
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

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FUTURE MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

Supervisor Jenkins announced that the public hearing on Water District No. 1, Extension 2 that was held at 6:40 p.m. this date will be continued on May 25th at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

The Town Board Audit Meeting for May was scheduled for May 26th at 4:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

15 MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

John Blanchard asked for an update on the lawsuit filed by the Moreau Emergency Squad against the Town of Moreau.

Supervisor Jenkins initially said he had no comment. He then stated that the judge ordered the Town to make a payment to the Moreau Emergency Squad for the month of May and another hearing is scheduled for June 9th.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that the judge ordered the Town to make payments for the months of May and June.

Attorney Auffredou clarified that the Town agreed to do this so that there would be continuity of service by the squad. The judge ordered the Town to pay through June 9th and he advised the judge that the Town needs the service so he suggested that we pay through the end of June for all practical purposes.

Vince Sporrer asked the board if there is any summary assessment data available that shows if there is any shift between residential and commercial properties as the result of the reval.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that there was some shift. He didn't have the exact percentage with him at this meeting, but thought it was around 15%.

Supervisor Jenkins told Mr. Sporrer that the information was available and that it was a public record.

Vince Sporrer asked what ever happened to the Woodstone, the pellet company that was going to site in the Town's industrial park.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that they still have an option to purchase land in the industrial park, but they haven't exercised that option. It was his understanding that they had some financing trouble due to lack of capital. He thought they were given a six month extension on their option agreement. In his opinion it has tied up some very good lots in the industrial park. He further stated that the Town is working with SEDC on potential buyers.

Huguette Delvaux stated that at a workshop on April 22nd regarding the Moreau Emergency Squad Supervisor Jenkins said that he was going to be looking to other agencies to provide ambulance services to the Town. In the paper a few days later an article read that Supervisor Jenkins had stated that he had no plans to change providers. On April 27th he mentioned that he would stop making payments to the squad, because they were not cooperating.

Supervisor Jenkins didn't recall saying that he was going to stop making payments. It has been the board's policy to try and work with them. What she read was his personal opinion and there are five members on this board. His position is that we shouldn't change squads and it is the last thing he wants to see happen, but that doesn't mean it couldn't happen. He recalled that some members on the board said they were going to look to see what else could be done.

Huguette Delvaux asked Supervisor Jenkins why it said in the newspaper that he had no intentions of changing.

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Supervisor Jenkins replied that if it was his decision he wouldn't change. That doesn't mean that circumstances might force it. Our job as a board is to bring public safety to the community and he thinks that the Moreau Emergency Squad has done a great job and every member of this board has indicated that. However, they are very frustrated over the fact that they aren't allowed to do their duties and review the squad's expenses. We raise a little over \$700,000.00 from the taxpayers in the general fund and our budget has \$223,000.00 set aside for emergency services. That is a little over 30% of the money that we raise from the taxpayers in this Town that goes to the Moreau Emergency Squad and we have a right to know how it is spent. He didn't feel it was an unreasonable request and it is what we are supposed to be doing under the law and it is our responsibility to the voters and taxpayers in the Town.

Huguette Delvaux thought that the board was getting the information regarding the \$223,000.00.

Supervisor Jenkins said a handful of information has been received that doesn't give the board the information that they need. There is information that the squad has refused to release to the board.

Huguette Delvaux said it seems there is a difference of opinion then.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

No requests.

Steve Gram reported on the lighting grant for the rec. park. He stated that initially representatives from two companies were going to come before the board and give a presentation on their proposals for lighting, but this project is going to be put on hold for now due to the cost. He stated that the Town Board had talked about lighting the "community field" where there is ice skating and sledding. That is what the \$80,000.00 grant was for. It was discovered that we may be able to do it cheaper without the grant by upgrading the lights currently there. The Recreation Commission prefers not to exceed the \$80,000.00 in grant money.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that we could make changes to the power source and fixtures to illuminate the skating rink area, half the bowl and some of the parking area without the grant. We may not have enough power source and may need an engineer to review it. In the past we were told that to bring in another service would cost \$125,000.00 and that is the reason why we had a problem with the grant back in 2008. The goal is going to be to get more information and bring it back to the full board.

Councilman Kusnierz realized it was time sensitive and asked where we are at timing wise.

Steve Gram stated that June 30th is the deadline for the grant. Terry called and asked if we could get an extension.

Councilman Prendergast said there was a letter in their mailboxes from Terry about this. She was told that the money is there, but they don't know if the money will be available after the State budget is passed. Very little money has been paid out since September.

Elizabeth Lanfear stated the Recreation Commission was more concerned about how much the lights were going to cost to operate. She stated that the commission doesn't understand the need for lighting when the park closes at dusk.

John Blanchard asked if anyone has looked into a grant from the Federal government for solar power.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that there is NYSERTA funding available and this is something we could look into.

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Supervisor Jenkins further stated that originally the plan was to light the bowl with the idea that the school would use it for soccer and football. Subsequently, the school lighted their own fields. There are winter events in the park now whereby lights would be beneficial. The board will look to the Recreation Commission for input. It appears that it is going to be too expensive to light the fields vs. the amount of use they would get.

In other business, Steve Gram previously received approval to rent portable toilets, but the cost he cited and that was approved was incorrect. The cost approved was for one handicapped and one regular portable toilet and he needs two regular portable toilets, which means he needs approval for an additional \$525.00 to rent a total of three portable toilets for seven months.

Councilman Kusnierz explained that he voted no on the original approval, because he thought the quotes should have been split and the quote from the vendor in Saratoga County for the regular portable toilets should have been accepted since they were both the same. Therefore, voting on this would put him in a difficult position.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that they could table this until the May 25th meeting.

Councilman Kusnierz asked Steve Gram to put this in writing for the board.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

None

WATER DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Prendergast and seconded by Councilman Kusnierz to adopt the following proclamations:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Moreau wishes to recognize Dante (Dan) J. Orsini a life-long resident of South Glens Falls who will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 29, 2010, and

WHEREAS, Dan was born May 29, 1920 and grew up in South Glens Falls, graduated from Saint Mary's Academy in Glens Falls class of 1938 and completed a post-graduate year at South Glens Falls High School in 1939, and

WHEREAS, Dan holds a very distinguished military record from his service in the United States Marine Corps from the time he enlisted on May 4, 1940 until his honorable discharge on February 15, 1946, and

WHEREAS, upon his return home from service Dan married Hazel Deeb on March 3, 1946 and they raised four children and are grandparents to five grandchildren and six great children, and

WHEREAS, Dan worked at the Scott Paper Company in Fort Edward for 32 years holding managerial positions and for Scott Associates for over 15 years in the capacity of Treasurer and Director and served as Trustee and Deputy Mayor for the Village of South Glens Falls between 1955 and 1970, and

WHEREAS, Dan has a vast community service record in which he has served as a member of the South Glens Falls Rotary Club for 43 years attaining a perfect attendance record, a 60 year member of the Chamber of Commerce, a 60 year member of the Marine Corps League to name a few, and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Moreau wishes to honor Dan Orsini on his 90th birthday by way of this proclamation for his lifetime achievements and dedication to his community, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby proclaims May 29, 2010 as “Dan Orsini Day” in the Town of Moreau.

and

WHEREAS, Mark Fish, Principal of the Oliver W. Winch Middle School has been named New York middle school principal of the year by the New York State School Administrators Association, and

WHEREAS, this honor has been given each year since 2002 to middle school principals who establish character and quality of education for the students of their school, and

WHEREAS, Mark has been an educator for 23 years and an administrator at the South Glens Falls Central School District for 14 years, and

WHEREAS, under Mark’s leadership the middle school was designated to the New York State Essential Elements School-to-Watch program, which selects high-achieving middle schools and uses them as models for educators looking to improve their school and in addition, the Oliver W. Winch Middle School is one of seven New York middle schools chosen for the Just for Kids program, a project by the School of Education at the University of Albany to study schools whose students have performed well for at least three years, and

WHEREAS, Mark is clearly a professional who is a leader in his field and an educator dedicated to providing quality education and who is revered by his colleagues and all who know him, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Moreau extends their congratulations to Mark Fish for his achievement.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilwoman LeClair	Absent
Councilman Kusnierz	Yes
Councilman Cumm	Absent
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

15 MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Reed Antis reported that a tree fell down on Old Bend Road over the weekend and he wasn’t able to get in contact with Paul Joseph, Maureen Leerkes or the Sheriff (he called the Sheriff’s non-emergency number). The neighbors pulled together and removed the tree from the road. He requested that emergency contact numbers be posted on the Town’s website.

Councilman Kusnierz recommended that an answering machine be installed at the highway garage that would come on after business hours and emergency contact numbers be put on the answering machine including Paul’s cell phone number.

Elizabeth Lanfear heard that a person and their vehicle were locked in the rec. park and wanted to know what procedures were in place to check the park before closing it.

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Steve Gram explained the procedure to her and how this incident occurred.

Elizabeth Lanfear asked for an update on the Hatchery Road culvert.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he contacted the Town of Wilton and they don't have anyone on staff that is qualified to do the work due to the depth of the culvert. He spoke with Joe Ritchey, Saratoga County Commissioner of Public Works, and he doesn't have the personnel or equipment to help us. He does have an engineer that could come and look at the site and offer us some advice. Paul Joseph measured the road and there is a ½ inch drop in the road. It appears that at some point the road may have to be closed, but that is up to Paul to decide. It is a pretty good size culvert with a pretty good size outflow and it is a serious problem. Paul is in the process of getting information for the board. Paul is the only one besides his deputy who can operate the equipment needed to do the job and they can't do it because of the union.

Councilman Kusnierz stated that he spoke with NYS DOT **and on every job that they are involved in they have a person who reviews it for confined space and makes a determination and they have a publication that they use as a guideline that engineers use and he has a copy that he will forward on to Paul Joseph and NYS DOT indicated that** have **names** of people who will conduct training **in one day** for confined space at a cost. **[amended 5/21/10 jf taken from audio]**

Attorney Auffredou informed everyone present about a fundraiser that is being hosted by the Friends of Grant's Cottage on July 2nd at the Wishing Well. Attorney Auffredou and his wife Linda will be attending as members of the Friends of Grant's Cottage. He stated that some people may know that Ulysses S. Grant's best friend was Mark Twain and Mark Twain was responsible for publishing Ulysses S. Grant's memoirs and saving Ulysses S. Grant and his family from financial ruin at that point in this life. There is going to be a Mark Twain and Ulysses S. Grant impersonator at the fundraiser and he was trying to get the word out about the fundraiser.

Vince Sporrer asked how the board members feel about homestead and non-homestead rates.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the school district can adopt a homestead rate. As for the Town, he doesn't see any great advantage due to our tax structure and the amount we raise in taxes. In his opinion, it would probably increase Article 7's and there aren't any other municipalities in the county that have a homestead/non-homestead rate.

Councilman Kusnierz said he was inclined to support the adoption of a homestead rate, but he needs a little more information first. It may be advantageous to residential taxpayers.

Councilman Prendergast said he didn't see a real advantage to the Town, but as more information comes out on this subject he could possibly be swayed on it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elizabeth Lanfear asked about the stumps in the rec. park and Steve Gram replied that they are all taken care of.

Elizabeth Lanfear mentioned the sign in honor of Mike Nolan that is in the works for the basketball court. Discussion followed on this.

Elizabeth Lanfear mentioned about grass seed that was put down in an area where people are walking and brief discussion followed on this.

Steve Gram noted that a letter was received this date from Keith Kreppein indicating his desire to seek re-appointment to the Recreation Commission. His term expires May 31st.

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Councilman Prendergast reported that the Water Committee met and discussed a buy-in fee for new lots, existing lots, multi-family dwellings and multi-unit apartment complexes and also auto readers for the water meters. The Water Committee will put information together and present it to the full board at a later date.

SUPERVISOR'S ITEMS

None

Councilman Kusnierz requested that the Peggy Jenkins put together a summary of the shifts for the board members.

Supervisor Jenkins said he had a summary and asked if the Town Clerk had a copy and the Town Clerk replied no.

Supervisor Jenkins said he would copy the board members.

Councilman Kusnierz asked for extra copies to be made up and available for the public upon request.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that between the preliminary and tentative we increased property values by \$34 million. The total value of our property went up 20%, which will generate some additional sales tax revenues for us.

A motion was made by Councilman Kusnierz and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Kusnierz	Yes
Councilman Cum	Absent
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Absent
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk