

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on November 16, 2010 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of considering the adoption of the 2011 Preliminary Town Budget.

Town Board Members Present

Tom Cumm	Councilman
Bob Prendergast	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
Preston Jenkins	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Fran Thibodeau, Principle Account Clerk; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent; Paul Joseph, Highway Superintendent; Lydia Wheeler, Post Star Reporter; Steven M. VanGuilder, President and CEO of the Moreau Emergency Squad; John E. Blanchard, Jr., Chaplain of the Moreau Emergency Squad; John Bonn, Driver for the Moreau Emergency Squad; Brandon Carta, EMT-D with the Moreau Emergency Squad; and Town Residents: Huguette Delvaux, Patrick Lyons and Adele Kurtz

Supervisor Jenkins asked for a motion to open the special meeting at 7:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Cumm and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to open the special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau at 7:42 p.m.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

Supervisor Jenkins asked for a motion to adopt the 2011 Preliminary Town Budget.

Councilwoman LeClair asked for a separate vote on the Moreau Emergency Squad portion of the budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Cumm and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to adopt the 2011 Preliminary Town Budget without the Moreau Emergency Squad portion.

Adele Kurtz and Councilman Kusnierz asked what the motion was for.

Supervisor Jenkins said for a separate action on the Moreau Emergency Squad line item, which is allowable under the law and that is what Councilwoman LeClair has requested.

Steve VanGuilder asked her why she wanted to do that.

Councilwoman LeClair said she was going to vote no on the Moreau Emergency Squad budget. She said she knows that they are dedicated volunteers, but she still feels that they didn't get the information the public has come to her repeatedly for. She said she doesn't want to vote no on the rest of the budget. She knows that none of them agree 100% on it, they have worked hard on it and it is a good budget and she doesn't want to vote no on the entire budget.

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Steve VanGuilder told Councilwoman LeClair that she has the right to vote no.

Councilwoman LeClair said she would prefer not to vote no on the entire budget.

Steve VanGuilder said that is her choice.

Councilwoman LeClair said this was right and she checked with Attorney Auffredou and under Article 8 of the Town Law they can choose to separate this out and have two separate votes.

Steve VanGuilder stated that none of the other board members are going to vote that way, they can vote how they want.

Councilwoman LeClair said that is okay.

Supervisor Jenkins asked the Town Clerk to call the roll on the motion.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Cumm	Yes
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Councilman Kusnierz asked for discussion.

Councilman Kusnierz said he heard a phrase here tonight, that “warmed his heart”, and that is “that we really need to be fiscally conservative”. He said in light of the action that is about to take place here he wanted to say that in some areas of the budget they were successful and in some areas they weren’t. The highway budget is 27% over last year and they could argue whether that is fiscally conservative or not. There are many areas in the budget that he suggested cuts and in some areas he was partially successful and in some areas he was not successful at all. Therefore, he will not be voting on this part of the budget.

Supervisor Jenkins asked the Town Clerk to call the roll again.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Councilman Cumm	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	Yes
Councilman Kusnierz	No
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

Supervisor Jenkins asked for a motion to approve the Moreau Emergency Squad appropriation in the amount of \$226,400.00.

Councilman Cumm made a motion to approve the Moreau Emergency Squad appropriation in the amount of \$226,400.00.

Councilman Kusnierz asked what the amount was again and Supervisor Jenkins told him \$226,400.00.

Councilman Prendergast seconded the motion.

Supervisor Jenkins asked the Town Clerk to call the roll.

Councilman Kusnierz asked for discussion.

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Councilman Kusnierz said he advocated a few minutes ago for a 4% increase and heard Councilman Cumm and Supervisor Jenkins say they didn't have a problem with 4% and all of a sudden a dollar figure comes out. He said that "\$763.00 is less than the 4%". He said this is awful petty and he would be voting no on this as well.

Supervisor Jenkins asked the Town Clerk to call the roll.

Councilman Cumm	Yes
Councilman Prendergast	Yes
Councilwoman LeClair	No
Councilman Kusnierz	No
Supervisor Jenkins	Yes

Councilman Prendergast said he would like to make a quick comment on the budget as he does every year.

He stated that we still keep taxes low. We still provide the same services that we do every year and some get better and some services increase in some departments. We still fix our roads in the Town of Moreau and we keep the costs down, because that is our responsibility and we work very hard at it and he is proud of that and all the board members ought to be proud of that. In 21 years he hasn't been involved in a budget yet where all board members agreed on every single item in the budget. That is just the way it goes. Sometimes you go with it, because you know the votes are there and the Town needs to operate and the Town needs a budget to operate. The Town of Moreau is in pretty good shape. We didn't have to lay anybody off. The worse thing in the world is to have to tell somebody that has had a job for many years and benefits to go along with it that they no longer have the job. That is one of the main reasons why they work very hard on the budget so they don't have to do that. They work "lean". He said that the employees are so good that in many years they have asked them to take on some more responsibilities and there has been little or no resistance. They not only do it for a job, but they do it to serve the community and they really care about the community. He thought they could be proud of the budget once again. The services have improved and expanded and they are all governed by very good employees.

Steve VanGuilder asked why they separated the squad from the budget.

Councilman Cumm said that Councilwoman LeClair suggested it so she wouldn't have to vote no on the entire budget. It is a matter of semantics.

Steven VanGuilder said to let her vote no on it.

Supervisor Jenkins said the law reads that any board member can choose to vote or not to vote on any line item and it is not up to him to tell her how to vote. He didn't necessarily agree with what she did, but it was her choice.

Councilman Cumm stated the bottom line is the budget passed and the Moreau Emergency Squad appropriation passed. That was his ultimate goal.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that when he makes decisions here it is different than making them for himself. He said there were a lot of differences of opinions in this process to get to where they are at now. They have public safety issues and road issues to deal with. We are behind with the roads and this year we stepped up spending to try and catch up on doing the roads and we were able to do that, because of the higher sales tax revenues. He didn't think any of them thought this was a perfect budget, but it will work and it will support the Town for the next year.

Steve VanGuilder told the board to forward any concerns or questions to him.

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Adele Kurtz stated that she heard the words “hostage” and “vendetta” used and back in one of the workshops Councilwoman LeClair was quoted as saying regarding the EMS “she wanted to offer them \$218,400.00 less than what last year’s budget was” and “Offer \$218,400.00 and withhold around \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 until we get what we want.” Adele went on to quote Supervisor Jenkins as saying at that same meeting “We don’t have a contract yet, we don’t want to shut them down, but they get the message what we have been through.” She said that the board has singled them out and it is as an absolute shame that the Town would take personal vendettas..... (The rest of her sentence wasn’t audible as Supervisor Jenkins interjected the following comment.)

Supervisor Jenkins said this was easy for her to say that the board singled them out, but he wasn’t going to get into it. He wanted to put it behind them. He said the board wasn’t the one who filed a lawsuit.

Adele Kurtz stated they had to, to get paid, they weren’t getting paid.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that this wasn’t true. He said they were never delayed a day for a check that they had coming and during the whole process the board even changed things and gave them money early, because they had payroll issues to meet. We needed information and we are finally getting information. He said they are an agency that is going to have to work their tails off to stay in business, because their cash flow isn’t good. They have to continue to replace equipment and with the depreciation they are showing a significant loss and while it is mostly depreciation it is stuff that has to be replaced someday. If they get monthly financial information and they provide it to the Town, the Town can assist them and they will have a better idea where they are every month and that is what financial management is all about.

Supervisor Jenkins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Kusnierz said he wanted to say something on the record while the Post Star reporter was present.

He said there was a story that ran in the paper today about an incident that occurred at the rec. park and in the story towards the end there was reference that the “Town” had offered the reward. He wanted to clarify that “Town Board Members” may have offered a reward, but the “Town” did not.

Lydia Wheeler, the Post Star Reporter, said she knows that the “Town” did not offer the reward and she was very careful in writing the story not to say that it was the “Town of Moreau”, but it was “Town Officials and Community Members” who jointly offered the reward.

Councilman Kusnierz said it is illegal for the Town to do that.

Lydia Wheeler said she knows that and she reported that previously. She was very careful in her wording.

Councilman Kusnierz said thank you.

A motion was made by Councilman Cumm and seconded by Councilman Prendergast to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk