

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on November 4, 2010 in the Town of Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York, for the purpose of hearing any and all persons for or against the 2011 Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Jenkins opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll.

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; Paul Joseph, Highway Superintendent; Jesse Fish, Water Superintendent; Fran Thibodeau, Principle Account Clerk; Martin D. Auffredou, Attorney for the Town (arrived at 7:25 pm.); and the following members of the public and members of the Moreau Emergency Squad: Mike Shaver; Brandon Seney; Michael Seney, Deputy Chief; Ronald C. Quinn, Jr., Executive Board Member; Michael Beshara, EMT-D; John Bonn, Driver; Steven VanGuilder, President & EMT-D; John Blanchard, Jr., Chaplain; Jay Webster, Executive Board Member; Heather Webster; Joseph Hayes, EMT-D; Huguette Delvaux; Ian Moreau; Mike Howard, Driver; Helen Glen, Secretary & EMT-D; Andre Delvaux, Chief Operating Officer; Patrick Mellon, Paid Paramedic; Adele Kurtz; Elizabeth Lanfear; and Kylee Baker, Vice-President & EMT

The following Notice of Public Hearing appeared in the legal ad section of the Glens Falls Post Star newspaper on October 29, 2010:

TOWN OF MOREAU

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Moreau, County of Saratoga, State of New York, will hold a Preliminary Budget Public Hearing for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2011 on November 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York. At such hearing any person for or against any item therein contained or in favor or against said budget as compiled may be heard. Further notice is hereby given that said Preliminary Budget is on file in the Town Clerk's Office at 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York where it is available for inspection by any interested person during business hours. Copies of said budget will be available for distribution at the Preliminary Public Hearing to be held on November 4, 2010. Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law the proposed annual salaries for 2011 Elected Officials are hereby listed as follows:

Supervisor	\$45,076.00
Councilpeople	4 @ \$10,800.00 ea.
Town Justices	2 @ \$24,926.00 ea.
Town Clerk	\$39,406.00
Highway Superintendent	\$49,441.00

Dated: October 27, 2010
Preston L. Jenkins, Jr. Town Supervisor
Town of Moreau

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Supervisor Jenkins asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard.

Mike Howard who resides at 137 Feeder Dam Road said he moved back after ten years of living out of state. He and his family own 40+ acres of land in the Town and have lived in the Town of Moreau for 30 plus years. He has been on the board's side of the fence having served in an elected capacity as a city councilman in Savannah, Georgia so he knows the board has difficult decisions to make. He understands that the Town Board is considering not increasing the budget for the Moreau Emergency Squad, a critical emergency management service. This concerns him. In the difficult economic times that we are in we have to prioritize what taxpayers fund and public safety has to be the number one priority. When he was a city councilman he looked at things in a very detailed way. He sees public safety as number one and public works as number two. He urged the board to reconsider their position with the Moreau Emergency Squad. This is a critical service that can't be underfunded.

Helen Glen stated that the Moreau Emergency Squad try's to do the very best they can for the people in the Town and they don't expect a multitude of money. Everyone is having a hard time today. It is difficult to run an organization like the Moreau Emergency Squad without money. Costs are going up. The ambulance they bought this year cost \$172,000.00 without any equipment. They do have paid people, but they still have a lot of volunteers. She asked the board to reconsider.

Steve VanGuilder asked why the board wasn't considering an increase for the squad. He knows why, but he wants it on the record.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that in the workshops they held, they looked at a lot of issues. We have basically given out a 2% increase in the preliminary budget, with a couple of exceptions. One being the Fire Company that is under a three year contract signed three years ago and the contract determines what they do. We are giving 4 ½% to the Moreau Community Center. They got hit with a substantial tax increase and the Moreau Emergency Squad isn't taxed. If we gave the Moreau Emergency Squad a 4% increase that would be less money than we had to spend on legal fees that was unnecessary. He understands what the squad does, but the board has to represent the 15,000 people in the Town.

Steve VanGuilder replied that the board threatened to cut their funds off so they had to protect their agency.

Supervisor Jenkins said the board never cut their funds off.

Steve VanGuilder replied that the board threatened to.

Supervisor Jenkins said the board never decided that. The minutes indicate that the squad had total support for the service they provide. The litigation didn't have to occur. The two parties could have met in February like they did in August and come up with a solution. He told Steve VanGuilder that he understands where he is coming from and that he represents a very important organization.

John Bonn stated that it is more important for the board to punish them than give them the money they need to save a life.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he didn't say that, but if he wanted to interpret it that way he could.

John Bonn said he was interpreting it that way.

Councilman Cumm stated they still didn't know if they were giving them too much money, just enough money or not enough money.

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There was a comment from a person in the audience that they could guarantee it was too little.

Michael Seney from 5 Tanglewood Drive stated that they have tried to explain it to the board countless times and they keep going in a vicious circle. The Supervisor just said we had a discussion in August and should have had the discussion in February and we probably could have resolved the issue. Well, it is November and we still haven't resolved the issue, so the meeting in August is moot. He further stated the board is punishing them for something the board forced them to do by threatening to cut off their funds, because without those funds we wouldn't be able to provide the valuable service that we have been providing for a minimal fee. He said the board already knows how much it would cost to go outside and hire a commercial agency to provide the service they are providing. You are getting an incredible service for nothing. He is a town resident and one of the 15,000 people in the Town that the board represents. He is appalled at the fact that the board is giving the Fire Company 4% and the Moreau Community Center 4 ½% to 5%. He doesn't use the services of the Moreau Community Center and the board is spending his money there. He would rather the money be spent on emergency services, because when he calls 911 he wants an ambulance to be there. He said people don't understand how important it is until they need it and the supervisor should know that more than anybody else.

John Blanchard stated he lives at 18 Shady Pines and is a member of the Moreau Emergency Squad. He said he doesn't understand how in these tough economic times we can give to the Fire Company who desperately needs it and the Moreau Community Center that he doesn't use. We all know that expenses go up every year. They provide services that require specific medications, equipment and training for their people. They also have auto-pulse machines that provide high quality CPR. He said they know more money is going to be required next year for medications and yet they are going to receive the same amount of money next year that they received this year. It seems to him that they are "cutting their nose off to spite their face" all because of the lawsuit.

Mike Howard said the cost of a lawsuit is the cost of doing business. We are a "sue happy" culture. Anybody can sue anybody regardless of cause. He would suspect that the Town has some kind of reserve or insurance for these types of situations. They did in the city of Savannah. He understands when they say that funding has been flattened or not increased due to the cost of the lawsuit. People don't agree and lawsuits happen. He said this is a critical service that everybody uses and it can't be underfunded. He thought he could speak for every person who uses the service of the Moreau Community Center or any other service, if they call 911 they want an ambulance to respond. Everything is going up especially in the health care field. He said we need to stop the back and forth and decide how to do this so everybody is happy and provide this critical service to the taxpayers in the community.

Councilwoman LeClair stated they sat here two days ago and debated on \$5.00 a month for cell phones. It is called fiscal responsibility. It is called transparency. Anybody that is paying tax dollars should be able come in and say "where did my money go and how was it spent". Can they ask this of the Moreau Emergency Squad and know that? No, their questions are not answered and for her that is what this is about. Show us your records or books. Show us what you are spending on cell phones. Did you say this is what we want and we are buying it or did you do what we do, did you get bids and see if you could cut costs? Did you do that? Show us.

Jay Webster who lives on William Street said it sounds like the board is taking retribution against the squad, because you feel you need to recoup those funds you spent as part of doing business. He asked if they sought retribution against National Grid/Niagara Mohawk when they had that legal action. It sounds like a personal vendetta and he is disappointed in the board.

Steve VanGuilder stated they show the board everything every month. He said the board can argue that point all they want. He faxes the information and brings in copies of invoices every month. He stated this is the volunteer side that does that. If the board wants to go through every voucher or invoice, that is their prerogative. He said the Town Board gets paid to do that and the volunteer squad members don't.

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Councilwoman LeClair said she wants to see it all, the paid and unpaid.

Steve VanGuilder said that is the problem. You want information you are not entitled to.

Michael Seney stated that they are contractors who provide a service. They don't work for the Town Board and they aren't municipal employees. He said they are willing to give the board records of every single penny that is spent that the Town gives them. That is taxpayer's money. They set up a separate account for that. He doesn't see where the transparency isn't.

Councilwoman LeClair said they could come in and see every dollar that is spent on coats for the highway personnel, cell phones, electricity and we will give it to you, every dollar that is spent.

Mike Howard asked if it was a matter of reconciling the accounts. He said if the squad sent the board a monthly balance sheet showing income and expenses and a general ledger it would be only a matter of reconciling this information against the Town's general ledger or setting up a separate general ledger.

Supervisor Jenkins said that is what they have been asking for and haven't received yet and Councilwoman LeClair stated that it has only been a year.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he thought they were close to getting that information a couple of weeks ago.

Mike Howard replied that it is a step in the right direction then.

Supervisor Jenkins stated yes and next Wednesday night they may discuss those steps. They met in August and he thought they had an agreement, but it didn't end up that way.

Heather Webster stated she is not a member of the Moreau Emergency Squad, but she is a registered voter and a taxpaying citizen of South Glens Falls. She addressed the board and stated "I just voted in district 3 and I voted for you and I want you out, because I am sick of this nonsense. You are wasting the time of everybody else. There these people are supposed to be on the squad or with their families right now and it is getting ridiculous. You have been given the information you have asked for and if you are not happy with it then it is a personal reason and not a legal reason." She went on to say that 3% of the amount of money the Town gave last year does not equal the amount of money the Town paid their lawyer to go to court. She stated that last year the board did not take 3% to cover the cost of the Town's attorney so this is a vendetta and she didn't think the board was being reasonable.

Supervisor Jenkins advised Heather Webster that the board did not subtract anything from last year's payment and we are going to be making the final payment to the squad for the month of December. We are in the process of signing the contract to make the final payment.

Heather Webster said that Supervisor Jenkins didn't answer her question about the 3%. If you take 3% of what you gave last year and you minus what you paid the lawyer there is tons left over. Why can't you give that to the squad as an increase this year? It is just common sense and "eighth grade told her that is what you can do".

Heather Webster asked why they were giving 4 ½% to the Moreau Community Center when they have ways to make money to cover their tax cost, which they are doing. They hold fund raisers and turn in recyclables for cash. They charge for everything that they do, even if you are a resident of the Town. She stated that if you call the squad and they come to your house and you can't pay the bill they don't get any money. It goes away. She asked if the latchkey program and babysitting services are more important.

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It is more important to cover the people who can't pay for an ambulance call because they are in stage four chemo and bleeding internally. She said that by taking away the money it is going to hinder these people from getting to the hospital. It is going to hinder people from even calling 911, because the squad isn't going to be able to afford to take the cost anymore. It is a danger and it is a vote lost.

Helen Glen stated she lives on Pheasant Way in the Town and has been a member of the squad for twenty years and nothing like this has ever happened to the squad. She uses the Moreau Community Center and volunteers in some of the programs there. She doesn't begrudge any money given to any other organization in the Town of Moreau and she doesn't have any problem with money being given to the Fire Company or the Moreau Community Center. The squad needs an increase as well. It doesn't have to be a tremendous amount of money. It isn't fair to increase everybody else and not the squad.

Adele Kurtz asked how much money the Moreau Community Center receives from other Towns like Wilton and Northumberland and Supervisor Jenkins replied none.

Adele Kurtz asked if they were going to receive a 5.3% increase.

Supervisor Jenkins replied yes, but they were also hit with a substantial tax increase. The Fire Company and Moreau Emergency Squad are not on the tax rolls.

Adele Kurtz stated that the Moreau Community Center serves the South Glens Falls School District which serves Ballard Elementary School and includes parts of the Town of Northumberland and Wilton. We are asking the taxpayers of Moreau to foot the bill for services offered to other Towns and we are going to give them a 5.3%.

Supervisor Jenkins asked Adele Kurtz what services they provide to Northumberland.

Adele Kurtz replied that the Emergent Food Pantry is available to the South Glens Falls School District. A back to school program provides needed school supplies and clothing to children K-5 in the South Glens Falls School District. Camp Moreau is open to children not only from Moreau, but from the area including, she would assume, Fort Edward and Hudson Falls. They offer a teen program to the South Glens Falls School District and she assumed they meant the school district not just the Town of Moreau. She would also like to know what they pay for cell phone service each year. She said that Councilwoman LeClair wanted to know how much the squad pays for cell phones and she said it was fiscally irresponsible not to know. So she wants to know if it is in their books.

Someone in the audience asked if a FOIL request could be submitted to the Moreau Community Center to find out this information.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that they (Moreau Community Center) have never, ever, had an issue with any question about how they spend their money.

Councilman Cummm stated that they provide a monthly report that shows every check sent out to every vendor and it is a complete statement. He said that they were hearing the Moreau Emergency Squad's point of view here, but they haven't been in on the discussions they have had with the emergency squad asking for information that other citizens have asked for over and over. The form 990 we haven't even received yet.

Steve VanGuilder stated they haven't received their 990 from their accountant yet. All he can do is keep calling and asking for it.

Councilman Kusnierz asked who the accountant was and the reply was Jeff Beecher.

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Councilman Kusnierz stated that the board is not united in what was established as the proposed contract amount for the squad. He asked for a 4% increase in the interest of fairness only because we have a contract in place with the Fire Company and in view of the fact that we had significantly increased the amount of money proposed for the community center and there isn't anything more important in local government than public safety to its residents. He asked the board to reconsider his recommendation for an increase in the contract. He realizes that there has been back and forth and a disagreement on whether it is exactly what the Town is looking for, but we have been receiving more information from the Moreau Emergency Squad than he has ever seen during his eleven years on the Town Board. He commented on Councilman Cumm's statement that whenever we have contacted the community center we have gotten everything we asked for. This has only happened since the new administration took office. Year after year he asked for salaries and things like that and it was never provided. It has only been recently with the change in administration. He asked again that the Town Board consider an increase to the squad's contract in the interest of fairness. The Town and squad have gotten a lot of bad press. The court case is over and it is time to move forward and protect and serve our residents. He asked for a 4% increase.

Heather Webster asked for an example of when the board has ever used their lawyer in a court case, paid for the lawyer to represent the Town and taken that money from another organization to pay for the lawyer.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that we haven't ever had anybody take us to court that we were paying money to.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that Councilman Kusnierz just gave a statement on where he stands. He might not have a problem going along with it if he could get the information that the board asked for since January. We have gotten close to receiving it. He gets a pile of invoices each month that don't give him much to work with. Last month he got a statement of revenues and expenditures and if he got that monthly along with the invoices and some general ledger information then he could look at it and in ½ hour be comfortable with what he saw. However, that has not happened.

Heather Webster stated the squad can't be bullied into giving the board information. She said the board is asking where money went that wasn't given by the Town.

Councilman Cumm stated that the contract the squad has signed in the past acknowledges that the third party money received is money of the Town of Moreau and the squad signed the contracts.

Michael Seney stated that they were forced into signing the contracts, because of a comptroller's opinion and not the law. He said the board dangled an apple in front of them and said if they didn't sign the contract then they wouldn't be able to bill. If they didn't bill then they wouldn't be able to provide paramedics to provide the service they provide. They all need to sit down and hash it out. There isn't any other agency in New York State that abides by the comptroller's opinion except Moreau.

Councilman Kusnierz said he wanted to comment on something he has said in the past and it was important for it to be on the record continually, because apparently it is forgotten. The taxpayers don't earn that money and the taxpayers don't have a right to that money. The money that the Town gives through contract the taxpayers pay for and the taxpayers have a right to accountability on that and always have. He was satisfied with the breakdown they get on how the contract money is spent.

Supervisor Jenkins stated he wanted a balance sheet. He was not asking to see a detailed payroll. They got a summary of a two week payroll, which had the details they wanted to see. He wasn't sure that Councilwoman LeClair agreed with it, but he did. It isn't the board's decision to tell the squad how much they pay in salaries and to whom. There are just a couple more pieces of information that are lacking and the squad is supposed to be working with the accountant to get the information. He would be pretty comfortable with that information when they get it. Then he could review it and be comfortable with it.

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The comment was made that they were dangling the carrot again and the board was using a bullying tactic.

Councilwoman LeClair said it is fiscal responsibility.

Kylee Baker stated she just arrived and didn't know if it was covered already or not, but she wanted to know why the board was denying the squad an increase.

Supervisor Jenkins recapped the reasoning for her.

Kylee Baker stated she lives in the community that the ambulance service covers and so does her family and friends and neighbors and to say that you don't want to give an increase to the squad based on the things that have happened in the past that is fine, but they aren't hurting her as a member of the Moreau Emergency Squad they are hurting her family, friends, neighbors and people she loves. The money may not seem like a lot now, but next year it may and it may come down to whether or not they can roll an ambulance out and without just cause she didn't see how the board could deny an increase. It is a serious issue.

Supervisor Jenkins said this whole process has been very difficult for him, because the squad probably saved his life and he said Andre Delvaux may be the person who saved his life so he understands the value of the organization and he also understands what responsibility he has to the taxpayers. He thought every board member has total respect for the organization. How do we patch up what happened and move on.

Helen Glen said she didn't understand what was taking the squad's accountant so long in getting the information together.

Heather Webster said that Supervisor Jenkins said he represents the taxpayers and she is a taxpayer and she is done. She has seen what she needs to see and all it has done is make everybody look bad from what the board is doing and it makes them look ignorant and ridiculous.

Councilman Cumm stated there isn't a week that goes by when somebody doesn't walk up to him in the grocery store or restaurant and asks him if the board is still fighting the emergency squad and asks him not to give up.

Heather Webster stated they don't live in Moreau and another comment was made from someone in the audience that it is the same ten people. They are from Queensbury and completely different from us.

Councilman Cumm stated they are voters in our Town. These are people who are residents of this Town and one or two a week come up to him. What is he supposed to tell him?

Steve VanGuilder said to have them call him.

Heather Webster said to have them call her.

Michael Seney stated that he should tell them that the board knows where the \$218,000.00 is going, but the rest of it is none of our business because we contract with the squad to provide a service and they don't work for us and aren't a municipal business. He said they are no different than a tree company that the Town may hire.

Councilwoman LeClair said she wants to know how all the money is spent on the paid and unpaid side.

A response was made from the audience that it is none of her business.

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Councilwoman LeClair said it was, because the Town helps support the squad to the tune of \$218,000.00.

She wants to know that the money on the paid side is being spent wisely and that at the end of the day there isn't any money left that could be passed over to the unpaid side, because it was spent wisely. If it wasn't spent wisely and there is no money to send on then we are giving you \$218,000.00 to pick up the shortage and is it a shortage we should pick up or not. That is what people are asking her. Why are we spending \$218,000.00? Where does all of the money go from billings? Is it all salaries? How is it being spent?

Michael Seney said he understood this. If the expenditures on the volunteer side exceeded \$218,000.00 and he guarantees it does, because they make up about 25% of their operating costs per year. If the expenditures are \$315,000.00 he asked if the board was going to make up the difference. He then recapped what he thought Councilwoman LeClair said and Councilwoman LeClair said she didn't believe she said that. What she was saying was she wants to know how the paid side is spending their money.

Michael Seney told Councilwoman LeClair it was none of her business.

Councilwoman LeClair said if the paid side is not spending their money wisely and is not fiscally responsible..... (She was cut off by Kylee Baker when she asked Councilwoman LeClair if she thought they were paying their employees too much.)

Councilwoman LeClair responded saying that the squad could pay their employees whatever they wanted to.

Kylee Baker asked Councilwoman LeClair what she thought constitutes if they were spending their money wisely or not on the paid side.

Before Councilwoman LeClair could reply, Councilman Kusnierz stated that he looked at a detailed sheet of expenses through September and he didn't see one dollar expended towards salaries so he asked during the budget workshop how much money from the Town that is on the ledger is spent on salaries and the response he got was zero. So he has a major problem when he keeps hearing about the issue of salaries.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he would go along with Councilman Kusnierz contingent upon us getting a contract. If we get together without the attorneys next Wednesday and we can get back to where we were in August and change the language that they agreed to and get a contract then he would go along with Councilman Kusnierz, but it is contingent upon getting a contract.

Someone from the audience asked Councilman Cumm how the squad could be held responsible for a form 990 and all the other documents.

Councilman Cumm said he wasn't holding them responsible, but as an organization they have to decide if they have the right CPA or not. It is going on a year.

Andre Delvaux asked what the impression of the board was going to be if they changed CPA's right now.

Michael Seney said he isn't happy with the CPA they have, but the whole reason they didn't change CPA's was because they were afraid the Town Board would think they were trying to hide something.

Councilman Prendergast stated he hasn't said a lot, because he believes public hearings are a time for the public to speak and for the board to listen. He thought a lot more would be accomplished at the meeting on Wednesday. Tonight he heard the gentleman in the front row speak about compromise and Supervisor Jenkins made a couple of statements that made him think there was room for compromise. It is possible to get a contract here and from what he is hearing tonight it may be possible to get the information the

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supervisor requested if the squad's accountant will supply it. That may resolve the whole issue. The squad should give their accountant a deadline to supply the information and if the deadline isn't met then the squad should take alternative actions. On Wednesday night there may be a compromise on both sides. It will take both sides to do it though. He said if they think the board is enjoying this they aren't.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that they had to move on with the public hearing and they would keep the public hearing open so they could revisit this issue if they have to.

He then asked if anyone else present wished to be heard on the 2011 Preliminary Budget.

Mike Shaver asked why the board eliminated funding in the transmission and distribution line item for all the water districts.

Supervisor Jenkins said it was just a record keeping change.

Councilman Cumm said after he talked to Mike Shaver about this yesterday he thought they should add transmission and distribution back into the budget in all water districts.

Supervisor Jenkins said he would be okay with that. There wasn't any information of that being done in this fiscal year. Everything was lumped into another line item.

Mike Shaver stated that the transmission and distribution in Water District 2 is about 25% of the budget and if they weren't going to put it back in he asked if they were going to lower water rates.

Supervisor Jenkins replied no they weren't going to lower water rates.

Mike Shaver asked why not.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that until they adopt a new water plan and an asset management plan and determine what our future water costs will actually be then he wouldn't support a cut in water rates. He couldn't speak for the rest of the board.

Mike Shaver stated that if they cut the water district budget 25% and there is a fund balance of about \$500,000.00 in Water District 2 then why wouldn't they cut the water rates?

Supervisor Jenkins stated because there isn't enough money in there to take care of a proper asset management plan for Water District 2 for replacement issues they will have to address.

Mike Shaver asked about the other water districts that don't have that kind of revenue and asked if they were going to raise the rates.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that they have serious issues. He stated that Water District 2 is a lot older than the other districts except Water District 1 so the other districts are relatively new and have time to build up their fund balances. The pipes in Water District 2 will have to be dealt with in the next five to ten years or maybe next year for all he knew.

Mike Shaver asked if they planned on spending a lot of money on the water districts in the next few years.

Supervisor Jenkins said he has no idea as far as capital improvement replacements.

Mike Shaver asked him how he did a budget then if he didn't know how much he was going to spend.

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Supervisor Jenkins replied that he knows how much is going to be spent on operating costs, but he doesn't know if we are going to lose pipes and mains or have to do replacements, because we have no asset management plans at all.

Mike Shaver said transmission and distribution is normally where they pay expenses from for hydrants, pipes, etc. If they have a hard winter and encounter water line breaks or frozen lines there is nothing in the budget to take care of that then where would the money come from. He also asked where the money was that was collected from tap fees.

Supervisor Jenkins said it is part of current revenues and ends up in fund balance. There isn't any capital reserve fund set up for those.

Harry Gutheil referred to page 14 of the budget and noted that there isn't any interest estimated in account earnings for the town outside fund.

Supervisor Jenkins stated there could be about \$4,000.00 if we are lucky.

Harry Gutheil noted that on the front cover of the budget they didn't have a balanced budget and they estimated revenues to exceed the appropriations by about \$100,000.00. He then referred to page 15 of the budget, which is where the highway funds are and he noticed big peaks and valleys in the improvement accounts and mentioned one going from \$350,000.00 to \$260,000.00 and in snow removal the preliminary figure is up about 40% from the actual in 2009.

He then asked what they purchased for equipment over the last three or four years and he asked if they were getting behind on equipment.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that they were thinking about leasing two pieces of equipment rather than purchasing due to costs.

Harry Gutheil referred to pages 20 and 22 in the budget. He saw that the revenues in Water District 1 were increased 10% over 2009 and asked if that was reasonable since Water District 1 normally struggles.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the revenues were up in that range, because it was a dry summer. He wasn't sure that would happen next year and if not, then the expenditures would go down too.

Harry Gutheil stated that with the number of miles of water pipe in the Town between all the districts there should be money budgeted in the transmission and distribution line items in case there are breaks in the winter or they have to start steaming frost or replace some pipe. There aren't any contingencies in the water budgets.

Mike Shaver asked Supervisor Jenkins if he was thinking about using the fund balance in Water District 2 to pay expenses in Water District 6.

Supervisor Jenkins replied no. That can't legally be done unless we were to charge for some services. We are looking at allocating some of the costs from debt in Water District 6 to Water Districts 3 through 6, because they use the water tower in Water District 6 and we are also looking at allocating the revenues from the rental of that tower by the telecommunication company between the four districts based on water usage.

Mike Shaver stated that the developer's fees were supposed to be set aside for the capacity that was being taken up and for the new tank so he wondered if they wanted to move that money around and use it to help pay down the debt in Water District 6.

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Supervisor Jenkins stated right now it is going to end up in fund balance, because we don't have a reserve fund established.

Mike Shaver said he wanted to make sure the fund balance was going to stay in Water District 2.

Supervisor Jenkins said nothing was going to come out of fund balance in Water District 2. They have their own complete system basically and in his opinion there is no reason why they should have to contribute to the cost of Water District 6.

Mike Shaver stated that in the past there were two board members who voted to lower water rates based on the size of the fund balances so he said they have to keep that in mind plus the 25% reduction that they put in the budget.

Supervisor Jenkins said they have that in mind and they have to keep in mind what the future of the water system is and they will be facing some serious expenses in the next decade and they have to plan for that. There is money in fund balance and it was put there for the future.

Mike Shaver said he would like to hear from Councilman Prendergast and Councilman Kusnierz, the board members who voted to lower water rates in the past, as to whether or not they disagree with lowering them now and if so why.

Councilman Kusnierz said he was for lowering rates if we have excessive fund balances.

Councilman Prendergast said he asked for two or three meetings on just that subject, because of fund balances and they have had meetings. He didn't think there was a consensus of the board to lower rates.

Councilman Cumm stated that at this point in time the way they are so imbalanced with the way the revenues go in all the districts and the thought of consolidation in the future he wasn't for lowering the rates right now.

Harry Gutheil asked if we still owe a balance on the original buy-in with Queensbury.

Fran Thibodeau stated that she thought we have three or four years left.

Harry Gutheil said if the Town isn't getting a decent interest rate and there is fund balance then it may behoove the Town to pay it off rather than invest the fund balance, because the interest rate with Queensbury he thought was around 3 ½%.

Supervisor Jenkins said that was something they could consider. Water District 2 could loan it and earn some interest on it. The banks aren't paying anything right now in interest.

Councilwoman LeClair stated she would like for all of them to meet and discuss it and until then she wasn't for lowering water rates.

Mike Shaver advised that before he retired there was a control valve put in the Water District 2 tank and there was supposed to be a room built in there to heat the control valve so it would work and they could operate the two tanks separately. He said he didn't know if the board knew this or not, but the Water District 6 tank has never been full and you can't fill the Water District 6 tank up until you get the control valve working in Water District 2. He thought they were only using about 70% or 80% of the new tank. There was money in Water District 6 for that job to be done and Water District 6 is done and the books are closed on that project. He said somebody needs to pay to get that done so you can get the two tanks working properly and he thought Tim Burley would support this.

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Supervisor Jenkins stated there is still \$6,000.00 in Water District 6 that they haven't returned yet and they could discuss it with Tim Burley and Jesse Fish.

Adele Kurtz saw in the budget where there was \$40,000.00 budgeted in the general fund for street lighting and asked what it was for.

Supervisor Jenkins stated it was for street lighting on Feeder Dam Road, Route 9, and the light at the entrance to the Moreau Industrial Park, Merritt Road and areas where street lights were installed for public safety reasons.

Elizabeth Lanfear asked if they gave a percentage increase in salaries across the board for employees.

Supervisor Jenkins replied for the most part.

Elizabeth Lanfear asked if except for the Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk are there any policies or provisions in the Town for evaluating employees.

Supervisor Jenkins replied no, but they want to establish an evaluation system.

Mike Shaver asked if buy-in fees for sewer have been established for new customers coming on-line.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that we have collected a buy-in fee from Schermerhorn for the first part of his project and the fees were based on a not to exceed rate from the City of Glens Falls in the amount of \$7.00 per 1,000 and we added 15% on top of that. He didn't expect the rate to be that high. We are in negotiations now with the City of Glens Falls to determine what our buy-in will be and Tim Burley is doing an analysis for us to help us determine what our future costs will be.

Mike Shaver asked who will pay for that study.

Supervisor Jenkins stated it would come out of Sewer 1.

Elizabeth Lanfear asked if any money was budgeted for a master plan for the rec. park. She recalled there being discussion on a master plan at a joint meeting between the Recreation Commission and the Town Board.

Supervisor Jenkins answered her by saying that the first step would be to send out RFP's and interview firms.

Elizabeth Lanfear said she saw the capital project appropriations are at \$150,000.00 and yet the revenues are estimated at \$50,000.00.

Supervisor Jenkins said they would use some of the fund balance in the reserve account that they collected from the developers. The rest would come out of the capital reserves established for capital projects in the park and we are getting \$70,000.00 back from the county towards the land purchase from Diehl. Essentially we are using fund balance in that account to balance the budget.

Councilman Cumm asked if they could use fees from developers to hire a consultant to develop a master plan for the rec. park.

Attorney Auffredou replied probably.

Supervisor Jenkins said he would want to confirm that with the comptroller.

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Councilman Kusnierz stated that the Town Code spells out what the Town can use those monies for.

Discussion followed on the assault that occurred upon a Town employee at the rec. park a while back.

Adele Kurtz asked what the percentage of increase was in employee benefits.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that the insurance costs will go down, because we changed some of the insurance coverage.

Fran Thibodeau advised that the pension costs are up 15%. She received a bill for \$138,000.00 today from New York State Retirement for all employees.

Adele Kurtz asked if the Moreau Community Center was going to offer any new programs based on the 7% increase.

Supervisor Jenkins stated they are offering new programs for youths, but he couldn't recall what they were right now.

Mike Shaver asked Supervisor Jenkins if the general fund budget was lowered 25% would he lower the tax rate.

Supervisor Jenkins replied that in 2009 the board voted to lower the general fund rate by 50% and in 2010 they lowered it 2% and they are projecting that in 2011 it will be lowered about ½ of 1%.

Mike Shaver said they lowered the tax rate, but they don't want to lower the water rates. He said the water rates should be lowered and the board owed the people that.

Supervisor Jenkins talked again about an asset management plan.

At 8:40 p.m. Supervisor Jenkins thanked everyone for coming and for their comments and said the board would keep the public hearing open for now.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk