

A budget workshop was held by the Town Board of the Town of Moreau on October 12, 2011 in the Town of Moreau Office Building, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, New York.

The budget workshop commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

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

Town Board Members Absent

Todd Kusnierz	Councilman
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Also Present: Jeanne Fleury, Town Clerk; Fran Thibodeau, Principle Account Clerk; Tim Alden, Town Justice; Jeff McCabe, Town Justice; Paul Joseph, Highway Superintendent

The court's budget was discussed first.

Supervisor Jenkins told the Town Justices that there is a 2% cap on spending and that the Town is facing an increase in health insurance and pension costs. He said the board may have to reduce the budget further in order to stay within the 2% cap.

Councilman Cumm asked the Town Justices if they were opposed to taking a pay freeze for one year and the Town Justices both replied that they were. They have had a pay freeze for the past two years.

Tim Alden stated that he has been Town Justice for 22 years and every time the Town Justices have come before the Town Board about their budget, it has always been about the salaries for their employees not themselves. The Town Justices have always wanted to reward their employees for their years of service. He spoke about the gap in salary between Colleen Nichols and Lori Pike. In the past the Town Board tried to maintain a certain gap between the two salaries, because they both do the same amount of work and the same type of work. In the last year of Ed Tracy's term as Town Justice he suggested that the two court clerks be given a % increase and this created a bigger gap between the two. He would like to see the gap put back to \$2,000.00. However, he doesn't want Colleen Nichols to be penalized in order to do this.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that one year the Town Board gave the lower income clerks a flat increase of \$500.00. He said he doesn't know how to deal with this issue at this time. All the clerical staff in the Town Offices is very skilled.

Councilman Cumm asked what everyone thought about setting a dollar amount for increase in salaries and dividing that number by the number of employees so that the employees all got the same amount.

Jeff McCabe suggested a step system.

Tim Alden stated that both Colleen and Lori are eminently qualified to do the job and he is sure it rubs them both the wrong way, because they both are doing the same work. He stated that the part-time court clerks are under paid. They are highly qualified people. The Town Court is losing clerks to other courts. They keep training them for other people to take. He realizes that times are tough, but we need to reward employees for a job well done.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that there are employees who should be making more money, but it is a question of what the taxpayers will tolerate. We have to keep using fund balance to maintain stability with the taxes. He spoke about Saratoga County's budgetary shortfall.

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Jeff McCabe asked if a lot of money goes out to maintenance agreements on equipment. A discussion ensued about copiers and other equipment in the Town and maintenance agreements.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that the board has to deal with departmental issues and they may be making cuts.

Tim Alden and Jeff McCabe advised that any funding they obtain under the JCAP grant can be used to purchase things for the Town Court in the new municipal building when it is built. They just have to show cause and a list of what is needed. They can get up to \$30,000.00 in funding.

Supervisor Jenkins explained that he reduced the court's estimated revenues for 2012 to \$160,000.00. He said that the court will be lucky to take in \$185,000.00 this year. He said the court revenues have been going down 9% to 10% each year.

Tim Alden stated that it is not a bad thing that revenues are going down, because criminal activity generates revenues for courts.

Discussion followed on the state surcharges.

Councilman Prendergast asked the judges if they were having a problem collecting on fines.

Tim Alden stated that because people can't pay the fines they are being converted to civil judgments.

Jeff McCabe stated that civil judgments are held in Lien at the county and by converting them to civil judgments it disposes of the cases. It seems to work.

Tim Alden stated that 30% of the court clerk's time is spent tracking people down to collect on fines or trying to find people who were supposed to report to drug rehab and haven't. The court clerks aggressively attempt to collect on fines.

Jeff McCabe spoke about the interlock ignition device used in DWI cases and how it costs \$150.00 to install the device and \$100.00 a month and \$150.00 to \$200.00 to remove it. If a person cannot pay these fees and they get sentenced to jail, then that places a financial burden on the county and the taxpayers.

Supervisor Jenkins advised the justices that he didn't think the board could answer the payroll issues this year.

Tim Alden stated that they were returning money to the payroll in that Jody Munger is budgeted to work 19 ½ hours a week and they are only having her work about 8 hours a week. They don't call in the part-time court clerks unless they need to.

Jeff McCabe stated that they will see that the part-time court clerks submit time cards periodically for a 35 hour week worked, but that is only when they have to fill in for a full-time clerk.

This concluded the discussion on the court's budget at 7:42 p.m.

The highway department's budget was discussed next with Paul Joseph, Highway Superintendent.

The Traffic Control Account A3310 was reviewed.

Councilman Prendergast asked if this was the account that the new federally mandated signs would be paid out of.

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Paul Joseph replied yes. He informed the board that he now has forms to complete twice a year and submit to the federal government. He has to count every sign on every road and note the distance between the signs.

Councilman Cumm asked if we could use the old sign posts and put new signs on them. Paul Joseph replied no, because there are new height regulations on the sign posts. They have to be seven feet rather than the current six feet and the base in the ground can't be more than 4 inches as opposed to 8 inches now.

Paul Joseph reported that he will be short this year in the striping account, but he already notified the board of this fact.

No change made in the A3310 account.

The highway superintendent's account A5010 was reviewed next.

There is \$31,200.00 proposed for 2012 for a full-time highway clerk (40 hours a week). Paul Joseph said they are behind in their storm water management reports.

Supervisor Jenkins mentioned that in the past Maureen Leerkes, the part-time clerk couldn't work at the rate proposed by the Town Board.

Councilwoman LeClair said that is not an issue any longer.

Supervisor Jenkins stated again that in 2009 the Town Board proposed a full-time position for Maureen and she couldn't do it at the hourly rate offered.

Councilman Cumm asked if Maureen would require benefits and Paul Joseph replied that he thought she was on her husband's health insurance plan.

Fran Thibodeau noted that they still had to include benefits for her in the budget, if she goes to full-time, just in case.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that Maureen would be entitled to an insurance buy-out. He also noted that Maureen may be subject to a civil service exam and Fran Thibodeau noted that she thought it would be an account clerk exam.

Account A5010.475 – Highway Superintendent –Special Matters was increased to \$1,400.00 from \$300.00. \$1,400.00 is what was requested by the highway superintendent.

A5132.415 – Highway Garage – Niagara Mohawk was reduced from the tentative figure of \$21,000.00 to \$16,000.00. The new highway garage will be more energy efficient and a portion of the utility bills in the old highway garage will be paid for by the water districts as the water superintendent will be utilizing a portion of the old garage.

B3410 – Dry Hydrants had \$10,000.00 in the tentative budget. Paul Joseph asked if there were plans for the installation of dry hydrants. It was agreed that due to budget issues this year this line item wouldn't be needed. The \$10,000.00 was reduced to zero.

The DB Highway Accounts were reviewed next.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he didn't see how they could go above last year's highway budget of \$2,221,000. We need a couple of hundred of thousands of dollars to start with and we can cover about \$150,000 with sales tax revenues. We have about \$1.8 million in sales tax right now, but we still have to send \$200,000 back to the county to keep the tax rate at no increase.

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Councilman Cumm asked how much we have used out of the highway contingency budget DB1930/DB1990. Fran stated that to-date about \$37,000.

Councilman Cumm asked where they were at with the Clark Road Culvert Project.

Paul Joseph replied that Garry Robinson misunderstood about the study to see if it is feasible to use a liner in the culvert. He was waiting for approval. The cost for a liner would be about \$80,000.00 vs. \$300,000.00 for culvert replacement.

DB5110 - Highway General Repairs

Fran Thibodeau stated that there are eleven men currently employed with the highway department. If we hire another person their hourly rate will be \$3.00 an hour less than the person they are replacing, so she thought they could reduce the \$275,000 figure in DB5110.1.

DB5110.1 was reduced to \$260,000.00.

DB5112.493.1 and DB5112.493.4 – Highway Improvements (Grinding, Nova Chipping and Overlays) were reviewed.

It was immediately noted that under DB5112.493.4 Overlays, Karen Lane at \$32,640.00 and Lisa Drive at \$16,080.00 could be removed as they were done this week.

Councilman Cumm asked about Wynnefield Drive and Jacobie Road.

Paul Joseph said that they have been put off for five years. The edges are breaking off and there is cracking down the center.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that Old West Road needs a weight limit on it.

Paul Joseph said it was an easy process to post a weight limit. He asked if they should post a weight limit or length limit.

Councilman Prendergast asked which one would give us the result we want.

Paul Joseph replied that a length limit would keep tractor trailers off the road. If they posted a 4 ton weight limit on the road then it could prevent local contractors from using the road.

The equipment purchase request list under DB5130.2 – Highway Machinery – was reviewed.

The top two most needed pieces of equipment per Paul Joseph are a small dump truck with sander body & plow at an estimated cost of \$89,000.00 and a 4 x 4 pickup truck with plow at an estimated cost of \$38,960.00.

The \$46,000.00 for a crack sealer machine was deleted.

The purchase of a loader would replace the 1995 Dresser. The transmission is slipping on the Dresser.

Councilman Cumm asked if the Dresser could be used by the Transfer Station and Paul Joseph said the CAT loader the Transfer Station has now will outlive the Dresser.

Councilman Cumm asked how much we could sell the Dresser for and Paul Joseph said there is a good market for them right now. They are shipping them overseas. He estimated that a trade amount would be about \$30,000.00.

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Paul Joseph said he wouldn't buy a new bucket truck, he would buy a used one based on the amount they would be using it. He requested a used one in the budget.

Paul Joseph said he would place the loader as the third most needed piece of equipment and the gradall at number 4.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that there was a question at a previous meeting about leasing equipment and how much it costs us and she wondered if leasing was the best choice.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he didn't think so. He didn't think that they should lease a loader as proposed in the budget, because we would be paying \$5,000.00 in interest on the lease.

The result of this discussion on the equipment line item under DB5130 Highway Machinery was as follows:

Include in budget:

Small Dump Truck with Sander Body & Plow	\$ 89,000.00
4 x 4 Pick Up Truck with Plow	\$ 38,960.00
Used Bucket Truck	\$ 22,000.00
Loader to Replace 1995 Dresser	\$140,000.00
Used Gradall	<u>\$ 68,000.00</u>
Total of DB5130.2 Highway Machinery Equipment	<u>\$357,960.00</u>

It was noted that the Supervisor had cut the line item for equipment repairs (DB5130.405) to \$15,000.00 in the tentative budget from the request of \$21,860.00.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he thought they could leave it at \$15,000.00, because the contingency fund for this account hasn't been touched yet.

Paul Joseph stated that he still has tires to purchase and repairs to be made in 2011.

The board reviewed a list of repairs needed that apparently some board members got and some didn't and that the supervisor didn't have when he prepared the tentative budget.

Supervisor Jenkins stated he didn't have a problem putting the number back up to the requested amount of \$21,860.00 in DB5130.405 Highway Machinery Equipment Repairs. Supervisor Jenkins said he didn't have the sheet of needed repairs when he put the tentative budget together.

Paul Joseph noted that he requested \$550.00 in line item DB5130.488 Highway Machinery Vehicle Inspections, because that is what it will cost to have the highway vehicles inspected. The Supervisor had budgeted \$400.00.

Supervisor Jenkins said he based his figure on what was spent year-to-date, which is \$128.00.

Paul Joseph said that November is their biggest month for inspections.

None of the board members objected to this amount being increased back to the request of \$550.00.

DB5140.405 - Highway Miscellaneous Brush and Weeds Miscellaneous – Paul Joseph increased this line item \$1,000.00 in his request and the Supervisor reduced it \$1,000.00 back to the adopted amount in 2011.

Councilman Cumm asked what the \$1,000.00 increase was for and Paul Joseph replied the CSEA meal tickets.

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It was the consensus of the board to put this line item DB5140.405 back up to the requested amount of \$3,000.00.

No change to DB5142.

The board went back to discussing DB5112 – Highway Improvements.

The section of Fawn Road, proposed to have an overlay done on it, is the section from Spier Falls Road to Route 9 and Route 9 to Fortsville Road.

Paul Joseph stated that Hobbs Lane has a water issue underneath the road at times and it is wavy and cracked.

Paul Joseph stated that if they put a couple of drains in on Speakman Street and a thin coat on it they may be able to get through the winter with the way it is.

Councilman Prendergast asked Paul Joseph how many miles of roads they were talking about compared to last year and Paul Joseph replied that they are over last year's mileage by one mile.

The grinding of Hatchery Road was proposed from Fortsville Road to where they left off two years ago by the hatchery.

Old West Road they will finish grinding from Fortsville Road to where they left off this year.

Mott Road we take care of from the bridge to Route 32 and the other end is maintained by Northumberland. From the railroad tracks to Route 32 is proposed to be nova chipped.

Reservoir Road from the reservoir to Fort Edward Road is proposed to be nova chipped.

Thornapple Drive should have been done this year. In 2008 they reconstructed Thornapple and put down a binder.

Councilman Cumm asked Paul Joseph if they could hold off doing Reservoir Road and Paul replied they could.

Councilman Cumm stated that Reservoir Road could use some crack sealer though.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that Iris Avenue could use some crack sealer too.

Paul Joseph stated that Hatchery and Old West Road should be the top priority for grinding, nova chip and blacktop. Thornapple and Mott Road should be nova chipped.

Overlays were discussed next.

Councilman Cumm asked Paul Joseph what roads he could eliminate from the overlaying list.

Paul Joseph said he could add to the list.

Councilman Cumm stated that they already removed Karen Lane and Lisa Drive (they were done this year). He said that Wynnefield and Jacobie have been put off for four years in a row. He asked if they could be put off for another year.

Paul Joseph said the traffic on Wynnefield and Jacobie was minimal compared to Fawn Road. Fawn Road gets a lot of traffic.

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Councilman Cumm suggested that they eliminate everything on the overlay list except Fawn Road at \$47,600.00.

Supervisor Jenkins asked about Hobbs Lane again and Robert Rogers.

Paul Joseph stated that it is mostly spring time that they have issues with Hobbs Lane. He said the water table over there has been fluctuating a lot. They put a shim coat on it last year and it wasn't the best shim coat and it is peeling up so there are some rough spots. Councilman Cumm noted that a top coat was put on in 1991. He said if they approved Hobbs Lane to be done then they should do Robert Rogers, because they are connected.

Councilman Cumm noted that Jennifer Lane in English Village should be done next year and Paul Joseph replied yes.

Paul Joseph stated that the area where the water line is going in along Jennifer Lane is falling apart and around by the pool area. He spends about \$600.00 a year patching on Jennifer Lane.

Councilman Cumm asked if Paul was proposing to do just an overlay on Jennifer Lane and Paul replied that they would shim it first.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that he thought they should do Jennifer Drive next year. Wynnefield and Jacobie have some issues, but they aren't that bad. He suggested they delete Marine Drive and Windy Lane from the list for next year.

The result of this discussion was as follows:

Overlays DB5112.493.4

Fawn Road (Spier Falls Road to Route 9 and Route 9 to Fortsville Road)	\$ 47,600.00
Hobbs Lane	\$ 26,600.00
Robert Rogers Avenue	\$ 16,800.00
Jennifer Drive	<u>\$ 51,940.00</u>
Total for Overlay in DB5112.493.4	<u>\$142,940.00</u>

Nova Chip DB5112.493.4

Mott Road	\$ 36,630.00
Thornapple	\$ 37,990.00
Total for Nova Chip in DB5112.493.4	<u>\$ 74,620.00</u>

Grinding DB5112.493.1

No Change

Hatchery Road	\$ 27,241.20
Old West Road	<u>\$ 38,794.56</u>
Total for Grinding in DB5112.493.1	<u>\$ 66,035.76</u>

Blacktop DB5112.493.4

No Change

Hatchery Road	3,700 feet	\$108,500.00
Old West Road	5,500 feet	<u>\$161,000.00</u>
Total for Blacktop in DB5112.493.4		<u>\$269,500.00</u>

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The crack sealing in the amount of \$17,000.00 was left in the budget as requested.

Councilman Cumm asked Paul Joseph if he can live with these cuts and Paul Joseph said he will have to.

Councilman Prendergast stated that he was going to look at these roads. He wasn't familiar with Hobbs Lane, Robert Rogers or Jennifer Lane. There are two roads he walks every day that he thinks needs to be done, but they are not on the list. He kept his mouth shut for a little over eight years, because he lives on these roads and because he serves on the board. He said he will look at the roads and compare them.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that Congdon Road was done 16 years ago.

Councilman Prendergast said he has waited 8 years to see it on the list and it hasn't made the list and he isn't going to keep his mouth shut anymore. He said that he will review the roads proposed to be done and if they are worse, then he won't say anything. He realizes that Fawn Road gets a lot of traffic.

Councilman Cumm stated that Michael Road and Jon Kay Road were done in 1990.

Paul Joseph stated that Briarhurst has a lot of cracking.

Councilman Cumm stated that crack sealing would take care of it.

Paul Joseph noted that Feeder Dam Road Extension was last done in 1985, but he didn't include it in his budget request.

As the board was concluding the discussion on the Highway budget the Town Clerk asked about the full-time position being proposed in the budget for Maureen Leerkes, Highway Clerk. The Town Clerk stated that right now Maureen's hourly rate is \$11.55 per hour and when she goes to full-time she will make \$14.46 per hour. She stated that she doesn't understand how the Town Board could do this when they just told the Town Justices that there was a 2% cap and they couldn't close the gap between the court clerks and there is a proposal to make the Recreation Director's position part-time from full-time. She asked why they wouldn't take Maureen's hourly rate of \$11.55 per hour and add 2% and then multiply that by 40 hours a week.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that there is a reason for this. There is a huge difference between a part-time employee and a full-time employee. He said this was his opinion. He didn't have a problem with it.

Fran Thibodeau asked how they could justify that when there are account clerks making less than that now.

Supervisor Jenkins stated that there is only one account clerk making a little less than that and their salary is based on 35 hours not 40 hours.

The Town Clerk said she understood the difference between the 35 hours a week and the 40 hours a week.

Councilman Cumm said he was going to call Supervisor Jenkins on this and said that we had an employee that went from part-time to full-time and we gave him an increase based on a full-time salary and then he wanted to go back to part-time and Supervisor Jenkins voted no to lowering the salary back to part-time.

Supervisor Jenkins said he voted no not because of that, just because it was the wrong thing to do.

Councilman Cumm said it is the same thing.

The Town Clerk stated that maybe she was wrong, but she saw it as a pay increase.

Supervisor Jenkins said he knew what she was saying, he looked at that too when he was doing it, but he said there is a big difference between part-time and full-time employees.

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Councilman Prendergast said he agreed with this, but who is the employee that may be making less.

Fran Thibodeau said there are two clerks in the Town Clerk's Office and Kathy.

Supervisor Jenkins said he didn't think Kathy would, because of the difference in hours, but Linda might slightly.

Councilman Prendergast and Councilman Cumm stated they have to look at this.

The Town Clerk said it has nothing to do with Maureen. Whoever was in that position she would question this.

Supervisor Jenkins said they could look at it, he thought it would only affect Kathy, Linda and Leeann.

Fran Thibodeau stated that Kathy has been here over 20 years. Linda has been here a good 15 years.

The Town Clerk said she wasn't even trying to compare her to any other clerk. She was just questioning the big increase in the hourly rate.

Councilman Prendergast said they were going to compare it to everybody else, because everybody gets mad when that happens.

The Town Clerk said everybody's jobs are different so she wasn't trying to compare it. In her mind it was an increase. She also added that normally they pay more for part-time, because they try to entice people to work for only a few hours a week. She just questioned why there was the increase in the hourly rate just because the position was going from full-time to part-time.

Councilman Cumm asked Fran Thibodeau to give the board a report on what the total reduction in the highway budget is after this meeting.

This concluded the workshop at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Fleury
Town Clerk

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