

Town of Mount Morris
Regular Meeting
January 21, 2021

Present: Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember David DiSalvo, Councilmembers Don Huff, Nate Guzzardi, and Chelsey Woodworth

Excused: Supervisor Charles DiPasquale

Also present: Highway Superintendent Sam Cipriano, Code Officer Shawn Grasby, Assessor Brian Knapp, Accountant Terri McKerrow, Resident Bill Benson, and Town Clerk Christie Murphy

At 6:30 p.m. Deputy Supervisor David DiSalvo opened the Town Board meeting at 103 Main Street, Mt. Morris, NY.

The Board reviewed minutes of the last regular meeting. A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Woodworth, to approve the minutes of the meeting on December 17, 2020 as presented.

Accountant Terri McKerrow reviewed the Supervisor's Report. She stated that with the exception of Fund SR, every fund performed above expectations. She provided the Board with recommended budget transfers. A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi, to make the following budget transfers:

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT		
<u>GENERAL FUND A - TOWNWIDE:</u>					
A1210.1	Supervisor services	295	A1010.4	Town board contractual	295
A1210.1	Supervisor services	50	A1210.4	Supervisor contractual	50
A1210.1	Supervisor services	2,450	A1410.1	Town clerk services	2,450
A1410.4	Town clerk contractual	715	A1330.4	Tax collection contractual	715
A1620.4	Building contractual	6,090	A1620.2	Building equipment	6,090
A1450.4	Election contractual	1,540	A1620.2	Building equipment	1,540
A1990.4	Contingency	105	A1670.4	Central printing contractual	105
A1990.4	Contingency	60	A3510.4	Dog control contractual	60
A1990.4	Contingency	135	A4020.1	Registrar of vital statistics	135
A1990.4	Contingency	35	A5132.2	Garage equipment	35
A1990.4	Contingency	125	A5132.4	Garage contractual	125
A4540.2	Ambulance equipment	1,045	A4540.4	Ambulance contractual	1,045
<u>GENERAL FUND B - TOWNOUTSIDE:</u>					
B1990.4	Contingency	395	B1910.4	Unallocated insurance	395
B1420.4	Attorney contractual	435	B1910.4	Unallocated insurance	435
B1420.4	Attorney contractual	368	B3620.4	Safety inspection contractual	368
B1420.4	Attorney contractual	972	B8010.1	Zoning officer services	972
B8010.1	Zoning officer service	980	B8010.4	Zoning officer contractual	980
B8020.2	Planning equipment	45	B8020.41	Planning contr- recodification	45
B8020.1	Planning service	125	B9030.8	Employee benefits- social sec	125
<u>HIGHWAY DA (TOWNWIDE):</u>					
DA5142.1	Snow removal-town/cty svc	640	DA5140.1	Weeds/brush services	640
<u>HIGHWAY DB (TOWNOUTSIDE):</u>					
DB5110.4	General repairs cont'l	8,075	DB5110.1	General repairs services	8,075
DB5110.4	General repairs cont'l	1,575	DB9030.8	Employee benefits- soc sec	1,575
<u>SEWER FUND SS:</u>					
SS8110.4	Administrative services	15	SS8130.1	Sewer treatment disposal svc	15
SS8110.4	Administrative services	95	SS8130.4	Sewer treatment disposal cont'l	95
<u>WATER FUND SW:</u>					
SW8310.1	Administrative services	20	SW8320.4	Power supply contractual	20
Vote:	Aye	4	No	0	Motion passed

A motion by Councilmember Woodworth, seconded by Councilmember Huff, to increase the budget of General Fund A as follows:

- Increase A2770 (Miscellaneous) by \$28,004
- Increase A1420.4 (Attorney contractual) by \$13,957
- Increase A1440.4 (Engineer contractual) by \$13,437
- Increase A6410.4 (Publicity contractual) by \$610

- Increase A2192 (Cemetery services) by \$4,430
- Increase A5010.12 (Supt of highways service-office) by \$3,980
- Increase A8810.1 (Cemetery services) by \$205
- Increase A8810.4 (Cemetery contractual) by \$245

- Increase A2701 (Refund of prior year expense) by \$20,630
- Increase A1910.4 (Unallocated insurance) by \$2,780
- Increase A3310.4 (Traffic control contractual) by \$10,900
- Increase A9030.8 (Employee benefits - social sec) by \$1,500
- Increase A9060.8 (Employee benefits - medical ins) by \$5,450

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Woodworth, to increase the budget of General Fund B as follows:
Increase B2770 (Miscellaneous) by \$8,000
Increase B3902 (State aid- planning studies) by \$22,500
Increase B8010.4 (Zoning officer contractual) by \$10,965
Increase B8020.4 (Planning contractual) by \$19,535

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

A motion by Councilmember Guzzardi, seconded by Councilmember Woodworth, to decrease the budget of Highway DA as follows:
Decrease DA2300 (State snow & ice) by \$12,275
Decrease DA5130.4 (Machinery contractual) by \$12,275

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

Councilmember DiSalvo stated that EDF Renewables is part of a \$43,000 Agrivoltaic study. This is to study the coexistence of solar farms and agricultural uses such as sheep raising or bee keeping. A motion by Councilmember Woodworth, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi, to approve signing of a contract between the Town of Mount Morris and Mount Morris Energy Center LLC regarding this study.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

Councilmember DiSalvo reported that the ambulance service had 109 calls in December and covered 96 of them, with 34 being Advanced Life Support and 29 were Basic Life Support. Two were for the prison. The rigs do not need winter tires, so that saves funds. The ambulance service purchased a doppler to scan a patient waiting for a heart transplant since there is such a patient in our community. Only one other ambulance service in the county has this equipment.

Councilmembers Woodworth and Guzzardi had nothing to report.

Code Officer Grasby reported that the water study by MRB is moving forward. They are applying for grants for the expansion of the Town’s water system. Councilmember DiSalvo stated that expansion would require the formation of another water district.

Superintendent Cipriano reported that the Highway Department has been busy recently with the plowing of snow. Prior to that they installed a few crossover pipes.

Councilmember DiSalvo informed Highway Superintendent Cipriano that the Town will need to have a contract with the fire district for the maintenance of fire hydrants, and asked for his input. The Village is charging \$100/year per hydrant. The Town needs to decide on a rate for hydrants. A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Huff, to contract with the Fire District for \$25 annually per hydrant.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

Councilmember Woodworth wants to know what the Town’s responsibility is regarding these hydrants.

Assessor Knapp reported that in December, the Governor waived the need for renewal of property tax exemptions due to COVID. Property owners can renew if they wish to, otherwise, it’s assumed that their income is the same as the previous year. If the Assessor has reason to believe that there has been a significant change in circumstances, he can request that they complete a renewal application. He provided the Board with a sample resolution from New York State. A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi, to ADOPT the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to executive order 202.83 signed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on December 18, 2020

WHEREAS, hereby, the provisions listed in Subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law requiring an annual application, are hereby waived for the 2021 assessment roll year to the extent necessary to permit the assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2021 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2020 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for renewal applications from such persons, and further dispensing with the requirement for assessors to mail renewal applications to such persons.

WHEREAS, provided however, that renewal applications will still be required when the assessor has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2020 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died. Now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board is authorized to pass such resolution, and that the assessor is instructed to take any such necessary actions in the above described directives.

Vote: DiSalvo Aye
Huff Aye
Guzzardi Aye
Woodworth Aye

Resident Bill Benson asked about the status of the greenhouse project. Councilmember DiSalvo replied that it's currently on life support. The location on Route 408 was ruled out due to inability to make an agreement on the cost of the land. The second location created an uproar in the neighborhood and the company dropped their actions. The location has to be (in part) within the Village limits because that's the only Opportunity Zone in Livingston County.

Councilmember DiSalvo asked Superintendent Cipriano about the Town's commitment for road salt. He replied that we have ordered 900 tons and are committed to receiving 70% of that. He hasn't needed to order any yet since the winter has been so mild.

EDF Renewables will be holding a meeting to explain the transition from New York State's Article 10 to the new Section 92 process. Code Officer Grasby stated that Intervenor Funds need to be done by February. The allowance is \$1,000 per megawatt and the Town's share was increased from 50% to 75%.

The Clerk stated that the Town received an Invoice for \$3,300 from the Village for the 2021 Youth Recreation Program. The Town paid the Village \$3,200 in 2020 for this program, but due to COVID, no program was held. There is a contract between the two municipalities for this program, and the Board wants to know if they can withhold payment due to the lack of a program last year. The legal team will look into this. A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Woodworth, to table the decision about payment for the 2021 Recreation Program.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

The Board reviewed the Clerk's monthly report. A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Woodworth, to approve the Clerk's December report as presented.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

There was a discussion regarding the fact that we still have no answer from the Town attorneys regarding the possibility of using the cemetery's "perpetual fund" that was to generate interest for maintaining the cemetery without using any of the principal. The investment firms no longer handle such accounts, so the Town wants to know if it's legal to now use the principal amount. The lawyers asked if anyone had information regarding the initial investment. No one knows the origin of this since it had belonged to the Cemetery Association. The cemetery is more than 100 years old, so this information may no longer be available. The Clerk suggested that perhaps Junior Stanley would know something about it since he managed it for many decades.

Abstract 1 and related vouchers were reviewed by the 215.32Town Board. A motion by Councilmember Woodworth, to approve Vouchers 0001- 0023 on General A Abstract in the amount of \$55,216.79; seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Huff to approve Vouchers 0001- 0003 on General B Abstract in the amount of \$298.77; seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Guzzardi to approve Vouchers 0001- 0014 on the Highway DA Abstract in the amount of \$25,476.48; seconded by Councilmember Woodworth.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Huff to approve Voucher 0001 on the Highway DB Abstract in the amount of \$12,452.03; seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Woodworth to approve Vouchers 0001- 0033 on the Recycling SR Abstract in the amount of \$150.10; seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Guzzardi, to approve Vouchers 0001 - 0003 on the Sewer SS Abstract in the amount of \$1,763.40; seconded by Councilmember Woodworth.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Huff, to approve Vouchers 0001 - 0002 on the Sewer SW Abstract in the amount of \$2,857.75; seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

Total Abstract 1 \$98,215.32

Irene Bodnaruk was attending the meeting via Zoom, and expressed some concerns about the current Comprehensive Plan review. She commented that it made no mention of the water study, lacks detail, and doesn't seem to contain as much information as the old Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember DiSalvo stated that the old Comprehensive Plan was done jointly with the Village, and the new one is strictly the Town, so it would be smaller. He'll look into her concerns.

The Board took action in the past on the closure of a portion of Kapprell Road. Afterwards, it was determined that the description was inaccurate. Attorney Russell revised the description. A motion by Councilmember Woodworth, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi to close a portion of Kapprell Road based on the new description.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

The Clerk informed the Board that when Thoma Development held the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan Review, not enough members of the Steering Committee attended to have a quorum. In fact, some members originally appointed to the Steering Committee haven't attended a single meeting and have been removed. The Clerk, on the other hand, has attended all of the meetings. If the Board would appoint the Clerk to this committee, she could help to close this gap since the number needed to make a quorum in this case will not increase. A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Woodworth to appoint Town Clerk Christie Murphy to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi, to adjourn this meeting.

Vote Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine T. Murphy,
Town Clerk/Collector