

Town of Mount Morris  
Regular Meeting  
Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan  
Public Hearing for Dissolution of Fire Protection District  
April 15, 2021

Present: Supervisor Charles DiPasquale, Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember David DiSalvo,  
Councilmembers Don Huff, Nate Guzzardi

Absent: Chelsey Woodworth

Also present: Accountant Terri McKerrow, Carl Swanson, Mayor Joel Mike, Village Trustee Jeff Coniglio,  
Amanda Coniglio, Grant Cushing, and Town Clerk Christie Murphy

At 6:30 p.m. Supervisor DiPasquale opened the Town Board meeting at 103 Main Street, Mt. Morris, NY.  
Mayor Mike led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accountant McKerrow asked if there were any questions for her on the Supervisor's report or on the vouchers.  
There were none. She was excused and took the vouchers to be processed.

Supervisor DiPasquale opened the Public Hearings on the Dissolution of the Fire Protection District and the Town's  
proposed Comprehensive Plan at 6:33 p.m. He thanked the members of the Village Board for attending. Mayor Mike  
stated that with the reorganization of the Village Board, Jeff Coniglio has been appointed as liaison to the Town.

Grant Cushing from Brownfield Group was present to aid EDF Renewables in doing a virtual presentation on the Morris  
Ridge solar project in the Town of Mount Morris. Also attending the meeting virtually to make this presentation is  
Kevin Campbell, EDF Renewables, Haylee Ferington, consultant, EDF Renewables, Kristen Olson, EDR (environmental  
& SHPO consultant), and Daniel Zvirzdin, EDR (environmental and permitting consultant).

Kevin Campbell stated that their application for Morris Ridge is currently under review by New York State's Office of  
Renewable Energy Siting (ORES). ORES will be holding a virtual public hearing May 18<sup>th</sup> on the draft permit. They  
are accepting comments until 5:00 p.m. May 24, 2021. Permits are expected to be issued in August or September.

A newsletter is being mailed out to all Town residents regarding the status of the solar project and the benefits to the  
community. Kristen Olsen is managing the Cultural Heritage mitigation. They have resources for a mitigation plan  
within a 5 mile radius of the project to preserve historical integrity. They are expecting applications from the Mount  
Morris Historical Society for some exterior improvements to the exterior of the Mills Mansion. They also expect to fund  
some improvements to the Town's cemetery on Sand Hill Road.

Haylee Ferington is managing Community engagement. A Host Community Fund is being established in the amount of  
\$20,000 annually for 10 years. It will provide \$2,000 in scholarship money for both Mount Morris Central and  
Keshequa Central schools for graduating seniors going into the field of renewable energy or the building trades. The  
schools will each get \$2,000 and can choose to divide that into multiple scholarships or award it entirely to one student.  
This will start with the graduating class of 2021. The remaining \$16,000 will be distributed to groups or projects that  
need funding. Applications for these funds will be reviewed by a local board which has yet to be formed.

Code Officer Grasby asked Kristen to speak more on the cemetery restoration project. These funds are for the  
preservation of local history, which includes maintenance of our cemetery where many prominent residents are buried.  
Some examples of how the money can be used would be to repair fallen and broken headstones and erect signage  
Councilmember Guzzardi asked if this fund can be used to remove trees. Kristen answered that it can be used to remove  
trees to prevent damage to headstones; photographs including the trees and the headstones would be helpful in this case.  
He counted 172 headstones that need repair or resetting. He saw several dead or dying trees threatening surrounding  
stones. Councilmember Huff interjected that EDF Renewables has donated money for the past few years to local  
charities and events such as Christmas in Mount Morris. Amanda Coniglio stated that they sponsored summer recreation  
soccer last year. Kevin Campbell stated that they have spent \$10-12,000 in the past for community programs, but this  
will be increased to \$20,000 starting this year.

A motion by Councilmember Huff, seconded by Councilmember DiSalvo, to approve the Supervisor's Report for March  
2021 as presented.

Vote:           Aye   4                           No    0                           Motion passed

A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi, to approve the signing of a letter of  
support by Supervisor DiPasquale.

Vote            Aye   4                           No    0                           Motion passed.

The Board reviewed minutes of last month's meeting. A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo, seconded by  
Councilmember Guzzardi, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 18, 2021 as presented.

Vote:           Aye   4                           No    0                           Motion passed

**DRAFT**

Councilmember DiSalvo reported that the ambulance service had 98 calls in March; 49 were billable. The ambulance service needed to invest in a fireproof box for flammable chemicals.

Carl Swanson addressed the Board. He's hoping that when the Town receives the federal stimulus money, they would consider replacing the container on the compactor. He obtained a quote of \$12,000 for a new one. It needs to be replaced in the next few years. He also needs to get rid of tires. Last time it cost us \$3 per standard tire and he doesn't think it has changed any, but he will get a quote. He's been unable to reach the vendor that he usually uses.

Councilmember Guzzardi can get him the contact information for the vendor that his son uses. Councilmember Huff asked if there's any market for cardboard currently. Mr. Swanson answered in the negative.

Councilmember Guzzardi reported that he contacted Pleasantview Greenhouse about planting the flowerbed at Tuscarora Park. They no longer perform tilling, so that has to be done before they will plant the flowers. Carl Swanson stated that he has a rototiller that can be used. Councilmember Guzzardi thanked Cody Grasby (son of Shawn Grasby) for the great job he did of painting the park pavilion and applying flex-seal to the swings. Councilmember Guzzardi also expanded on the repairs needed at the cemetery. He stated that most of the headstones need new footers which will require their removal and resetting. Some of the dead trees are large and present a hazard. Some others need limbs trimmed. He'll contact Crosswinds tree removal for estimates. This vendor has done a good job in the past, but he doesn't take the wood away. We'll have to make other arrangements for that; there's usually someone willing to haul it away to burn.

Councilmember Huff asked if there was any word on a review of Tuscarora Park by our insurance carrier. Supervisor DiPasquale replied that he hasn't heard anything form Councilmember Woodworth.

Highway Superintendent Cipriano reported that the overhead door on the shop is getting really worn out. It will cost \$7200 to replace it. Also two plow wings need replacing. These can only be purchased from Tenco to fit their existing brackets. He gave prices for different finishes ranging from \$3800 to \$4537 each. A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi to approve the purchase of two plow wings at a cost of \$7600.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

Superintendent Cipriano also stated that the excavator needs four new tires a cost of \$1200. He informed the Board that he wanted to do Guile Road this season, but there's other work that needs to be done prior to that such as the need to do some crossover pipes. He plans to chip seal Hoagland Road between Creek and Alvord Roads, Creek to Begole Road, Creveling Road, Wildcat Road, and Swanson Road between Begole and Cleveland Roads.

Councilmember Huff told the Mayor that Chris Young (of Village Department of Public Works) works very cooperatively with Superintendent Cipriano; he's impressed with how well they work together. Mayor Mike replied that Chris speaks just as highly of Sam.

Code Officer Grasby informed the Board that the Water Study by MRB is almost done and will soon be ready for a public hearing. Distributed Sun is starting construction in June on their solar projects at three different sites. He has a property maintenance violation currently in court, and another violation for another property that may soon go to court.

Supervisor DiPasquale asked if anyone had any comments for the public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan. There were none. Supervisor DiPasquale asked if anyone had any comments for the public hearing on the Dissolution of the Fire Protection District. There were none. A motion by Supervisor DiPasquale, seconded by Councilmember DiSalvo to close both public hearings.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

Public Hearings closed at 7:30 p.m.

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

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed

The Clerk reported to the Board that she has collected \$2,272,060.06 in Town & County taxes this year. She reconciled with the County Treasurer's office last week. The percentage collected was 89% with only 90 outstanding bills which is the fewest she's ever seen over the years. She stated that she believes the higher rate of payment is because large landowners continue to buy up properties and they pay their taxes. She had two taxpayers pay by phone using a credit card.

Abstract 4 and related vouchers were reviewed by the Town Board. A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo, to approve Vouchers 0075- 0103 on General A Abstract in the amount of \$110,454.36; seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Vote: Aye 4 No 0 Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Guzzardi to approve Vouchers 0012 - 0016 on General B Abstract in the amount of \$12,878.30; seconded by Councilmember DiSalvo.

Vote           Aye   4                   No    0                   Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Huff to approve Vouchers 0042 – 0049 on the Highway DA Abstract in the amount of \$9,943.70; seconded by Councilmember DiSalvo.

Vote           Aye   4                   No    0                   Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo to approve Vouchers 0003 – 0005 on the Highway DB Abstract in the amount of \$14,825.01; seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi.

Vote           Aye   4                   No    0                   Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember DiSalvo to approve Voucher 0010 on the Recycling SR Abstract in the amount of \$1,277.21; seconded by Councilmember Huff.

Vote           Aye   4                   No    0                   Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Huff, to approve Voucher 0008 on the Sewer SS Abstract in the amount of \$43.01; seconded by Councilmember DiSalvo.

Vote           Aye   4                   No    0                   Motion passed.

A motion by Councilmember Guzzardi, to approve Vouchers 0008 – 0010 on the Sewer SW Abstract in the amount of \$1,123.82; seconded by Councilmember DiSalvo.

Vote           Aye   4                   No    0                   Motion passed.

Total Abstract 4 \$150,545.41

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

Vote           Aye   5                   No    0                   Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine T. Murphy,  
Town Clerk/Collector