

June Town Board Meeting

06/13/2023

The regular meeting of the Morehouse Town Board was called to order at 8:00pm By Supervisor Farber. Supervisor Farber opened the meeting by leading the members of the Town Board & guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Members present:

Council members: William Uebele, Brian Taylor, Sonya DeVuyst

Absent: MaryAnn Mosher

Town Supervisor: William Farber

Town Clerk, Amanda LaRue

Highway Superintendent: absent

Guests: Lynn Kerstner, Ed Sherman, Stephanie Tichenor, Marilyn Wilson, Sarah DeVuyst, James & Melanie Luck, Butch & Karen Fernandez, Wendell & Erma Lehman and Laura O'shea

Brian Taylor made a motion to accept the may reports. Sonya DeVuyst seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes B. Taylor; W. Farber; W. Uebele; S. DeVuyst

Absent; M Mosher

Nays: None

Brian Tayler made a motion to accept the minutes of the May Meeting. William Uebele seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes B. Taylor; W. Farber; W. Uebele; S. DeVuyst

Absent M. Mosher

Nays; None

William Uebele made a motion to transfer \$1000.00 from A-9080.4 to 1910.4. Brian Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes B. Taylor, W. Farber, W. Uebele, S. DeVuyst

Absent; M. Mosher

Nays: None

William Uebele made a motion to authorize a change in the Morehouse Rod & Gun Club donation for the fish, from \$600.00 to \$615.60. Brian Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes B. Taylor, W. Farber, W. Uebele, S. DeVuyst

Absent; M. Mosher

Nays; None

Sonya DeVuyst made a motion to pay the following:

General Fund bills on abstract #6 Vouchers 85-104 \$11,663.51

Highways bills on abstract #6 Vouchers 29-36 \$10,306.47

Brian Taylor Seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes; B. Taylor, W. Farber, W. Uebele, S. DeVuyst

Absent M. Mosher

Nays: None

Brian Taylor made a motion to preapprove the MVP bills that were not received at the time of this posting. William Uebele seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes: B. Taylor, W. Farber, W. Uebele, S. DeVuyst

Absent: M. Mosher

Nays: None

Ed Sherman: wanted to thank the town for the donation of the fish towards the kid's fishing derby, he also wanted to thank the Highway department for cleaning the pond, It looks great.

Stephanie: Interested in town clerk position.

Erma: interested in the Town Clerk Position.

B. Farber Stated we'll discuss the town clerks' position later in the meeting.

Butch: asked Bill U & Brian T if they ever found the problem in the audit?

Bill F. stated that he provided reports to Bill and Brian. Butch said that he would like them to answer. Bill U. stated that he found no problem.

Butch also asked if they would ever recover the \$6,500.00 in penalties that had to be paid.

Bill F. Stated that it was a penalty, you know that we have covered that.

Butch: We had a meeting, you guys reached an agreement that you're going to audit these books from this point forward, so we don't get in trouble the way we did before. And here we are again doing the same thing all over

again, except we are out \$6500 and obviously nobody is being held accountable for that. Are we going to get that \$6500.00 back?

Bill F. We're not doing the same thing all over again, there was nobody looking over my shoulder at regular intervals before, they are now. The Comptroller's office did the audit, they did the review of it, they didn't indicate it had to be paid back. If that's the position the town wants to take, and they want to get an attorney and sue me for the money, so be it. I have taken a pay cut twice, it used to be \$16,500 its now down to \$12,000 because I cut it in 2 different times to help provide and pay for support.

Butch: I'm going to ask you point blank, because my question was did you take the pay cut before or after the audit?

Bill F. Again, I took the cut, so we had resources to pay for help, I confessed I didn't get the work done.

Butch: so you're not going to pay the \$6500.00 and do you think we should get the money back, let me ask you this way, is there an option that we should have that money recovered because it was lost due to either negligence or carelessness or what ever the reason was, we lost \$6500 that we could have spent on something else

Bill U and Brian T. both stated that they are not going to ask for the \$6500.00 back.....

Ed Sherman: asked if the committee has done a report as to what happened?

Bill U. Stated that they audit, and everything was fine.

Ed Sherman asked to Butch's question did the committee do a report as to what happened, and will the money be paid back? He also asked will steps be taken to prevent this from happening in the future?

Bill U: stated that I don't see where it is up to us to do a report. We did an audit, and everything was fine.

Ed Sherman: it's a simple question, was there ever any mention at any meetings of the committee doing a report?

Bill F. There was no mention of any reports. The Comptroller's report was out there and available. I get that the answers are not satisfying.

Sonya: if they are doing reports, where would they be kept?

Bill F; At the town office.

] Received a thank you note from parade committee

} Tower: Documents are in place

} County replaced the recycling container with a larger one. Sonya stated they need to remove the smaller ones.

} National Grid: still have not heard anything back from them.

} Received the updated insurance packet.

} Bill stated that Lynn was doing a great job cleaning and organizing the back room in the Rec. Center.

} The updates on the church and underside of the handicap roof are coming along nicely } BTI is going well

} Judge Rathbun has appointed Michelle Freidman as his clerk to replace Amanda

} With Amanda retiring Lenny said that he won't replace her, He'll do his own paperwork.

} No TRP for bottles and cans

} Equalization rate is at 80%

Butch asked if there were any updates on the painting of the Highway garage and removing the junk and metal etc?

Bill F. Stated he reached out to one company for the junk but is going to check with Tracy the County Highway Superintendent to see if he has any vendors that he could contact.

Bill F. said there have been several suggestions

Ed Sherman: said it should be done professionally.

Town Clerk position will have to be appointed until the end of the year to fill the vacancy. Post the vacancy at the Town Hall, at the PO, on the sign and in the Hamilton County Express.

Letters of interest must be in by June 27th 2023

Ed suggested to put an ad in the Hamilton County express

Marilyn; Stated considering that she is the Supervisor's assistant and not being utilized that the board should appoint her to the position as she already knows what to do and know the bookkeeping program... She doesn't want it forever just until the election and then she could train someone. Bill F. stated that she would have to have an interview like everyone else.

Lynn asked if the Town clerks' position will be full or part time? The question was unanswered the discussion went off to retirement.

Special Meeting to appoint for Town Clerk position June 28th at 7pm at the Rec. Center

Butch asked if there was any training for the town official?

Bill F. Stated there is training online and in different areas but no mandatory training only for Town Justice, Court Clerk, Zoning and Assessor.

Melanie asked if Marilyn is your (Bill F.) assistant why isn't she being utilized? Bill F. said it's a personal issue and not to be discussed in public.

Melanie also stated there needs to be a trash can at the pull off.

Bill F. Stated that the bears will get into it and make a bigger mess.

She also asked about getting the walkway fixed into the church and the walking path.

Bill Stated We need to get the bigger projects taken care of first, But we will get it taken care of! The dog waste container has been ordered.

Sonya DeVuyst made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brian T. seconded the motion. Motion carries

Ayes: B. Taylor, W. Farber, W. Uebele, S. DeVuyst

Absent M. Mosher

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda LaRue

Town Clerk