Town of Morehouse

Special Meeting

September 29th, 2026

7:00pm at the Morehouse Recreation Center

The Special Meeting for the Morehouse Town Board was called to order by Anthony Fernandez at 7:00pm on Tuesday September 29th, 2026. The meeting was organized to discuss conditions of town owned buildings with the Members of the Public. Supervisor Fernandez opened the meeting by leading the Town Board Members and the Members of the Public in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members present:	Members absent:
William Uebele	None
Sonya DeVuyst	
Brian Taylor	
Mary Ann Mosher	
Town Supervisor: Anthony Fernandez	
Town Clerk: Stephanie Tichenor	
Town Clerk Deputy: Brianna Bellidoro	

Members of the Public present:

Debbie Bushnoe	Ed Post
Steve Babcock	Sue Leveille
Wayne Fleming	Tucker Bulger
Sheryl Fleming	Sarah DeVuyst
Phyllis Mosher	Marta Murray
Ed Sherman	Richard Doell
Linda Sherman	

Supervisor Fernandez opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments.

No questions or comments were presented.

Supervisor Fernandez closed public commentary.

Brian Taylor made a motion to approve Resolution #26-9-3, Approval of a Change in Insurance Coverage for an Individual Retiree. Seconded by Sonya DeVuyst. Motion carried.

AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Mary Ann Mosher	None	None
Sonya DeVuyst		
Brian Taylor		
William Uebele		
Anthony Fernandez		

Supervisor Fernandez recapped the order of events leading up to the discovery of the conditions of town owned buildings, stating:

Notice of a sign in the Town Hall restroom regarding lead in the water prompted Supervisor Fernandez to begin water testing in Town Hall, Recreation Center and Town Garage. All tests resulted in failure. Three water companies were contacted to discuss a resolution. Town Hall is equipped with a hand dug well located near the roadway. This well had a broken lid due to snow removal. Contaminants including salt, iron, and bacteria were detected. A temporary lid was affixed by the town to prevent further contamination. Supervisor Fernandez continued describing the difficulty of treating this well as the iron is hard to remove and the crawl space of the building provides limited access for a company to come and treat it. A costly, custom mechanism would be required to do so. The town is looking at an estimate of $5,000 – $7,000 to treat this well. Amber Water Supply visited Town Hall and advised Supervisor Fernandez that the water should not be used at all other than to flush the toilet. Hand sanitizer and bottled water have since been supplied as a temporary solution. During the visit, a hole was noticed in the back of the building. Further investigation had shown that this hole held a vent pipe for the septic system. The top of the septic tank was also found opened and rotted away. Supervisor Fernandez brought this concern to Highway Supervisor Robert Ford furthering Robert and highway employees to locate all town septic tanks and have

them pumped. Due to current NYS laws the septic tank and well have to be 100 ft apart. Currently the lot that the Town Hall resides on does not accommodate for this law. In addition to the water issues, the chimney on the west side of the Town Hall is separating from the building causing water to leak into the judge's office. The judge and town clerk have raised concern about an odor in the building. Most likely Mold. The roof, porch, siding, doors, windows, foundation, plumbing pipes and electrical wiring needs repair as well. There have also been complaints of the parking lot being hazardous to exit as you have to back out onto Rt 8. Town Hall and Town Garage septic tanks are metal tanks that are rusted. Professional advice surrounding the metal tanks concluded that they are in danger of collapsing within a couple of years. The Recreation Center septic tank is in "okay" condition as it is a concrete tank. Town Garage also has a hand dug well and failed due to salt and iron. Contamination of the Town Garage well is less severe than the Town Hall and can be treated via filter and reverse osmosis. The water at the Recreation Center is in the best condition but still failed due to bacteria. This water is shared between the Fire Department with the well being located next to the firehouse and is fed up to the Recreation Center. A gentleman from a different water company suggested chlorinating the well for the Recreation Center and Fire House. He came and provided that service. Because of the chlorination service the well needs to be flushed and can not be retested until a two-week window has passed. Since the water was not being used after this treatment the chlorine began to rust away the casing of the well causing clogs in the filters. Going forward, until the rust and chlorine has cleared, the filters will be changed periodically.

Before continuing on, Supervisor Fernandez opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments.

Sue Leveille asked if Supervisor Fernandez has a proposal on what to do. Supervisor Fernandez replied stating he does not at the moment and will share his thoughts at the end of the meeting. He is currently looking for the public's opinion on what we should do first.

Ed Sherman stated that any building could be brought back depending on what you want to do and how much money is put into it, he is under the assumption that the water and septic are the main issues regarding the Town Hall. Supervisor Fernandez clarified that the hand dug well is treatable where it is for thousands of dollars, but the septic is a different story. Ed asked if we went all the way to the back corner of the lot for the septic, would that suffice for the law? Supervisor Fernandez was unsure and needed to loop Building Inspector, Lenny Croote, to gauge the lot size. Ed asked if it's still a possibility? Supervisor Fernandez said that it's always a possibility if we wanted to spend the money on the well and everything else that the building needs. Ed continued

stating that we should know if we can definitely fix the well and septic. Supervisor Fernandez reminded him that it doesn't negate all of the money we have to spend for this building.

Sue Leveille asked if it would be possible to apply for any type of historical grant to help offset costs? Supervisor Fernandez stated that something like that would not be in our best interest because the building would have to be restored to its original state and it would cost 10x the amount than it would to just fix it.

Tucker Bulger suggested putting a dry well behind the building instead of a leach field for the septic tank. Maybe that would negate the 100ft law. Supervisor Fernandez stated that we can't put a dry well in. Tucker replied that you can. Supervisor Fernandez asked how is it possible to put a dry well in with a toilet? Tucker explained that the waste water would go into the septic tank and instead of a leach field, it would go into the dry well. Supervisor Fernandez explained that we can't fix what we currently have and would still have to build a new septic system. Tucker suggested that we could put a snap back in to negate the need for a leach field. Supervisor Fernandez stated that this is a question for Lenny Croote. Tucker asked if we don't have the leach field would we be able to negate the 100ft limit? Supervisor Fernandez stated that there will still be leaching as the water has to go somewhere. Tucker replied that he has experience installing dry wells and that this could be an option. Supervisor Fernandez concluded that Lenny Croote is also a part of Soil and Water and would have to be addressed for this matter. He appreciates Tucker's suggestion but is unsure if it is enough, we still need to install a new septic tank. Sonya DeVuyst added that there would be two sections to the leach field where the dry well is one of the sections.

Wayne Fleming asked if we know where the boundaries are for the property of Town Hall. Supervisor Fernandez said he is unsure where the line is but does know where the grass goes to and it's not a lot of land. He is unsure if we even own all the grass that gets mowed. Sheryl Fleming asked if the land has ever been surveyed. Supervisor Fernandez replied that it has not, nothing is surveyed up here. Sonya DeVuyst suggests that we can look at the tax map. Supervisor Fernandez stated that he looked at the tax map but it is not 100% accurate.

Steve Babcock asked if we go to Town Hall and put all this money into it and do everything that has to be done, will it exceed the value of the building? Even though the building is restored, it won't serve its purpose well enough due to parking and how everything is spaced out. The clerk's office and post office are crammed together. Sonya DeVuyst added that half the building is also the magistrates. Supervisor Fernandez stated that this is the reason we are talking, there is a lot more than the sceptic and water, the question is how much do we want to put into this and is it worth the money? Supervisor Fernandez continued, the Town Board has not made a decision

yet. We know what the problems are. Supervisor Fernadez stated that planning is what he does, he looks at the worst case scenario and goes from there. He is just passing along the information that he is seeing. Ultimately the decision is not up to him, it is up to the board.

Debbie Bushnoe asked if we know how much it will cost to move the offices to the Recreation center instead of staying at the Town Hall? Will this be in the plan and will the public be informed? Supervisor Fernandez replied that he will let the public know and it all has to do with how much it will cost.

Supervisor Fernandez asked if there were any other questions regarding Town Hall? He has some information about costs but also wants to continue on to the findings of the Town Garage.

No other questions or comments were presented.

Continuing to the Town Garage:

Supervisor Fernandez stated that the water supply there is also a hand dug well contaminated with salt and iron. It is believed that the salt content of the water fluctuates with the rain. Two tests had differed in salt contents with the only dividing factor being the rain. The iron is also a bit difficult to treat. The only concern is that the highway employees have to have water to wash their hands and water supply for an eye wash station. We currently have a manual eye wash station on the wall but it is not the same as actually washing your eyes out. A gentleman from one of the water companies came and suggested we put a filter by the sink for the sink and eyewash. This will cost several thousand dollars. Bottled water is currently being delivered to Town Hall and Town Garage so employees have clean water to drink. The concern with Town Hall is the bacteria content of the water. If someone has an open wound and washes their hands, it could lead to infection. Another recommendation was to feed the town garage with the well connected to the Recreation Center and Fire House. We are unsure of the cost of this. A supplemental pump to provide more pressure may be required.

Sue Leveille asked how we can run another building off of that one well? Supervisor Fernandez explained that the well seems adequate to do so. Reason being, the casting on it was rusting because there was not enough water flowing from the use of the two buildings currently connected. Adding the Town Garage will help move the water to prevent this.

If we keep the hand dug well, it was recommended that we create a truck wash station by the Recreation Center to prevent the salt coming off the trucks from leaching into the current hand dug well. Supervisor Fernandez continued stating that this doesn't seem

like the best plan because it will make a mess by the Recreation Center. Another option is to drop a new well at the Town Garage, but this may not be the best option as the salt will still continue to leach in. The current septic tank at the town garage is also too close to the current well, but there is a lot more property to work with to install a new septic elsewhere.

Sue Leveille asked if that septic is failing too? Supervisor Fernandez confirmed this stating that it is similar to the Town Hall and they are both mental tanks. Supervisor Fernandez stated that he spoke to Highway Supervisor Robert Ford in regards to finding the septic tanks, Robert informed him that at the time he wasn't sure where they were and that they have not been pumped in over 25 years.

Another issue surrounding the Town Garage is the garbage and recycling situation. When Supervisor Fernandez started in 2024, he inquired with former Highway Supervisor, Hugh Farber, about the bear proof structure that was built for the garbage. Stating that the structure is possibly in violation with OSHA. A better solution needed to be addressed. This had not happened. Currently discovering other options, a suggestion to purchase a hook truck with containers may remedy this. Supervisor Fernandez stated that every 5 years the county board tours with the town supervisors to observe operations of each county. After this tour, it came to attention that every county has containers for their garbage so employees don't come in contact with the waste.

Sheryl Fleming inquired about the cost of this. Supervisor Fernandez stated he did not have a figure yet. We had an opportunity to purchase a used hook truck with 6 used containers for $63,000. The containers needed to be altered as they didn't have tops on them and build something to slide the garbage in. Supervisor Fernandez continued stating that this would not be a cheap fix, estimated $8,000 a piece for these alterations.

Supervisor Fernandez stated that we need to be more responsible in what we do as a community. We will be receiving fines from the county for recycling. There have been incidents of people disposing of used cat litter, large bags of nails, and pieces of sheetrock, making the recycling garbage. The recycling is transferred to Fulton County where it is inspected. After inspection any violations are fined to Hamilton County prompting Hamilton County to bring the fines to Morehouse. We are approaching an ultimatum where we may have to close off recycling and garbage at the town garage and the public will be responsible for disposing of their waste at the nearest recycling center and transfer station.

Steve Babcock mentioned that a lot of the issues with the recycling are caused by people who live in the area and not necessarily the town. Supervisor Fernandez agreed and included that everyone knows that our station in Morehouse is always open. Sarah

DeVuyst added that it's also a contribution from people visiting from out of state and they do not care what happens in our community. Supervisor Fernandez stated that unfortunately that's what happens. Adding that this year our clean up days were improved after a notice was sent to homeowners. During the last day of clean up there was some dumping at the Town Garage but not as severe as prior years.

Supervisor Fernandez continued stating that all other towns in the area lock up their garbage and recycling access to the public and have an employee available to oversee. This would be a large expense for us to have an employee just sit there and wait for someone to come for drop off.

Sheryl Fleming asked if we still have a plan for a camera at the Town Garage? Supervisor Fernandez replied that there are plans for cameras everywhere. This is currently on hold due to the prior issues discussed. We cannot spend anything on projects at the moment until the board decides what we are doing. Cameras may prove to be a waste of time at the Town Garage if the violating party is unidentifiable.

Tucker Bugler suggested closing off public access to the Town Garage and setting up days where town employees pick up recycling in addition to the current garbage pickup. Supervisor Fernandez stated that this will be another expense on the town. Tucker mentioned that this may not be as expensive as the fines we will be incurring. Sonya DeVuyst added that the town used to also pick up recycling on garbage day. The recycling truck would follow the garbage truck. Ed Sherman asked why that isn't available anymore and if there was an issue. Supervisor Fernandez stated that our issue is we only have 92 full time residents, the rest of the homes are camps. Most of the camp residents will not be here on Mondays for that pick up. Town Clerk Stephanie Tichenor added that if trash drop off is unavailable for the camps, what can they do? Supervisor Fernandez recounted a conversation with former Highway Supervisor, Hugh Farber. Hugh informed Supervisor Fernandez that the residents of the camps will dump their garbage on the side of the road as they leave if drop off is unavailable.

Supervisor Fernandez circles back to the issue of whether town employees should not handle garbage at the Town Garage in the current state. Sonya DeVuyst adds that it is dangerous as there could be dirty needles in there from diabetic residents. Supervisor Fernandez continues, it is unsafe and unfair to town employees to be subjected to the smell and potential broken bags of loose garbage. Reminding that all of this goes to Fulton County as per our contract. There are instances where Fulton County will dump our truck to search for violations to prevent them from incurring a fine at the next location. Supervisor Fernandez brings up Tucker Bugler's prior suggestion, if we were to close off public access, adding, if we open it for weekends to accommodate the

campers, we would still have to pay someone to sit there and oversee drop offs. Tucker asked if this would still be cheaper than incurring fines? Supervisor Fernandez replied that maybe it would be. The issue lies in getting an employee to do that every weekend. If that employee is a part of the Highway Department the town would be liable to compensate for time and a half pay.

Supervisor Fernadez states that the easiest option is a container for the garbage but we have to get the public to comply.

Debbie Bushnoe asked if the same type of container we currently have for recycling is also available for trash and if it can also be hauled away? Supervisor Fernandez verifies that this is an option but we currently do not have the equipment. Debbie asked who picks up our recycling? Supervisor Fernandez informs her that the county comes and picks it up. Debbie asks if they would also pick up our garbage. Supervisor Fernandez replies no, we are lucky we are still getting a recycling pickup. Other towns do their recycling with their own containers. We are fortunate that the county picks ours up and leaves their container for us.

Ed Sherman asks why the county still does it for us? Adding that it is great that this is available. Supervisor Fernandez is unsure but adds that he believes that other towns take theirs to a recycling station as they are more equipped for that. Sonya DeVuyst includes that a lot of towns in the county have their own transfer stations.

Supervisor Fernandez asks if there are any other questions or comments regarding the garbage and recycling.

No other questions or comments were presented.

Supervisor Fernandez moves on to the Recreation Center:
One issue presented at the Recreation Center is the water. Recommended solutions included installing a UV light for bacteria and adding on additional filters for sediment. There is a fire suppression system located in the kitchen equipped with water sprinklers. These sprinklers are fed through the main line coming into the building. This line loops around through the filter and then back up to the sprinkler system. If the water is treated for the building, the sprinkler system poses an issue as there is sitting water in the pipe. This will cause bacteria to build up subsequently leaching back into the main system, deeming the treatment useless. There is no way to purge the sprinkler system as it's a closed system.

Richard Doell suggests installing a dry system. Supervisor Fernandez states that we currently also have a dry system located above the stove. Richard asks if we are able to modify the current wet system into a dry system for the rest of the kitchen. Supervisor Fernandez replies that may be a possibility and probably the best idea.

Supervisor Fernandez continues, someone needs to come and shut this system down to prevent the current sprinklers from going off all over the kitchen. We have been unable to locate a company willing to come out to us. Supervisor Fernandez adds that Brian Taylor mentioned that schools have sprinkler systems and that they need to be inspected annually. Our dry systems and alarms have been inspected but the water system has never been. Nor do we have records of who installed it. Supervisor Fernandez will be contacting Poland School District to get a recommendation for a company.

Sonya DeVuyst suggested Davis Ulmer Sprinkler System as they pass through to service the state homes in Speculator. Supervisor Fernandez asks Sonya to provide their contact information.

Steve Babcock suggests installing a check valve to prevent the water from flowing back into the system. Supervisor Fernandez informed him that the company that came out said a check valve would not suffice as the bacteria can still pass through.

Supervisor Fernandez informs the public he has been in contact with a heating and plumbing company and a pole barn company inquiring about the logistics of installing a 40' x 20' addition on the front of the Recreation Center for offices. Without anyone coming out, the shell, concrete floor, walls, insulation, and roof would be an estimate of $100k. Including windows, electricial, heating, etc. we could possibly be closer to $150k - $200k for a finished product. Supervisor Fernandez and Mary Ann Mosher convened to discuss where we are financially and what our options might be. Bonding was not a responsible option as we have not had a financial record with the state for a number of years prior to 2024. The Comptroller's office has informed us that we cannot be certified financially healthy as we do not have enough AFRs on record. Leading us to have high interest rates for any loan we may receive. Another option is starting a reserve fund, the issue with this is that it will take too long to reach a proposed goal. This also affects our tax bill as it will get spread each year and cause an increase in taxes.

Sue Leveille suggested using a portable office similar to construction companies. Supervisor Fernandez informed her that if we rented or purchased a trailer, we would still need to install a septic and water system, it would also have to be handicap

accessible. It will not be compatible with what we need. Marta Murray asked if it's possible to hook a trailer up to what already exists at the Recreation Center? Supervisor Fernandez stated that the only way of doing that would be to run the pipes and wires underground. Sonya DeVuyst added that we would have to consider what the APA would allow as well.

Supervisor Fernandez stated that we are required to pay a prevailing wage because we are a town. This will double our cost of anything we build. We are required to hire a company with insurance and certificates to be up to code.

Supervisor Fernandez concluded by informing the town that all of our current projects are on hold until we decide. The financial plan is to use part of this year's budget and some of next year's budget to accomplish this. Doing this will ease the load of the budget increase for next year. The Church is currently on hold; the steeple will be $15k to repair.

Supervisor Fernandez opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments and asked if anyone has any suggestions on what we should do.

Ed Sherman asked if there was a timeline on getting the offices moved? Supervisor Fernandez is estimating within a year.

Brianna Bellidoro asked if we have any itemized estimates to make a more educated decision. Supervisor Fernandez informed her that we have few estimates, such as the water but have not gone as far as individual projects.

Sonya DeVuyst said that we need to know what we own there to be able to decide. Brianna Bellidoro added that even though the tax map is not 100% accurate we are looking at about .5-acre lot for Town Hall. Supervisor Fernandez added that .5-acre is not enough to be able to place water and septic.

Debbie Bushnoe asked if the Recreation Center water will be safe to use for the turkey dinner? Supervisor Fernandez stated that the fire suppression system needs to be squared away before anyone can come and treat the water. The water is "okay" to be used for washing your hands and washing dishes but not for cooking. Town Clerk Stephanie Tichenor suggested using the 5-gallon jugs that are being delivered to Town Hall and Garage for cooking. There is a hand pumped spigot that can be installed on the jug for easy use. Richard Doell added that there could be a water supply company to come and leave 1,000-gallon water trucks to temporarily hook up to the building.

Richard Doell asked how much are we going to spend on band aids for these issues? Supervisor Fernandez stated he has a solution, prior to the meeting a blue line of tape was placed on the floor in the front of the Recreation Center. This line indicates where the clerk's office and post office could potentially be. With adding walls on those lines and running some wires this would be the least expensive option for the town. With this option the Recreation Center can be the main building for the town and we can focus all future efforts into making this building much better. Supervisor Fernandez proposed possibly putting the mail slots facing the outside of the building so residents would not need to enter to get their mail. This would also allow residents to be able to collect their mail at any time of the day. With this option, Supervisor Fernandez and the magistrates could have their offices located in the back of the building with some renovating to the storage room and porch. Richard Doell asked why not expand out the rear of the building where the porch is and put everything there? Supervisor Fernandez informed him that would be just as costly as the $100k extension off of the front of the building.

Sonya DeVuyst mentioned that the activity area of the Recreation Center will be smaller for the Turkey Dinner, Game Night Dinner, and Pancake Breakfast. Supervisor Fernandez stated that as the board it is not their responsibility to make those events work. As the chief financial officer, Supervisor Fernandez has to make the most fiscally responsible decision for the town.

Town Clerk Stephanie Tichenor asked if the $100k will cover just the two offices? Supervisor Fernandez clarified that it will cover everything (post office, clerk office, magistrates' office, and town supervisor's office). Stephanie suggested why not still do the extension on the front but on a smaller scale for the post office and clerk and create the other two offices in the back. Supervisor Fernandez was not sure of the difference in price.

Sonya DeVuyst asked why we could not hire the Amish. Supervisor Fernandez stated that we would have to have an architect draw the plans and anything over $35k would have to go through a bid process.

Sarah DeVuyst asked if the offices will be occupied during public events. Sonya DeVuyst stated that the offices will be closed off and should not interfere with public events.

Ed Sherman asked for clarification expanding on Town Clerk Stephanie Tichenor's idea of a smaller extension but on the rear with an additional entrance. Supervisor Fernandez explained that anything can be done but it would be difficult to get to the back of the building due to having to go through the activity area. As well as during the winter months, the snow piles up along the side of the building. Sue Leveille added that

it would be difficult to go to the end of the building for handicapped personnel. Ed continued, it would be possible if there was another entrance in the rear. Supervisor Fernandez stated to make it safe we would have to create another driveway to that entrance which would cost more than the original extension. Supervisor Fernandez continued explaining that 2,000 feet of only top coat currently cost around $40k.

Sheryl Fleming asked where court would be held if the judge's office would be located in the back of the building. Supervisor Fernandez informed her that it would be held in the activity room in the same manner we do our town meetings.

Sonya DeVuyst suggests going from the front door of the Recreation Center to the west wall to create the offices. Supervisor Fernandez replied that shouldn't be an issue either.

Ed Sherman raised concern for the Game Night Dinner, as the building is packed for that event and there is currently not enough space. Supervisor Fernandez stated that is something we will have to deal with. Supervisor Fernandez informed Ed that many other towns have this issue, using town of Hope as an example, they have moved their offices to their Recreation Center as well and Lake Pleasants Community Center is half the size of ours. Ed added that the only way they would be able to control the occupancy would be to sell tickets. We currently could not support another 10 people for this event. Supervisor Fernandez replied that we would have to change the way things are set up to accommodate.

Brianna Bellidoro asked if the offices will affect the legal room capacity. Supervisor Fernandez stated that it will but it is posted by the insurance company and the town will not allow it to get out of hand. It's a matter of accommodating.

Supervisor Fernandez stated that he is aware it sounds coarse and mean but it is his job to make the most fiscally responsible decision.

Ed Sherman asked how this will affect the rules between the Rod and Gun Club and the Town specifically regarding that there will be no shooting while the building is occupied. Supervisor Fernandez informed him that it will be included in the new license provided by the Town Attorney for the club. The range will not be used during building occupancy. Ed explained that this will hurt the club. Town Clerk, Stephanie Tichenor added that a new law has been placed in New York that you are not allowed to shoot during a public function and while the playground is occupied. Ed asked what the legal distance would be. Stephanie informed him that it is 500ft from a building. Ed said that

we may already be in violation of that. Supervisor Fernandez stated that we will need to contact a lawyer. Prior conversations with the lawyer clarified that it is a license not a contract and the rules of the Rod and Gun Club need to be provided. The lawyer also requested a lay out of the range.

Debbie Bushnoe asked what the timeline would be for this plan. Supervisor Fernandez informed her we will begin as soon as the board makes a decision. Debbie asked if it would be during the Turkey Dinner. Supervisor Fernandez said there will be no construction during the dinner.

Sheryl Fleming asked if it was decided to put the offices in the building, will construction start during the winter? Supervisor Fernandez replied that it is inside, it can be started in the winter.

Supervisor Fernandez clarified that we are not building a new building, only some walls are being put up. A heating, electrical, and alarm company needs to come for adjustments. We do not need to rush for the back offices as the judge and town supervisor can occupy the current Town Hall until funds are in place.

Wayne Fleming asked if the post office will agree with this? Supervisor Fernandez does not know, he has to contact the postal authority.

Richard Doell asked for clarification regarding the mail boxes being on the outside wall. Supervisor Fernandez explained that an enclosed porch will be built on the side of the Recreation Center for the mail boxes. Ed Post added that there is also another option of putting in a second door on the interior of the building to access the mail boxes instead of having them face outside. An electronic lock would be placed on that second door to allow residents to access their boxes freely. This may be the best option.

Sue Leveille asked if the blue lines on the floor were accurate and raised concern around the size. Supervisor Fernandez explained that it is the same measurements of what she currently has. Sue mentioned that she currently has no storage where the post office currently is and has to store things outside of the office. Sonya DeVuyst replied that isn't the space that the post office rents. Sue explained that there are cabinets in the hallway where she needs to store supplies.

Town Clerk, Stepanie Tichenor, presented a note for the Town Board written by Kelly Tichenor. Stephanie read the letter to the Town Board and Members of the Public as Kelly was unable to attend the meeting. The letter stated:

"Hello, I have some questions and concerns about adding to the Rec. Center. Mostly just the cost of doing all this, when you have a perfectly good and historical building. Are you going to put in a new furnace to operate the Town Clerk's office and the Post Office? Or, are you going to add it to the existing furnace at the Rec. Center? I am assuming that you are going to have to pour concrete pads to put the new building on. So, with all the framing, roofing, insulation, drywall, painting, internet, lighting and plus, the cost of paying someone to put up the addition, and a certified electrician to come an run wiring, electric will have to be ran and the price of building materials are very expensive nowadays. And that's not including the safe room. Are you going to put the safe room up there as well or are you going to leave it at the Post Office? In which case, when something is needed, you will have to travel to the old Post Office to get stuff out of the safe room and in which case you will have the heat on at the old Post Office. Plus, after you put the building in you are going to have to have walkways with handicap access to both offices. Plus, many other expenses that will show up that aren't factored in.
I feel as if the money would be better spent on repairing and fixing up the old Town Hall and Post Office. I would hate to see the town lose a historical site. New is not always better!
Best Regards, Kelly J. Tichenor."

Sue Leveille agrees with not losing a historical site. The Town Hall was built in 1845. Town Clerk Stephanie Tichenor, and Sarah DeVuyst added that it is one of the town's historical places, just like the church. Stephanie continues with understanding that the building needs to be updated and is aware that it will be costly. What would the difference be between fixing the Town Hall and building the extension on the Recreation Center. Ed Shermam agrees with Kelly Tichenor's statement but it does not negate the water situation.

Supervisor Fernandez states that the current plan of putting up the walls in the Recreation Center would not cost $100k. It would be beneficial for the Recreation Center to have our offices there as it would give the building more use. We are currently paying for insurance, heat, and internet now and the building is empty 90% of the time. The example of this would be that the water has rust in it due to sitting.

Sue Leveille asked if the Town Hall will be left to use as storage. Supervisor Fernandez stated that he would like to leave it as storage but doesn't want to have to heat it. Brianna Bellidoro asked what we would be doing with the storage if we were not going to stay there. Supervisor Fernandez explained that it would just be unheated storage. Town Clerk, Stephanie Tichenor, clarified that Brianna is referring specifically to the

vault. Brianna stated that the vault is used almost every day. Supervisor Fernandez replied that we would find a spot in the Recreation Center for it.

Sheryl Fleming asked if we would get a vote. Supervisor Fernandez said no, the time for voting is in November.

Tucker Bugler asked if once we get all the prices for everything, will we decide from there? Supervisor Fernandez stated that it's up to the board. It would be time consuming to nickel and dime this through the public. We have to go with the lowest price.

Sheryl Fleming asked if someone is coming to measure the back of Town Hall for the well and septic? Supervisor Fernandez informed her Lenny Croote will be doing it. He continues to explain that the water situation is not the determining factor for the Town Hall. All other costs have to be considered. Sheryl explained that the people want to keep the Town Hall because it's historic. Supervisor Fernandez includes that Town Hall and the Church are not considered historic buildings as they were not restored or kept in its original state.

Ed Sherman asked if the Town Board has any opinions currently on what to do? Mary Ann Mosher mentions that she would like to see the addition but not for $100k. Brian Taylor is okay with the plan for the interior of the Recreation Center. Sonya DeVuyst would like the addition along the north length of the building for a permanent solution. Supervisor Fernandez stated that Sonya's proposal may not be feasible, we would have to pave a parking lot along the side of the building. The oil tank, septic, water pipes, gas pipes, and the electrical to the generator are currently located there, and that side of the building poses a grading issue.

Marta asks if we already have a company that is aware of what we are looking for with a budget? Supervisor Fernandez informed her that he spoke with Horton Buildings. There is a building posted on their website that is identical to what the town is looking for. Marta asked if they supplied a print of what we wanted? Supervisor Fernandez confirmed they did and described the extension being 40' across x 20' out to fit with the current Recreation Center. Ed Sherman asks if this will be 3 sided. Supervisor Fernandez confirmed this including that the shell, the concrete floor, roof and insulation will be upwards of $100k. This estimate was guessed without anyone coming to the site. Sara DeVuyst asked if this estimate was provided by one company or was this price given throughout other options. Supervisor Fernandez informed her this estimate was provided by only one company.

Town Clerk Stephanie Tichenor asked how many years of financial reports the Comptroller's office requires for the town to qualify for a loan of reasonable interest.

Sonya DeVuyst informed her usually 7 years of data. Supervisor Fernandez added that he was informed that it needed to be at least 3 years. We cannot be certified for this until we have a good standing record.

Sonya DeVuyst stated we need to do something but we don't want to upset the taxpayers with an increase. Brianna Bellidoro asked for clarification. Supervisor Fernandez replied that we are currently at a 20% increase due to insurances and diesel prices without any changes. There will be cuts created in the budget to combat this. Supervisor Fernandez included that we took $100k out of the fund balance to combat tax increases last year of 25%. Sheryl Fleming asked Supervisor Fernandez to repeat this information. Supervisor Fernandez did so and added he had even considered loaning the town money but believes that would be a conflict. Currently, there is a budget for $60k in repairs that will need to be cut. The budgets are usually created at a higher rate with the expectation of cutting down to necessities. Mary Ann Mosher mentioned that there is $400k in an account for the town. Supervisor Fernandez informed her that this is a CHIPS account. Explaining the state of New York gives the Highway Department a certain amount of money known as CHIPS. This is money that New York state is willing to reimburse us. If the money needs to be used it must be included in our budget. Supervisor Fernandez informed the public that on the last page of the budget, there is notice of what the tax increase has been from the year prior.

Supervisor Fernandez closed public commentary.

Mary Ann Mosher made a motion to go into executive session for a personnel issue. Brian Taylor seconded it. Motion carried

AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Mary Ann Mosher	None	None
Sonya DeVuyst		
Brian Taylor		
William Uebele		
Anthony Fernandez		

Mary Ann Mosher made a motion to reconvene at 9:30pm. William Uebele Senonded it. Motion carried. No Action was taken.

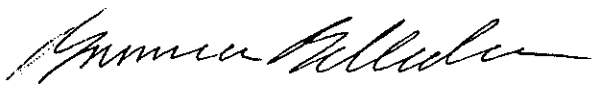
AYES	NAYS	ABSENT

Mary Ann Mosher	None	None
Sonya DeVuyst		
Brian Taylor		
William Uebele		
Anthony Fernandez		

Brian Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm. Sonya DeVuyst Seconded it. Motion carried.

AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Mary Ann Mosher	None	None
Sonya DeVuyst		
Brian Taylor		
William Uebele		
Anthony Fernandez		

Written Truly by,



Brianna Bellidoro