

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Budget Workshop on October 18, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

**Present:** Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor  
Paul Salerno Councilman  
Luci Carpenter Councilwoman  
Matthew Brassard Councilman

**Absent:** Tom Anderson Councilman

**Others Present:** Becky Gilbo, Sharon O'Connor and Rose French, Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the meeting by saluting the flag and reading the legal notice calling for the budget workshop.

The Supervisor gave a brief overview because Councilman Salerno and Councilwoman Carpenter were absent when the tentative budget was presented to the Town Board. The Supervisor explained that we are within the tax cap. We do not need any new equipment. Will be purchasing a truck for the Highway Department but it will be paid out of the 2018 budget. Highway will use the old Village of Port Henry truck for plowing. A tandem will be paid off in 2019, will discuss getting a new tandem then.

Rebecca Gilbo, Senior Account Clerk handed out a 2018 vs 2019 projected town tax sheet. The Supervisor stated that this sheet does not include the County. The difference in the districts is due to the change in assessed value in that area. Water debt is raised by taxes in Water #1, Water#2 and Water #4.

There will be a 2% raise across the board for all employees. The Town Clerk took on more vital records due to the dissolution of the Village of Port Henry, her salary for this will increase by \$600.00 and she will also get the 2% raise. Ms. Gilbo stated that this will not affect the budget. Councilwoman Carpenter wanted clarification on what the Town Clerk would be getting. The Board was in agreement with this. The Supervisor stated that the 2% increase includes all elected officials.

Councilman Brassard asked about longevity pay. The Supervisor stated that is union. They should be voting any day now.

Ms. Gilbo asked the Supervisor to explain the Fire Department appropriation. The Supervisor stated that Fire District #3's annual appropriation went from \$15,000 to \$5,000. Councilman Salerno asked if this was because of the insurance on the building and the Supervisor said it won't even cover it, it will be used for repairs, etc.. The Fire Department will be paying all utilities at Town owned Fire House. This change is in the General Fund 3410.4.

The Supervisor asked the Board if they had any questions and/or changes. Councilman Salerno asked about the campsite appropriations in the budget. Ms. Gilbo stated the revenue stayed the same. Expenses are up \$10,000. Bulwagga Bay Campsite 70% and Champ RV Park 30%. Ms. Gilbo stated expenses only. The Supervisor stated we have to look for a new manager. Councilman Brassard asked if we could set up a Capital Reserve for improvements. The Supervisor stated that a capital reserve account is very hard to use. They are subject to permissive referendum. Every time you want to use money it has to go to permissive referendum. Sharon O'Connor agreed, they have had them through the fire department and they are very hard to use. The Supervisor stated once the bond is paid off, we have to look at shoreline improvements at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. The Supervisor feels we don't need a capital reserve but we do need improvements at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. Councilman Salerno asked Ms. Gilbo if next June we are down by 15 campers will we be hurting. Ms. Gilbo stated that this year we were supposedly down 40 campers and we were fine. The Supervisor stated if it comes to that, we can reduce staff. He stated we are the only campsite in the area that does not work weekends.

Sharon O'Connor asked since it is budget time, could we get a split rail fence for the power house park to keep vehicles out of there. The Supervisor stated that he will speak to Jamie Wilson, the

Highway Garage has some boulders that would work perfect for there; put them close enough together so cars can't get in there.

The Supervisor asked if anybody had anything else. He stated that there is no fund balance being used in the general fund. Ms. Gilbo stated that the fire on Main Street hurt us. The Supervisor stated that it cost the Town roughly \$40,000. He does not feel that this is an unreasonable budget. The Supervisor asked if everybody was ok with the Town Clerk increase. The Town Clerk will get the salaries in the paper. Is the Board in agreement, they said yes.

The Supervisor asked Sharon O'Connor if she had anything else. She said no, just the fence.

Councilman Salerno asked the Supervisor if we received payment for the hydrant at the bottom of Convent Hill and the Supervisor said no, he is going to turn it over to the Attorney General.

The Supervisor asked again if everybody was good and Councilman Brassard stated it is a good budget.

Councilman Salerno asked where we were at with Greg Cunningham legally. The Supervisor spoke to Attorney John Silvestri and criminally we are done with him. The Town has filed liens against the property. The Supervisor feels the Town has spent enough. Councilman Salerno asked how many years before it goes back to the County and the Supervisor stated another year. The Supervisor stated we can't even take the property it has to be done through mandatory referendum. He is hoping somebody from the private sector gets it. Councilman Salerno asked if the Town would get the first chance at it. The Supervisor stated it would go to auction with \$40,000 owed to the Town. Ms. Gilbo asked when the assessment would change on the building. The Supervisor stated the assessment would change for next year because the fire happened after March 1, 2018. Sharon O'Connor asked about the partial building that is buried on site. The Supervisor stated the Town was promised money from the State to clean it up. He stated that the Town does not need more property, we have enough parks. He feels Miss Port Henry Diner should take the property. Councilman Salerno stated that once the Hydro Project starts that piece of property will be gone like that.

Councilman Brassard stated that the paving looks good.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

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Town Clerk