

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area

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NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 8TH

Please note the date of the Board Meeting. The two issues in December were taken with the annual Christmas Card from Moriah Central School's students to their parents, Port Henry and surrounding area and a New Year's issue; so January being the Janus month we report on 2014's last Board Meeting and get into 2015 with a report on the up-coming January 12th meeting in our issue of the 24th.

The meeting opened with Department Head reports: Fire Chief Hughes reported on the continuing efforts of the Port Henry Fire Department to pursue the best training possible for its volunteers, the maintaining of its equipment at the highest level and up-grading its equipment whenever it can by diligently applying for and receiving grants. As an example: 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program completed by Chief Hughes and submitted on 12/3/2014, requested sixteen new SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) at a cost of \$113,840.00. There would be a 5% match or \$5,692.00 as the Village's share (budgeted item). Chief Hughes requested a formal resolution to support this match and the Board passed the requested resolution..

Chip Perry reported there were no changes or breakdowns at the Water Plant. Discussion on the Water Meter Project followed. There are approximately 515 water users for which the village needs to purchase and install new meters. The project will save money and time. In the long run labor costs will be cut associated with the reading of the water meters, the preparation of the bi-annual billings and the overall efficiency of the new meters. Chip Perry indicated that the current meters' inefficiency causes the village to have to bill for less water than it is processing, causing lost revenue.

The DPW's report noted that besides performing its usual winter jobs of plowing and snow removal (always a great job!), it had put up the "No Parking" signs on Spring Street, had temporarily repaired a sewer plug on College Street and sewage is flowing normally, but to keep it flowing, a permanent repair will be made. And very important, the Christmas lights were put up by our DPW crew. Thanks guys, they looked lovely!

The Board voted a refund of \$251.00 on the Hoyenski's Water and Sewer bill, reflecting the difference between their new status as a single family residence and their previous 2 family status.

Also requesting a Water and Sewer refund due to a misread water meter, John Fuller was refunded \$130.45.

Trustee Brassard noted that Independent Nominating Petitions to run for Village Office in the March 18, 2015 elections will be available from the Village clerk beginning December, 30, 2014. Offices up for election of two year terms are Mayor and two trustees.

The next scheduled Board meeting is January 12, 2015, at 7pm in the Village Hall. The public is not only welcomed it is encouraged to attend. Running a village needs all residents' participation.

The Fact Finder received the following email which brought both sad and joyful information. Sad, in that Maria Burke, an amazing young woman and a delight to know, will be leaving this area's directorship of Literacy Volunteers; but joyful in that she will be forwarding her career and also, it is a propitious move for her fiancé whom she will marry soon.

"Dear friends of literacy,

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this e-mail to inform you that I will be leaving Literacy Volunteers in the beginning of January. I have accepted a position in Albany with Capital Region BOCES as coordinator for its Literacy Zone. I cannot begin to tell you how wonderful the last four years have been and how thankful and appreciative am I for working and collaborating with all of you. Thank you, Maria Burke"

NOTES ON THE TOWN OF MORIAH BOARD MEETING

Most of the Department Heads were excused from the December 11th meeting because of the storm, but Town business plowed ahead (pun intended? of course!). Surpass Chemical Co., Inc. and Slack Chemical Co., Inc. made bids of 1.32 per gal. delivered and 1.294 per gal. delivered respectively.

Richard LaPier, Building Codes reported his office issued 4 building permits and did routine building inspections in November. No violations were issued. Mr. LaPier is signed up for the annual Codes Training for March 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2015 for which the Board authorized this training.

Councilman Anderson reported the Youth Commission will meet in January to begin the process for the Summer Program.

Councilman Garrison reported that the Police had handled 143 calls for service in November.

Councilman Salerno reported that the campsite revenues for 2014 were 294,242.34 and expenses were 150,521.75. Mr. Salerno said he would be working on the campsite letter for 2015, possibly increasing rates and storage fees. The Board felt, reflecting all the improvements, the rates should be increased, but will decide this at a later meeting.

Recently, there was a major water break in Moriah Center on which all departments worked together with help from some County employees and repaired it in a relatively short time.

Supervisor Scozzafava said that in the Spring a weigh station will be put in at the transfer facility. Everything, including C & D will be pad by weight. The Village will have to come up with a way to recoup their cost and how they will do the charge back.

A letter was received from Stewart's to apply for grant money to be used for the Youth Conservation Corp program this Summer.

During the last storm, all departments were out for 40 hours and again there is a shortage of salt this year, but all departments did a good job.

The appointment of Art Morgan as Water and Sewer Superintendent was unanimously approved by the Board to be effective December 21, 2014.

The Board authorized the installation of Private Arial Lighting at the transfer station and renewed its contract with Mountain Medical Service for testing Town employees.

CRUISING THE COMMERCIALS

Over the years, as commercials have consumed more and more TV time, I have become a "commercial junkie." At first I watched them because I was too lazy to turn them off or mute them for the short time they filled the screen with three, then five or six products popping into sight. When I slowly became aware that more and more time was being spent on these interlopers on my entertainment time, I continued to watch them out of curiosity, as I tried to count the ever increasing number racing by. This then meant I had to pay attention to their content to discern when the ads and therefore count had changed. I had succumbed to the trap. I now became aware that Pronamel will protect our precious tooth enamel which other commercials warn that once our enamel is worn away by

all those acids in our diets, it can never be restored. I began to watch for toothpaste ads to see what dire results could happen if you didn't protect the hardest substance in our bodies and which toothpaste offered the most convincing reasons that it could best do this job. I have become a connoisseur of toothpaste ads. There are those which base their hype on fear, others try to win you with assurances of amazing protection against all the horrors awaiting an unprotected mouth, still others try to grab the market with guarantees of the beauty, and therefore popularity, afforded by shining white teeth. Then there are the rinses, just to be sure if the toothpaste doesn't work robustly enough or if you have bad breath (the old ads called it halitosis, which sounded medically in-the-know with just a tinge of scary, two great selling points) you will be positively protected against decay and offending others. I, personally, have found that baking soda and salt work as well as the advertized toothpastes and is cheaper though not as tasty.

Some ads annoy me a bit, such as Tums, Roloids and Prilosec, my first reaction being just don't eat the foods (after you identify them) which create heart burn or gas but if you do misjudge, a simple teaspoon of straight fresh lemon juice relieves this sort of gastric unease in just about ten minutes at most, a shorter time than most of the TV touted aids and it certainly can't hurt you, even if it does cause a "sour" face. However, I had a learning experience today which just shows one can never do too much research. I read more about Prilosec and discovered I did not understand all of its uses or even the problems it seems to be able help. Here is a bit I found in Wikipedia. "[Omeprazole \(INN\) /ˈoʊ ˈmeɪprəzoʊ/](#) (Prilosec and generics such as losepine) is a [proton pump inhibitor](#) used in the treatment of [dyspepsia](#), [peptic ulcer disease](#), [gastroesophageal reflux disease](#), [laryngopharyngeal reflux](#), and [Zollinger–Ellison syndrome](#). Omeprazole is one of the most widely prescribed drugs internationally and is available [over-the-counter](#) in some countries. It is on the [World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines](#), the most important medications needed in a basic [health system](#)." Do I understand all those strange terms? No, but I could if I looked them up or asked a doctor. Am I blushing at my ignorance? No. Correcting ignorance should never be embarrassing.

Some of the most terrifying ads are for pharmaceuticals. It seems to be that a large percentage usually include the possibility of death at the end of their ads. I do understand that companies must cover every possibility of injury to protect themselves from lawsuits, but there is usually a long list of ugly possibilities even before the threat of death. What is even more disturbing now are the ones that have been on the market for a while and now the public is being warned that if anyone has suffered any of the problems of which they had been warned, then call such and such law firm and you may qualify for a part of a large sum of money which has been set aside by the companies to cover such possible law suits and you yourself may never have to file a claim or go to court yourself and yet still receive benefits. The implications are truly distressing and particularly as more and more new pharmaceuticals are appearing on the TV screen. Where is the FDA in all of this? Do they not require enough testing time? Why must items be recalled or sued questioning their safety. This brings up another interesting question, who is really receiving the money from the pharmaceutical companies? Does the group of people suing the companies receive a substantial amount from a group law suit? I rather think it is the lawyers who benefit most, as these law suits are involved and prolonged, eating away at the amounts set aside to recompense the injured. I also think this is requiring a lot of doctors, either keep up with the ever increasing number of medicines on the market or maybe not avail themselves of something new which will become a true benefit. Are there wonderful pharmaceuticals out there, without which people would die or suffer severely? Of course, and it is up to the patient to report his problems as correctly as possible so that his doctor can prescribe correctly. I am a "questioner". I want to know "why," even though I know the "why" may not be available yet. However, if we don't ask why, will anyone search for the answer?

This article has uncovered another misconception of mine. I was incensed seeing ads saying manufacturers had sold deadly asbestos and if you or any of your family has or has died of

Mesothelioma you might be able to collect damages. Why was I incensed, I thought asbestos had not been allowed to be used in construction for many, many years. I know that when selling a house these days asbestos as well as buried fuel tanks come into consideration. Well, again I was wrong - because I live in the USA. Other interesting facts garnered from Wikipedia. “The use of asbestos in new construction projects has been banned for health and safety reasons in many developed countries or regions, including the European Union, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, and New Zealand. A notable exception is the United States, where asbestos continues to be used in construction such as cement asbestos pipes. The 5th Circuit Court prevented the EPA from banning asbestos in 1991 because EPA research showed the ban would cost between \$450 and 800 million while only saving around 200 lives in a 13-year timeframe, and that the EPA did not provide adequate evidence for the safety of alternative products. Until the mid-1980s, small amounts of white asbestos were used in the manufacture of [Artex](#), a decorative stipple finish, however, some of the lesser-known suppliers of Artex were still adding white asbestos until 1999. Removing or disturbing Artex is not recommended, as it may contain white asbestos.”

Facts are fascinating things, following them where they lead may not take you where you thought you were going and you end up with many new questions and the need for many more facts.

A SPECIAL NOTE

Today send your thoughts and good wishes to Sarah Burbank, Moriah’s Distinguished Young Woman of 2015, as she competes for a title at Cohoes High School.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, January 24, 2015** at Mac’s, Moriah Pharmacy, Sherman Free Library, George’s Restaurant, John Eisenberg’s Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau’s Champlain’s Best Wash, Don Foote’s “Miss Port Henry” Diner, and TFCU. NOTE: The Fact Finder may also be found on-line at porthenrymoriah.com. Go to “Living Here” and you will see “Fact Finder” to the far right, one line down.