

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Board Meeting on November 13, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

Present:	Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Luci Carpenter	Councilwoman
	Thomas Anderson	Councilman

Absent:	Timothy Garrison	Councilman
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Others Present: John Easter; William Trybendis; Dianna Stevenson; Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent; Richard LaPier, Codes Officer; John & Jackie Viestenz; Elaine Adkins Town Clerk.

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag. Mr. Garrison was excused due to prior commitments.

ON MOTION by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, all in favor, carried, **RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the minutes from the last meetings.

Floor Open to the Public: No one spoke

Department Head Reports:

Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt., reported that his department has been working on trucks getting them ready for the winter season. The spring and summer projects are all done; budgeted \$185,000 for the projects, came in under at \$145,000. We applied for CHIPS and received \$106,862; we also received an extra \$11,000 for extreme winter conditions.

The Bulwagga Bay project is a few days away from being completed; bid was \$364,000, came in under budget at \$312835.

We are still waiting for the truck which is behind schedule; probably won't be delivered until January sometime. Mr. Wilson will contact the County or some other towns to see if they have a truck we can borrow to get us through.

We completed a FEMA audit yesterday on storms that happened a few years ago. Mr. Scozzafava stated that it took about a week to prepare for the audit and we had everything they were looking for. This taught us a lesson on how to keep the records for storms to get the reimbursement; need to have files for more than one agency. Mr. Scozzafava commended Mr. Wilson on his record keeping on these storms.

Richard LaPier, Building Code Enforcement Officer gave the following report. Codes issued seven permits in October, responded to three complaints, issued one building not to be occupied due to unsafe equipment and sanitary reasons. Mr. LaPier recommended issuing a trailer permit to Joe Drake for a 1977 trailer; he inspected it and approved. Trailer is going on an existing trailer lot on 77 Mineville Road in Mineville.

ON MOTION by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Salerno, Scozzafava, Carpenter
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the trailer permit for Joe Drake, 77 Mineville Road in Mineville.

Mr. Wilson gave the Water & Sewer report for Art Morgan who had been excused. The water & sewer department finished the water line to the IDA at the Industrial Park along with resolving a couple of sewer issues.

Councilman Anderson gave the following Police Report. Police Department handled 138 calls for service in October of which three were violation arrests, three disorderly conduct, two misdemeanor arrests, issued 23 traffic tickets and handled six traffic accidents.

Town Board Committee Reports:

Councilman Anderson, Salerno and Councilwoman Carpenter had nothing to report this month.

Supervisor's Report:

- Received a letter from Neil McGown a seasonal camper regarding suggestions for the campsite. Mr. McGown suggested moving the closing date to after Columbus Day weekend and opening around May 15th. The Supervisor thought the closing date was a great idea; the state sites close earlier and there are people that are looking for places to stay especially during the foliage season. The Board took no action on this idea; will think on it.
- The Christmas Train will arrive on Saturday, November 19th at 4:45pm.
- Looking for volunteers to help decorate the train at the train station before the 29th. We will be getting better lights so we don't have to replace them every year.
- The "First Time Homeowner" exemption the Board was considering is income driven which the Supervisor wasn't aware of. Suggested inviting Charli Lewis, Essex County Real Property Office to come to a meeting. We can make a local law for homeowners that make substantial improvements to their property that wouldn't make them now due to fear of having their assessment raised.
- Received an e-mail that a new law firm is open in Port Henry: Julie Garcia has joined this firm and they are located where her office is. They want an opportunity to be the Attorney for the Town; they handle bonding and court cases along with regular legal business. We should consider them, they are cheaper; \$125 an hour, we are paying \$175 an hour to our attorney now.
- Lani Sprague completed her training; she is now a State Certified Assessor.
- Spoke with Jim Bishop from Albany Engineering, the permits for the hydro project are secured; we will hold a public meeting on this probably at the school where we have more room.

Resolutions:

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Salerno, Anderson, Scozzafava, Carpenter
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board amend the 2015 Preliminary Budget to reduce the tax levy by \$1,000 and appropriate the unexpended balance in Highway Part Town increase by \$1,000.

2. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Carpenter, Scozzafava, Salerno
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board Adopt the 2015 Preliminary Budget with the changes made.

3. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Salerno, Scozzafava, Carpenter
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board go to bid for the Sodium Hypochlorite Solution for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 with the bid opening at the December Board meeting.

Discussion: Thanked the Town Board, office staff and department heads for putting together a budget with no fluff.

4. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Carpenter, Salerno, Scozzafava, Anderson
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize the Supervisor to renew the contract with the SPCA for 2015 in the amount of \$5,997.50.

5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Salerno, Scozzafava, Carpenter
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize the payment to Kubricky Construction in the amount of \$312,835 for the Bulwagga Nay Campsite Erosion Project.

Discussion: The project came in under budget; they had bid \$364,000.

6. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Carpenter, Salerno, Scozzafava, Anderson
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board renew the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Board and the Iron Center for maintenance and upkeep of the building.

Discussion: This was brought to the Supervisor by Archie Rosenquist and needs to be renewed yearly. The building needs extensive work and hopefully we will be awarded a grant to do the work.

7. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Salerno, Carpenter, Scozzafava, Anderson
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board appeal the decision regarding the Court's decision to lower Van Slooten Harbor Marina's assessment to \$466,440 from \$1,260,000.

Discussion: We've had issues with assessment from day one; the assessors should have tried to negotiate, but it is not the Board's decision and we can't tell them what to do. Mr. Brennan (Town's attorney) found issues in the Judge's decision and thinks we can win. If we lose it is a substantial difference in assessment and we along with the Village and school will have to pay back year's in taxes. The Supervisor thought the public has a right to know and decided not to do this in executive session as someone had suggested.

Councilman Salerno asked about the big difference and the Supervisor stated that our appraisal that we had done came in at around \$700,000 based on the number of slips they have. There could be a lot of ramifications if the decision isn't appealed.

8. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Carpenter, Scozzafava, Salerno
	Absent	Garrison
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the payment of the warrants.

Floor Open to the Public:

Mr. Viestenz asked if he could have a copy of the budget. Mr. Scozzafava told him to stop at the Town Hall and pick one up once the changes are made.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Abstract Distributions:**Claim Nos.:**October 24, 2014

General	\$3,878.85
Highway	2,607.99
Water #1	173.15
Water #2	123.92
Water #4	16.41
Sewer	73.26

4228 – 4242

November 13, 2014

General	\$40,704.96
Highway	26,633.54
Water #1	7,721.92
Water #2	14,445.35
Water #4	718.40
Sewer	1,905.05

4251 - 4349

Capital Project Distributions:**Claim Nos.:**Bulwagga Bay

<u>Shoreline Erosion</u>	\$331,306.77
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14 – 18

Waste Water

<u>Engineering Study</u>	\$2,370.00
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3

Town Clerk