

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Board Meeting on October 9, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

Present: Paul Salerno Councilman/Deputy Supervisor
Timothy Garrison Councilman
Luci Carpenter Councilwoman
Thomas Anderson Councilman

Absent: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor

Others Present: John Easter; William Trybendis; Matt Brassard; Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent; Dianna Stevenson; Richard LaPier, Codes Officer; Ruth McDonough; Staley Rich; Sandra Lovell; Elaine Adkins Town Clerk.

Deputy Supervisor Paul Salerno opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag.

ON MOTION by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Garrison, all in favor, carried. **RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Bid Opening: Scrap Metal Bid

George Moore Truck & Equipment Pile A: \$50.00/net ton; Pile B: no bid submitted

Earth Waste & Metal Pile A: \$138.50/net ton; Pile B: \$.11/pound

ON MOTION by Deputy Supervisor Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board award the scrap metal bid to Earth Waste & Metal in the amount of \$138.50/net ton for Pile A and \$.11/pound for Pile B contingent upon the review and approval by the Supervisor and the Highway Supt.

Floor Open to the Public:

Staley Rich a Trustee for the Village of Port Henry and on behalf of the Village gave a response to the Town Board's resolution supporting the Village dissolution. (*Attached is the handout that she read from.) After going through the hand out Mrs. Rich stated the Board will not recommend dissolution and we should move forward with a unified front. Mr. Salerno thanked Staley.

Councilman Garrison stated that Board should go to the Department of the State and re-read the dissolution report and put it up for vote; let the people decide. Mrs. McDonough stated that they are not here to discuss this tonight that the two Boards should have a meeting and sit down and discuss this.

Sandra Lovell agrees with what Ms. Rich said. She has a request that both boards have a joint meeting in an open public forum; she is concerned that there is a lot of misinformation given to the press.

Mr. Garrison stated that if the Village dissolved it would be one less layer of government. He was appalled by the errors in the some of the facts that were given.

Department Head Reports:

Richard LaPier gave the following Building Codes report. Building Codes issued two building permits in September, did one annual fire/safety property maintenance inspection and responded to three complaints.

Councilman gave the following Police Report as OIC Stahl was excused. The Police Department handled 153 calls for service in September of which five were violation arrests, 13 misdemeanor arrests, issued 17 traffic tickets and handled five traffic accidents.

Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt., reported that most summer projects are winding down. His department laid 200,000 ton of blacktop, worked on the beach project and will start hauling winter sand next week.

Town Board Reports:

Councilman Garrison spoke with George Maffey about antique boats using the new marina for a rendezvous next July and a possible antique boat show.

Councilman Anderson had nothing new to report on the youth Commission.

Councilwoman Carpenter had nothing new to report; waiting for review of the animal law.

Councilman Salerno reported that the campsite is closing October 12th and they had another successful season. Thanked all the departments for their help; the water front looks great, the plantings are almost done. The additional roof was added to the pavilion.

Mrs. Carpenter asked if we have to get hold of Dan to shut down the Wi-Fi; Mr. LaPier stated that he's been in contact and it is taken care of.

Resolutions:

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board set the date for the Preliminary 2015 Budget Hearing for Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 6:00pm at the Town Court House.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board retroactively hire Jason Vanderhoof beginning October 1, 2014 at the transfer station for 20 hours per week at \$12.76 per hour.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Floor Open to the Public:

Mr. Easter asked if the Board would negotiate with the cable company to bring back Me TV. Mrs. Carpenter stated that this can't be negotiated in the contract; people have to call the cable company and make the request or buy a TV antenna.

Mr. Anderson asked the date of the budget workshop and was told it is on October 21st at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim No.:

September 18, 2014

41310 - 4132

General \$3,034.31

September 24, 2014

4134 – 4148

General \$8,734.51

Water #1 67.62

Water #2 46.71

Water #4 6.97

Sewer 90.53

October 9, 2014

4154 – 4225

General \$ 41,390.37

Highway 132,635.93

Water #1 2,303.18

Water #2 1,685.46

Water #4 213.36

Sewer 43,128.60

Capital Project Distributions:

Claim No.:

Shoreline Erosion \$4,105.07

Town Clerk

*Attachment

Village of Port Henry Response to Town of Moriah Resolution Supporting Village Dissolution

September 22, 2014

The major majority of residents who attended the special meeting were against looking at dissolving at this time and had many sound objections against such action. However, during discussion we all agreed both municipalities need to develop a vision plan that incorporates both the town and the village to work together for a long term strategy for the area instead of choosing to rely on additional unguaranteed AIM funding from New York State as a means of progress.

The key areas of concern expressed by Port Henry residents were as follows:

1. It was widely thought that the intent of the Town in asking Port Henry to dissolve was not to take away a layer of government but to absorb the village assets and tax revenue, along with obtaining a central business district and a viable beachfront. AIM funding is already paid to the village and town and is contingent on a percentage of the tax levy. It was felt that it was very short sighted of the town to focus on that funding long term and fiscally irresponsible to even consider it short term, as 70% must be used to offset the taxes and it is not guaranteed after the first year.
2. It is widely understood that in dissolution or consolidation, the village residents would see substantial tax savings regardless of ANY additional AIM funding- however, this is not the case with the town of Moriah residents. Are the Moriah townspeople aware that any change in the AIM funding will mean a possible tax increase for them of up to 20% based on the old 2008 figures? Village dissolution means the Moriah townspeople have no vote in the matter of absorbing Port Henry. Consolidation means both municipalities have a say in developing a long term plan and a chance to vote on the proposed plan. Was consolidation not suggested because you feel the townspeople of Moriah would not support this potential tax increase and it was an opportunity to acquire quick AIM money and easy tax revenue for the town without openly bringing it before your voters?
3. Currently the residents of the village have representation in their local government. If the town wants to consolidate with Port Henry and do away with a layer of government then the residents would want 2 designated seats added onto the town council to reflect Port Henry's interests in addition to keeping all of Port Henry's full time employees.

4. We also have concerns in regards to zoning. The Town of Moriah in the past has not been in favor of zoning. Our legal counsel has advised us that by law in order to have an established "Business District" an area must have zoning in place throughout its borders. Does this mean that the town and its residents are willing to adopt zoning throughout Moriah in order to preserve the Port Henry business district and waterfront area?
5. The cost of acquiring assets in a centralized community means providing basic services such as garbage collection and sidewalk maintenance to maintain a clean and pleasing appearance and allow foot commerce to the residents. These services are considered the cost of the town maintaining a populated residential community and downtown area. This was a deal breaker last time and would severely impact the senior citizens and the business community.
6. Having committees to oversee hamlets in the township, including Port Henry was not a favorable idea and not well thought out. Village residents could not see any noticeable areas of growth, or positive change in the hamlets and did not deem it a successful strategy. If the town has a long term plan for Port Henry the villagers would like to see it.

In Closing, the village board cannot and will not recommend dissolution to the taxpayers of the village of Port Henry or have it forced on the townspeople of Moriah. The impact and financial outcomes of dissolving are too far reaching for us to do so in good conscience.

However, as a village board we would consider an open dialog to discuss consolidation. Consolidation would allow both sets of residents to vote on a well thought out plan that takes into consideration both communities working together for one unified future, not further dividing the area into special tax districts and isolated hamlets.

Should a reasonable long-term plan be thought out and developed that would be brought forth to both sets of residents to vote on, then perhaps you would see true change and reorganization of government within our joined community and real progress within all the areas of Moriah.