

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Public Hearing on September 19, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York, to discuss the proposed alteration of fire protection district boundaries.

Present: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor
Paul Salerno Councilman
Lucille Carpenter Councilwoman

Absent: Thomas Anderson Councilman
Timothy Garrison Councilman

Others Present: George Harrington, Sharon O'Connor, John & Jackie Viestenz, Buck Beebe, Charli Lewis-Essex County Real Property, Linda Smyth-Village Trustee, Mark Davenport-Village Trustee, Robert Rokel-DOS, Kevin Schwenzfior-DOS, Lohrer McKinstry, Jim Curran-Village Trustee, Matt Brassard-Village Trustee, Jim Hughes-Chief: Port Henry Fire Dept., Robert Hafner-Village of Port Henry Attorney, Ron Van Slooten, John Silvestri-Town of Moriah Attorney, John Rodat-Laberge Group, Nicole Allen-Laberge Group, Brian Glebus-Chief: Moriah Fire Dept., Charlie Bryant, Ron Nesbitt, Don Jaquish-Emergency Services, Sandra Lovell, Ann Tesar, Dorothy Wilber, Tom Edwards, William Trybendis, Denise Daly-Village Clerk, and Rose French, Town Clerk

Supervisor Scozzafava opened the public hearing at 6:30pm by saluting the flag; he then read the legal notice calling for the public hearing.

The Supervisor explained that due to the dissolution of the Village, the Town is required by law to provide fire protection to the residents in the Village, that is why we are having this meeting, it is the first step in this process.

John Silvestri, Attorney for the Town of Moriah spoke. He explained that he is on board to help the Town through this process. He reminded everyone that the residents of the Village of Port Henry voted yes to the dissolution and also on the plan, so this is what we have to do to move forward. The Town will need to adopt a resolution, after the public hearing, for the areas north and south of the Village of Port Henry that are currently not in a fire district, thus, creating a new district.

John Hafner, Attorney for the Village of Port Henry spoke. He also reminded people that he is here because the residents of the Village of Port Henry voted to dissolve the Village and they also voted yes to the plan, He stated that he is on board to help facilitate the plan.

Buck Beebe asked about the process. Was this a joint effort between the Village and the Town or is this strictly up to the Town.

Mr. Hafner explained that this is a joint effort between the Village and the Town. He explained that there is a tentatively scheduled Public Hearing for November 15, 2016 for each board to pass a resolution on the new boundaries. He explained that there are three (3) steps involved in the process:

- 1) Exclude the sections north and south of the Village in question.
- 2) Form a district to include these areas.
- 3) Both boards will file new district with the Comptroller.

George Harrington asked if this vote was subject to permissive referendum. The Supervisor stated yes, it was.

Buck Beebe asked if everybody got to vote or just the people in the affected areas. The Supervisor stated that if it went to permissive referendum, just the people that it would affect would be able to vote. The Supervisor clarified that the new district would NOT change any existing district, just the areas north and south of the Village that are currently in fire protection.

Sharon O'Connor asked if it would impact the annual appropriation that they currently receive from the Town. The Supervisor stated no, it would not.

George Harrington asked what the new district would be called? Mr. Hafner said that would be up to the Village and Town Boards. The Supervisor thought "Port Henry Fire District #3" would suffice.

Charlie Bryant asked if it would be a fire company? The Supervisor said no, it would be a "district". The Supervisor also stated the residents in the existing fire protection area would NOT see a change in their tax levy in 2017.

Councilman Salerno asked what would happen if it went to permissive referendum and was voted down, would the town have to negotiate with a fire company? The Supervisor stated that if the residents in the affected areas voted it down, they would remain in "fire protection" and the Town would have to contact with a fire company for fire protection for them.

John Silvestri stated that this Public Hearing will continue on October 13, 2016 and then the board will pass the resolution for the new boundaries.

The hearing closed at 6:45pm.

Town Clerk