

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area
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AN “OOPS” CORRECTION

Fact Finder tries very hard to keep errors at a minimum, and seems to succeed fairly well – but – when it does “goof” it is a very good one. Remember, previously, the leaving out of one small word ‘not’ and changing the sentence’s meaning to exactly the opposite of its intent? Well, Fact Finder’s past issue, vol. 6 #4, held an even more interesting “oops,” using the words “should cleanse our bionic computers.” Of course it should have read “biologic” or “biological” computers.” I was told many, many years ago, if you are going to make a mistake, make it a good one and big, Success!

THE MORIAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Moriah Chamber of Commerce will hold a meeting to discuss the next immediate steps it will take to bring awareness of our specific area and its businesses (large and small) to a much wider geographical area, bringing a larger potential for profit.

The meeting will be held in the Main Street Chamber Office in Port Henry on Tuesday, October 13th, at 4:00 PM. Definitely, one of the topics under discussion will be finding a time better suited for businesses and working people to attend meetings. The Chamber invites everyone (businesses and residents of both Port Henry and the Town of Moriah) interested in seeing that our area (dissolved or un-dissolved) continues to prosper. Yes, continue to prosper for, in the last several years, we have prospered, slowly but noticeably – maybe not to those of us who live our daily lives here, but to returnees and visitors. They feel and see the positive changes enough to comment on them.

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

- While cruising the internet’s latest news tidbits, I read more about the shootings at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon and of the college and community wanting to withhold the name of the shooter. It stirred an old memory of mine. Many years ago, when teenage crime first seemed to be increasingly news-worthy, I remember thinking, “Why put their names in the paper, making them seem important and encouraging other unhappy teenager’s to seek their moment of visibility by doing something similar or even worse?” Has it taken this many years for society to realize that giving recognition to anything, raises its importance and that anonymity can destroy this possibility rather quickly?
- Recently I have been made aware of a continuing negative rumor making the rounds about the Port Henry Fire Department and its need and search for a three-story aerial truck. When Fact Finder first heard of the unhappiness among residents about the originally announced search, the following quote from Finder’s vol. 5 issue #22 was written: “...why allow mere discussion to raise the “red flag” of a possible tax-raise because of a three-story-reaching aerial fire truck, a needed safety item as well as an item which would **lower** the Fire Departments insurance rate? Or, if you do wish to bring up the subject, be sure to mention that the Board did exactly what it is supposed to do, guard the residents’ tax expenditures by sending the Fire Department back to search for another truck which would **NOT** raise taxes! Also, it might be wise to increase voter confidence by adding that the Fire Department did exactly that!” They have found an excellent used aerial truck which absolutely would not raise resident taxes. Having an aerial truck has become a real necessity for Port Henry’s Fire Department since the Town of Moriah no longer

has an aerial truck. This need is apparent when remembering the Mountain Lakes Services' fire and Moriah's aerial truck's importance in saving the building. True, Port Henry has only a few three-story buildings, but simply put, without a three-story aerial truck, all Port Henry residents are not as fire-protected as they should be. Also, it might be a drawing card for any business which wishes to move to Port Henry and construct a building three or more stories high.

- It concerns this editor how few village residents attend the but-once-a-month Village Board meetings (that goes for Town Board meetings also) and yet how many villagers seem to feel innately qualified to pass judgment on how poorly the Village Board is managing the affairs of the village. These negative rumors whizz around the village with the speed of light, morphing as they go. I imagine some of these uninformed rumors become unrecognizable even to their originators. Please, rumors do nothing to help our village in any way. Even absolute fact, if negative, is probably better left unsaid unless you have a solution to offer for solving the problem. This segues right into the fact, **note, fact** that the village needs **note, needs** three more volunteers to be on a planning board, which the village must have in order to transact certain types of municipal business such as petitioning for grants and other assistances. Drop-off or mail to the Village Office a one sentence letter addressed to the Mayor and the Board saying "I am interested in being a member of the Planning Board," and sign your name. Just think, you will be in a position to promote some of your own ideas on how to make the village more like the village you want to live in. Plans have been done previously and are still around; so there need be no inventing the wheel.

THE TOWN OF MORIAH BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Town Board met October 8th at its usual place, the Court House in Port Henry and at 6 PM, its usual time. The Town had sent out a request for bids on buying and cleaning up the scrap metal at the transfer station. There was only one bid which, after discussion, was felt to be too low and the Board rejected it.

Captain Lou Paris of the Moriah Ambulance Squad Inc. was a special guest at the meeting. He came to report on the move of the Squad into the building in back of the Moriah Fire House. it had its own building and is exploring the possibly of selling it. Supervisor Scozzafava heartily commended both the Ambulance Squad and the Moriah Fire Department for this sharing of services, as it will be mutually beneficial in many ways. There was a ripple of understanding laughter when Mr. Paris was invited to remain for the rest of the meeting and he shook his head, said "yeah," gave a big smile and opened the door.

Buildings and Grounds reported being busy with the inmates' helping ready buildings for winter and particularly busy with the dog problem. Supervisor Scozzafava interjected that he wanted people to understand that when the dog control office gets a complaint, he investigates and issues a summons, from that point on it is in the hands of the courts just as it would be with a summons on a building.

Water usage for Water District 3 seems to be very high, so the Supervisor asked that a meter reading for those 13 families be taken.

The camp site closed October 11th and is being readied for next year's season. The managers will be returning next and the campground did very well this year.

The senior citizen's van needs a lot of repair or be replaced. It was decided that it would be wisest to have it repaired and get a few more years of service before buying a new one.

The report from Tom Anderson on the Summer Youth program was very positive, but he admitted there might have to be a small charge next year, as the budget came in to-the-dollar and that was with having cut the number of councilors because of wage increase. It would be a very minimal fee for the whole five weeks.

Supervisor Scozzafava reported that the Town was still waiting for the State's approval of the emergency pump station replacement which the State told them they had to have. A letter of October 1st listed 7 different items in regards to the equipment. This seems to be a new requirement from the State.

The Town received a "thank you" for the new pickleball courts which was, for the most part, a joint effort of volunteers and the town's highway department using grant money. In case there is anyone, other than this editor, who does not know what "pickleball" is, here, hot off the internet, "A **pickleball court** is the same size as a doubles badminton **court** and measures 20×44 feet. In **pickleball**, the same **court** is used for both singles and doubles play." It seems to be the perfect activity to bring a community together in friendly play and competition for many differing ages.

Supervisor Scozzafava had met with the Laberge Goup who is gathering data for the upcoming dissolution vote. He stressed the importance of seeing that village residents be given the information they need to make informed votes.

Next discussed was the Mineville Solar Project. As with all projects it is still in the Federal hands which is a time-consuming process. Some people questioned the company's purchase of the Lion Mountain water rights. They said they wanted to control their interests down the pike when the hydro project was up and running. (This editor knows water rights are being bought and sold all over the country, but it still seems wrong to me be allowed to control something so basic to human existence.)

Manfred Construction made the lowest bid on the Mountain Spring Project and stated that they could complete the project before the first of the year.

The Board authorized the creation of a temporary clerk position for the Town Clerk office for 30 hours a week because Elaine Adkins will be retiring at the beginning of the year and the Board felt it wise to begin training someone at this time.

The Board decided to lease a new copier from Office Systems Inc. rather than buying a new one because it is cheaper to lease and if you do buy a new copier, you cannot sell it and it ends up going to the transfer station.

The Board adjusted the Water & Sewer billing for Anna Reynolds from a two family unit to a single residence, and they renewed their contract with Life Flight for 2016.

There will be a Public Hearings November 5th at the courthouse at 6:00 PM concerning 2016 budget for Water District #3 rate increase, the Town of Moriah's preliminary budget for 2016, to be followed by a special meeting for adoption of the 2016 budget.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, October 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.