

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

Present:	Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Thomas Anderson	Councilman
	Lucille Carpenter	Councilwoman
	Matt Brassard	Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Lohrer McKinstry, Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent, Gary Friedrich-NYS Forest Rangers, Ann Tesar, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Kevin Brace, Paul Reese, Rich Lapier-Building Codes, Ronnie Cunningham-Chamber, Cathy Sprague-Chamber, George Daly, Erik Wilhelmson, Mark Davenport and Rose French-Town Clerk.

Supervisor Scozzafava opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
	Nays	0

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

Special Guest: Gary Friedrich-NYS Forest Rangers.

Mr. Friedrich introduced himself and explained why he was there. He explained that search and rescue are the most important job of the Forest Ranger and there are a lot of man hours involved. A single ranger can cover thousands of acres of land all by themselves and they are getting burnt out. With the Governor's I Love NY campaign; the Adirondack Park has seen a significant increase in hikers, which in turn makes the Rangers job even harder. The Police Benevolent Association is asking all Towns inside the Adirondack Park to support a state wide staffing level increase to grow the forest ranger force to 175. So far 22 Towns have passed such Resolutions. He stated that Yellowstone National Park is smaller than the Adirondack Park and they have 330 Rangers. Councilman Anderson asked if they have been in contact with the Governor and Mr. Friedrich said he is sure he is aware of the campaign but they are waiting until they have the support of all the Towns and then they will "hike" it to his office. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked what kind of support they are looking for from the Towns; is it from the Fire Departments and Mr. Friedrich said no, just for staffing support right now. Paul Reese asked if they had looked into High Peaks Hikers carrying search and rescue insurance; Mr. Friedrich stated he has brought this suggestion to the Commissioner of the DEC himself. He feels it is public land and it belongs to the people. Councilman Salerno asked about Canadians coming into the Park to hunt; other people have to pay to use the resource. He also asked where the additional staff would go; Mr. Friedrich stated they do not know yet, but he was confident that half or better would come to the Adirondack Park. Supervisor Scozzafava stated he feels they will have success with the way they are going about it.

72. ON MOTION by Supervisor Scozzafava, unanimous second, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
	Nays	0

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. (PBA OF NYS) PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOREST RANGER STAFFING TO A STATEWIDE TOTAL OF 175

WHEREAS, NYS forest rangers have provided care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve and all DEC managed lands throughout the state since 1885, protecting the valuable natural resources and the people who recreate there; and

WHEREAS, forest rangers are unequaled stewards of the land who are police officers, wildland firefighters and wilderness first responders that patrol these lands year round; and

WHEREAS, the addition of over 1 million acres of DEC managed lands the last several decades without staffing increases has caused the ratio of DEC managed lands per ranger to grow from 1 ranger per 28,516 acres in 1970 to 1 ranger per 53,752 acres today; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in recreational use on state lands has led to a corresponding increase in the number of search and rescue operations. In both 2015 and 2016 forest rangers participated in over 300 incidents annually. Those numbers had not been surpassed in the rangers' previous 130 years of existence; and

WHEREAS, Adirondack communities rely heavily on tourism associated with state land recreation which, gratefully, has been well-promoted by this administration; and

WHEREAS, forest rangers are essential to providing a safe and positive recreational experience for tourists utilizing state land; and

WHEREAS, the current level of forest ranger staffing, 135 statewide including supervisors, is not adequate to fulfill their unique mission given the amount of land they patrol and the number of incidents they respond to; and

WHEREAS, the proposal by the PBA of NYS to increase forest ranger staffing has wide public and bi-partisan support from local governments, business groups, environmental groups and outdoor recreation clubs for a simple reason: It protects the people from the land and the land from the people; and

WHEREAS, this proposal represents the best solution to address the increase in public lands and those utilizing it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of [] does hereby support the PBA of NYS proposal to increase forest ranger staffing to 175 rangers statewide, which is deemed critically important to our community, state land, the environment and the People of the State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the PBA of NYS, 11 North Pearl Street, Suite 1200 Albany NY 12207.

Floor Open to the Public:

Ronnie Cunningham from the Town of Moriah Chamber of Commerce would like to invite everyone to stop in and see the Chamber, they have spruced it up and it looks really nice. They are also currently doing a fund raiser; you can have someone "flocked" by pink flamingos for a fee; it has done really well so far. They received an IP grant for more patches for their hiking challenge. They have also applied for a CAP grant to do a family movie night down at the Champ RV Park. Ms. Cunningham asked if coin drops were still allowed and the Supervisor said yes, just need to call the Town Hall and schedule it, but they have to be legit and for a non-profit organization. They Chamber is already planning for their Labor Day Celebration. Champ Day will be Sunday, July 15th at Champ Beach. Councilman Brassard asked about parking and Ms. Cunningham stated they hope there isn't anything else going on that day and there won't be an issue, they would like everyone to park at the Boat Launch. Councilman Anderson asked when the open house at the Chamber was and Ms. Cunningham stated they haven't set a date yet. There will also be a 98th birthday celebration for Ken Hyatt on April 30, 2018 at 11:00am at the Barber Shop.

Supervisor Scozzafava presented Cathy Sprague with a certificate of appreciation for all her work as Town of Moriah Chamber President.

Kevin Brace stated he owns property on Whitney Street that he can't use because the Town has water/drainage running onto it. He asked the Assessors to lower his taxes due to this and they said no, he needed to have the town remove the culvert. Supervisor Scozzafava reminded Mr. Brace that the Town Board has no control over the Assessors, they only have control over their budget; they are elected officials. He suggests Mr. Brace go to grievance day to address this problem. Mr. Scozzafava does agree that this is an issue. Mr. Wilson stated he has been in contact with Essex County Water & Soil regarding this and they are trying to figure out a way to fix it, but there will always be a problem because water runs downhill. Mr. Wilson stated that Essex County Soil & Water have been watching it and there doesn't seem to be much flow. Mr. Wilson has applied for a water shed grant to purchase some rock for drainage for that area. Mr. Brace asked why it has to be on his land and Mr. Wilson stated it has been like that for years, it is the natural flow. Mr. Brace would like the town to take it off his property. Supervisor Scozzafava stated they are trying to work together to come up with a solution; he also stated that drainage issues can be tricky. Mr. Wilson stated the town cannot fix one problem just to create 10 more. Supervisor Scozzafava stated he is confident that they will find a solution. He also told Mr. Brace he knew what the property was when he bought it. The Supervisor closed the discussion and told Mr. Brace to come see him at the Town Hall and get the paperwork for grievance day.

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked who was in charge of picking up tires and TV's alongside the roads. Mr. Wilson stated they have already been picked up. She said the tires were still by Gray's. Supervisor Scozzafava stated that Town of Moriah employees are instructed to pick up any garbage that they see on the side of the road.

Mark Davenport thanked all fire departments for all their hard work the night of the fire in Port Henry, it was a scary night. Supervisor Scozzafava thanked Councilman Salerno and Jamie Wilson who were also on scene that night.

Department Head Reports:

Councilwoman Carpenter read the Police Report:

Handled 149 calls for service:

9 Violations: 4 Harassment 2nd degree

2 Disorderly Conduct

1 Trespass

1 Unlawful Possession of Marihuana

1 Open Container

5 Misdemeanors: 2 Aggravated Unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle 3rd degree

1 Criminal contempt in the 2nd degree

1 Criminal mischief in the 4th degree

1 DWI

1 Felony: 1 Criminal Contempt 1st degree

Issued 22 Traffic Tickets

Handled 7 Traffic Accidents

Conducted 17 Pistol permit background investigations

Councilman Salerno reported that Building & Grounds are getting the campsites ready. They will be starting road side clean up next week with the inmates, doing one road at a time.

Supervisor Scozzafava reminded everyone about the Adopt a Highway Program. The Town has special bags to use, they can be picked up at the Town Hall; just leave the bags on the side of the road and they will be picked up. Councilman Salerno wanted to remind everyone they should have backflow preventers and check valves on water lines and furnaces in case there is a water break, it will prevent further damage. The Supervisor stated it is already in the Local Law.

Rich Lapier-Building Codes issued 1 building permit for the month of March. Issued 2 certificates of occupancy and did 24 hours of recertification training in Lake Placid. Mr. Lapier would like to make a town wide Local Law regarding unsafe structures, the former Village of Port Henry had one; Supervisor Scozzafava stated this came to light after the fire in Port Henry last week. The Supervisor has sent the Local Law to the Town Attorney for review so it can be rewritten to include the Town. Councilman Anderson asked what the Local Law would be used for and Mr. Lapier stated it would put time limits on clean up, leans on property, etc.. The Supervisor stated the Local Law for the Village will remain in effect for 3 years.

The Supervisor also stated that he is looking into grant money to redo all the water and sewer local laws because there are so many of them, would like to condense them. Councilman Brassard thought the unsafe structure law came into effect because of the Bullock house on Elizabeth Street. The Supervisor stated that he has been dealing with issues from the fire every day. St. Patrick's place road is closed as well as a portion of the sidewalk due to the chance of falling debris. There is still question regarding who actually owns the property and whether or not there was insurance on the building. Councilman Anderson asked why the Town can't knock the building down and the Supervisor stated the Town has to do it legally and we have to take into consideration asbestos. Cathy Sprague asked if it was insured and the Supervisor stated that we do not know yet. The Town Attorney is working on it; at \$125.00/hr. The Supervisor would have liked to see it get knocked down while it was burning, would have saved all this headache.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent: They have been doing spring cleaning. Sweeping roads. Port Henry is done. They will also begin road side clean up. Mr. Wilson reminded everyone that April 15th studded snow tires have to be off. They have been picking up tires and TV's alongside the roads. The Supervisor reminded everyone that the Town has to pay to get rid of tires and TV's. Mr. Wilson also reported that they have been patching pot holes. They cut

down some trees at the campsites that were in the way. Mr. Wilson had to call men in for the fire because there were detours. Mr. Wilson is trying to get a grant for Fisk Road for the erosion project.

Supervisor Scozzafava would like to thank Moriah Central School for opening its doors to the 12 residents at the Lee House during the fire, they also provided transportation to the Best Western in Ticonderoga. The bus drivers did not put in for time for driving. Cathy Sprague would like to also thank the Red Cross for all their help during the fire.

Town Board Report's:

Councilman Anderson: Applications for Youth Commission Counselors are due Friday, April 13, 2018. They may have to reopen it depending on how much interest they get. They will interview and hire next month. Next month they will hire the other administrative positions. It is a 5 week program. It will start the Monday after July 4th.

Councilwoman Carpenter: Fred Keil has been working on the contract for the Iron Center Doors with Jeff Popp and when that work can begin. Michael Crane has been very busy interviewing possible investors for the waterfront development project at the campsites. Their last meeting was on March 29, 2018. RFQ's went out. They would like to schedule a special meeting with the Board the end of May to give an update.

73. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0

RESOLVED to hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY with Michael Crane and the Waterfront Development Committee to go over updates on the project.

Councilman Brassard: He would like to thank Bobby McGee from Westport for towing the tenant car away from the fire in Port Henry. Councilman Brassard spoke to Cheyenne at the Transfer Station and there are no issues. Councilman Brassard will be in contact with Dan from Vermont the last week of April regarding WiFi at the campsite. Councilman Brassard spoke to a camper at Bulwagga Bay Campsite regarding rodents and poison ivy. There is not much we can do about rodents and we will have to wait and see where the poison ivy is when it comes up. Councilman Brassard stated that a camper at Champ RV Park wanted a tree down because they bought a bigger camper.

Councilman Salerno: Had nothing to report.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor reported that we have made the switch to Bridge Point Communications. He feels the broad band is quicker.

The Supervisor stated he has received a request that the Town make a designated truck route down Broad Street and Main Street. The Supervisor spoke to the Town's Insurance and they are suggesting that the Town does not do it due to liability reasons. The residents on Grove Street have signed a letter of petition requesting this. Ann Tesar stated there has been a lot less traffic on college street now that it is their choice to go down Board Street or not.

The Supervisor gave a listing of all the Grants the Town is involved in right now. They are a lot of money and a lot of work and it takes the State forever to reimburse us. Councilman Salerno asked if the Town would be putting in a handicap rail at the old Village Hall and the Supervisor stated Essex County Soil & Water will rent the building and they will do any modifications as needed.

The Supervisor received a letter from the Division of Safety & Health regarding our boiler inspections. The Town's insurance usually schedules this but due to the fact that we changed insurance this year, it did not get done, that is why they did it. We did have a few violations, but Mr. Roberts-Building & Grounds Superintendent told Mr. Scozzafava they have been taken care

of.

Erica Anderson is having a bottle drive to benefit the Foreign Culture Club trip to Athens, Greece and Rome, Italy next year. If you have bottles to donate please call her at 518-546-3887.

Resolutions:

- 74. ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0

RESOLVED to hire LeeAnn Sprague for the position of Account Clerk/Typist to fill vacancy due to Denise Daly Retirement; up to 35 hours per week; \$15.56/hr; full benefits as per Policy Manual.

Discussion: Supervisor Scozzafava stated that Denise Daly was a huge asset to the Town of Moriah when the Village of Port Henry dissolved.

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

APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0

RESOLVED to award contract to Adirondack Concrete for Sidewalk Replacement, East side of Main Street in the amount of \$92,550.00 with \$10,000.00 contingency (tree replacement, lamp posts).

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that Adirondack Concrete was the only bidder. Kevin Brace suggested the town does not cement in the new lamp posts in case National Grid ever has to do any repairs. The Supervisor stated there will only be 3 lamp posts. There will be no Christmas lights across the road at this section due to the new lamp posts.

- 76. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0

RESOLVED to renew contract with Twinstare for maintenance of Phone System at \$717.84 per year from 6/1/18-6/1/19.

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

APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0

RESOLVED to set date for Public Hearing to Extend Moratorium on Local Law #2 of 2017 on Street Level Residential Development in former Village of Port Henry. The meeting will be Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 5:45pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY 12974.

Discussion: This is for Main Street from Rice Lane to the Liquor Store.

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

APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0

RESOLVED to purchase copier for Code Office at \$791.30 and one for the Town Hall at \$4,385.00 (old copier from Town Hall will go to the Assessor's-this is from Dissolution Grant Money).

Discussion: Councilman Brassard asked if the Town would be buying the copiers out right and the Supervisor said yes. Councilman Anderson asked about Maintenance and the Supervisor stated we will purchase a yearly maintenance contract as well.

79. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard |
| | Nays | 0 |

RESOLVED to advertise to fill two (2) vacancies on the Board of Assessment & Review.

Discussion: The Supervisor will have the Town Clerk run the ad and see who we get for applicants if any. There is training and an exam involved and it pays \$300.00/yr.

80. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
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| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard |
| | Nays | 0 |

RESOLVED to authorize the Port Henry Fire Department to hold coin drops on the following dates; Saturday, May 26, 2018, Saturday, July 7, 2018, Saturday, September 1, 2018 and Saturday, November 3, 2018.

Discussion: Councilman Brassard stated the Village of Port Henry always gave precedence to the Fire Departments and the Ambulance Squad and tried not to schedule any coin drops back to back. Cathy Sprague asked if they were against the law in the Town and the Supervisor said technically yes, but the Town is going to continue to allow them to do it in the former Village of Port Henry. Kevin Brace asked if it would be a liability for the Town and the Supervisor said yes, we are going to wait and see how many want to hold them and go from there.

81. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
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| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard |
| | Nays | 0 |

RESOLVED to authorize Adirondack Films to use a section of Lake View Avenue and the Moriah Town Hall for scenes for the movie production of Garrow (a certificate of insurance will be required).

Discussion: Councilman Salerno asked if it was going to be an issue with school buses. Supervisor Scozzafava said no, it is by the overpass and the buses can't go through there anyway. Councilwoman Carpenter asked if they needed to get any permission from Land owners and Jamie Wilson said no, it is all in the road. Mr. Wilson will contact the police department with traffic concerns.

82. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard |
| | Nays | 0 |

RESOLVED to renew contract with Adirondack Landfill Services, LLC for 2018 to monitor old landfill at a cost of \$2,433.00.

Discussion: The Supervisor reported that the DEC waived the required sampling frequency saving the Town \$30,000 over the remaining post closure monitoring period. Councilwoman Carpenter asked if anybody uses the land the old landfill sits on and the Supervisor said yes, you have to cross it to get to the trail to Cheney Mountain. Councilwoman Carpenter has been approached about a dog park, and the Supervisor stated the Town is not going to get into the business of a dog park. People are welcome to walk their pets there if they want to. Erik Wilhelmson asked if the Town ever looked into a solar farm and the Supervisor said yes, but it is too far away from any National Grid connections.

83. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard |
| | Nays | 0 |

RESOLVED to charge a fee of \$50.00 for any Municipal Requests from Codes Office regarding any information requested from 3rd parties.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that banks and mortgage companies have been requesting this information from the Codes Office.

84. ON MOTION by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
	Nays	0

RESOLVED a resolution protecting Champ.

WHEREAS, The Lake Champlain Monster(s) known as “Champ”, have been inhabiting the waters of Lake Champlain for many years and,

WHEREAS, the existence of “Champ(s)” has been documented by many of our North Country residents over the years including both visual and audio evidence,

WHEREAS, all endangered species are entitled to protection under both Federal and New York State Laws and,

WHEREAS, “Champ(s)” are apparently one of a kind, hence their protection from harm and harassment is vital,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all the waters of Lake Champlain which adjoin Port Henry and Moriah are hereby declared off limits to anyone who would in any way harm, harass or destroy the creatures known as “Champ”.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated back in 1980 the Village of Port Henry passed a resolution protecting Champ. Katy Huling would like to come to a Board Meeting. Cathy Sprague stated she will be giving a seminar on Champ also.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
	Nays	0

RESOLVED to approve payment of the warrant.

Floor open to the public:

Kevin Brace asked the Supervisor if the Town has looked into the solar farm possibility lately for the old landfill. National Grid has done several in Whitehall. The Supervisor and Councilman Brassard will look into this.

The Supervisor reported that FERK accepted the Hydro Project application.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

March 21

General	\$3,777.08	2018/373-392
Highway	\$2,989.76	
Water #1	\$54.01	
Water #2	\$37.49	
Water #3	\$428.46	
Water #4	\$5.51	
Sewer #1	\$1,691.31	
Sewer #2	\$1,331.13	

March 29, 2018

General	\$4,160.03	2018/395-415
Highway	\$1,590.84	
Water #1	\$1,144.16	
Water #2	\$826.99	
Water #3	\$2,016.60	
Water #4	\$71.26	
Sewer #1	\$2,256.76	
Sewer #2	\$1,409.55	

April 12, 2018

General	\$76,108.55	2018/419-571
Highway	\$26,742.50	
Water #1	\$2,804.69	
Water #2	\$2,056.29	
Water #3	\$1,408.99	
Water #4	\$251.28	
Sewer #1	\$9,986.16	
Sewer #2	\$5,301.38	

Capital Projects:

Main Street Technical Assistance Grant	Clinton Brown Co Architect	\$4,200.00	#2
Waterfront Development	Denton Publications	\$20.94	#4
	Michael Crane	\$6,250.00	#5
Wetherbee Sewer Project	Cedarwood Engineering	\$5,060.00	#3
Iron Center Museum Door Replacement	Fred Keil	\$2,559.00	#1
Sidewalk Replacement Port Henry	Denton Publications	\$27.82	#1

Town Clerk