

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

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

Absent: Tom Anderson Councilman

Others Present: Bill Cook, Jamie Wilson, Bill Trybendis, Ed Roberts, Eric Wilhelmson, Sharon O'Connor, Ann Tesar, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Rene Anderson, and Rose French-Town Clerk. (Tim Bryant arrived at 6:30pm)

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

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

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

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

The Supervisor introduced Bill Cook; with Board approval he will be the new Manager at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. Wayne & Ruth Plunkett will not be returning due to health issues. The Supervisor received an email and resume from Mr. Cook expressing interest in the position. He has an extensive resume. He was a Public Safety Dispatcher and a School Bus Driver. The Supervisor feels he will be a great fit. The Supervisor stated that this position is a contractual agreement. The Manager is not a town employee. Mr. Cook wanted to introduce himself to the Board and see if they had any questions. Councilwoman Carpenter asked Mr. Cook why he wanted to be the Manager at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. Mr. Cook stated he feels he will be a good fit for the campsite and he is looking forward to a good working relationship. The Supervisor told Mr. Cook that Councilman Salerno and Councilman Brassard will fill him in. Councilman Salerno stated that the workers start on Monday April 15th. The campers can begin moving in their campers on April 29th. Councilman Salerno stated that he will go over everything with Mr. Cook. Councilwoman Carpenter asked how we would show him and the Supervisor stated that the Town Hall will work with him and help out with finances. Mr. Cook stated he will be in Nashville the last week of April but he will be around next week and he will be back on April 26th. Councilman Salerno stated he thought the start date was May 6th and the Town Clerk stated that the letter that went out to the campers said May 1st. The Supervisor told Mr. Cook thank you for coming and we look forward to working with you.

Floor Open to the Public:

Rene Anderson from the Chamber thanked the Town for their help with set up for the Easter Egg Hunt last year and if we could help set up again that would be great and the Supervisor stated it is already done. She said thank you. The Supervisor asked Mr. Roberts to move the stakes and replace them with cones, he feels the stakes are too dangerous with little children running around. Rene stated they have about 3,000 eggs filled. The Chamber is getting a grant for a folklore sign for Home of Champ and would like to put it up near the "hall of fame" by the entrance to Bulwagga Bay Campsite. The Supervisor thinks they might need a DOT permit but the Board is ok with it. Rene stated it will probably be in June. Councilwoman Carpenter asked that the Chamber check with her before they place it because Fred Keil, Architect has a plan for a makeover for the entrance to the campsite. Rene said ok.

The Supervisor reported on the proposed 2% increase in bed tax. He is in support of this but if businesses and the Chamber are opposed to it he will go along with what they decide. The supervisor asked the Chamber if they could afford to lose \$8,500.00 which would be the towns share. If so, he won't support it. He stated that Lake Placid generates the bulk of the bed tax. The Supervisor stated that it passed through the Board of Supervisors. Councilman Salerno asked how it was divided up and the Supervisor stated that each Town gets the same amount.

Councilwoman Carpenter stated that we benefit from Lake Placid business. The Supervisor asked those businesses that are opposed to it to take another look at it.

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz expressed her concern with the new voting site at Moriah Fire Department. She is worried that there will be lines. She asked if all the districts were voting there and the Supervisor said yes. Ms. Wojciukiewicz asked if all the Towns in Essex County were doing this and the Supervisor said yes, the majority of them have been doing it like this for a long time now, with the exception of North Elba. The Supervisor stated that each district will be set up separately. Ms. Wojciukiewicz said she has voted in Mineville/Witherbee her whole life. The Supervisor stated that the Town does not have any control over this, it is done through the Board of Elections and it is a cost saving issue. Ann Tesar asked if the Board of Elections had discussed this with the Towns prior to making the change and the Supervisor stated the Board of Elections has been wanting to do this for years. The Supervisor feels it will be easier to vote now. He stated that disabled access was an issue also. Ann Tesar asked if the Fire Departments were notified and Sharon O'Connor stated two (2) months ago, but not before they did their budget. The Supervisor stated that small fire districts should be compensated accordingly. The Supervisor is in support of this.

Department Head Reports:

Art Morgan, Rich Lapier and Chip Perry have been excused.

Jamie Wilson is hoping winter is over. They have been sweeping. They will begin working on the dirt roads, they are rough; still frozen. They have mandatory training. They have been picking up garbage. Mr. Wilson will get with Cheyenne and Rose to go over a schedule for free brush days for the middle of May. Mr. Wilson checked his calendar and decided on Friday May 17th and Saturday May 18th and also Friday May 24th and Saturday May 25th for free brush days at the Transfer Station. Eric Wilhelmson asked if the Highway Garage would be working on Breed Hill Road and Mr. Wilson said yes, Mr. Wilhelmson said it is bad. Mr. Wilson met with Ed Roberts and Dig Safely about where to put the speed limit signs on Center Road. The County will help the Highway Garage install them. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. Wilson in his 16 years as Highway Superintendent was this the worst winter he has seen as far as snow goes. Mr. Wilson stated it is in the top 10. We had a lot of rain and a lot of little storms that were costly. Mr. Wilhelmson asked when the trash on the road sides would be picked up. Mr. Wilson stated that this work has already begun. Mountain Lake Services will be out next week working on Fairy Lake Road, Cheney Road and Switchback Road. The Supervisor stated that we do have an adopt a highway program and we have bags and gloves available for anyone who wants to pick up road side garbage. Ann Tesar stated that the rock cuts are terrible.

Mr. Roberts stated that he will be working with the inmates cleaning up road side garbage but we do not get them as often as we used to. He also stated that we have a rabies situation in southern Essex County. Mr. Roberts has a freezer at his shop so if he gets a call to pick up a rabid animal he holds it until the DEC can pick it up to be tested. The DEC recommends that you stay away from all wild animals. The Supervisor stated that just because you see a raccoon or a skunk out in the middle of the day, that does not mean that they are rabid. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked if they were going to do a bait drop? Mr. Roberts stated they are trying to work something out right now.

Supervisor Scozzafava reported that a dead dog was found in a bag on the side of the road in Westport, not Moriah! People were putting on social media that they were only charged \$50 for littering. They haven't even been taken to court yet. The Supervisor stated that he tried to explain on Facebook what happened and that was a mistake, people did not want to hear it. Councilwoman Carpenter stated that it was nothing was put on the Town's Facebook page. The Supervisor stated there were three (3) dead goats in Mineville and he had to declare a state of emergency so the Highway Department could go in and get them. Mr. Roberts wanted to remind everyone that as Animal Control Officer he can only investigate animal cruelty, he can't enforce it, that is up to the Police. The Supervisor stated this winter we had 30 stray cats and nobody cared about them. Mr. Wilson stated that people will put stuff on social media but they won't sign a statement. The Supervisor stated that the Town of Moriah spends more on animal control than any other Town in Essex County. We pay the SPCA \$6,200.00 a year to board a handful of animals and we also have our own kennel to hold animals until the owner can be located.

The Supervisor asked Tim Bryant if he would like to address the Board regarding the bed tax. He told Mr. Bryant it is up to the Chamber and constituents. Mr. Bryant saw the letter to the editor regarding the bed tax. He is concerned because it affects his rate. The Supervisor stated that the customer pays for it. The Supervisor stated that last year the Chamber came to a board meeting asking for more money. The Supervisor stated that he will vote the way the people and the chamber want him to but they should really look at it.

Town Board Report's:

Councilwoman Carpenter read the Police Report: Handled 151 calls for service. 5 Violations: 2-dogs running at large, 2-unlicensed dogs, 1-disorderly conduct. 4 Misdemeanors: 2-aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle 3rd degree, 2-bad checks. 0 Felonies. Issued 21 traffic tickets. Handled 6 traffic accidents. Conducted 11 pistol permit background investigations. Supervisor Scozzafava stated that we are going to have to replace the Crown Victoria Police Car which will probably cost around \$30,000.00. We may have to put this on hold due to the Governor's budget, the town lost about \$75,000, waiting to see if the County will make up the difference, we will have to wait and see. Councilman Salerno asked if there was still DWI grant money and the Supervisor said no because people don't pay their fines.

Councilwoman Carpenter stated that the Waterfront Committee has received two (2) resumes; people who want to be on the Committee. Mark Davenport will set up the interviews. Visits to Bulwagga Bay Campsite and Champ RV Park will take place then. Once they have a full committee again, a committee chair and secretary will be appointed and Councilwoman Carpenter will move back to Town Board Liaison. No update from the investor. Exclusivity Agreement ended on April 10, 2019. New brochures are on hold; Mark Davenport is looking into doing a display card. Anna Reynolds from Essex County Planning will organize visits to campgrounds; shooting for late April early May. Councilwoman Carpenter stated that she will be out of town for the next board meeting, so Mark Davenport will take the lead on this. Councilwoman Carpenter stated there are Smart Growth grants available that the committee will pursue. The committee has asked Fred Keil, Architect to design a new entrance to Bulwagga Bay Campsite; making sure it matches proposal number #2. The Supervisor asked if the Architect fees would be paid through the grant and Councilwoman Carpenter said yes. May 7, 2019 at 9:30am at the Town Hall is the next Waterfront Committee meeting.

Councilman Brassard stated that Candace and Jess are hitting rental properties today regarding the sewer income surveys. We have only had about 35% back and we need at least 50%. \$45,000.00 is the median income so far. 35% qualifies us for one grant.

Councilman Brassard spoke to Cheyenne at the Transfer Station and he said that C & D is picking up. Reminder C & D is only accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Councilman Salerno reported that the campsite workers will start Monday, April 15, 2019. Opening date is Wednesday, May 1, 2019. He reported that last year at this time we had 121 campsite deposits and this year we have 149 between the two (2) campsites. We are still waiting on roughly 15-18 people to pay. Councilman Salerno stated that he and Councilman Brassard are still looking into some cabins along with Rich Lapier. They are trying to figure out how they should be built. The Supervisor stated that they need to make sure of the building codes. Councilwoman Carpenter stated that Fred Keil will need to be part of this process, he will be able to help with placement. The Supervisor stated that we need to be careful because he has already heard from three (3) cabin owners in town and they are not happy that the town is getting in to the cabin business. Councilman Salerno feels we could have 50 more cabins in town and it wouldn't hurt them, he feels they would just be an asset to the town. The Supervisor spoke to the owner of Yogi Bear in North Hudson and he said the one thing the town has going for it; is we don't pay taxes on the campgrounds. Councilman Salerno stated there are pros and cons to both. Councilwoman Carpenter stated there are all kinds of different cabins. Councilman Salerno stated he would like to at least get pricing. Jamie Wilson stated that a lot of people would like to go camping but they don't have a camper, he thinks the cabins are a good idea. Councilman Brassard stated that he has heard from campers and they are all for it, it would give their friends and family somewhere to stay when they come to visit. Sharon O'Connor stated that is why they are going to other campgrounds.

Councilman Salerno asked the Supervisor about the Hydro Project. The Supervisor stated he received a letter last week from Jim Besha regarding financing. New York State wants to buy in to the power now, along with Vermont and Canada. Councilman Salerno asked if there was a problem with NYS and the Supervisor stated not necessarily. Councilman Salerno asked if all permits were done and the Supervisor said yes.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor received a copy of a letter that Fire District #3 sent to Will Deyo thanking him for the piece of property at 4358 Main Street. The property's value is at \$160,000.00. The Fire District is hoping to get grant money to fix it up so they can use it as a fire station.

The Supervisor stated he has the monthly EMS response report for March 2019. The ambulance squad had 29 calls, Mineville/Witherbee Fire Department had 7 calls, Moriah Fire Department had 4 calls, Port Henry Fire Department had 10 calls and the Police Department had 45 calls. He stated again that the County is looking at a county wide ambulance service. He stated that this report is on line if you go to Essex County Emergency Services.

Eric Wilhelmson asked if there was a time frame for the Port Henry Fire Department to move into the old Nuway laundry building. The Supervisor stated hopefully ASAP. They have to secure grant money first. They need an engineer to look at the building. Once they are out the Supervisor would like to put the old Henry building on the market.

The Supervisor stated he had a complaint about 42 gallon bags/contractor bags at the Transfer Station and how much they were being charged. It should be two (2) stickers. One (1) \$3.00 sticker is for a 32 gallon trash bag. He stated we should have scales but we don't. He would like to make a new Town Board policy that any bag over 32 gallons requires two (2) stickers.

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

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

RESOLVED that any garbage bag brought to the Town of Moriah Transfer Station that is larger than a 32 gallon bag will require (2) stickers (\$6.00).

Discussion: Councilwoman Carpenter asked about larger bags; like one you would put in a can. The Supervisor stated we don't need to complicate this; anything over a 32 gallon bag will require two (2) stickers.

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

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

RESOLVED to accept bids for trailer mounted vac machine and award to J & J Equipment in the amount of \$88,208.00.

Discussion: This will be partially paid from unused Manhole 13 funds. Approximately \$84,000.00. Supervisor Scozzafava stated there was a mix up with a paid/unpaid bill of \$13,050.08; leaving the balance we can use of \$75,157.92. Two (2) bids were received; J & J Equipment: \$88,208.00 and Applied Industrial Technologies: \$153,345.00.

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

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

RESOLVED A RESOLUTION AWARDDING THE BID FOR THE PORT HENRY WATER AND SEWER UPGRADES PROJECT ENGINEERING CONTRACT TO MJ ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING, PC, ("MJ") AS PER THEIR QUOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,700.00 WITH THE

FUNDS THEREOF TO COME FROM THE CDBG GRANT #758PW143-18 AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE TOWN BOARD TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MJ FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah has reviewed all proposals submitted for the Port Henry Water & Sewer Upgrades project along 1st, Oak and Ridge Lanes Request for Proposals with the assistance from Essex County Community Resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after review and discussion of the proposals submitted to the Town Board at a Regular Board Meeting on this date;

WHEREAS, the decision was made to select an engineering firm, that most fist the needs associated with this project and an acceptance price has been agreed upon;

THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Moriah will award **MJ** the engineering contract for said project.

(Please see attached scoring sheet)

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that six (6) firms bid; they were scored from high to low. Councilman Brassard asked where MJ Engineering were from. The Supervisor stated he wasn't sure.

- 88. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to sign contract with Troy & Banks for an audit of National Grid Billing at no cost to Town. If found that National Grid overpriced Town; Troy & Banks would receive 40% of refund.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that the Town did this 8-10 years ago and we got back around \$6,000.00. Eric Wilhelmson asked what the time period was and the Supervisor said 5 years.

- 89. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept proposal from Fred Keil, Architect; to prepare a report for a CDBG application for preliminary design and approval from SHPO for construction of access ramp/steps and restroom for disabled at Town of Moriah Town Hall.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that we will need to take \$3,500.00 out of the general fund to pay for submitting the grant paperwork.

- 90. ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to contract with William H. Cook to manage Bulwagga Bay Campsite for the 2019 season in the amount of \$16,000.00.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that Wayne & Ruth Plunkett received \$19,000.00. Mr. Cook was in agreement with this amount; it is his first year. The Supervisor feels it is fair.

- 91. ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED a Resolution to conduct Town Wide Re-evaluation.

Whereas, the Town of Moriah has not had a town wide re-evaluation of properties in the town in the past several years; and

Whereas, by Resolution, the Town of Moriah authorized the Assessors to conduct a complete town wide re-evaluation to take effect with the tentative roll of May 1, 2023; and

Be It Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah authorizes the Assessor to continue to conduct such ongoing complete town wide re-evaluation of the town; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Town Board will support and assist the Assessor's Office for completion of such project; and

Be It Further Resolved that said evaluation will take effect with the tentative roll of May 1, 2023, which shall supersede any previous resolution effective date.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that this resolution is in support of a re-evaluation in the Town of Moriah. The Town is missing out on revenue from the state because we have not done one. Eric Wilhelmson asked if the re-evaluation would be done in 2023 and the Supervisor said yes, that is when the new assessments would take effect. Councilman Brassard stated so next week, if the Assessor's re-evaluate a person's assessment, it would not change then and the Supervisor said no, not until the re-evaluation is complete. Ann Tesar asked if this was for the outside of a home only and the Supervisor stated it goes by square footage. The Supervisor reported that we now had a full Board of Assessment and Review.

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

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

RESOLVED to approve payment of warrant.

Floor open to the public:

N/A

The Supervisor assured Cecelia Wojciukiewicz that there is early voting in Lewis if she needs it and also absentee ballots are available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

March 19, 2019

Water #1	\$36.00	2019/426
Water #2	\$26.00	
Water #3	\$36.00	
Water #4	\$2.00	

March 26, 2019

General	\$2,956.76	2019/427-443
Highway	\$933.41	
Water #1	\$90.49	
Water #2	\$62.62	
Water #3	\$147.22	
Water #4	\$8.90	
Sewer #1	\$128.81	
Sewer #2	\$92.89	

April 8, 2019

Highway	\$29,749.00	2019/449
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April 11, 2019

General	\$77,537.03	2019/450-570
Highway	\$6,751.11	
Water #1	\$3,823.29	
Water #2	\$3,069.36	
Water #3	\$2,431.12	
Water #4	\$180.94	
Sewer #1	\$4,251.34	
Sewer #2	\$4,091.44	

Capital Projects:

Trunk Sewer Pipe Lining (Manhole 13)	AES Northeast	\$3,873.70	#12
CDBG Water & Sewer Main Replacement (First Street, Oak Lane & Ridge Lane)	Press Republican	\$94.92	#3

Town Clerk