

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor  
Paul Salerno Councilman  
Tom Anderson Councilman  
Nathan Gilbo Councilman

Excused: Matt Brassard Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Rich Lapier, Tom Cowin, Robert Stevenson, Eric Wilhelmson, Joanne Iuliano, Wally Ross, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

**Bid Opening: Senior Van**

No bids were received. The Supervisor stated we can go to bid again with Board approval. The Board was in agreement with this.

**Floor Open to the Public:**

N/A

**Department Head/Town Board Reports:**

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 5 permits in March 2022. Completed 24 hours of training for 2022.

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds: They have been raking getting ready to start mowing. Discussed projects with the Supervisor; weather permitting. Will begin work on the cemeteries and start getting ready to hang the banners.

Councilman Gilbo read Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent's report: They have been sweeping. All break downs have been repaired. They are looking in to getting the bucket from the County to start hanging banners; it is a bigger truck so it is going to take longer. Mr. Wilson would like to look at purchasing a small bucket truck later on. He is looking at sidewalks to see which ones are the worst; Main Street from Glens Falls National Bank to Harland Funeral Home is bad and parts of Center Road in Moriah are bad. He spoke to James Sprague at the Transfer Station about summer hours on Fridays; last year when we opened later to stay open later people complained about that, Mr. Wilson thinks the hours should stay the same. The Supervisor stated we usually stay open later on Friday nights but we had more complaints because we weren't open at 8:30am. The Supervisor feels the hours should remain the same.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to keep the hours at the Transfer Station the same; Tuesday – Saturday; 8:30am – 4:30pm.

Discussion: The Supervisor reminded everyone we are down one part-time employee right now. Councilman Anderson asked so there will be no summer hours this year and the Supervisor said that was correct.

Councilman Gilbo has been reaching out to agencies regarding the cell tower lease and has not had any good offers to date. He is working on getting the electric charging account up and running so he can make sure the rates are appropriate. The Supervisor asked Councilman Gilbo how much longer did we have on the cell tower lease and Councilman Gilbo stated there is quite a bit of time left on it, he was not sure of the exact length.

Councilman Anderson stated the summer program will be at BOCES this summer.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to hire Ronnie Cunningham as Assistant Director and Celia Briggs as Activities Coordinator for the 2022 Summer Youth Program.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated Ticonderoga cancelled their summer program because they couldn't get any workers. Councilman Anderson stated he is hoping for 10 good candidates. The Supervisor asked Councilman Anderson if Steve Pelkey was working on the permit application and Councilman Anderson stated yes. He also stated this is the first summer program in 3 years.

Councilman Salerno stated he and Rich Lapier looked at the beach house at Champ RV Park. They were hoping to use some stimulus money to turn it in to an air bnb; they thought it would be fairly easy to renovate but after looking at it; with having an ingress and egress and the price of lumber right now; even if we did the work ourselves it is just not cost effective. The Supervisor stated the pavilion at Bulwagga Bay Campsite gets a lot of use, maybe we could rent the beach house out for parties, reunions, etc. Councilman Gilbo stated this is a good idea. The Board was in agreement with this.

The Supervisor asked the Board if they wanted to open both beaches this year; getting lifeguards may be an issue. He suggested putting in applications for both and if we don't get the lifeguards we will only open one. The Board was in agreement with this.

Councilman Salerno asked if we could use some stimulus money to turn the property in to a recreation park where the old Port Henry High School was and the Supervisor stated he believes the property is being sold. Councilman Anderson stated a rec park is a great idea. The Supervisor stated Essex County has not foreclosed on it yet; Rich Lapier stated two people are interested in buying it. Councilman Salerno stated we should keep an eye on it in case the sale falls through. The Supervisor stated if it gets foreclosed on the Town would have first offer. Councilman Salerno stated he thought there was an issue with asbestos buried there and the Supervisor stated it is on the market, we are not getting in to all that.

Councilman Anderson stated the ski program was a success; will do it again next year. He thanked Moriah Central School for all their help with the vans/gas; shared services.

### **Supervisor's Report:**

May 2<sup>nd</sup> is Raymond Wright Day; Wright was awarded the Medal of Honor for the battle on that day in 1967. The Town will put this on the Town Facebook page and we will put flags out.

The Supervisor stated there has been petitions regarding the NYS Police sub-station. This building will be next to the court house; it will be a modular building and will cost roughly \$350,000. It is subject to referendum; even if we get a grant it is still subject to referendum. If the Board is in agreement with pursuing it we will need SEQR, engineered plans, cost and a contract in place then we would need to adopt a resolution to move forward, then put it to referendum. Councilman Anderson stated he agrees with the logic. The Supervisor stated the current petitions are public opinion; they have no legal aspects. The Supervisor has no issue with it going on the ballot in November. The Town will have to front some money; then we will need floor plans, SEQR, Resolution, ballot in November. He stated there is nothing sneaky going on, watch the meeting on Facebook. He is hoping by November we will have some grant money. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked who the petitions were presented to and Councilman Salerno stated

he has seen them at different stores. The Supervisor stated they have no legal baring; they are helpful to the Town Board because they are getting input from the people. The Supervisor asked if the Town Board was in agreement with moving forward-subject to permissive referendum, he stated by simple vote it can go on the ballot. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz stated she knows the Supervisor is trying to appease the whole community. The Supervisor stated he knows that some people are for it and some are not. The Supervisor stated it would be for the next 30 years, he feels it is absolutely needed, this is a gift. Councilman Salerno stated the NYS Police could pull out and then the Town would have to decide if we are going to have a police force or not, Ticonderoga pays \$1.5 million for a police force and the Supervisor stated Ticonderoga is paying \$1 million a year to run their police department; we are paying \$80,000 right now. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked how long the NYS Police are willing to wait. The Supervisor stated we should have another informational meeting; need to make sure we are going to have more coverage then we do now; the NYS Police and local police are very busy here in Town. Councilman Salerno stated when there is a drug issue or a domestic right now it takes police 30-45 minutes to get here from Lewis, if the sub-station was here it would be 5 minutes. Eric Wilhelmson asked where the sub-station would be located and the Supervisor stated where the skating rink is next to the court house. Mr. Wilhelmson asked if it could be attached to the proposed fire station in Port Henry and the Supervisor said no, they want it to be a stand alone station, he also stated the fire station IS referendum. The Supervisor would like to see this in place before he retires. Councilman Gilbo stated he supports the NYS Police sub-station, he wants them here, but he wants it clear that we will be getting the same coverage as we have now whether the station is here or not. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz stated time is the problem now, if they were here, time would be cut down.

The Supervisor stated that National Grid is out trimming trees.

The Supervisor reported that Whistlepig is expanding; they pay \$62,000 in property tax right now; employ roughly 30 people; looking to employ more. They have not asked the Town for anything. Pre Tech is also expanding. Councilman Anderson asked what they were doing to expand and the Supervisor stated they are putting up another building. Rich Lapiere stated they have 8 buildings up right now and want to put up 8 more. Councilman Anderson asked if they have room for all of them and the Supervisor stated they bought more land. Robert Stevenson asked if they were aware of the water line and the Supervisor said yes, they are.

The Supervisor is still trying to find a dealer that can sell the 2 8mm glocks that the Town has.

We still have not heard back from the State on reducing the speed in Grover Hills.

Jamie Wilson will get some solid numbers for fixing sidewalks, use stimulus money, they are pretty bad everywhere. The Supervisor asked if the Board was in agreement with using stimulus money for sidewalks, they were. The Supervisor and Councilman Gilbo will meet with Mr. Wilson regarding sidewalks.

The Supervisor stated Becky Gilbo and LeeAnn Sprague had a meeting at the County on how to account for the stimulus money; pretty much use it for anything except to reduce debt and property tax. Councilman Gilbo said if you have an idea on how to use the stimulus money stop at the Town Hall. Eric Wilhelmson would like to see his road paved. Councilman Anderson asked which one; Breed Hill Road. Councilman Gilbo asked how much it would cost and the Supervisor stated probably \$450,000, Councilman Gilbo stated we aren't even close to that.

The Supervisor stated we should look at getting a bucket truck; we have over 300 banners to put up. Tom Cowin stated it is more like 340. The Supervisor stated we could use it for tree trimming also. He stated we could look at a shared services agreement with Crown Point and Westport for one. The Board was in agreement with the Supervisor pursuing this. Eric Wilhelmson asked if National Grid or Verizon had an old one and the Supervisor stated they usually go to auction. The Supervisor stated they need to be inspected every year and there are OSHA regulations for them.

#### **Resolutions:**

**77. ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** to hold the 2022 Summer Program at BOCES and authorize the Supervisor to sign agreements; program to run 7/11/22-8/5/22.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to establish an “Adopt a Highway” program in the Town of Moriah.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this resolution is needed. We no longer have the inmates from Moriah Shock to help with road side clean up and we just don't have the man power. Residents can pick up bags at the Town Hall, call and let us know where the bags are and the Town can pick them up.

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

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

**RESOLVED** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TANDEM TRUCK WITH SNOW PLOW AND SANDER, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF MORIAH, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$210,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$160,000 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of **not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength** of the Town Board of the Town of Moriah, Essex County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The purchase of tandem truck with snow plow, in and for the Town of Moriah, Essex County, New York, including sander and incidental equipment and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$210,000.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the plan for the financing of the aforesaid maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of \$160,000 serial bonds of said Town, hereby authorized to be issued therefor, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law and by the expenditure of \$50,000 from other monies of said Town, hereby authorized to be expended therefor.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision 28 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined

that the maximum maturity of the serial bonds herein authorized **will not exceed five years.**

Section 4. The faith and credit of said Town of Moriah, Essex County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said Town, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the serial bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Supervisor, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Supervisor, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. All other matters except as provided herein relating to the serial bonds herein authorized including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed herein and the manner of execution of the same, including the consolidation with other issues, and also the ability to issue serial bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, shall be determined by the Supervisor, the chief fiscal officer of such Town. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Supervisor shall determine consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 7. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Town is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 8. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 9. This resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in summary form in the official newspaper of said Town for such purpose, together with a notice of the Town Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorization to end lease agreement with HHHN regarding the Health Center as Town no longer owns facility.

- 81. ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** authorization to purchase a 22KW standby generator for Town Office as per quote from Bessboro Builders; \$6,106.97 (COVID money from County to be used for payment).

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we shopped around and this was a good deal. Eric Wilhelmson asked if this price included installation and the Supervisor stated no, he volunteered to install it.

- 82.** N/A; no bids were received for the Senior Van.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to award Cedarwood Engineering the RFP for the Study & Report on the Town of Moriah Reject Reservoir with an included alternate for Port Henry Drinking Water Plant Reservoir in the amount of \$16,300.00 to be paid for with stimulus money.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated currently the reject water runs in to Mill Brook; need to reroute to dump in to waste water.

84. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

85. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** approval to do adjustments in water and sewer as needed.

86. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** approval of payment of end of month and monthly warrants.

Discussion: The Supervisor spoke to Kevin at the State and he said we can do these resolutions at the Organizational meeting and then we won't have to do them every month.

**Floor open to the public:**

Wally Ross asked if the sidewalk on Convent Hill was going to get fixed this year and the Supervisor stated he wasn't sure. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Eric Wilhelmson asked what was happening with Moriah Shock. The Supervisor stated he was in the dark also, he doesn't know. He said he found out that when Moriah Shock was built the NYS Thruway paid for it. The Supervisor stated that people from the private sector have been calling on the building. He stated the NYS Department of Corrections is in the dark also. The Supervisor stated there is a lot of interest in the building. He stated they did a soft closure-not going dark-that is a good sign. Councilman Salerno stated if we get a new Governor, maybe they will do away with bail reform and we might need Moriah Shock again. The Supervisor stated there was a riot at Lakeview, it is sad for the individuals who Moriah Shock may have helped. The Supervisor stated that NYS DEC is scrambling also to find workers because they used inmates to help open state campgrounds. Councilman Salerno stated he heard there were about 3,700 inmates that were eligible for Shock and were never offered it and the Supervisor stated it was more like 500. Robert Stevenson asked if the land around Moriah Shock was posted and the Supervisor stated there is still security there. Mr. Stevenson asked if you could access fishing there and the Supervisor stated no, you can't.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

March 24, 2022

General \$5,799.69  
Highway \$3,012.17  
Water #1 \$1,764.43  
Water #2 \$1,282.03  
Water #3 \$1,810.18  
Water #4 \$160.79  
Sewer #1 \$138.86  
Sewer #2 \$99.38

2022/377-407

April 14, 2022

General \$26,450.93  
Highway \$44,672.75  
Water #1 \$5,820.34

2022/410-570

Water #2	\$4,378.42
Water #3	\$5,689.70
Water #4	\$329.90
Sewer #1	\$19,117.47
Sewer #2	\$9,842.46

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Town Clerk