

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023 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

Absent: Matt Brassard Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Robert Stevenson, Sharon O'Connor, Jamie Wilson, Rich Lapier, Tom Cowin, Patricia Montgomery and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

**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.

**Floor Open to the Public:**

Sharon O'Connor stated she gave a list to Councilman Brassard of things needed at the Miner's Park in Witherbee. Councilman Salerno stated Powerhouse Park is on the agenda tonight; he would like to use recovery money to dress it up. The Supervisor stated there is a clam bucket from #7 Mill that we can put at the park and also the scraper that is at the Iron Center. Ms. O'Connor stated she would like to get a swing set for the park. The Supervisor stated we will have an informational meeting looking for ideas on how to spend the Covid recovery money. The new ball field is one, capital projects on some Town owned buildings. Ms. O'Connor stated she would like a gazebo also; people are sitting on the rocks right now that walk on the Tracy Road. The Supervisor stated we have \$80,000 in bed tax money that we can use also. Ms. O'Connor would like to do fliers for the information booth also.

Patricia Montgomery stated she has the bands lined up for the M3 Music Fest. Councilman Salerno asked if it could start an hour earlier because the last hour of it last year was after dark. Ms. Montgomery said yes, she met with the events committee and it will be 4:30pm – 7:30pm. There will be an hour of open-mic before. There are 3 bands, 1 is local and of course the Reggae band. The date is 9/2/23, vendors are returning. The committee feels Port Henry Beach is a better spot; Councilman Salerno asked why, is it because of the fireworks that follow and Ms. Montgomery said yes. The Supervisor stated power was an issue last year; he stated he and Rich Lapier could make a temporary box. Ms. Montgomery asked if it would be covered and the Supervisor stated he could not guarantee that. Sharon O'Connor stated they could use tents if they had to; they are trying to do an end of year bash. Councilman Salerno asked why they didn't want to use the pavilion at Bulwagga Bay, it has power; the Supervisor stated he feels Bulwagga Bay is a better location; Ms. Montgomery stated she has been working with the Chamber and they want it at Champ RV Park.

**Department Head/Town Board Reports:**

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent stated they have been sweeping; will help the County with some County roads. Called back in March to rent a broom but it was either rented out or broken so they couldn't get it; County will supply the broom. The Supervisor clarified the Highway Department with help the County with County roads within the Town of Moriah. Mr. Wilson stated he would like to purchase an equipment trailer and will bring a resolution up at the end of the meeting. Councilman Gilbo asked if this would be paid for with leftover Chips money from last year and Mr. Wilson said yes. Mr. Wilson stated the trailer will be \$15,000 - \$20,000. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. Wilson how much we got in Chips money this year and Mr. Wilson said right around \$167,000. Mr. Wilson stated people have already been calling asking

when they are going to do their roads. The Supervisor asked when they were going to do sidewalks and Mr. Wilson stated he has one on his list already. The Supervisor stated he spoke to a contractor and they said to do the sidewalk on Center Road from the Corner's to the Center it would cost \$250,000; the Supervisor feels we should do the sidewalks ourselves; make a plan and do it. Mr. Wilson stated the Highway garage does not have enough forms and the Supervisor stated we could borrow some. Patricia Montgomery stated certain sections of Town sidewalks have to be ADA compliant.

Rich Lapier-Building Codes reported he did 3 building permits in the month of March and completed his annual training.

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds reported they are getting areas cleaned up to start mowing. Will start banners beginning of May. The Supervisor asked if the Building & Grounds crew could pick up Decker's Flats and Mr. Cowin stated they are already on it. The Supervisor stated that anybody who wants to help clean up the road sides can contact the Town Hall for bags.

Councilman Gilbo stated he has the quotes for the security cameras, he will present a resolution at the end of the meeting. Town Hall-\$10,000, High School-\$8,000, Linney Field-\$7,400 and downtown Port Henry-\$6,300; he would suggest purchasing 1 and see how it goes.

Councilman Anderson reported the ski program was a success; he would like to thank Julie Anderson and all the volunteers for everything they did.

**75. 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 Steve Pelkey-Director, Ronnie Cunningham-Assistant Director and Cecelia Briggs-Arts Director for the 2023 Summer Youth Program.

Councilman Anderson stated he is looking for teenagers who want to be counselors and he said the program will be back at Moriah Central School this year.

Councilman Salerno reported that as soon as blacktop is available the Water & Sewer Department will be repairing roads that have been dug up due to water/sewer breaks. Councilman Salerno reminded Tom Cowin that the abandoned cemeteries need to be cleaned up for Memorial Day. Councilman Salerno is adamant about doing something with the beach house at Port Henry Beach. He would like to use some of the Covid recovery money on it. The Supervisor stated we have tried to get interest in it; we have basically given it away; can't do it as an Air B & B, not at a campground. Councilman Salerno feels if we update the water and sewer and make it a 2 unit dwelling we would be able to rent it. Councilman Anderson asked Councilman Salerno if he had a price in mind and Councilman Salerno wasn't sure. The Supervisor stated we put the bid out several times for the Court House roof, first one was \$110,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> one was \$80,000 and the last one was \$60,000, nothing is cheap. Councilman Salerno stated we could do the work ourselves. The Supervisor stated unfortunately our people don't have the skills. Councilman Gilbo suggested going out to bid. Councilman Salerno would like to make a decision on the beach house. The Supervisor stated it is available for parties, etc., he would like to lease it to a local person.

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

The Supervisor stated he has received letters from all 3 fire departments in support of the active fireman's tax break. With the lists that were provided by all departments the Supervisor believes it would be less than \$200,000; the Board has until March 1, 2024 to make a decision. Councilman Anderson asked if once a fireman is certified do they have to be certified every year and Bill Trybendis stated once they are certified then it is done in house.

The 2010 Census is complete and the Town of Moriah is the 5<sup>th</sup> most populated Town in the Adirondack Park.

The EPA is conducting a lead survey; it is a mandate. Survey went out in last water & sewer billing.

NYS DEC no longer charges for electronics, NYS manufacturers have to pick up the cost. Councilman Anderson asked if there was a designated spot for electronics at the Transfer Station and the Supervisor said yes, there is a trailer.

The NYS paid Covid leave policy has changed once again; in March the County Attorney notified the Town that the Federal Government had dropped the Covid policy; for paid time off you need to submit a PCR test (from doctor's office).

There will be a rabies clinic Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the Moriah Fire Department from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

The Supervisor received guidance on what the Occupancy Tax Revenues can be spent on. He would like to use some of it to redo the Champ sign. The Town is receiving @ \$80,000.

The Water & Sewer Department will be flushing hydrants beginning April 17, 2023. If your water is cloudy/dirty let a faucet run or your outdoor hose.

Took camper Ashley Thistle to court for \$358.00 owed from last year at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. Supervisor would have to make another trip to Fort Edward and pay more money to file the papers, Supervisor does not feel it is worth it. Councilman Salerno said he would handle it. The Supervisor stated the Campground Manager should never have let it get that bad.

**Resolutions:**

76. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
- |          |        |                                      |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                    |
|          | Absent | Brassard                             |

**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor to borrow \$400,000 Bond Anticipation Note from GFNB for Sewer District #1 Improvements, pursuant to resolution #127 dated August 11 2022; this note shall be “callable” and paid off when town receives EFC money.

Discussion: \$2.5 million in grant dollars.

77. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
- |          |        |                                      |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                    |
|          | Absent | Brassard                             |

**RESOLVED** to set date for public hearing to amend fee schedule for building code permits; May 11, 2023 at 5:45pm.

Discussion: The Supervisor met with building codes Rich Lapier; we have a new solar permit application; fees have not been amended since 2007; fees were set by local law.

78. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
- |          |        |                                      |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                    |
|          | Absent | Brassard                             |

**RESOLVED** to request bids for used golf cart for Bulwagga Bay Campsite; open bids at May 11, 2023 meeting.

Discussion: The Supervisor asked if a golf cart was the best thing to get, Jamie Wilson and Councilman Salerno both stated a side by side would be too expensive.

79. **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 declare surplus old tractor as junk and donate to the Crown Point Highway Department.

Discussion: Jamie Wilson stated the tractor is 52 years old; this will help Crown Point out to get theirs running.

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 purchase a live edge plow blade up to \$3,200 with \$2,000 reimbursed by Essex County.

Discussion: Jamie Wilson stated this is a live edge plow-one foot that moves-works good. The Supervisor stated 10 towns are taking advantage of this program. Mr. Wilson stated he is not exactly sure of the price yet; the Supervisor asked if \$3,500 would be good and the Board was in agreement with this. Mr. Wilson stated once you buy the system you only have to replace the blades.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** to spend up to \$3,500 on a live edge plow blade; \$2,000 reimbursed by Essex County.

81. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
- |          |        |                                      |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                    |
|          | Absent | Brassard                             |

**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor to sign contract with Auctions International for the sale of any surplus town equipment.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he, Jamie Wilson and Councilman Gilbo had a conference call with them and some of the equipment we have is worth some money. All towns are doing it this way. Mr. Wilson stated there is no cost to the Town. Did cost \$30 to take pictures of equipment. The Supervisor asked if local contractors could bid and Mr. Wilson said yes. \$10.00 fee to register on line.

82. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
- |          |        |                                      |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                    |
|          | Absent | Brassard                             |

**RESOLVED** authorization for Blues without Borders to use Witherbee Park for concert August 19, 2023 from 2:00pm – 8:00pm.

Discussion: To benefit stop domestic violence program.

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 set date for community meeting for ideas on what to spend the stimulus money on; Thursday, May 4, 2023; 6:00pm Court House.

Discussion: We have until December 2024 to use it.

84. **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 get estimate to replace or re-do Champ sign on main Street (occupancy tax money).

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 transfers in budget as needed.

86. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, 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.

87. **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.

88. **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 purchase down town security camera from Alltech Integrations Corporation in the amount of \$6,327.23.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo stated this includes hardware and support. The Supervisor asked Councilman Gilbo if this would be paid for from budget surplus or stimulus money and Councilman Gilbo stated budget surplus.

89. **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 hire William Allen as Seasonal Working Supervisor at the Town of Moriah Campsites; 40 hrs per week; \$18.61 per/hr.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we originally advertised for a Laborer; received 2 applications for the Working Supervisor.

90. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was  
Approved Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
Absent Brassard  
**RESOLVED** to go to bid for an equipment trailer for the Highway Garage; bids to be opened at May 11, 2023 Board Meeting.

**Floor open to the public:**

Sharon O'Connor asked what money was being talked about earlier in the meeting and the Supervisor stated that was bed tax money. The Supervisor read a list of what we have spent the stimulus money on so far. Sharon O'Connor would like a copy of that. The Supervisor stated the Town Hall needs work; we need sidewalks. Jamie Wilson stated the Highway Garage needs work. The Supervisor stated the court house and transfer station need work also.

The Supervisor stated the Board needs to sit down with the Port Henry Fire Department and see what their plan is for the building.

Councilman Salerno asked what was happening with Moriah Shock and the Supervisor stated we are waiting on NYS, he had a zoom meeting with them a week ago. They are keeping the lights on. NYS is working on a plan for it; has to be a state agency. The Supervisor stated he is working diligently on it. Possibly a training center for the National Guard.

Sharon O'Connor brought up the bomb threat at school, she asked if the Sheriff's Department and the State Police train together for bomb threats and active shooters. Councilman Anderson said a good one to ask would be Officer Rohrer.

Patricia Montgomery asked if we were going to have a town wide cleanup day and the Supervisor stated we can't have them like we used to because of the needles that are being found on the side of the road; we are trying to do it with our own forces/town employees. The Supervisor urged everyone to help clean up their own roads.

Robert Stevenson asked who owns the property around Linney Field and the Supervisor stated Moriah Central School. Mr. Stevenson asked who was going to be responsible when one of the kids gets hurt or killed on dirt bikes and 4 wheelers in there. The Supervisor stated parents are responsible to watch their own kids. He also stated that there have been patrols and arrests and they are right back out there. Mr. Stevenson stated the School and the Town should work together; maybe fence it off. The Supervisor told Mr. Stevenson he should contact the school; go to a school board meeting. He also stated maybe one of the security cameras we are getting would be good up there. Councilman Anderson stated he would talk to the Superintendent about the problem.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

March 27, 2023

General	\$11,773.31
Highway	\$4,089.01
Water #1	\$88.21
Water #2	\$61.28
Water #3	\$1,958.31
Water #4	\$8.98
Sewer #1	\$215.79
Sewer #2	\$6,392.52

2023/388-423

April 13, 2023

General	\$25,952.02
Highway	\$80,933.71
Water #1	\$5,649.16
Water #2	\$4,029.37
Water #3	\$3,647.14
Water #4	\$302.23
Sewer #1	\$6,026.43
Sewer #2	\$3,745.74

2023/424-565

**Capital Project:**

Sewer District #1 Improvements      MJ Engineering      \$23,040.00      #7

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Town Clerk