

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:45pm at the Port Henry Knights of Columbus, 4253 Main Street, Port Henry, NY.

Present:	Matthew Brassard	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Tom Anderson	Councilman
	Nathan Gilbo	Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Chris Gibbs, Ned Phinney, Shelly Winters, Jeanne Taylor, Thomas Cowin, Bruno Mazzotte, Ron Nesbitt Jr., Sandie Pattison, Sharon O'Connor, Ed Roberts, Chuck French, Katrinka Tromblee, Sharyn King, Jim Hughes, Sylvia and Joel Zelinsky, Peter Gilbo, Susan Gray, Mark Lashway, George Clark, Josalyne Chavez, Fran Wilhelmson, Paul and Nancy Tromblee, Tod Hicks, Carol and Joe Chiarella, Debbie Mandy, Joann Munson, Lani Sprague, Jason Sprague, Brent Ida, Jim Curran, Erin Pooler, Kelly Ashe, Dakotah Olcott, Mike Moran, Bailea Frenier, Nappy Marcotte, William Tansey and Rose French-Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 6:45.

ON MOTION by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was APPROVED

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

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

Floor Open to the Public:

Katrinka Tromblee asked if we had a junk ordinance; TT's Restaurant is bad. The Supervisor stated he will send a letter to them.

Paul Tromblee asked if we had any ordinances. He feels bad for the Highway Garage when they try to plow Grover Hills; garbage cans are left right on the edge of the road; the roads need to be open so they can be plowed; cars are an issue also. Mr. Tromblee asked what was being done about zombie houses and the Supervisor stated they are working on it; ordinance falls under NYS Property Code. The Supervisor stated a few were bought at the auction and are being fixed up. The Supervisor stated the problem is they get written up, go to Court and that is where it stops. Councilman Anderson stated it is an expensive process. Mr. Tromblee asked if there was money in the budget for Attorney fees; he stated we want people to come back here; some places are disgusting. The Supervisor stated he is dealing with 3 places right. Mr. Tromblee stated the parking in Grover Hills is an issue and the kids on their dirt bikes and 4 wheelers; can't the Town do anything? The Supervisor stated the Town Police do not pursue 4 wheelers or dirt bikes. Mr. Tromblee stated he feels we should take the money the ambulance squad wants and increase the police department. Councilman Salerno stated he does not disagree with that; it needs to be put on public referendum. He stated we tried last year to hire a couple part time police officers with no luck; he stated we don't control the Sheriff's Department.

Bruno Mazzotte stated he did not know the Town gave the ambulance squad any money. He stated he is not sure how they feel they are overworked; they respond to 1.6 calls a day. Councilman Salerno stated the Supervisor has not met with an architect on the new ambulance building. Mr. Mazzotte said yes, the Supervisor clarified that.

Patricia Montgomery stated we need a planning board. The Supervisor stated we used to have one but it dissolved due to lack of people; it is not a paid position and all volunteers are down.

Councilman Salerno stated we do have a junkyard ordinance. Katrinka Tromblee asked out of 277 violations how many are being prosecuted and Councilman Salerno stated none; he stated if the Town goes after one we have to go after them all. He stated the problem is absentee landlords. Brent Ida-Assessor stated put penalty on the tax roll. Tod Hicks stated it should be mandatory for a representative of the absentee landlord to live in the Town. The Supervisor stated that the Town had to take care of some loose metal on the burnt out house on Rice Street. Councilman Salerno stated with that burnt out house on Rice Street the Town cannot tear it down, we don't own it; we can't use taxpayer money to do it.

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds reported they have been cleaning up the cemeteries and getting ready to mow.

The Supervisor stated Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent, has been excused.

Councilman Salerno reported on the campsite for Billy Allen; they started work on April 8th; all workers have returned from last year; water is on. They got a new back pack leaf blower and instead of taking 2 days it now takes 2 hours. Getting new picnic tables. Have had a few plumbing issues. Need to purchase 2 new weed whackers.

94. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Supervisor Brassard, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to purchase 2 new weed whackers for the campsites.

Councilman Salerno reported on the Water & Sewer Department: They had 12 sewer plugs which they used the jetter for. They had 3 water line services. They will be flushing hydrants and that notice was put in The Sun.

Councilman Salerno stated that Building & Grounds has been busy mowing, they will put the flags up at the cemeteries.

Councilman Anderson reported they have been having a hard time finding a director for the summer program. He just found out from the Supervisor that we have a young lady that is interested in doing it. It will be challenging filling the roles of the counselors also but he thinks it can be done; should have list of names for the May meeting.

Supervisor’s Report:

The Release of Funds for the Wells/Septics in Cheever has been approved. The Cheever water supply is not adequate. Adirondack Roots received funding for 6 homes that were eligible. If there is any leftover money it can be used outside of Cheever.

The Supervisor stated 1,100 letters will be going out regarding the lead water service questionnaire. He stated it is crucial that we get these filled out and sent back. There is a QR Code on it which makes it easier, just use your phone to take a picture of it and it brings you right to the form and it goes straight to MJ Engineering. If you are unsure what you have please call the Water Department at 518-942-3340 for help.

Resolutions:

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Carl Perry to attend New York Rural Water Association Training at Turning Stone; May 20, 2024 – May 22, 2024; \$892.00 (\$522.00-3 nights plus \$370.00-registration).

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

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

RESOLVED to discuss funding for the Chamber: Farmer’s Market, Champ Day and Labor Day.

Discussion: Councilman Anderson asked if this was for the music and the Supervisor stated he has no problem funding the farmers market/music. He feels because it is a town contract the town should pay the bands directly; if the events are cancelled the bands don't get paid. Councilman Anderson asked how many bands there were and the Supervisor stated they have one every week. Councilman Gilbo stated it is a \$6,000 increase. Brent Ida asked if the Town has a grant writer and Councilman Gilbo said no. The Supervisor stated this comes out of bed tax money. Brent Ida stated we need grants to revitalize the Town! Councilman Anderson stated he was against doubling the amount of the bands. Councilman Gilbo asked if the Chamber gets any revenue from the farmer's market and Carol Chiarella said yes, vendors have to pay for a table and they get business donations also. She stated the Chamber has applied for a \$1,000 grant. Ms. Chiarella feels the bands increase attendance. Councilman Salerno supports the bands; he stated we give the M3 music festival \$5,000 for 4-5 hours. He would like a head count of how many people go to the famers market and Ms. Chiarella stated they are working on trying to do that; hopefully they will have student intern this summer to help collect data.

97. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to approve funding for Champ Day, Labor Day and Farmer's Market events using bed tax money.

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

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

RESOLVED authorization to get an appraisal of the property located at 47 College Street (site of the old Port Henry High School).

Discussion: The Supervisor stated Kevin Cavanaugh from Housing Visions who is interested in property by the old hospital in Mineville is interested in this property as well to put up a few units for housing.

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

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

RESOLVED A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MORIAH TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION CONSISTENT WITH THE PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR THE 2022 "RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE" MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS the Governor Kathy Hochul and the State of New York recently announced round 8 of the "Restore NY Communities Initiative", where, in partnership with the Empire State Development Corporation, the initiative seeks to provide assistance to municipalities to finance ongoing efforts to demolish, deconstruct, rehabilitate and/or reconstruct vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties to revitalize urban areas and attract individuals, families, industry and commercial enterprises to the municipality, and

WHEREAS the Town of Moriah is applying for one project with a maximum grant allowed in the amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00, and

WHEREAS the Town of Moriah deems the proposed "Witherbee Estate Renovation" project located on 10 Stone Street to be consistent with the existing comprehensive plan and town ordinances. The proposed financing is appropriate for the specific facility or projects; the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources; and where applicable, the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or

facilities in a manner that will attract, create and sustain the local economy and promote employment opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Moriah hereby authorizes the submission of the grant application consistent with the Request for Funding contained in the grant guidance for the “Restore NY Communities Initiative” municipal grant program. The project requires no less than 10 percent of the total project cost in matching contributions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Property Owner, Michael Mackin shall be solely responsible in providing any out of pocket, upfront, or matching requirements needed for completion of this project.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated Mr. Mackin is trying for a 2nd time to get the grant for the old K of C on Broad Street. Councilman Salerno stated there are stipulations and the Supervisor said yes, he can’t sell it, etc.

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

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

RESOLVED to set date for a public hearing on the Restore NY Grant for May 16, 2024 at 5:45 pm at the Town of Moriah Court House.

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

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

RESOLVED a resolution to Determine Proposed Action is a Type II Action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act

WHEREAS, the Town of Moriah proposed to implement a project to renovate the existing Police Station and Court House located at 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project activities include: interior door replacement; installation of insulation and drywall; painting; installation of drop ceiling and led lighting; electrical upgrades; heat pump installation; flooring; exterior roof replacement (portion); gutter installation; construction of new exterior stair entrance and door; installation of one new window; and replacement of one window (hereafter referred to as ‘Said Action’); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Moriah is required to comply with the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as the regulations pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 with respect to Said Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Moriah has reviewed the project in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617 to determine whether Said Action is subject to review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, Said Action is a Type II Action under 6 NYCRR § 617.5 (c)(2) “replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure of facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building, energy, or fire codes unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah has determined that Said Action constitutes a Type II Action under 6 NYCRR § 617.5 (c)(2) and that no further review under SEQRA is required.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is the \$122,000 grant to renovate the police station; the Supervisor met with some contractors and work will start soon.

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

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

RESOLVED to hire Vicki Sargent as Clerk in the Town Clerk’s Office effective May 6, 2024.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated Becky Gilbo would like to retire and LeeAnn Sprague will move in to her position; Ms. Sargent will replace LeeAnn Sprague.

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

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in the budget as needed.

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED approval to pay end of month and monthly warrants.

106. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept proposal from AEDA in the amount of \$7,500 for the renovations to 54 Dock Lane, Port Henry, NY (beach house at Champ RV Park). Payable out of stimulus money.

107. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to request RFP’s for a firm to assist with making a master use plan for the water front.

108. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to request RFPS’s for a design firm to provide concept drawings as well as full design of an indoor and outdoor event space at Champ RV Park.

109. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to advertise for a Part Time Grant Writer to assist the Town of Moriah with acquiring any revitalization grant monies.

110. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept offer from the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board to use leftover monies from a grant through USDA Main Street Reinvestment Plan to update Main Street in Port Henry.

Floor Open to the Public:

Jim Curran asked if the Town planned on putting a BBQ pit at the new field on College Street. The Supervisor stated the southwest corner would be the best location. Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent has some drainage work to do first.

Bruno Mazzotte stated vendors pay \$400 for a table at the farmer’s market in Keene, NY. Carol Chiarella stated the vendors pay \$120.00 for 12 weeks.

Katrinka Tromblee asked if some Stimulus money could be used in Witherbee for something for children to play on.

Sharon O’Connor would like some swings at Miner’s Park in Witherbee; we could use Stimulus money to pay for them.

Paul Tromblee asked if we had a police commission and Councilman Salerno said yes, he is on it. Paul Tromblee would like to see more cops and Councilman Salerno stated he would have an answer at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

March 28, 2024

2024/423-437

General	\$1,804.38
Highway	\$523.29
Water District #1	\$235.07
Water District #2	\$168.79
Water District #4	\$22.09
Sewer District #1	\$3,465.17
Sewer District #2	\$19.76

April 18, 2024

2024/438-578

General	\$45,707.15
Highway	\$9,348.61
Water District #1	\$8,995.62
Water District #2	\$6,512.79
Water District #3	\$4,360.35
Water District #4	\$501.09
Sewer District #1	\$4,515.26
Sewer District #2	\$2,068.38

Capital Project-Sewer District #1 Improvements

MJ Engineering	\$5,280.00	#2
MJ Engineering	\$1,050.00	#3

Capital Project-CDBG Wells/Septic’s-Cheever

Press Republican	\$92.63	#1
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Town Clerk