

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, August 17, 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
	Matt Brassard	Councilman
	Nathan Gilbo	Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Sharon O'Connor, Patricia Montgomery, Jamie Wilson, Diana Stevenson, Assemblyman Matt Simpson 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 Brassard, the following resolution was

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

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

The Supervisor stated we have been busy with the flash flooding from yesterday. He thanked all Town employees and contractors that reached out offering assistance. We had a water break also; all roads are now passable.

The Supervisor introduced Assemblyman Matt Simpson; former Supervisor from Horicon. The Supervisor thanked Mr. Simpson for being here and for everything he does for the north country. Mr. Simpson stated he was glad to be back in the North Country; he wishes it was under better circumstances. He has been working hard between the Town and State. He has been a Supervisor before; he has lived through these types of events. He felt responsible to be here during this time. He thanked the Supervisor for lunch. He stated he and his wife were here for the Holiday Train and were staying at the Red Brick, but it was cut short due to the birth of their grandchild. The Supervisor stated he appreciates all that Mr. Simpson does; he knows it is a battle in Albany. Mr. Simpson stated it is a privilege and honor; he has a lot of memories and history here in the North Country. The Supervisor stated Mr. Simpson has roots in Moriah and he thanked Mr. Simpson again. Mr. Simpson stated he is here if we need anything. The Supervisor jokingly told Mr. Simpson not to run for Supervisor again. Mr. Simpson thanked the Supervisor; stated he is making a difference; appreciates all he does. The Board thanked Mr. Simpson.

The Supervisor stated there is a Partial Boil Water Order on for Water District #4. The main broke on Tarbell Hill. NYS Department of Health and Chip Perry issued the boil water order; we will lift it when we are allowed to do so by the Department of Health.

The Supervisor declared a State of Emergency; it is limited; travel has not been restricted. The Highway Garage, Water & Sewer Department and all employees got the roads opened. The State of Emergency is for federal funds. The Supervisor thanked Matt Brassard also; this is a learning curve; the Supervisor stated after 34 years he is still learning.

The Supervisor stated we are expecting more rain tomorrow. The culvert on Viking Lane is impounded with water; worried it is going to let loose. It is slowly draining. Jamie Wilson, Homeland Security, Essex County DOT were all there; will monitor the situation; they are all hopeful it won't let go.

Floor Open to the Public:

Patricia Montgomery stated they have the Reggae Band, High Energy Dance Band and Bark Eater for the M3 Music Fest. Still looking for more food vendors. There will be an open mic hour. The Supervisor stated it is September 2, 2023; Ms. Montgomery stated yes, from 3:30pm to 7:30pm. Ms. Montgomery asked if transportation could be provided to the fireworks and the

Supervisor said no, it would have to be through the County and you would run in to union and over time issues. Councilman Brassard stated the music fest should be wrapped up by 8 and that should leave people plenty of time to get to the fireworks. Ms. Montgomery asked if the Supervisor could be there and say a few words; the Supervisor stated he will be there and Councilman Brassard stated he will be there also and he will say a few words. Ms. Montgomery stated the Chamber has been helping them with publicity. She asked the Supervisor where the stimulus money was and the Supervisor stated the money has to be committed by the end of the year; they put some of the money in to the College Street Field, thought we would be able to use some of it to clear the brush on the south side entrance in to Port Henry but that is private property. Councilman Brassard stated we need some concrete ideas. Ms. Montgomery asked if some of it was going to be used for the Court House roof and the Supervisor said no, that was a budgeted item. Councilman Salerno stated when we had the informational meeting the idea that was brought up the most was "Lake Front". The Supervisor stated the Town needs a good website also, that would be a good investment. Councilman Brassard stated maybe a pavilion at Champ RV Park. Councilman Salerno stated lake front, Bulwagga Bay Campsite and Champ RV Park are all good ideas. He feels we will have a substantial fund balance from the campsites this year. The Supervisor stated the Board agreed the money had to be spent on something that would last for years and would benefit the community. Councilman Salerno stated we have 5 hamlets; value each hamlet. The Supervisor stated the Board has not burned through all the money, which is a good thing.

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Jamie Wilson stated they had to shut the pump down at the culvert at the School; it is not the Town's and he didn't want to burn it up; we are getting a 6-inch pump from Plattsburgh at 6:00am tomorrow morning. Doing everything they can; trying to slow the traffic down going in to the school. Whitney Street is open now; all Town roads are open; County roads are all open. The Supervisor stated just because they are open you still need to drive carefully. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. Wilson about the repairs on Tarbell Hill and Broad Street. Mr. Wilson stated they will push for funding; the projects they had lined up won't get done now. The Supervisor stated Mr. Wilson needs to reach out to a construction company under emergency contract for the storm drains on Broad Street. Mr. Wilson stated any repair right now will be temporary; wait to see if we get any federal money. Councilman Salerno asked if on Broad Street and Tarbell Hill was it just the shoulders or was it under the road as well; Mr. Wilson stated there are sections that will need to be cut out. The Supervisor stated that Plank Road and Broad Street see 4,000 cars per day. He thanked Mr. Wilson and his crew and also the Water & Sewer Department; they were out until 2:00am. Mr. Wilson asked the Board if they would consider paying for CDL's for new hires; the Supervisor stated that is negotiable under the Teamsters. Mr. Wilson stated we need to put something in place. The Supervisor stated we will hope for the best for tomorrow; doing all we can.

Councilman Gilbo stated the security cameras are up and running. In July we went out to bid for RFP's for an Economic Development Plan; they are due in September. The Supervisor stated by law the Town has to let people know about the cameras; there are 4 and they are in public places and we are looking at putting more up.

Councilman Anderson stated the Summer Program is over; it was a success; had 70 campers daily; he thanked all adults that helped out and thanked all the Counselors. The Supervisor asked if they will run the ski program again and Councilman Anderson stated Julie Anderson runs that program.

Councilman Brassard thanked Jamie Wilson and crew for all their work on the College Street field and also Joe Kazlo and Ronnie Sargent for their help on the baseball field. Basketball court is open.

149. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to take an ad out for Labor Day and the Music Fest in The Sun not to exceed \$300.00.

The Supervisor stated he received a call from Moriah Youth Soccer asking to use the new field. He will get the electrical done in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Wilson stated they still have more work on the field.

Councilman Brassard would like approval from the Board for Building & Grounds to get a 4-inch pump; may have been able to save the burner on the furnace at the Train Station if they had had a larger pump; they have a small pump and it just couldn't handle it. They found one at Tractor Supply for \$400.

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

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

RESOLVED for Building & Grounds to purchase a 4-inch pump from Tractor Supply for \$400.00.

Councilman Salerno stated that Bulwagga Bay Campsite has new Managers; from August 1st to end of season. There are 37 people on the waiting list. He spoke to Billy Allen about adding more sites; what is the protocol regarding bathrooms and number of sites. The Supervisor stated sites are based on restrooms available. Councilman Salerno stated that Rich Lapier and Billy Allen feel you could get 6 or so sites along the fence by the basketball courts and also the turn as you enter the campsite. The Supervisor stated that is the main entrance to the beach also. Councilman Salerno would like to think about it. The Supervisor stated right now we are making money; can get too big.

Councilman Salerno stated the lake front sites have high water where the water flows, can we put a berm in to redirect it. The Supervisor stated no, it is federal waters. Mr. Wilson stated the only thing we could do is continue on to the point. The Supervisor stated we were 5 years waiting on permits last time we did any work like that down there; he feels the only way to alleviate the problem would be to move the sites back away from the water.

Councilman Salerno would still like to see something done with the beach house at Champ RV Park. The Supervisor stated we can't give it away. Councilman Salerno asked about making sites there. The Supervisor stated he liked Councilman Salerno's idea of partitioning it off and making 2 cabins out of it and rent them out. Councilman Salerno asked if the roof on the Court House could be done by Town employees and the Supervisor said yes; there are ways to get around it; have to be careful of unemployment; go to retirees first. Councilman Salerno is just trying to save the taxpayers money. The Supervisor stated the first time we went out to bid they came in at \$110,000, RS Construction is doing it for @\$60,000. If we had been able to do it in house it probably would have been @\$10,000. Assemblyman Simpson stated an employee with certain expertise could certainly do it but he stated we should check with the Town Attorney first. The Supervisor stated there was an electrical issue at Champ RV Park and the Town ended up running all new conduit; if we had contracted it out it would have easily been \$25,000.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor had a request for a new street light at 10 Mineville Road in Grover Hills. Councilman Brassard stated that section could really use it. The Supervisor stated we have over 800 street lights in the Town of Moriah; we pay \$60,000-\$70,000 a year. He told Councilman Brassard once you open that door you can't close it. He will have Art Brassard go check it out and will discuss it at the next meeting.

The Supervisor reported that the roof on the Port Henry Fire Station was leaking last Friday. Building & Grounds tried to fix it temporarily.

The Supervisor has been trying to get CP Rail to cut the brush at the south end of Town as you come in to Port Henry; it obstructs the whole view of the lake and Bulwagga Bay Campsite. He stated the chances of them cutting it are slim to none. The last time the Town did it we got in trouble with the auditor; it is private property. We can't spend tax payer dollars for someone else to get a better view. Councilman Brassard stated we should keep asking CP Rail.

The Supervisor reported that the people that were going to buy 19 Rice Lane (where the house burnt down) backed out of the deal. The buyer was going to pay off the back taxes and take the building down. The Town Attorney is going to start condemnation proceedings. The legal process will take time. Councilman Brassard asked when it would go up for the tax auction and the Supervisor stated the problem with foreclosures in NYS the owner gets to keep the extra money if it gets sold for more than what is owed. The Town Attorney will be going after the owners because it is a public hazard.

The Supervisor stated that Building & Grounds were spraying with weed killer; somebody turned us in; we were contacted by the DEC and were written up. Nothing that we were using was harmful but you still need to be licensed to do it. The Supervisor spoke to Jamie Wilson and Tom Cowin; they will stop spraying; Mr. Wilson stated we can't even use bee spray. Councilman Anderson stated you have to be licensed to spray for bees and Councilman Salerno stated like Norm Fields at the golf course.

The Supervisor reported that both bathing beaches were inspected; there were no violations. Campsites were inspected and back flow preventers are still an issue; campers are taking them when they leave. Councilman Salerno stated we need to charge a higher fee and it needs to be spelled out in the rules & regulations.

The Supervisor received an email from Cody Stockwell regarding the Court House roof. They are behind due to all the rain. They should start the beginning of September and be done by the beginning of October.

Councilman Salerno asked about the Dollar Store properties. The Supervisor stated as of right now there will be 2 Dollar Stores in Moriah. He is hoping one will be a regular Dollar General and the other one will be a Dollar General Market, Dollar General did not say for sure this was definitely happening; he doesn't want to build up anybody's hopes.

Resolutions:

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

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

RESOLVED to refund Penny Curtis \$411.60 for site at Bulwagga Bay Campsite as credit for Assistant Managers.

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

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

RESOLVED to refund Larry Hastings \$331.20 for site at Bulwagga Bay Campsite as credit for Assistant Manager.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the Manager resigned and the Assistant Managers moved up; they get a site.

153. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED authorization for Chip Perry to solicit RFP's for Engineering for a Lead Service Line Inventory Report as mandated by NYS Department of Health.

Discussion: Chip Perry went to Saranac Lake regarding lead abatement; this is a good investment; we can use stimulus money.

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

RESOLVED authorization for Town Attorney to surplus the 14 Church Street (Henry Building) and prepare the legal process to offer the property for sale.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the appraisal came in at \$44,000; appraisals usually go by comparables but there aren't any. Will be subject to permissive referendum; see what the next step is.

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

RESOLVED to appropriate \$3,119 from Occupancy Tax Money account to Chamber of Commerce for 2023 Labor Day Celebration.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the Chamber has done a great job this summer; we are going to have a great parade.

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

RESOLVED authorization for Town Attorney to prepare legal agreement with Fred Pereau regarding culvert and driveway; the Town will obtain legal drainage easements (7) that currently exist on Lakeview Avenue and Edgemont that discharge onto Pereau property, in exchange the Town will agree to repair the driveway going in to the farm if destroyed by flooding.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he met with Jamie Wilson, Fred Pereau and Ben Tromblee. The Supervisor stated that the Town Clerk found in the minutes back in 1990 when it was discussed for the Highway Department to put bigger culverts in. The Supervisor spoke to Chip Perry former Highway Superintendent and he said the department has been going in there since Jack Fields was the Superintendent. The Supervisor stated that the bottom line is the town cannot legally dump water on Mr. Pereau's property with no easements. Councilman Gilbo asked if the Town Attorney was preparing the documents or executing the documents and the Supervisor stated he is preparing them; all parties will have to agree on them.

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

RESOLVED to go to bid for fuel oil, kerosene, diesel and propane; October 1, 2023-September 30, 2023; bids to be opened at September 21, 2023 meeting.

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

159. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED to go out for RFP's for a contractor to renovate the beach house at Champ RV Park in to 2 units that can be rented out.

Floor Open to the Public:

Councilman Salerno thanked Assemblyman Matt Simpson for coming; he knows he is dealing with difficult battles in Albany.

The Supervisor asked if there was anything new on Amtrak and Mr. Simpson said no.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Abstract Distributions:

July 27, 2023

General	\$21,393.84
Highway	\$1,260.02
Water District #1	\$88.33
Water District #2	\$61.38
Water District #3	\$56.68
Water District #4	\$8.96
Sewer District #1	\$140.94
Sewer District #2	\$131.27

Claim Numbers:

2023/1115-1126

August 17, 2023

General	\$77,307.01
Highway	\$39,342.81
Water District #1	\$5,930.79
Water District #2	\$4,092.23
Water District #3	\$6,679.71
Water District #4	\$177.32
Sewer District #1	\$15,904.87
Sewer District #2	\$8,432.49

2023/1127-1291

Capital Projects:

CDBG Wells/Septic's-Cheever	Press Republican	\$86.90	#2
-----------------------------	------------------	---------	----

Stimulus:

College St. Field	JP Carrara & Son's	\$507.00	#61
	Scalzo Construction	\$420.00	#5