

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a budget workshop on the 2026 Budget Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

|          |                  |                      |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|
| Present: | Matthew Brassard | Supervisor           |
|          | Paul Salerno     | Councilman           |
|          | Tom Anderson     | Councilman           |
|          | Nathan Gilbo     | Councilman           |
|          | LeeAnn Sprague   | Senior Account Clerk |
|          | Rose French      | Town Clerk           |

Absent: James Curran Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis and Cecelia Wojciukiewicz

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag. He stated this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop.

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

|          |        |                                    |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes   | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                  |
|          | Absent | Curran                             |

**RESOLVED** to pay AES Northeast \$13,117.00 for services rendered August 2025 for the Champ Beach Event Space.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is a little more than the agreement due to the changes that had to be made due to the high-water mark and placement of the building.

The Supervisor went over the comparison sheet; stating the tax levy will go down in 2026 for a \$100,000 home. He stated Water District #2 and Sewer District #2 are struggling. Will see increase in all districts over the next 3-4 years; have seen increase costs in chemicals, power, etc. Hopefully the consolidation will help. Councilman Gilbo asked why Water District #2 is struggling and the Supervisor stated because there are less users in that district. LeeAnn Sprague-Senior Account Clerk stated both Water District #1 and Water District #2 get hit equally, but the users are less. Councilman Gilbo asked why Water District #2 is so high and Councilman Salerno stated part of it is because National Grid rate is so high. The Supervisor stated we are spending thousands of dollars more in each plant. Councilman Gilbo asked if Water District #2 was Mineville and the Supervisor said yes. The Supervisor also stated that Operation & Maintenance will be more but property tax should be less. Councilman Gilbo asked how the fund balances are in each district compared to last year; Ms. Sprague asked Councilman Gilbo to refer to the handout on fund balances. The Supervisor stated we are looking at bringing in Water District #3 for the consolidation to see if that helps; it has to show a benefit to the tax payer. The Supervisor stated Water District #2 is going from \$340.00 to \$375.00. Councilman Anderson asked what needs to happen to consolidate and the Supervisor stated first a map, plan and report, then a public hearing and then pass a resolution.

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz stated at the last meeting there was discussion on how to save money and she thinks \$40,000 is way too much to give the Chamber; she thinks \$15,000 would be sufficient; it is for businesses; taxes are not meant to fund tourism and other Town activities. The Supervisor explained that the \$40,000 comes from occupancy tax money; the Town gets \$88,000 and it is to be used to promote tourism in the Town.

Ms. Sprague referred the Board to the changes in the budget handout: removed \$5,000 from Justice equipment, removed \$35,000 for the grant writer. Councilman Gilbo stated can't we just reduce the amount of the grant writer and the Supervisor stated he hasn't seen any changes in any of the grants she has applied for; he stated she does submit grants but we have only seen \$500. Councilman Salerno stated he does agree with grants based on productivity; he feels it should be based on the principal if you produce you get compensated.

Ms. Sprague continued on with the changes: lowered Building & Grounds equipment by \$1,500, dropped general and highway due to Alerapay coming in at a lower percentage. Councilman

Gilbo asked what Alerapay was and Ms. Sprague it is our HSA.

Ms. Sprague stated the Board needed to discuss the part time building & grounds summer employee. Councilman Gilbo asked what that was and the Supervisor stated that was something he put in the budget for the summer time to help out Building & Grounds with mowing, sidewalks and brush but he learned that if a person earns \$3,600 per quarter they are eligible for unemployment so it would not be worth it. Councilman Anderson and Councilman Gilbo both agreed. The Supervisor stated maybe we can hire some YCC kids who will be old enough to run equipment.

Councilman Salerno asked about money for sidewalks and the Supervisor stated that money was taken out of the budget because it wasn't being used.

Ms. Sprague asked what the Board wanted to do about C & D; the container currently costs \$800 but is going up to \$1,200.

The Supervisor stated if we take the \$14,000 out of the budget for the part time building & grounds employee what do we want to do with it; he stated our tax cap this year was 5%; we had carryover from last year. He stated we are at 1.5% right now; he asked the Board if they wanted to drop the tax rate even more and Councilman Anderson asked about getting to 1%. Councilman Salerno stated the good news regarding the hydro plant should help. The Town Clerk asked what the Board's decision was on C & D and Councilman Anderson asked how much it was currently and Ms. Sprague handed out the price sheet with the old and new rates on it. The Supervisor stated the new rates would start January 1, 2026. The Supervisor asked what the Board wanted to do with the \$14,000 and Councilman Salerno stated he wanted to reduce the tax levy; stay at 1% and put it back in the general fund, fund balance; Councilman Anderson was in agreement with this as was Councilman Gilbo.

Ms. Sprague stated that the tractor for the campground came in \$3,000 more; Councilman Gilbo asked how the campsite revenues were and Ms. Sprague stated we are way over what we budgeted.

The Supervisor would like to advertise our cabins on Air B & B and Vrbo but doesn't want to pay the fee; Councilman Gilbo stated he would look in to it.

Ms. Sprague stated she will adjust the fund balance by \$3,500 for the campground tractor.

The Supervisor referred the Board to the comparison sheet. He feels this is a good budget; made some cuts and was still able to fund the ambulance squad fully.

Ms. Sprague asked if we were staying at 1% and the Board was in agreement with this

Councilman Gilbo stated he is still trying to figure out Water District #2 and the Supervisor stated water district #2 will be paying \$375.00 should be paying \$454.00; will get increase over 3-4 years. The Supervisor stated hopefully the consolidation will be a savings to everyone. Councilman Gilbo stated we should raise it by \$100.00 all at once. Councilman Anderson would like to do it over a few years. Councilman Salerno asked if the consolidation goes through, will we be able to combine the fund balances and the Supervisor said yes.

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

|          |        |                                    |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes   | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0                                  |
|          | Absent | Curran                             |

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah will meet to review said Preliminary Budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 5:45pm. At said public hearing said Town Board will hear all interested in the subject of the matter thereof.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that a Special Town Board Meeting will immediately follow the public hearing to review and adopt the 2026 Budget.

Councilman Gilbo asked about the loader for the highway garage and the Supervisor stated Jamie Wilson Highway Superintendent is using the money from 2 employees that were in the budget but

were never hired, equipment money still in the budget and surplus equipment sales money to purchase the loader. The Supervisor stated Mr. Wilson looked in to leasing one and it is \$8,000 per month. The Supervisor would like to start an equipment capital reserve for next year. Councilman Gilbo stated he likes the bond idea and Councilman Anderson stated we will probably have to do that in the future but this year the money is there.

Councilman Gilbo stated the Town is in need of parking. He would like to see the area above the current parking by the Port Henry Post Office utilized; that lot is owned by the Town.

The Supervisor thanked Ms. Sprague for her help with the budget and also Becky Gilbo.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

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Town Clerk