

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

**Present:** Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor  
Paul Salerno Councilman  
Timothy Garrison Councilman

**Absent:** Lucille Carpenter Councilwoman  
Thomas Anderson Councilman

**Others Present:** Bill Trybendis, Sharon O'Connor, Cathy Sprague, Diana Stevenson, Lohrer McKinstry, Rich Lapier, Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent, Ann Tesar, Gail Pilger, Linda Haran, Matt Brassard, Paul Mazzotte, Lou Paris, Jim & Brandy Michener, Randy Patnode, Judy Garrison (and Son), and Rose French-Town Clerk

Supervisor Scozzafava opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Supervisor Scozzafava presented a plaque to Councilman Garrison for 8 years of service to the community as a Town Board Member. He thanked Councilman Garrison for all of his hard work, especially on the waterfront development. He also thanked Councilman Garrison for the attention he brought to the Town Board regarding replacing Town vehicles in a timely manner. He then introduced Matt Brassard, new Town Board member effective January 1, 2018.

The Supervisor then stated he would like to go off the agenda now and introduce Lou Paris, Captain of the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad and Brandy Michener, EMT. The Supervisor stated that he heard a rumor that the Town hired Brandy as an EMT for the ambulance squad. The Supervisor wanted to remind everyone that the Town of Moriah only contracts with the Ambulance Squad for \$15,000 a year, the Town pays for their fuel oil and their Worker's Compensation and that is it. The Town has no control over who the volunteers are or who they hire. The Supervisor reported that emergency services are in crisis, the day is coming for paid EMT's. The state requires too many hours of training for volunteers; no one wants to do it.

Captain Lou Paris stated the ambulance squad only has 3 EMT's; himself, Brandy and Rick Maye. Rick Maye will be deployed soon, leaving only him and Brandy. Brandy will cover days. She is in the process of getting her advanced EMT. Westport, Crown Point and Elizabethtown will cover.

The Supervisor stated that the Town is very lucky to have the volunteers that we have. Brandy stated that as of this afternoon, the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad has responded to 495 calls.

Mr. Paris stated that the squad will pay for Brandy's worker's compensation. She will get insurance and paid holidays; this will be paid out of billed insurance, the fund drive and donations. Mr. Paris reiterated that the Town did not hire Brandy, the Ambulance Squad did. The Supervisor stated that he finds it hard to believe that people would criticize the ambulance squad. Mr. Paris stated that the County is looking into a county wide emergency service. Councilman Garrison stated that students from BOCES could volunteer; you have to be 17 years old to volunteer. The Supervisor stated that NCCC is also offering it. The Supervisor stated he spoke to Betty Little about a county wide service. It would cost the tax payers roughly \$22.00 a year on their taxes for a \$100,000 home. The Supervisor met with Crown Point and Ticonderoga regarding a shared ambulance service. Gail Pilger asked if there was a problem with paying an EMT and the Supervisor said no, the only thing is the town can't pay them. The Supervisor stated he just wanted to make everyone aware that the Town did not hire Brandy, contrary to the rumors. Councilman Garrison stated that is a lot of responsibility for an ambulance squad with only 3 EMT's. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. Paris what would happen if he and Brandy were unavailable and Mr. Paris stated it would become mutual aid. Mr. Paris also wanted to let everyone know that their address is still the same, even though they are located at the Moriah Fire Department now. It is still PO Box 72, Moriah Center, NY 12961.

The Supervisor stated we all have to start doing more shared services; he feels the Ambulance Squad moving to the Moriah Fire Department was a great move.

### **Bid Opening: Sodium Hypochlorite Solution**

The Supervisor read the legal notice of bid. Surpass Chemical bid \$1.24 a gallon/delivered and Slack Chemical Company bid \$1.12 a gallon/delivered.

- 1. ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno  
Nays 0  
Absent Carpenter, Anderson  
**RESOLVED** to award bid after review of bids by Water/Wastewater Superintendent Carl Perry.

### **Floor open to the public:**

Cathy Sprague asked the Supervisor if he would like the Chamber's annual report. The Supervisor stated it should be after the end of the year; Ms. Sprague will present the report at the January meeting.

### **Department Head Reports:**

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 2 building permits for the month of November. Dollar General is almost complete; a few miscellaneous items are left to be completed. It will be opening Sunday, December 17, 2017. The Third building is almost completed at Whistlepig.

The Supervisor reported that the other code enforcement officer Frank Slycord is absent. Rich Lapier does building codes and Mr. Slycord does property maintenance.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent: Reported we had our first big snow storm of the season. Everything went well. Had a few compliments and a few complaints. They currently have 2 tandems down. Councilman Garrison asked if the new truck was in yet and Mr. Wilson said no. The Supervisor reported that the Highway Department assisted the County in the demolition of the Bullock house in Port Henry and they did a good job. It cost the County roughly \$30,000.

Councilman Garrison read the police report:

Handled 131 calls for service.

Violations: 3

1-Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

2-Disorderly conduct

Misdemeanors: 5

1-Aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle 3<sup>rd</sup> degree

3-Issuing bad checks

1-Criminal contempt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Felonies: 0

Issued 18 Traffic Tickets

Handled 5 Traffic Accidents

Conducted 17 pistol permit background investigations

Art Morgan-Water & Sewer Superintendent: Excused

Ed Roberts-Building & Grounds: Excused.

## **Town Board Report's:**

Councilman Salerno: Reported that the new boiler at the Train Station has been installed. The Supervisor reminded everyone that the Senior's paid for the boiler and the Town installed it. Councilman Salerno stated that the Building & Grounds crew and the Moriah Shock inmates did a great job cleaning up from the snow storm. All the sidewalks have been plowed/shoveled and they will do the fire hydrants tomorrow.

The Supervisor reported that right before the meeting he got notification from National Grid that there will be a power outage tomorrow from 8:30am – 11:00am for emergency repairs from Port Henry to Westport, not sure if that will include Moriah or Mineville and Witherbee. Lohrer McKinstry reported that he got notification it would be Moriah to Westport.

Councilman Salerno reported he has the final campsite numbers. Bulwagga Bay's gross was \$294,940; net was \$143,223 and Port Henry Beach gross was \$129,765; net was \$84,586. Councilman Salerno and Councilwoman Carpenter have been working on getting out the campsite letters in January.

Councilman Garrison: Stated it was an honor to serve the Town of Moriah over the last 8 years. He will see projects through to the end. Thank you all. The Supervisor stated the Industrial Park was a huge project, there is no more space, with Whistlepig and Pre Tech. Councilman Salerno asked if there were any room left and the Supervisor stated there are some lots left in the back for expansion.

Paul Mazzotte-Assessor Chairman: Would like to remind everyone that if you are turning 65 before 12/31/18 you need to file for the enhanced star by 3/1/18 and you will need to use your 2016 tax returns. He also stated that the Assessor's office no longer handles new star applications, those are done directly through the state. The website is [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov). For the aged all your income has to be less than \$28,000, you have to be 65 years old and you have to use your 2017 income. The Supervisor stated that for the aged exemption you have to be 65, income less than \$28,000 and it saves you 50% off your assessment. The School is \$28,000 also but the County is \$25,000. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. Mazzotte if it was for the dwelling only and Mr. Mazzotte stated you have to own it and reside there or you have to have life use.

Councilman Garrison reminded the Supervisor to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Garrison
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

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

## **Supervisor's Report:**

There was a 150 year old time capsule found at the Port Henry Episcopal church. The Church was sold at the auction. Tom Trow was able to find the capsule. The Supervisor will get in touch with Mary Consadine to see when there can be a public opening. This will be announced at a later date. Ann Tesar thought the capsule had already been opened. Cathy Sprague said no, she might be thinking about some that have already been opened and are at the Museum.

The Supervisor received a letter from SHPO regarding the doors at the Iron Center Museum. They will not budge; they want the doors replaced with original materials.

Received 3 letters of interest for the Board of Assessment & Review vacancy. Brian Wood, Thomas McDonald, and Jeremy Carpenter. However, Barb Brassard's term expired 9/30/17 and she would like to stay on now but we have not received a letter of interest from her. This will be addressed at the next Town Board meeting. Paul Mazzotte stated that the Board of Assessment & Review meets 3 times.

We have been working on the Water & Sewer bills. Trying to get everyone on the same page. The people in Port Henry will receive one water & sewer bill in January. It is payable in 4 payments. The Supervisor stated that back in the 1930's there was an agreement made between the Putnam Farm and the Village of Port Henry; the Village would pay their water bill because the water line runs right through their property. He just wanted to let everybody know that in case there were any questions regarding why we are doing this.

The Supervisor reported that the Miner Sculpture will be in the traffic circle at the bottom of Broad Street in Port Henry. It will be bronze and will cost roughly \$35,000. It will also have a lighted lamp. Matt Brassard asked if the committee got the approval of NYS DOT and the Supervisor said yes, they did. Ann Tesar asked if we were worried it would get knocked down by the big trucks that now go down Broad Street. The Supervisor said no, he thinks this sculpture is a great idea and something positive for the community. Gail Pilger reported that the donation letters have been sent out. The Supervisor believes this is the only Iron Ore Miner sculpture out there. He heard people were upset that it was going to be in Port Henry, and he feels Port Henry is the center of the community.

The Supervisor stated that during this last snow storm, the highway department plowed roads in the village that are still in question as to whether or not we can legally plow them under highway law. This is due to the dissolution of the Village of Port Henry. Mr. Wilson-Highway Superintendent stated that legally he cannot put highway equipment on private property. The Town is still waiting on an answer. Mr. Wilson stated it has to be proven whether it is a road or not. The Supervisor stated that maintaining and plowing are 2 different things. Matt Brassard said the Village Board dealt with this issue and they ended up plowing these roads because there are water/sewer lines under some of them and it was just easier in case there was a break.

The Supervisor reported that in the dissolution plan the Assessors were to move up to the old Village Hall. He feels this will happen in the Spring. We have had more traffic at the town hall; people wanting to see the Assessor's. We got a quote for a lift at the Town Hall so people that needed to, could use it to go upstairs to see the Assessors. It was \$19,200. The Supervisor asked the Board if they were still in agreement with the Assessor's moving to the old Village Hall and they were. Paul Mazzotte stated it would come off the assessment roll if the Town leased it to a private company.

The Supervisor stated that the Manhole 13 project is complete with the exception of the slip line. We will pay retainage to Manfred Construction. CP Rail is happy with the work. We are waiting for the paperwork from the Engineer. Rice Street project is also complete.

The Witherbee Sewer project is in the Engineering phase right now. This project will start in the Spring also.

The sidewalks in Port Henry will also start in the Spring. National Grid is being difficult regarding the new light poles with this project.

The Supervisor received a letter from the VFW. They stated that Lohrer McKinstry got it wrong in the paper regarding the grant they received. It will be for building structures.

The Supervisor reported that he has a lot of complaints about Spectrum. They pulled Channel 17 and come to find out it is up in the higher channels. We still have no franchise agreement. The Supervisor and one Councilman will meet with a representative from Spectrum regarding extension of services.

The Supervisor brought to the Board's attention again interest in the Verizon tower. If the Board was interested in selling the lease. The Supervisor would only be interested if the money we got for it went towards a long term investment. Councilman Garrison stated we would have to get RFP's. The Supervisor said it would be subject to permissive referendum. He stated that the current lease has a 3% increase clause every year in it. If Verizon leases off their lease we don't get any money from it.

The Supervisor received a letter from FEMA regarding the flood risk project in the Town. The Supervisor spoke to Rich Lapier and we don't need to do anything.

The Supervisor stated that some residents were unhappy that the flags were not put out in the Village on Veterans Day. He wanted to clarify which days they should be put out.

**Resolutions:**

2. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to renew contract with Standard Medical Services for Alcohol & Drug testing for 2018 calendar year.

3. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to set date for Public Hearing to set rates for Point System for Sewer District #2 and also for Campground Charges.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the point system has been in place for years with the exception of Campgrounds. We now have Petro's RV Park and the Village Campsite.

4. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to set date for Public Hearing for Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 10:30am at the Town Hall.

5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to authorize Richard Lapier to attend Code Enforcement Educational Conference in Lake Placid on March 4, 2018 – March 8, 2018 at a cost of \$285.00.

Discussion: Mr. Lapier will drive back and forth, he will not stay overnight.

6. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to go to bid for pick up truck, ½ ton 4 X 4 extended cab, out of the Water & Sewer Department fund balance.

Discussion: Councilman Salerno asked if a ½ ton was big enough and the Supervisor said yes, they will be using it to bring water samples to Plattsburgh and etc.. Bid opening will be at the January board meeting.

7. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Garrison
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to Authorize the Supervisor to sign Union Agreement for 2018 as per negotiations; Changes-wages 3%. Working Supervisor-no longer union; Police Officer in Charge-no longer union-\$55,000/yr; Pete Towns-Water/Wastewater Assistant

Operator-\$21.19/hr; Water & Sewer Trainee-\$18.00/hr-until certification and license received; Transfer Station Employees-Holiday on Monday/Floater; Police Officer-\$19.88/hr; John Hickey-receive operators pay when operating highway equipment.

8. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to authorize the Supervisor to sign contract with Crane Associates Inc, for Phase II Waterfront Development (\$75,000 Grant).

9. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to take ownership of extension of Road Tom Phelps Way in Industrial Park and also water and sewer main (Whistlepig Development).

Discussion: Mr. Wilson stated Fuller put the road in and he would like the plans from the IDA, he hasn't seen any yet.

10. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to pay National Grid bills as they come in to avoid late payment fees.

Discussion: The Town Clerk explained that the bills are paid twice a month but sometimes they overlap, causing a late fee.

11. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Garrison, Salerno
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to go to bid for door replacement at the Iron Center Museum.

Discussion: Bids to be opened at February 2018 Board Meeting.

12. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson
	Nays	0
	Absent	Carpenter, Anderson

**RESOLVED** to approve payment of the warrant.

**Floor open to the public:**

Gail Pilger asked why the Water & Sewer Department needed an extended cab pick up if all they are doing is delivering water samples. The Supervisor stated they need it for more than that, they need the room to carry supplies.

Cathy Sprague wanted to thank Jamie Wilson and crew for all their help with the Christmas trees.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

November 22, 2017

General	\$1,849.35	2017/7734-7753
Highway	\$791.93	
Water District #1	\$2,571.24	
Water District #2	\$1,869.07	
Water District #3	\$278.54	
Water District #4	\$234.06	
Sewer District #1	\$1,187.46	
Sewer District #2	\$982.03	

November 27, 2017

General	\$102.54	2017/7754-7755
Water District #3	\$73.92	
Sewer District #1	\$79.01	
Sewer District #2	\$42.54	

December 5, 2017

General	\$1,250.00	2017/7758-7779
Highway	\$2,750.00	
Water District #1	\$200.00	
Water District #2	\$162.50	
Water District #3	\$293.75	
Sewer District #1	\$426.56	
Sewer District #2	\$229.69	

December 8, 2017

General	\$500.00	2017/7848
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December 14, 2017

General	\$67,796.86	2017/7781-7969
Highway	\$14,993.00	
Water District #1	\$5,615.21	
Water District #2	\$4,991.48	
Water District #3	\$3,791.96	
Water District #4	\$211.87	
Sewer District #1	\$8,237.24	
Sewer District #2	\$4,425.19	

**Capital Projects:**

PHFD Restore NY Grant	Press Republican	#1	\$74.18
PHFD Restore NY Grant	Press Republican	#2	\$17.99

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Town Clerk