

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, December 21, 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, Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent, Diana Stevenson, Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds Superintendent, Patricia Montgomery and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

### **Bid Opening-Sodium Hypochlorite Solution**

Surpass Chemical Co.: \$3.70 per gallon delivered (bid said for “2023” in error)

Slack Chemical Co.: \$3.47 per gallon/55 gallon drum/\$65.00 refundable container deposit

The Supervisor stated he was glad to see such a great turn out for his last meeting.

### **Floor Open to the Public:**

N/A

### **Department Head/Town Board Reports:**

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent reported they have been working on all the damage from the recent rain storm. Breed Hill Road will hopefully be open tomorrow. The County should have Ensign Pond Road open by the weekend. Viking Lane is complete. Golf Course Way is just getting underway. Mr. Wilson told the Supervisor it has been an honor and pleasure working with him; he appreciates his time and dedication to the Town; he stated enjoy this time with your family and electrical work. He stated he can still call him at 7AM to complain; Mr. Wilson said thank you and enjoy. The Supervisor stated he has enjoyed working with Mr. Wilson; he is very good at the money aspect; costs are overwhelming; he will miss working with Mr. Wilson; Highway Superintendent and he stated Supervisor positions are thankless positions.

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds Superintendent thanked Ned Phinney for the Christmas Trees. They have been watching the train station closely for flooding due to all the rain. Due to plowing and melting; you can now see all the garbage on the sides of the roads; they have been picking that up. Mr. Cowin stated he has appreciated his time with the Supervisor; enjoy retirement.

Councilman Gilbo reported he is still working on the Economic Development proposal grant; he believes the deadline is January 31, 2024. He congratulated the Supervisor on his retirement and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Anderson reported that Julie Anderson will be running the ski program again this year; 40 kids have signed up. Councilman Gilbo asked what the age was and Councilman Anderson stated up to 18 years old; he stated if the child is too young, the parent would have to go; school will provide transportation; Councilman Anderson and Chris Lobdell will be driving

again. Councilman Anderson stated he has worked with the Supervisor for 15 years; learned a lot; had fun in NYC; he has done a hell of a job and has been an asset to the Town.

Councilman Brassard reported he met with Matt Courtright; Ticonderoga Chamber and the Moriah Chamber regarding contracting with Ticonderoga Chamber for the economic development portion of the Chamber. Councilman Brassard feels the Town should do it; good idea; try it for one year; will do at Organizational Meeting.

Councilman Brassard stated there has been some theft at Bulwagga Bay Campground; Sheriff will do more patrols through the campground; he asked that people respect campers stuff.

Councilman Salerno thanked the Supervisor for leaving the Board with 9 Capital Projects; the Board will have their hands full. He stated he has been the Supervisor's Deputy for the last 20 years and it means a lot to him. He played the closing song from the Carol Burnett Show; he stated the Supervisor has been his mentor and friend; they grew up together.

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

The Supervisor stated the Town was awarded the CDBG grant for Cheever; wells and septic's; \$262,195.00. Councilman Brassard asked how the funds would be dispersed; the Supervisor stated the homeowner will have to get their own contractor; will be a lien for a certain time period; Councilman Brassard asked how many properties were involved and the Supervisor stated 13. Councilman Salerno stated a rough guess on cost would be \$20/foot and \$20 casing. Councilman Anderson asked if existing septic's would be replaced and the Supervisor stated it would depend on location.

Viking Lane is complete. There is a resolution at the end of the meeting to pay J Hutchins; 75% FEMA money; we will get credit for our own time as well; 25% left, talk with school; they should pay some of that.

Received a bid from J Hutchins on Golf Course Way in the amount of \$991,000; could be more or less; depends on DEC requirements. Town has 16" sewer main that runs right through there and if that lets go it would be catastrophic. The Supervisor and Jamie Wilson both stated that FEMA and representatives have been very helpful.

Pam Yakalis; bus driver for meals on wheels has retired. ACAP will take over meals on wheels; Moriah and Willsboro are the only 2 towns that deliver themselves. The Town budgeted for a bus driver for 2024; the seniors have no transportation; the Supervisor strongly suggests hiring a bus driver per diem to take them places. Councilman Anderson asked if they needed a CDL and the Supervisor said no, it is a minivan.

Received the Water System Field Compliance Inspection Report; deficiency in Water District #1.

Fred Perea wanted some changes to the agreement regarding his driveway; the Town has gone as far as they are going to; Attorney is looking at it now. Councilman Anderson asked if it was just terminology and the Supervisor stated it goes deeper than that.

The Supervisor stated the County can still foreclose on the burned out house on Rice Street in Port Henry. The Town can take it down but it is still private property; the Town could clean it up and the owners would benefit. The Supervisor thinks the Town should just wait it out until the County forecloses on it. Councilman Salerno asked what happens after the County takes it over and the Supervisor stated there is a party that is still interested in it. Councilman Salerno asked what happens if the party changes their mind and is no longer interested in it and the Supervisor stated then the County would take it down. Councilman Anderson asked how long before that happens and the Supervisor stated it would be after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year; it is a hazard and needs to come down. Councilman Salerno asked if the fire department should have just let it burn and Bill Trybendis stated due to insurance reasons they can't. Councilman Anderson asked if the Fire Department could get nailed for it and Mr. Trybendis said yes.

The Town received @\$138,000 to renovate the back room on the police station for the Sheriff's Department and also the State Police; office of convenience. Councilman Salerno asked after the

room is done would the State Police come here and the Supervisor stated he has no clue; Albany calls the shots; he feels the State Police would utilize the room.

The Supervisor reported there is \$318,000 in stimulus money left. Councilman Brassard asked about RFP's for the beach house, Councilman Gilbo stated we haven't received anything yet. The Supervisor stated the money should be used on something for the whole community. Councilman Salerno asked if the Town could hire a contractor to do it as an employee and the Supervisor is not sure if the funds can be used for "payroll". The Supervisor stated the Town should not have to worry about prevailing wages, that is the Contractor's problem; a bid is a bid.

After the last meeting the Town Clerk sent a letter to Housing Visions giving them permission to look at the land on Hospital Road for their housing project; have not heard back from them. The old hospital is looking good; somebody bought it and is renovating it.

**Resolutions:**

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

**RESOLVED** authorization for Town of Moriah Snowmobile Club to use Port Henry Beach on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

- 212. 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** authorization to pay J Hutchins Inc. \$131,473.13 for work done on Viking Lane (75% FEMA funds).

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this did go out to bid; had 4 contractors who were interested.

- 213. ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, unanimous second, the following resolution was
- |          |        |  |
|----------|--------|--|
| Approved | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0  |
|          | Absent | 0  |

**RESOLVED** a resolution of appreciation to Pam Yakalis for her 26 years of service to the Town of Moriah.

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

**RESOLVED** a resolution awarding the sodium hypochlorite solution bid to Slack Chemical Company in the amount of \$3.479 per gallon delivered for 1/1/24-12/31/24.

- 215. 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 the Health Officer Agreement for 2024 with Hudson Headwaters Health Network; \$857.00.

- 216. 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 set date for End of Year Meeting for Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 10AM at the Town Hall.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this meeting is to pay the bills.

217. **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 set date for Organizational Meeting for Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6PM at the Court House.

218. **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 audit Justice and Town Clerk/Tax Collector books after the end of the year meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 10AM.

219. **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 renew Standard Medical Testing Services Agreement for 2024 for pre-employment physicals and drug testing.

220. **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 to do transfers in budget as needed.

221. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, 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.

222. **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.

223. **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 advertise for Campground Managers for Bulwagga Bay Campsite and Champ RV Park for the 2024 season.

Discussion: The Supervisor suggested putting the ad in Woodall's also.

The Supervisor stated this is his last Town Board meeting; a lot of meetings in 34 years. He stated he has enjoyed every one, ha ha, not really. He has been blessed to serve this community since he was 28 years old. He told Councilman Brassard that he will learn something new every day if you listen to your constituents; make sure you are approachable. The Supervisor stated he was fortunate to have Town employees that do such a great job. The Supervisor stated he will be very busy after he retires doing electrical work; need a young person to learn the trade; very important. The Supervisor stated he endorses Matt Brassard 100%. He told Matt all he needs to do is call if he has any questions, Councilman Brassard stated he definitely will; Councilman Brassard stated he would not be here if not for the Supervisor; the Supervisor stated only because the Village of Port Henry dissolved and COVID ha ha. The Supervisor stated the Town elected employees are in the trenches every day; he has a lot of admiration for elected officials.

Thank you.

**Floor Open to the Public:**

N/A

The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

November 28, 2023

General	\$4,250.52
Water District #1	\$44.01
Water District #2	\$29.86
Water District #3	\$64.99
Water District #4	\$4.70
Sewer District #1	\$114.36
Sewer District #2	\$19.26

2023/1835-1846

November 29, 2023

Highway	\$56.62
---------	---------

2023/1850

December 12, 2023

2023/1817-1834

General	\$1,000.00
Highway	\$1,912.50
Water District #1	\$210.00
Water District #2	\$142.50
Water District #3	\$375.00
Water District #4	\$22.50
Sewer District #1	\$618.75
Sewer District #2	\$131.25

December 21, 2023

2023/1851-2040

General	\$63,875.67
Highway	\$172,585.76
Water District #1	\$2,867.52
Water District #2	\$2,069.43
Water District #3	\$3,085.59
Water District #4	\$218.81
Sewer District #1	\$30,552.06
Sewer District #2	\$15,059.68

**Stimulus:**

Court House Window Extension	RWS Construction	\$2,330.89	#3
------------------------------	------------------	------------	----