

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021 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 and Rose French-Town Clerk

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

Floor open to the public:

N/A

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Councilman Brassard spoke to Highway Superintendent Wilson; he is asking everyone to be mindful of where you are parking during snow storms. He has issued some warning tickets; next time your vehicle will be towed. Also, please keep trash cans out of the way. Supervisor Scozzafava wanted to thank the homeowners who have shoveled out fire hydrants near their homes.

Councilman Brassard reported that he and Councilman Gilbo have been working on campsite rates for the cabins; Sunday – Thursday \$70.00 a night; Holidays and Friday and Saturday nights will be \$85.00 a night; and a minimum 2 night stay. He and Councilman Gilbo do not feel like we need to put a cap on how long it can be rented until it becomes an issue, see how it goes this summer. The deposit will be half the amount of the stay, fully refundable if given 48 hour notice; security deposit will be \$100.00 which will be held by a credit card. If someone does not give 48 hour notice of cancellation, they will be charged one night stay. Kelly Valentine has given a quote of \$25.00 flat rate for each cabin to clean. Supervisor Scozzafava stated she will not be an employee; she will be a subcontractor. Councilman Brassard and Councilman Gilbo will work with campground manager to come up with a list of supplies people will need to bring. Supervisor Scozzafava reminded everyone that a resident gets 10% of their stay and this includes the cabins.

Councilman Gilbo reported that the campsite website is in progress. Should be done the end of the month and be up and running next month for reservations. Councilman Anderson asked how many more cabins are we thinking about putting in and the Supervisor maybe one more this summer; see how these go first and then go from there.

Councilman Gilbo reported that he met with the solar developer for Tarbell Hill/Deckers Flats. The project is moving along. They are working on a pilot program that the developer would pay in lieu of taxes; will be based on megawatts put out. They are currently negotiating some initial rates. Hopefully the project will kick off this Spring and finish in the Fall. Supervisor Scozzafava stated it was a good meeting. The solar panels will be installed on private property. The Town and School are currently negotiating a pilot program; will receive payment once a year; the amount negotiated has been presented to the Town Board and School Board but the Supervisor does not want to make it public until it has been approved by all parties.

Councilman Anderson reported they have a new equipment shed at Moriah Central School and it is good size. He would like to thank the school and Joe Kazlo for making this possible. He asks if anybody has any equipment please drop off at the school this Spring. Supervisor Scozzafava stated he spoke to Bill Larrow; Superintendent Moriah Central School; not sure if we will have the Summer Program this year due to COVID but we will move forward with it like it is going to happen.

Councilman Anderson reported that he worked on the police reform and came up with one; he gave the board a copy of it. He pointed out the “de-escalation” section on page 2. He stated this is a community policing policy and he feels our police officers already do it. He stated there are things in the plan we do and don’t do; he feels it is more geared towards inner cities; some things don’t apply to us.

Councilman Salerno reported that 4 modine heaters have been hung and wired with help from Ed Roberts at the Highway Garage. Avery Energy will be here Tuesday; they should be up and running Tuesday afternoon. Councilman Salerno reported that the cost for 2 modine heaters was @ \$6,000; if this was done outside it would have been around \$15,000. The heaters are 175,000 btu’s; the old ones are 140,000 btu, they are very old and are fuel oil. Supervisor Scozzafava stated we should see a significant savings. Councilman Salerno stated that during one week this year we went through 400 gallons of fuel oil.

Councilman Salerno stated that the Water & Sewer Department have been dealing with the storms also. Hydrants are about 1/3 cleaned out, they will be back at them tomorrow. They had a water line break on Raymond Wright Avenue, it has been repaired.

Supervisor’s Report:

Supervisor Scozzafava announced he will run again for Town Supervisor.

The Supervisor gave a report on Bulwagga Bay Campground and Champ RV Park. Bulwagga Bay Campground revenues were \$273,053.75; Net-\$122,658.91. Champ RV Park revenues were \$115,974.00; Net-\$52,771.24. The Supervisor stated this is due to the transients. Councilman Salerno asked if the erosion projects were paid off and the Supervisor stated there were no bond issues. The Supervisor reported that he and Councilman Gilbo met with Country Road Realty; signed the agreement. The Supervisor stated that VanSlooten Marina has been sold to a local person and they want to do improvements to it.

The Transfer Station revenues for 2020 was \$211,980.57 and Net was \$227,831.77; net loss of \$15,850.80. There was a resolution to charge \$50.00 per cubic yard of C & D; effective January 1, 2021; the Supervisor would like to put this on hold until we have more information. He stated that the free dump days are hurting the Transfer Station; we may have to rethink the way we do it. Councilman Salerno asked if this deficit happened all at once or if it has been gradual, the Supervisor stated we are in better shape this year than normal. The Supervisor stated that platform scales might be the way to go. Councilman Salerno stated that the free weekends are very busy.

The Supervisor talked about police reform; he feels it is geared more towards cities but if we don’t do it we will lose our state funding. He put a plan together with narratives. Councilman Anderson did one too. We have to have a public meeting on it. We need feedback from the community regarding the police department and improvements. Nestor Rodriguez has agreed to be on the committee.

The Supervisor stated we need to get a handle on the electronic waste. We took in 900,000 pounds in electronic waste last year. The Supervisor stated we are not looking to make money at the Transfer Station but we need to break even.

The Supervisor received notice from Solvay, they will be tearing down the old mining buildings on Switchback. They have submitted all the paperwork to the APA and the DEC. They have to get approval from the APA because they want to bury the cinderblocks in the foundation hole. All other debris will be hauled away. They will allow some Town officials to take one last tour of the buildings and take whatever we want of historical value. Councilman Anderson asked when this would happen and the Supervisor stated probably

this Summer; waiting on permits.

The Supervisor stated that our building permit fees are all over the board. He will forward the proposed fee schedule to the Board so they can take a look at them.

The Supervisor reported that he met with Chip Perry and the DEC regarding the Port Henry Water Treatment Plant. We need to extend the sewer main up to the water plant to drain the effluent discharge.

The Supervisor stated that the Cunningham property on Main Street where the building burnt down will be foreclosed on. The Town will be reimbursed for back taxes. The Supervisor said the Town will probably end up with the property anyway.

The Supervisor read the Building Codes report: Issued 2 building permits for the month of December 2020. Issued 48 permits for the year 2020; 2 houses, 5 additions, 9 alterations, 4 decks, 11 septic systems, 6 garages/storage sheds and 2 pools.

Supervisor Scozzafava reported that Officer Stahl will be retiring sometime this Spring. He stated there are 2 people on the civil service list but we would still have to send them to training. The Supervisor asked the Board if they wanted to advertise for some part time qualified police officers. Councilman Salerno asked how Crown Point got the State Police satellite office and the Supervisor stated that was out of Schroon Lake, we are out of Lewis.

Resolutions:

53. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept draft “Reinvention & Reform for Town of Moriah Police Department” as per Governor’s order #203 and have plan available for public review and comments.

54. **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 set date for public hearing on the draft “Reinvention & Reform for Town of Moriah Police Department” for Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:30pm via Facebook format.

55. **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 Supervisor to sign Memorandum Agreement with Eddy Foundation to settle claim for exemption status for tax years 2019 and 2020 with no reimbursement to be paid by Town or School for those years.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that the Eddy Foundation filed for the exemption and the Assessors refused them. They are entitled to it but the Supervisor told them he would not support giving land to the state again. The Eddy Foundation, the Board of Assessors and the Supervisor all have to sign the agreement.

56. **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 Supervisor to sign contract with Solstice for credits to be deducted off Towns National Grid utility bill for non-demand locations.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that this has nothing to do with the solar farm on Deckers Flats.

57. **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 of plans for Town Hall Renovations by Architects Fred Keil and Associates.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he got the plans yesterday by email; will get out to bid.

58. **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 Supervisor to advertise for 3 laborer positions; seasonal at \$15.00 per hour for campsites; 2021 Season and to eliminate one-part time position.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated these will be 40 hours per week positions. We need more help to maintain the campgrounds. Councilman Anderson asked if we were replacing 3 people and the Supervisor stated we are basically adding one person.

59. **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 to take 2 ads for Champ RV Park and Bulwagga Bay Campsite in The Sun; North Country Living Magazine.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated they are \$178.00 each. He will add the cabins to the ad for Bulwagga Bay Campsite.

60. **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 apply for an EFC Grant in the amount of \$30,000 (\$6,000 local match) for the Water District #3 effluent discharge Engineering.

61. **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 transfers in budget as needed.

62. **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.

63. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
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|----------|--------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |
- RESOLVED** approval of payment of End of Month and Monthly Warrants.

64. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
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|----------|--------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |
- RESOLVED** to accept sealed bids for the Town Hall ADA Upgrades, CDBG project #758PF150-19.

WHEREAS, the Town of Moriah is accepting sealed bids until 10:00 am on March 5th, 2021, for the Town Hall ADA Upgrades, CDBG project # 758PF150-19, in accordance with the bid package available on the Essex County Bid website and the NYS Contract Reporter; and

WHEREAS, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on or about 10:00 am on March 5th, 2021;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that that the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to solicit bids for the Town Hall ADA Upgrades project, to be received by 10:00 am on March 5th, 2021, publicly opened, and read aloud immediately thereafter. All Bid results will be published on the Essex County Bid Website and the NYS Contract Reporter promptly.

Floor open to the public:

The Supervisor stated that if anyone has any input on the police reform they can submit it in writing. Councilman Brassard will also put it on the Town Facebook Page. The Supervisor and Councilman Anderson will go over the 2 different plans.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Abstract Distributions:	Claim Numbers:
<u>December 31, 2020</u>	
General	\$3,019.90
	2020/1968-1971
<u>January 19, 2021</u>	
General	\$100.00
	2021/55
<u>January 28, 2021</u>	
General	\$3,417.56
Highway	\$553.27
Water #1	\$2,148.95
Water #2	\$1,561.41
Water #3	\$1,397.07
Water #4	\$195.55
Sewer #1	\$2,523.82
Sewer #2	\$1,390.94
<u>February 11, 2021</u>	
General	\$35,872.09
Highway	\$14,758.11
Water #1	\$119,589.41
Water #2	\$53,675.16
Water #3	\$49,580.55
Water #4	\$3,623.40

Sewer #1	\$8,713.65
Sewer #2	\$5,024.03

Capital Projects:

CDBG 1 st & 2 nd Street W & S Main Replacement	Cedarwood Engineering	\$11,925.75	#2
CDBG Town Hall Project	Fred Keil, Architect	\$13,500	#1
Tarbell Hill Pump Station	EDR	\$500.00	#1

Town Clerk