

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, February 10, 2022 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
Nathan Gilbo Councilman

Absent: Matt Brassard Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Robert Stevenson, Rich Lapier, Jamie Wilson, Sharon O'Connor, Joel & Sylvia Zelinsky, Darryl Hale, Ronnie Sargent, Chris Feith and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

Floor Open to the Public:

Joel Zelinsky spoke about the snowmobile races. The Supervisor, Jamie Wilson and Joel Zelinsky met at the beach to go over parking. Mr. Zelinsky stated there will be a \$10 admission fee. The club has done a lot of advertising for the event; hopefully it will have a good turnout. He stated the lake is not pretty right now, hopefully with the few cold days we have coming it will get better. The banner is up. Jamie Wilson and his crew have been working late and they got the parking all cleared out, he wants Mr. Zelinsky to look at it. Mr. Zelinsky stated that there will be more parking here than at any other event; spectator parking will be to the left and the racers will go to the right. The porta potty's will be here the Wednesday before. The Supervisor asked if they still need the ambulance and Mr. Zelinsky stated yes, he has contacted them, he will make sure they are still on the calendar. He stated they need one EMT not necessarily an ambulance. The Supervisor stated that En Con will be there. The Supervisor asked if there would be a food vendor there and Mr. Zelinsky stated they spoke to Mr. Tesar but not sure if he will show up or not; they will discuss it at the club meeting tomorrow. Sylvia Zelinsky stated the snowmobile club will cook hamburgers and hotdogs and just ask for donations instead of selling; that way they don't have to get a food license. The Supervisor asked Mr. Zelinsky if they had a plan B if the ice wasn't good and Mr. Zelinsky stated maybe Port Henry Beach; there might be a little better anyway; they will look at it early next week and make a decision then. The Supervisor asked if they moved would it be right off Port Henry beach and Mr. Zelinsky said yes. Mr. Zelinsky thanked Jamie Wilson for cutting back the banks on the snowmobile trails.

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Jamie Wilson reported snow snow snow! He asked the public to please if you can keep the sidewalks clean in front of your homes, also, if you are plowing keep the wing banks back. The Supervisor stated if we are going to take care of sidewalks we need the equipment to do it. He stated the inmates used to do it but we no longer have them. He stated in the dissolution plan the Town agreed to do the sidewalks on part of Main Street and part of Broad Street. The Supervisor supports doing sidewalks. Mr. Wilson stated it is only common courtesy to not block roads and/or sidewalks. Councilman Salerno stated that sidewalks do not come first, main roads, back roads and side streets come first. He stated then we need to get the machinery to do sidewalks. The Supervisor stated we currently do not have the equipment to do sidewalks. Councilman Salerno asked who was going to do them if we got the machinery and the Supervisor stated the Highway Department and Building & Grounds can do it together. Mr. Wilson stated that machinery isn't the only answer, between the telephone poles and the roadway, it makes it tricky. The Supervisor stated we could use stimulus money for the machinery. The Supervisor asked Mr. Wilson to start looking at a sidewalk machine and Mr. Wilson stated he already has.

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 2 permits for the month of January. Everything else has been pretty quiet.

Councilman Gilbo stated the electric car charging stations are up and running; the first 2 are on; please don't park there; for charging only. Mr. Wilson stated the no parking signs just came in. The Supervisor stated we may have to change the parking for the post office. He stated someone asked on Facebook who paid to have the car charging stations installed and he reported it was a grant and you pay by credit card when you charge your car. Councilman Gilbo stated he thinks it is less than \$10.00. Councilman Gilbo reported he is working on a grant to replace the windows at the Town Hall.

Councilman Anderson reported the ski club is up and running; people love it; they have 20 kids and parents that go to watch their children have been helping out; he is hoping that will continue. The Supervisor asked how transportation has been going and Councilman Anderson stated that he and Mr. Lobdell have been driving due to the fact that they are school employees they can drive the school vehicles.

Councilman Salerno reported that he feels we should convert the old beach house at Port Henry Beach in to a bed and breakfast type place. He stated somebody mentioned putting vending machines in there but he feels this would work better. The Supervisor stated this is a good idea. The Supervisor asked Rich Lapier and Councilman Salerno to look at it and see how much work it would take. They agreed and will bring more to the Board at next month's meeting. The Board was in agreement with this. Councilman Salerno stated that the Water & Sewer Department have been very busy; they had a bad water break above Boyeas and they have been dealing with sewer issues also. Councilman Salerno asked the Supervisor for clarification if there are multiple dwellings who owns the line and the Supervisor stated the Comptroller says if the lateral connects the dwellings the Town is responsible but if the lateral to each house runs directly to the main the homeowner is responsible.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor reported on the closure of Moriah Shock on March 10, 2022. He stated that the Shock Program will be done. He doesn't want them to let the facility go dark. NYS has agreed to keep the lights on, the infrastructure will be maintained until the future of the building is clear. They may change the eligibility of Shock participants; may change "shock", may be used for "Jails to Jobs" or an Oasis (drug & alcohol rehabilitation center); Essex County has looked at it also. NYS has agreed not to do a full closure. If it is opened back up as some sort of "shock" those workers that were transferred will have the first opportunity to come back. The Supervisor stated he can't get a hold of the Governor. There is a special on PBS tomorrow night at 8 on the closure.

The Supervisor reported the NYS Police were here today. They want to put a sub-station here in Moriah next to the Court House. They originally wanted 1,400 square feet now they want 1,000. 1,400 was with the attached garage. Coverage would be for Moriah and Crown Point. One Sergeant and 5 troopers; they would pay all utilities. They want a long lease, the longer the better. A 5-year Bond would be roughly \$76,000 a year; including principle and interest. The NYS Police do not have a specific time frame; more at the March or April Board meeting. Councilman Gilbo asked where the State Police are located right now and the Supervisor stated they are currently in Lewis. The Supervisor supports this 100%. He stated if we ran our own police department it would cost between \$70,000 - \$80,000 a year at least. He stated we will have a community meeting on the sub-station. He stated the Police want to be here because of the location and the number of calls they get to Moriah. We will hold a special meeting at the K of C. Councilman Gilbo asked if there will be additional coverage and the Supervisor said yes, there will be one Sergeant and 6 troopers on and off. Not all 6 will be here at the same time, but they will be coming HERE for work. Councilman Salerno stated if there was an issue we could have 6 troopers here within minutes. The Supervisor stated that today in Essex County there were only 2 patrols.

The Supervisor stated with the retirement of officers the Town has 2 – 9 millimeter glocks. He asked the Board what they wanted to do with them; surplus them or turn them over to the State Police. The Board wants the Supervisor to look and see what they are worth and put them out to bid.

The Supervisor reported that back in July of 2021 we submitted paperwork to have the speed reduced in Grover Hills. The Town cannot reduce any speed limits. We did not hear back from Jim Dugan at Essex County DPW so the Supervisor has forwarded the paperwork to George Laundrie at NYS DOT; he is going to look in to it. We are hoping to get it reduced to 15-20 mph.

If anyone is interested the Town has a vacancy for Office of Assessor. On ballot in November; petitions start in March. The Board did not want to appoint someone.

The Supervisor went over the Bonding figures again for the NYS Police sub-station. A 5 year \$350,000 Bond would be \$79,275 1st year, \$77,420 2nd year, \$75,565 3rd year, \$73,710 4th year and \$71,855 5th year; goes down each year. We need a lease agreement first before we pursue a bond. Councilman Salerno asked if we are looking at 3 – 6 months out for a lease agreement and the Supervisor stated he is hoping by May.

The Supervisor stated he met with Ed Roberts-Animal Control Officer and NYS DEC regarding wild animals; skunks, raccoons, etc. on private property. This is not Ed Roberts job or the NYS DEC, you need to call a Nuisance Officer or the homeowner can take care of it themselves. Councilman Salerno asked if you could call a trapper and have them take care of it and the Supervisor said yes. Darryl Hale stated only if it is in season. The Town Clerk asked if there was a phone number for the Nuisance Officer and the Supervisor stated he had 2: Kevin Roe 518-637-3857 or Jim Burgess 518-524-5240.

The NYS Police are looking for new recruits; if interested go to Joinstatepolice.ny.gov.

The Supervisor stated we need to make a decision about the COVID monies. Councilman Gilbo is working on a grant for windows for the Town Hall. Sidewalks are a big thing.

The Supervisor stated the campground letters went out.

The Supervisor stated he has been getting calls regarding fungus from Whistlepig; it adheres to some houses. The Department of Health stated there are no harmful effects from it. Homeowners need to call Whistlepig. The Board has not heard any complaints.

We got our 2021 report from EWaste; we got rid of 6,272 pounds of electronic waste in 2021.

Through CDBG there is a CARES Act for funding for Broadband but none of the areas in Town that need it qualify for it. The Supervisor would like to see the building that the Port Henry Fire Department is in sold. The Senior Citizens need a van but the population they serve doesn't meet the criteria. The only thing we might qualify for is the main water line; put in in 1963 and we need to start replacing it. The cost to replace it is more than it would be to put it in new. The Supervisor thinks we should do the application this year.

The Supervisor reported he spoke to Jim Besha regarding the Hydro Project. Progress was going great with NYS DEC and then the bat problem was brought up again. Next step will be the Governor's Office. They preach green energy but they are fighting this project every step of the way.

Councilman Gilbo is working on a grant to replace the windows at the Town Hall. There is money in the budget for a grant writer. Does the Board want to go out to bid for RFP's for a grant writer, they keep a percentage of the grant if we are successful? The Board was in agreement with this.

Resolutions:

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to sign agreement with Essex County for COVID stimulus money in the amount of \$53,704.96.

56. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to go to bid for a 12-15 passenger van for Senior Citizens and Food/Meal delivery; to be paid from stimulus money; bid to be opened at April 14, 2022 Board Meeting.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated our current van is a 2006 that we got from the County. We can use County stimulus money for the van. Put out to bid. Jamie Wilson would like the old van for a steam jenny; put a water tank in it; stack through the roof. The Board was in agreement with going out to bid for a new van.

57. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to purchase a 14KW standby generator for Town Office Building; to be paid from stimulus money (approximately \$5,500).

58. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to renew membership with Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages for 2022; \$550.00.

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

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

RESOLVED Authorization for Supervisor to pay for campsite ad on WNBX 106.3 for during the Moriah-Saranac Basketball game; \$50.00 (to be paid from bed tax money).

60. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Floor open to the public:

Sharon O'Connor asked about the de-commission of Moriah Shock. The Supervisor stated they have agreed to leave the lights on. Ms. O'Connor asked how long they would "leave the lights on", one year, three years or what. The Supervisor stated until there is a reuse plan in place. The Supervisor stated they were supposed to have a reuse plan in place before they announced the closure but obviously they did not. The Supervisor stated they have agreed to keep paying the \$105,000 in sewer. They won't pull the plug completely.

Chris Feith asked the Supervisor about snowmobile access to the lake from the Easterly side of NYS Route 9N. He asked who has jurisdiction over McKenzie brook; could they put up a bridge. Councilman Salerno stated the railroad would be the only concern. The Supervisor stated that dealing with CP Rail over the sewer line was a nightmare. Mr. Feith asked if it was CP Rail that the snowmobile club would have to contact and the Supervisor said yes but you don't fool with the railroad. Robert Stevenson said you can't go near the tracks. The Supervisor told Mr. Feith that he would check the Town's right of way with CP Rail.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

December 31, 2021

General	\$10,046.42
Highway	\$16,854.12
Sewer #1	\$410.05
Sewer #2	\$53.75

2021/2063-2075

January 27, 2022

General	\$4,675.25
Highway	\$3,685.53
Water #1	\$274.86
Water #2	\$213.97
Water #3	\$1,405.70
Water #4	\$20.30
Sewer #1	\$153.24
Sewer #2	\$106.81

2022/57-86

February 10, 2022

General	\$34,753.80
Highway	\$17,108.41
Water #1	\$122,872.74
Water #2	\$55,523.47
Water #3	\$5,360.96
Water #4	\$3,831.69
Sewer #1	\$6,228.32
Sewer #2	\$3,882.34

2022/88-221

Capital Projects

Essex County Public Works	Engineering	Town Hall	#1	\$1,072.40
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Town Clerk