

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, February 9, 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

Absent: Nathan Gilbo Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Tom Cowin, Robert Stevenson, Sharon O'Connor, Patricia Montgomery and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

ON MOTION by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

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

Bid Opening: Sodium Hypochlorite Solution

The Supervisor read the legal notice. Two bids were received.

Surpass Chemical Company: \$4.52 per gallon/delivered 4 drum minimum

Slack Chemical Company: \$3.99 per gallon/delivered \$65 refundable container deposit

52. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept quote from Slack Chemical Company in the amount of \$3.99 per gallon/delivered; 55 gallon drum; \$65.00 refundable container deposit for Sodium Hypochlorite solution for January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023.

Floor Open to the Public:

N/A

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

All department heads excused with the exception of Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds. He had nothing to report. Councilman Brassard asked if Mr. Cowin could leave some salt and a shovel at each building. Mr. Cowin stated he already took care of it.

Councilman Anderson reported the ski program is busy, still need more adult participation, it is very tiresome. Supervisor Scozzafava asked what the daily average was and Councilman Anderson stated 20 kids per day.

Councilman Anderson stated they still need more Youth Commission members.

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

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

RESOLVED to appoint Jimmy Langey and Erica Slattery to the Youth Commission.

Councilman Anderson stated Jessica Bosarge and Krissy Allen are currently on and would like to get off. He stated next month he will have 2 more names hopefully. The Town Clerk will find the current list and how many members there is supposed to be. Councilman Anderson stated they need a President; no one wants to do it. The Supervisor asked Councilman Brassard to put something on the Town Facebook page that the Youth Commission is looking for members.

54. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept request from Paraglide New England to use the point at Bulwagga Bay Campsite for the purpose of launching paragliders; with 2% increase-same as campsite for 2023 season.

Discussion: Councilman Anderson asked if they have started giving rides yet and Councilman Brassard said no; just for certification.

55. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to advertise for campsite laborer positions for the 2023 season.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated Rich Lapier is only working 20 hours per week this year and this year will be his last year. He asked Councilman Brassard if he wanted to advertise for 1-40 hr per week position or 2-20 hr per week positions and Councilman Brassard stated he would like to wait and see what we get for applicants.

Councilman Brassard stated he received a report on the campsites from Becky Gilbo, net profit for Bulwagga Bay Campsite was \$200,000 and Champ RV Park was \$62,000. Councilman Anderson stated that is high this year and the Supervisor stated we paid off a bond payment.

Councilman Salerno stated he is referencing an email from the Supervisor on the remaining stimulus money; he would still like to see something happen with the beach house at Port Henry Beach. The Supervisor stated he wants to pool all ideas and then have a public meeting; the Board is open to suggestions. The Supervisor stated he agrees with Councilman Salerno on the beach house.

Councilman Salerno stated he would also like to see some top soil and fencing at Powerhouse Park in Witherbee. He also stated he is concerned about Moriah Shock, what NYS is going to do with the building and also extending the water district on Stone Street.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor stated that last year the Town received @\$20,000 in bed tax money and this year it should be @\$80,000; has to be used for tourism. Councilman Salerno asked how much Lake Placid will be getting and the Supervisor stated \$1,000,000. Councilman Salerno asked if it could be divided up better and the Supervisor stated it has been divided up very fairly. Councilman Anderson stated we still have to decide on how to spend it. The Supervisor stated it has to be tourism related; bring people to the area. Councilman Anderson asked if it could be used for cabins and the Supervisor said yes. The Supervisor stated we are still waiting for the Board of Supervisors to pass it.

The Supervisor stated he has had numerous calls and comments on the Volunteer Firefighter tax break. A local law has to be passed; 10% off assessment; on a \$100,000 home, it would be roughly a \$400-\$500 a year savings. Fire fighters currently receive a break on income tax but you will not be able to do both. The Supervisor has been working with the County Attorney, nothing has been adopted yet. You have to be an active firefighter for 2 years. He has been in contact

with the Fire Chief's and fire commissioners; will meet with them all again and will have Councilman Brassard sit in on the meetings as well. Will get the language for the local law correct and get it adopted; deadline is March 1st; will not happen this year. The Supervisor stated he supports this, but he wants to do it correctly the first time. He reminded everyone when you grant an exemption somebody else has to pick up the slack. He stated it is tough because we can't get volunteers now. Sharon O'Connor stated it is for volunteer Ambulance members also. The Supervisor stated "volunteers" is the key here, you cannot be a paid ambulance worker and receive this benefit. The Supervisor stated the Town needs to become a benefit district; special tax; not based on assessment.

The Supervisor stated the Town received \$122,500 from Elise Stefanik's office for the new Police station, now no longer the case. The Town is down to one officer now; we can't even recruit anybody new. The Supervisor has been in conversations with Sheriff Reynolds and the State Police; with USDA approval he would like to use this money on the back room at the police station and make it usable for the Sheriff's Department and the state police so the Town would still have some type of police presence. The Supervisor has asked for an amendment, currently reads "Town of Moriah Police" which is good.

The Supervisor stated income surveys will be going out for Stone Street; he met with Chip Perry and the County; Village of Port Henry ran their own line on Stone Street, 2 inch; currently works but is old and there is no pressure; Stone Street was included in Water District #3 when the Village dissolved. The Supervisor would like to apply for \$1.2 million grant to replace the 2-inch line with 6-inch line from Forge Hollow to Broad Street. Letters will be going out to 14 residents along with income surveys. The Board was in agreement with this. Councilman Salerno asked if a pump station would work and the Supervisor stated not with a 2-inch line. Councilman Salerno asked what size line was on Fisk Road and the Supervisor stated that is 6 inch.

The Supervisor stated the back wash reservoirs have to be tied in to the wastewater or we have to get them cleaned per NYS. NYS doesn't want them going in to brooks and streams; looking for funding to extend sewer district in Village; people are allowed to have their own sewer.

The Supervisor stated people have been parking in the car charging stations at the parking lot next to the post office. The Town Hall has been getting calls. The problem seems to be getting better. It does generate some revenue for the Town.

The Supervisor stated he will have the Town Clerk put something on the Town Facebook page regarding back flow preventers. Each home has to have one installed in case there is a sewer back up; could go in basement if one is not installed; if you do have an issue Town won't cover it if you don't have a backflow preventer installed.

NYS is requesting the Town survey water lines for lead in connections; laterals in to homes; check cellars; able to tell just by looking at them. Inventory is to be done by December. We will work on a form to send to homeowners; NYS may give out lead test kits. There is a workshop Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Essex County Board of Supervisor's Room from 12:30 – 3:00pm.

There will be life guard training at Moriah Central School March 17th, 18th and 19th. For more information, contact Holly Mitchell at 518-546-8255. Information is on Town Facebook page.

The Supervisor stated we have \$415,323.71 left in stimulus money. To date we have spent \$96,943.97 on the Town Hall Generator, sidewalks, College Street field, water reservoir and the Senior Van which was paid for out of County stimulus money.

The Supervisor reported on the burnt out house on Rice Lane; it is still private property; there are court procedures, we are starting the process tonight.

The Supervisor congratulated the Town of Ticonderoga on their \$10 million downtown revitalization initiative grant. The Town of Moriah did not meet qualifications to even apply for the grant.

The Supervisor stated the Town has already received one quote for community cameras; we are shopping around; getting another quote. These cameras have been requested by law enforcement. They will go on Town property in different areas. Councilman Anderson asked where and the

Supervisor stated revealing that is defeating the purpose. Councilman Salerno asked if we could use the police station money from Stefanik's office for the cameras and the Supervisor said no, for renovations.

Resolutions:

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to sign pilot agreement with Mountain Lake Services for 2023 in the amount of \$19,100 in lieu of property taxes in the Town of Moriah.

Discussion: Mountain Lake Services is a tax exempt organization. This pilot agreement is for property that was previously on the tax roll.

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

DEFEATED	Ayes	Brassard
	Nays	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson
	Absent	Gilbo

RESOLVED a resolution to donate \$1,000 to the Essex County Fair Board for 2023 County Fair.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he does not support this.

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

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

RESOLVED a resolution to send Dustin Thompson & Abigail Smith a "Notice of Unsafe or Dangerous Building" notice regarding the burnt out house on 19 Rice Lane, Port Henry, NY.

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

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to sign letter of authorization for the provision of personnel, services or funding pursuant to intermunicipal agreement between the county of Essex and the Town of Moriah and the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad.

61. ON MOTION by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

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

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

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

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

63. ON MOTION by Councilman Salerno, unanimous second, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED a resolution of condolences to the family of Carol Whalen.

Floor open to the public:

Patricia Montgomery stated they are shooting for the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend for M3; concert. The Supervisor mentioned redoing the floor of the beach house at Port Henry Beach so that building could be used for the concert. Councilman Brassard will reach out to Joe McGinness regarding performing this year. Ms. Montgomery stated she would like to have an open mic hour before the concerts this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

December 31, 2022

General	\$5,471.47	2022/2190-2195
Water #1	\$40.50	
Water #2	\$27.00	

January 19, 2023

General	\$3,141.00	2023/2175-2180
Water #3	\$523.50	
Sewer #1	\$340.28	
Sewer #2	\$183.22	

January 27, 2023

General	\$6,499.99	2023/52-84
Highway	\$2,488.11	
Water #1	\$967.77	
Water #2	\$700.96	
Water #3	\$876.73	
Water #4	\$88.92	
Sewer #1	\$188.54	
Sewer #2	\$76.84	

February 9, 2023

General	\$111,884.27	2023/85-228
Highway	\$18,352.35	
Water #1	\$125,646.10	
Water #2	\$57,011.06	
Water #3	\$1,210.37	
Water #4	\$3,702.59	
Sewer #1	\$16,822.39	
Sewer #2	\$8,574.71	

Capital Projects:

MJ Engineering	Sewer District #1 Improvements	\$12,780.00	#6
----------------	--------------------------------	-------------	----