

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:00PM at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

<b>Present:</b>	Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Thomas Anderson	Councilman
	Lucille Carpenter	Councilwoman
	Timothy Garrison	Councilman

**Others Present:** William Trybendis, Art Morgan-Water & Sewer Superintendent, Rich Lapier-Building Codes, Lohrer McKinstry, Ed Roberts-Building & Grounds Superintendent, Paul Mazzotte-Assessor Chair, Cathy Sprague-Chamber of Commerce, Linda Smyth and Rose French-Town Clerk.

Supervisor Scozzafava opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

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

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

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

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** to correct the minutes from the January 5, 2017 Organizational Meeting; Police Committee members should be Supervisor Thomas Scozzafava and Councilwoman Lucille Carpenter.

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

Cathy Sprague from the Moriah Chamber of Commerce announced the Chamber is doing a “challenge” it is kind of like a “go fund me” page. Also they are doing a hiking challenge. If you complete all 4 hikes you will get a patch. The hikes include Cheney Mountain, Belfry Mountain, Crowfoot Pond Mountain and Big Hollow. Steward Jerdo suggested a more extreme hiking challenge and Cathy said they will do this one first.

### **Department Head Reports:**

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 1 building permit for the month of December. Inspected 3 complaints, 2 for rubbish and 1 for faulty septic. For the year we did 43 permits of which 7 were new homes, 5 garages, 6 additions, 4 septic systems, and 5 decks. Whistlepig should have all their permits in place next week. The Supervisor reported that he has been in contact with 3 different state agencies in regards to the junk yard issue. The DEC, APA and DMV. It is in their hands now; the issue is above and beyond what our Local Law can handle. Councilman Anderson asked which direction they were leaning towards and the Supervisor said we will have to wait and see. He stated this problem will probably end up in Court before it is over.

Ed Roberts-Building & Grounds Superintendent: They have been working with the inmates cutting brush and shoveling sidewalks. Dan Bryant has the plastic in the skating rink. Mr. Roberts talked about the “tethering law”. The Supervisor said it has passed; now just waiting on the Department of State. Mr. Roberts reported that over the next few weeks he will be out looking at street lights to see how many are out. Councilman Garrison said it was good to see Ed and the inmates out in the community shoveling sidewalks and etc..

Art Morgan-Water & Sewer Superintendent: It has been pretty quiet thanks to the weather. No water breaks. They have been doing just general maintenance. The Supervisor reported the Water Plant had their yearly inspection and it went well, they had a couple of issues but they have been resolved. The tanks will need to be inspected in 2017. The Compressor is repaired.

Councilman Salerno asked about “backflow prevention”, the Supervisor said this is to prevent contamination in case of a break. Mr. Morgan said it is mainly for businesses.

Paul Mazzotte-Assessor Chair: The Supervisor asked Mr. Mazzotte to be here this evening to discuss the possibility of a Cold War Veteran’s Exemption. Three (3) Town’s currently offer it; Schroon Lake, North Elba and Keene. To qualify you have to have been in war between 1945-1991. The Town currently offers a war time veterans exemption and a disabled veteran’s exemption. Councilman Salerno asked how many Cold War Veterans we have in town and Mr. Mazzotte wasn’t sure. The Supervisor said we would have to have a Public Hearing and it would have to be done before March 1, 2017. It is a 10 year exemption and the Town can set the maximum amount of the exemption. The Supervisor said that the school can offer it also, but they tabled it. Councilman Garrison stated it is hard to budget for when you don’t know how many people you are talking about. The Supervisor stated it is hard because if the Town offers this exemption, it only shifts the burden on to another tax payer. The Supervisor asked the Board what they wanted to do; he will get in contact with Tim Pierce and see if he can attend February’s meeting and hopefully have some idea of a dollar amount.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to schedule a Public Hearing for February 9, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House to discuss the possibility of a Cold War Veteran Exemption.

Paul Mazzotte also brought up Solar Panels and if the Town Board is going to opt out offering an exemption for them. The Town currently has 2 residences that have them. It is a 15 year exemption, on the panels only, does not include any fencing or anything like that. Assessments do go up when solar panels are installed, and then the resident can file for the exemption. Mr. Mazzotte is not sure of what the exact exemption would be; he would have to get certain figures from the power company first. Councilman Garrison stated he feels Residential Solar Panels and Commercial Solar Panels are 2 different things. With the 15 year exemption the resident can get back some of the cost for installing the solar panels. The Board was in agreement to do nothing at this point until they get more information.

Councilman Salerno asked about the 485B? The Supervisor stated only if we allow it.

The Supervisor reported that Whistlepig will be paying taxes, he has heard several rumors that they will not be and they definitely will be.

### **Town Board Reports:**

Councilman Salerno reported that he would like himself, Councilwoman Carpenter and Rich Lapiere to get together to discuss both campsites. He would like to have the campsite letters ready to go out by the next board meeting. Councilman Salerno said he heard that the Port Henry Beach was going to be opening the same week as the Town Campsite and he wants to make sure everyone is on the same page. The Supervisor said it shouldn’t be a problem if they are.

Councilman Garrison: Had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Carpenter: Had nothing to report. There was no Police Report.

Councilman Anderson reported on the Youth Commission Program. There are stricter guidelines coming down from the New York State Department of Health regarding children with disabilities. He also reported that the amount of work that falls on the administrator of the program is getting to be quite a lot and that is making it harder to find someone to run it, because it is so much work for a 5 week program. The program might have to hire a nurse in the near future. The Town of Moriah Youth Commission is the only day camp in the area that does not currently charge tuition, but we might have to start. Councilman Anderson said he is proud of the program but with the stricter guidelines and the increase in minimum wage, we might have to start charging. The Supervisor reported it is a \$40,000 plus a year program. Councilman Garrison thought maybe we could look at utilizing the program more and the Supervisor thought

maybe it could run the whole year. The program is only for kids up to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and that leaves a lot of kids out unless they are lucky enough to get a job.

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

Police Committee Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 3:00pm  
Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 3:00pm  
Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 3:00pm  
Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 3:00pm

The Supervisor reported that he has been having trouble with his email for quite some time now. It is very slow. He spoke to Lenny Turbini at the County regarding this and come to find out the Town is on Residential Class with Time Warner not Business Class which is why it is so slow, however in order to change it, we are going to have to change all of our email addresses, which is going to be a lot of work. It will cost the Town \$400 per year for a .Gov domain address. Lohrer McKinstry thought this was not accurate and Councilwoman Carpenter is going to look into it. The Supervisor said regardless, he needs new email.

The Town advertised for a member of the Board of Assessment and Review and we had no interest. If anybody knows of anyone who may be interested, have them give the Supervisor a call. If we don't get any interest we can always go back to a 3 member board. Paul Mazzotte said to sit on the Board of Assessment and Review you need to get certified and there are 3 meetings a year; May, August and December.

The Town also advertised for a Fire Commissioner for the new Fire District and we did not get any interest in that either. The Fire Commission serves as a Town Board for the Fire Department. The Fire Department has to submit their budget to the Fire Commissioners, there is a public hearing and it is voted on.

The Town received a grant in the amount of \$600,000 for sewer main replacement in Witherbee, which would include Lamos Lane, parts of Witherbee Road and the mine yard. We will start accepting RFP's next month and we will go out to bid probably in May.

The Town Board received a thank you letter from the Chamber thanking Ed Roberts, John Aurilio and James Wright for all their help with the Memory Tree Ceremony. It was a huge success. They would also like to thank everyone else involved.

The Supervisor received a letter from Betty Little regarding a new program; The Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement (MMHR) Program. It will provide local grants to replace older and dilapidated mobile and manufactured homes in our community. Whether or not this is a loan or a grant will depend on the resident's income.

The Supervisor received a letter from Michael Diskin, Essex County Treasurer regarding the mortgage tax. We were a little short from what we budgeted for.

The Supervisor stated again that Ed Roberts will be going around seeing how many street lights are out. He is going to call the Public Service Commission, there is no reason why this many are out and why they are not being fixed.

Somebody gave the Supervisor a photo of Robert Joyce; he was killed in the Civil War on June 3, 1864. He is the one that "Joyce Road" is named after.

The Supervisor received a cost estimate from Fred Keil, the architect who has been working on the Museum. This is the next step in the grant process. The Supervisor is going to invite him to the February Board meeting to discuss all the things that need to be fixed.

### **Resolutions:**

- 3. ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

**TABLED** until a special meeting is held with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to get more information regarding the sale of 6 parcels at Tub Mill Pond to New York State.

Discussion: The Town Board has 90 days to make a decision regarding this. The Supervisor wonders what the impact on the public would be, would they be able to use the land for snowmobiling, etc. He stated that New York State would pay taxes on the land. Councilman Garrison would like some input from adjacent land owners. The Supervisor will speak to the NYS DEC and get a date for a special meeting.

4. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Carpenter, Anderson, Garrison |
|          | Nays | 0  |
- RESOLVED** to accept and place on file the Chamber of Commerce 2016 Financial Report.

Discussion: The report was very good. The Supervisor talked to Marty Nephew from Mountain Lake Services about the Chamber moving into some space on Main Street that they have open.

5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Carpenter, Anderson, Garrison |
|          | Nays | 0  |
- RESOLVED** to authorize the Supervisor to sign contract with ROOST to receive \$2,500.00 for 2016 and \$2,500.00 for 2017 from Bed Tax Revenues, money to be used to enhance tourism through contract with the Town of Moriah Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion: The Town has received \$700.00 so far for 2016 from Roost. This \$700.00 was from a grant that Cathy Sprague wrote for advertisement to get tourism to the area.

6. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Carpenter, Anderson, Garrison |
|          | Nays | 0  |
- RESOLVED** to appoint Youth Commission for 2017 with Councilman Anderson as the official representative for Town. Members Jack Armstrong, Kristine Allen, Jessica Bosarge and Beth Trombley.

7. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Carpenter, Anderson, Garrison |
|          | Nays | 0  |
- RESOLVED** to authorize, Richard Lapier, Code Enforcement Officer to attend the Northern Adirondack Educational Conference in Lake Placid from March 6, 2017 – March 9, 2017 at a cost of \$285.00.

8. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
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|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Carpenter, Anderson, Garrison |
|          | Nays | 0  |
- RESOLVED** to authorize the Highway Superintendent to go to bid for a used front end loader, 2000 or newer and to use as trade in the 1989 John Deere. Also to use up to \$30,000.00 from 2016 appropriations not expended, and to use from the 2017 appropriated fund balance in highway account. Bid opening if approved February 9, 2017 at the Regular Town Board Meeting.

9. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was
- |          |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Carpenter, Anderson, Garrison |
|----------|------|--|

Nays 0

**RESOLVED** to authorize town supervisor to quitclaim any interest it may have in the lands previously conveyed to the town by deed from Mary A. Barton, Homer Barton and Alice Barton by deed recorded on February 22, 1895 in book 108 of deeds at page 157.

Whereas at a prior meeting held on April 2015 wherein it was determined that said lands were of no value to the Town of Moriah and of no monetary value, and

Whereas Dennis Tarantino, Esq. has provided the Town with a Quitclaim Deed and related documents for the conveyance of said property to his client, Antonetti, and said documents have been reviewed and approved by the Attorney for the Town as to form.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to authorize the Essex County Real Property Tax Services Office to move parcels 107.3-5-4.000/1, 107.3-5-4.000/2, 107.3-5-4.000/3, 107.3-5-4.000/4, 107.3-5-4.000/5 and 107.3-5-4.000/6 from Fire District #1 into Fire District #3 due to the dissolution of the Village of Port Henry.

Discussion: These are special water and fire districts and this should solve the problem.

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

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

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

**Floor open to the public:**

Cathy Sprague stated that the Chamber will be selling banners again. They are \$150.00 if anybody would like one and they are only selling them until March 15, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

December 9, 2016

Water 1	\$12.62	2016/5971
Water 2	\$9.18	
Water 4	\$1.15	

December 13, 2016

General	\$13.50	2016/5973
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December 31, 2016

General	\$14,188.96	2016/6059-6108
Highway	\$5,483.81	
Water #1	\$2,615.94	
Water #2	\$1,902.21	
Water #4	\$245.32	
Sewer	\$1,063.59	

January 12, 2017

General	\$96,583.33
Highway	\$300.00
Water #1	\$1,793.00
Water #2	\$1,207.93
Water #4	\$174.93
Sewer	\$96,736.27

2016/6097-6147

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Town Clerk