

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2020 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: Rose French-Town Clerk

Supervisor Scozzafava called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The Supervisor apologized and stated he is hoping this is the last meeting the Public will not be allowed to attend due to COVID 19. It is being broadcast live on Facebook.

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

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

All Department Heads excused.

The Supervisor reported on projects that are currently going on. Ridge and Oak Lane CDBG grant project and Tarbell Hill Pump Station project, both projects should be completed by September. Next will be College Street; water and sewer main replacement. The Water Department and Sewer Department have been very busy. Turbidity meters need to be replaced at the Water Department.

Councilman Salerno stated that both campsites were very busy over the July 4th weekend. We had between 35-40 transients. The Supervisor stated we have had more transients this year than we ever have. He also stated that Bulwagga Bay Beach is open. More swimmers this year. Councilman Salerno stated that one day there were between 36-38 swimmers at one time, we had to move the ropes to keep the social distancing rule in effect. Councilman Salerno stated he was hoping the cabins would be open by the end of July. The Supervisor stated that he and Councilman Brassard donated all of their time for the work they did on the cabins. They want to do the work correctly and not rush it. We are waiting on the bunk beds to be installed but the knotty pine has to be finished first. Landscaping also has to be finished. The Supervisor stated we still have to decide on a rate. We have had a lot of interest in renting the cabins and may have to do it by lotto. Councilman Anderson asked what rate the Board was thinking about and the Supervisor stated maybe \$80.00 with a weekly rental limit. Councilman Salerno stated that Bill Cook, Manager at Bulwagga Bay has kept a log of everyone entering the campground. The Supervisor stated there has been a lot of local interest in the cabins. The Town Clerk stated that all furnishings have been ordered except for the fans. The Supervisor stated at least one cabin should be ready soon.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor reported the Town will have to review their police department's procedures and adopt specific reform plans per the Governor's Executive Order and this will have to be done by April 2021. He will appoint one board member and along with himself will work on it. He doesn't know if dissolving the police department is the answer and contract with the Sherriff's Department. Councilman Anderson stated that just recently we talked about adding on a part time police officer and the Supervisor stated not now, it is a different world now. He stated that the exposure and liability are great, will be very expensive to do it.

The Supervisor stated that he and Jamie Wilson have been working on the FEMA projects; Port Henry Beach and Silver Hill Road. There will be no money forthcoming from the State.

The Supervisor reported that the money for Tarbell Hill Pump Station and the remaining Dissolution money will be “delayed” per New York State. The Supervisor stated he is worried about the schools, what they are going to do if their funding is cut. Councilman Salerno asked about the bed tax; the Supervisor said we don’t spend that money until we receive it. The Supervisor stated he is sure it will be down because of COVID 19. Sales tax is down by 2 1/2%. Councilman Anderson stated a lot of people are doing home improvements.

The Supervisor stated he has been getting a lot of complaints about businesses not requiring customers to wear a mask; employees have to. In certain “Mom and Pop” stores it is up to the owner if they require the customer to wear a mask. It can become confrontational; it has not been mandated yet in all stores. Councilman Salerno reiterated that the business owner has discretion to require a face mask.

The Supervisor received notification from NYS Department of Taxation and Finance that the Town’s equalization rate is 100%, the Supervisor stated this means the roll is where it should be.

The Supervisor received a letter from NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation regarding the Master Sewer Project. The Town is eligible for grant dollars and/or no interest loans with 30 year financing. All of this is on hold right now.

The Supervisor stated the Board has a copy of the expenditure report; 2021 budget should be ok.

Resolutions:

132. **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 obtain easements for sewer main on Ridge Lane from Philip Smith-6 Ridge Lane, Beth Tubbs-8 Ridge Lane, Chandler Thompson-10 Ridge Lane and Johanne Simpson-12 Ridge Lane.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo asked if the easements were already in place and the Supervisor said no. The sewer main runs behind these homes. The Town needs the easements for future repairs. The Supervisor stated there will be Attorney and Abstractor fees but they will be absorbed through the grant.

133. **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 Prime Pay to reimburse Rose French \$738.00 for medical bills for 2019 that came in after benefit period.

Discussion: Ms. French stated she received the bills in May.

134. **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 negotiate with HHHN the acquisition of Town owned Health Center at 33 Tom Phelps Lane.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the Town built the Health Center in 2005; it was funded by several grants. HHHN would like to take ownership of the building. The

Supervisor would like there to be a clause in the agreement that if HHHN is not in the building then it goes back to the Town. Councilman Salerno stated the reversion clause is critical.

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to contract with Barton and Loguidice for truck route study Broad/9N; amount \$5,300.

Discussion: The Town was petitioned by residents on Grove Street regarding the truck route; the Town allowed trucks to go down Broad Street. Local truck drivers contacted an attorney to change the truck route back. Both the Supervisor and Jamie Wilson, Highway Superintendent feel it would be best to have an outside party do the study to see which way is best or if it should be up to the truck driver. Councilman Salerno stated if the Town does the study then we did our part. The Supervisor stated the route would be based on professional opinions. He also stated the County or NYS DOT could have done it but he wants an impartial view. The Board was in agreement with this.

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

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

RESOLVED to approve liquor license application for 4394 Main Street-1 Dock Lane Port Henry, from Linda Smyth.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo asked if this was where the Paint & Sip is and the Supervisor said yes.

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

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

RESOLVED to allow Town of Crown Point to conduct a feasibility study to use the Town of Moriah wastewater treatment plant for sewage treatment.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he discussed this with Chip Perry and Charlie Herrington. Our plant can handle it. Councilman Anderson asked if Crown Point would have to pump it and the Supervisor said that is not our concern. Councilman Gilbo stated more people could get on it if it came from Crown Point and the Supervisor stated that is a good point.

138. **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 purchase a Biz Hub 475 for court to scan to NYS email. Old Copier to be transferred to Police Department; this is needed for remote arraignments; purchase from Symquest \$1,454.13.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is something that they have to have.

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Moriah Town Court to apply for 2020-2021 Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant with the maximum amount of \$30,000.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is for capital expenditures/equipment. He stated that the building we are in was paid for by one of these grants.

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

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

RESOLVED to set date for the 2nd public hearing on CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant #758PW143-18;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah will hold a Public Hearing *on August 13, 2020* at 5:45pm at the Moriah Court House;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of this hearing is for hearing public comments on the Town of Moriah's current Community Development Block Grant project: Port Henry Water & Sewer Main Replacement Phase I on Oak and Ridge Lane, CDBG #758PW143-18, with grant funding in the amount of \$750,000.00.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we have to have a 2nd public hearing once 60% of the project has been complete.

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

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

142. **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 of payment of end of month and monthly warrant.

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

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

RESOLVED to forego interest and penalties on water and sewer for the remainder of the year due to hardships caused by COVID 19.

144. **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 sign Essex County Emergency Medical Services intermunicipal agreement between Essex County, Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad and the Town of Moriah.

145. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Supervisor Scozzafava, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to amend Bulwagga Bay Campsite Assistant Manager Agreement; increase salary by \$1,200; bringing total for the year to \$2,400.

Discussion: Councilman Salerno stated they have to clean the bathrooms and they are very busy. They do a great job. Supervisor Scozzafava agrees; campsite is way behind on everything; mowing, etc., pump outs are very time consuming. He stated the new Assistant Manager can do a lot maintenance wise. He supports the increase. He stated we will have to look at both campgrounds next year maintenance wise. Councilman Anderson if it was because of COVID 19 that there was an increase in duties and the Supervisor said yes. The Supervisor stated that we will have to discuss at a later date who is going to clean the cabins.

The Supervisor is going to check with Moriah Fire Department to see if the Town could use the hall but he doubts it. Town employees have to do a sexual harassment training every year.

Councilman Salerno asked the Supervisor if the Shed Guy was all taken care of. The Supervisor stated we need a new invoice once the sliding doors are removed. He said we would have it by the August meeting. The Supervisor said the rough lumber is shrinking and will have to be calked; will have maintenance issues with it down the road.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

June 26, 2020

General	\$959.26
Highway	\$936.26
Water #1	\$64.31
Water #2	\$45.09
Water #3	\$134.42
Water #4	\$6.39
Sewer #1	\$74.06
Sewer #2	\$93.01

2020/855-869

July 9, 2020

General	\$55,265.54
Highway	\$5,139.37
Water #1	\$6,483.26
Water #2	\$6,016.99
Water #3	\$1,321.12
Water #4	\$313.11
Sewer #1	\$2,813.09
Sewer #2	\$1,308.49

2020/873-1003

Capital Projects:

CDBG Oak & Ridge Main Replacement	Press Republican	\$85.37	#4
Tarbell Hill Pump Station	Denton Publications	\$44.83	#5
CDBG Town Hall Project	Press Republican	\$82.47	#2

Town Clerk