

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, July 14, 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
Matt Brassard Councilman
Nathan Gilbo Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Tom Cowin, Robert Stevenson, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Diana Stevenson, Sharon O'Connor, Richard Lapier, Patricia Montgomery, Paul Reese, Katrinka Tromblee and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

Bid Opening: Court House Renovations

Supervisor Scozzafava read the legal notice of bid. One bid was received from Mid-State Industries, LTD out of Schenectady, NY. \$66,000.00 for the roof and \$6,800 for the windows. Councilman Salerno stated that is high. The Supervisor stated we have to pay prevailing wages-state regulations. He does not support this and feels we should go out to bid again. He stated there are very few roofers who do slate anymore.

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

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

RESOLVED to reject Mid-State Industries bid for the Court House Renovations.

Discussion: Councilman Salerno asked if we could accept the window bid. The Supervisor said no, that is an alternate bid.

Floor Open to the Public:

N/A

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Rich Lapier issued 7 building permits for the month of May, he also has one mobile home permit for George & Denise Daly; Furnace Road; replacing mobile home that was there, he recommends approval.

112. 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 approve mobile home application for George & Denise Daly, Furnace Road, Moriah.

Councilman Salerno asked Rich Lapier about radiant heat; can rough lumber be used, yes you can if you mill it yourself, but if you buy it; no.

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds: They got the bandstand stained.
Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent has been excused.

Chip Perry-Water Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator is on vacation.

Councilman Salerno read the Water & Sewer report: Had 4 water breaks and 1 sewer plug. Replaced 6 curb stops. They would like to thank the Highway Department for their help. Bartlett Pond is low please try to conserve water. The Supervisor stated that Cheney Brook/Pond was low; beaver damn, it is better now. The Supervisor stated we need somebody who is licensed to trap them.

Councilman Brassard read the police report. Officer Brassard has been patrolling Witherbee Road; clocked one vehicle going 75 down Witherbee Road. Patrolling Cheever also. The Supervisor stated that the State Police have been patrolling those areas also. Officer Brassard had 5 domestics, 3 arrests and a couple of issues at the campground. Councilman Brassard stated Officer Brassard does a lot by himself.

Councilman Anderson stated the summer program is up and running. 100 kids registered/65 kids average per day. Had a few kinks that needed to be worked out regarding vaccines. He stated there are usually 120 kids registered at this time; he feels the location/gas might be part of the issue. He has had good reports; people are excited it is back after 2 years.

Councilman Gilbo reported the charging stations are up and running. They got some use over the July 4th weekend. He has been looking into a grant writing analysis; rough estimate of \$3,500. The Supervisor stated that through Restore NY there is a shared main street grant available; Moriah is favorable because we share one with Westport and Crown Point. Councilman Brassard stated they are capping it at \$2 million, that is huge for a community our size. The Supervisor asked Councilman Brassard to have Officer Brassard post signs not to park at the charging stations.

Councilman Brassard reported that Champ Day will be August 6, 2022 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. He stated Andrea Anesi thanked the Town for allowing them to use both beaches this year. Councilman Brassard stated there will be movie night at Bulwagga Bay Campsite on August 5th. He reported that Patricia has 4 bands for Moriah Fest which will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022. Councilman Brassard reported that Bulwagga Bay Campsite has 163 seasonals; has had 200 transients so far this year; sold out for the 4th of July.

Councilman Salerno stated he would really like to see the recovery money used in each hamlet. The Supervisor stated we have already started using the stimulus money on sidewalks. Councilman Salerno would like to see the old Port Henry High School property turned in to something that the entire community can use. The Supervisor stated that as soon as the Town owns it, Jamie Wilson and Tom Cowin will start cleaning it up. Councilman Salerno asked if the 2 cabins at Bulwagga Bay were being used and the Supervisor stated he thinks they are being rented for weekends and holidays, nothing long term, and less during the week. The Supervisor feels they would get more use if they had bathrooms. Councilman Salerno thinks an attached bathroom would be a great idea. Councilman Salerno asked if they were any updates on the Hydro Project and the Supervisor stated he spoke to Jim Besha yesterday; there were comments on Facebook regarding the Governor's "green energy" plan and the Supervisor commented we have the perfect green energy project right here in the Town of Moriah but it keeps getting denied by NYS DEC and the Supervisor received a call from the Governor's office shortly thereafter. Jim Besha feels NYS DEC will approve their Speedy's permit. Councilman Salerno would like to utilize the spring by Roe Pond and turn it into "champ water" and sell it. The Supervisor stated there are too many regulations to do that.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor stated people have been asking about the homeowner tax rebate credit check. He stated if you don't pay school taxes now due to exemptions you will not get a check. If you want to check on the status of your check you can do that online. Councilman Brassard stated they hope to have all the checks out by the end of September.

The Supervisor stated that in order to receive EFC funding for the sewer project we can't hold off any longer.

The Supervisor stated that the tax sale will be August 10, 2022 at the Best Western in Ticonderoga at 11:00am, it will also be on the County website.

The Town had a comprehensive monitoring report on the 1st and 2nd Street Project and also Ridge and Oak Lane project in June; a few details were corrected; went well.

The Essex County Board of Supervisor's approved the transfer of 4 parcels where the old Port Henry High School was to the Town. The current owner has until July 27, 2022 to pay the back taxes; then the Town owns it.

The Town owns the water tower at the end of Spring Street. We need to put a chain link fence around it. Councilman Anderson asked if we would do the work ourselves and the Supervisor said yes. Jamie Wilson, Rich Lapier and Tom Cowin will look at it. The Board was in agreement with this.

The Supervisor has been receiving complaints about the Rod & Gun Club on the Tracey Road; shooting after hours, rapid fire, etc. The Supervisor has spoken to Steve Hart and the Town Attorney regarding this. The Town has no control over the Rod & Gun Club. Steve Hart is working on a solution to limit rounds. The Supervisor stated he is aware of the problem and the Rod & Gun Club are doing what they can. This club has been there since 1957.

The Supervisor received the final special franchise report for National Grid, AT & T, Verizon, Westelcom, Intellifiber and Time Warner. The State sets the assessments on them not the Town Assessors. It totals over \$5 million.

The Supervisor reported there was a rabid fox in Ticonderoga. He stated if you see an animal acting strange, contact the NYS DEC or call 911 and dispatch will get a hold of an Encon Officer.

Regarding the speed reduction in Grover Hills; NYS DOT will only go as low as 30mph. The Supervisor is confident the Governor will sign reducing it to 25mph. The Town can do 20mph but every road will have to be posted. The Supervisor is working on it.

The total American Rescue Plan Funds was over \$4 million. Last summer we received \$2 million. We have until 2025 to spend it. The Supervisor stated that the campgrounds need more/newer playground equipment; also at Linney Field. Councilman Anderson asked if the playground at Linney Field was originally a grant and the Supervisor said yes. The Board was in agreement with pursuing some new playground equipment. Councilman Gilbo would like some ideas from the community. The Supervisor said we can use it for water and sewer; Councilman Brassard stated but not for taxes.

The Supervisor stated we received 10 applications for the WWTP Trainee position. We will start setting up interviews, Councilman Gilbo will be on the committee along with Chip Perry. Councilman Anderson asked when the person would start and the Supervisor stated he hopes the last week in July.

Essex County will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Day in Elizabethtown on July 23rd at the Essex County DPW from 8am – 1pm, North Hudson Highway Garage on August 6th from 8am – 1pm and the Ticonderoga Highway Garage on August 13th from 8am – 1pm.

The Supervisor spoke to Bill Larrow, Superintendent Moriah Central School regarding shared services with the Sherman Free Library. The Town currently appropriates \$13,000 a year to the Library. This will be looked at during budget time. The Supervisor feels it should be over a 5-year period. The Supervisor did find out that Moriah Central School can donate money to the Library and it won't affect the tax cap. Councilman Salerno stated their reserves were \$100,000 and the operating & maintenance was \$70,000 correct and the Supervisor said yes, he also stated that the State mandates the hours they are open. Councilman Salerno asked if they were all volunteers and the Supervisor said everyone but the Librarian, she gets paid.

Resolutions:

113. 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 authorizing Supervisor, Code Officer and Public Health Officer to follow procedures as outlined by Town Attorney regarding garbage issues on properties.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he deals with 2-3 garbage issues per week. He has contacted the Town Attorney. 1st step-warning letter, 2nd step-Health Officer gets involved, 3rd step-letter summoned to Court and 4th step-Town can have garbage removed and fee will be added to the Town & County Taxes. Councilman Salerno stated this would be a good article for Tim Rowland to put in the paper and the Supervisor stated he is retired. He also stated that part of the issue is absentee landlords, ultimately they are responsible to deal with it.

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

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

RESOLVED to accept parcel #97.1-1-1.000 from County of Essex, landlocked, adjoins Town property on Broad Street by Maria Velsini and Joe Urban.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is a sliver of property, it has been sold several times at the tax auction and when people realize it is landlocked they don't want it.

115. **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 allow all properties in Town of Moriah suggested for "land bank" to go to auction and not put any properties on land bank.

Discussion: Not for profit organizations can rehab and then sell these.

116. **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 to require seasonal laborer employees at campsites to work holidays at straight time.

Discussion: There are 5 holidays during the summer. The state schedules seasonal employees to work during these holidays. The Town will let the employee know in advance this is what we require.

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

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

RESOLVED to accept proposal from Titan Roofing to repair/replace missing slate on Town Hall roof; \$5,830.00.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is a good deal! Councilman Salerno asked where they were out of and the Supervisor said Springfield, MA. The Board was in agreement with paying for this out of the general fund; not stimulus money.

118. **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 have an appraisal done on Mill Brook parcel; 1 acre near Mill Brook and proceed to go to bid to sell property.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that this property surrounds the old ambulance building where the diner used to be. It went back to the County and the County gave it back to the Town. The new owner of the ambulance building wants it. The Town would have to get an appraisal, surplus it and then go to bid, there is no reason for the Town to own it. The Board was in agreement with pursuing this.

119. 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 an Award be made to an engineering firm for the Moriah Sewer Upgrades project # P-1005-2019.

Further, the notice of award shall be made only after an acceptable price for these services be agreed upon between the firm ranked first by the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process, and the Town.

The ranking of the firms is as follows:

MJ Engineering, P.C. – 95 / 100 points
EDR - 88 / 100 points
AES Northeast, PLLC – 83 / 100 points

AND BE IT RESOLVED a resolution awarding the bid for the Moriah sewer upgrades project engineering contract to MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, PC, (“MJ”) with the funds thereof to come from the NYS EFC grant and loan # C5-5566-05-00 and further authorizing the town board to execute a contract with MJ for engineering services.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah has reviewed all proposals submitted for the Moriah Sewer Upgrades Project Request for Proposals with the assistance from Essex County Community Resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after review and discussion of the proposals submitted to the Town Board at a Regular Board Meeting on this date;

WHEREAS, the decision was made to select an engineering firm, that most fist the needs associated with this project and an acceptance price has been agreed upon;

THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Moriah will award MJ the engineering contract for said project.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we received quotes from 3 engineers, the County recommends MJ Engineering.

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

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in the budget as needed.

121. ON MOTION by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Brassard, 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.

122. ON MOTION by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

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

Floor open to the public:

Sharon O’Connor stated that pulling into the playground in Grover Hills is very rough. The Supervisor stated he thinks the School takes care of this but he will talk to Jamie about it. Ms. O’Connor would also like to see some swings at the Miner’s Park in Witherbee. The Supervisor told Ms. O’Connor to meet with the committee and come up with some ideas of what they would like to have in the park. Ms. O’Connor asked about Pepper Field and the Supervisor stated it is leased we can’t put playground equipment there; we don’t own it. Ms. O’Connor also stated that when Building & Grounds mowed the park they mowed down some plants. The Supervisor asked Councilman Brassard to check with the school and/or Scalzo Construction for some top soil.

Katrinka Tromblee stated for the land bank properties BOCES should be contacted, they have construction programs there. The Supervisor stated that was a good suggestion. Ms. Tromblee also asked if there could be a playground next to the old ambulance building and the Supervisor stated no, that is not a good spot, maybe near the Moriah Fire Department. Ms. Tromblee also stated that with new legislation no individual can take a weapon off their property, the Supervisor stated that is simply not true. The Supervisor stated if the law passes it will get busier. Councilman Anderson stated it starts in September. Ms. Tromblee stated that hunter safety courses are top notch. Councilman Salerno read part of the law from his phone and the Supervisor stated it does not mention the Adirondack Park. Ms. Tromblee stated that the rabid fox in Ticonderoga affected pets, farm animals and children; needed to get the shots.

Patricia Montgomery stated that Moriah Fest will be September 10, 2022 from 5pm – 8pm at the Bandstand. She has 3 bands lined up right now. One band needs a PA system. Councilman Brassard will talk to them; he asked what the cost was and Ms. Montgomery stated one wanted \$4,000, one wanted \$1,300 and one wanted \$250. The Supervisor stated we can use \$5,000 of bed tax money to put towards this. He stated we need a commitment from the band’s first. The Board was in agreement with the concept. Councilman Brassard asked if the bands would play for 1 hour each and Ms. Montgomery said yes. The Supervisor told Ms. Montgomery she had the Board’s permission to pursue this. Councilman Anderson asked how she was going to advertise it and Councilman Brassard stated he would talk to the Chamber about advertising. The Supervisor stated she could utilize ROOST also. Councilman Brassard asked about vendors and Ms. Montgomery stated she is working on a few. Councilman Brassard stated he will get a list of food vendors to her. Councilman Anderson asked if there was a rain date and Ms. Montgomery stated they will advertise rain or shine but if it is really bad possibly the following weekend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

June 14, 2022

General	\$2,000.00
Highway	\$3,200.00
Water #1	\$336.00
Water #2	\$228.00
Water #3	\$400.00
Water #4	\$36.00
Sewer #1	\$860.00
Sewer #2	\$140.00

2022/867-884

June 23, 2022

General	\$8,965.12	2022/889-918
Highway	\$2,150.10	
Water #1	\$94.67	
Water #2	\$65.69	
Water #3	\$531.87	
Water #4	\$9.65	
Sewer #1	\$2,547.46	
Sewer #2	\$2,172.16	

July 14, 2022

General	\$61,744.79	2022/922-1091
Highway	\$8,251.95	
Water #1	\$5,218.77	
Water #2	\$3,621.54	
Water #3	\$2,086.93	
Sewer #1	\$13,971.73	
Sewer #2	\$5,039.90	

Stimulus:

Bryant's Lumber	Sidewalks-Main St.	\$618.81	#2
Taylor Rental		\$188.00	#3
Beebe's		\$24.00	#4
Beebe's		\$12.00	#5
Taylor Rental		\$61.00	#6
SD Ireland		\$406.00	#7
SD Ireland		\$97.00	#8
JP Carrara & Son's		\$1,500.00	#9
JP Carrara & Son's		\$1,500.00	#10
JP Carrara & Son's		\$975.00	#11
JP Carrara & Son's		\$675.00	#12
JP Carrara & Son's		\$975.00	#13
JP Carrara & Son's		\$1,252.50	#14
Adk Sand & Gravel		\$324.00	#15
Bryant's Lumber	Town Hall Generator	\$104.15	#2
GMES		\$959.35	#3
Hynes Electrical		\$92.44	#4
Cedarwood Engineering	Water Plant Reservoir	\$6,416.50	#1