

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2018 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
	Matt Brassard	Councilman

**Others Present:** Ed Roberts, Chuck Roberts, Keith Lobdell, Jeff Farnsworth, Eric Wilhelmson, Sharon O'Connor, Jeff Kelly, Linda Smyth, Ronnie Cunningham, Jodi Olcott, Kevin Brace, Curt Gregory, Bill & Carol Cogswell, Gail Pilger, Dave Mandy, Ann Tesar, Debbie Henry, Rich Lapier, Jamie Wilson, Charlie & Ann Turek, Richard Buske, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Jennifer Amid and Omer Mubsm and Rose French-Town Clerk.

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

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

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

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

The Supervisor introduced Jodi Olcott from the Essex County IDA. Ms. Olcott explained the PILOT Agreement with Pre Tech Plastics in the Moriah Business Park. The IDA will be selling the building on Lot #1 to Pre Tech Plastics. They currently have 32 full time jobs and they are all residents of the Town of Moriah. The purpose of this transaction is to provide economic incentives and gain some tax revenues. It also secures Pre Tech Plastics in the Town. Hopefully they will expand. Hospice will be expanding also and will be using the whole building that they are in. She stated that the Park is producing. Pre Tech has shown commitment to this area. The Supervisor supports this Agreement. Councilman Anderson completely supports it as well. Councilman Salerno asked if there was any room left in the Park. Ms. Olcott stated there is 15 acres left, but only 4.2 acres are developable, the rest is wetlands. She met with the APA regarding the wetlands. Ms. Olcott stated they would like to see Whistlepig move their whole operation over from Shoreham, VT and Councilman Anderson asked if this was a possibility and she said yes. Councilman Brassard asked if they were special districts and Ms. Olcott said yes. Eric Wilhelmson asked if Whistlepig would buy the building and Ms. Olcott stated they are very interested in moving over here from Shoreham. Councilwoman Carpenter asked if Pre Tech would be expanding and Ms. Olcott said yes. Councilman Salerno asked if the water & sewer and electrical were all set to go back to the 4 acres available. Ms. Olcott said yes, the wetlands are the issue. Ms. Olcott stated that she does not want to give up any acreage because of the wetlands. Eric Wilhelmson asked what the purchase price was for Pre Tech. Ms. Olcott stated it is \$530,000; appraised value. The Supervisor stated that the \$530,000 will stay in the Park. Councilman Anderson asked if the IDA now has to go to the School and County and get their approval also, and Ms. Olcott said yes.

The Supervisor introduced Richard Buske from the NYS Department of State; Division of Cemeteries. He also stated there were other members from the Moriah Union Cemetery present. They are here to recruit more members. Mr. Buske presented the Town Board with the Moriah Union Cemetery Audit. He stated that if the cemetery is turned over to the Town, it would only need to be mowed 3 times a year. There are 2 ways that a cemetery can be abandoned; financially or lack of trustees. The final determination is up to the Division of Cemeteries. In order to be a trustee you have to own a plot. Mr. Buske stated he oversees 300 cemeteries; of those 60% are 5 acres or less. The Moriah Union Cemetery has 2 options if they cannot find new members; 1) stay in operation with Town support or 2) abandon it and it goes to the Town. If the cemetery is abandoned, the Town is not required to sell lots and the Town does not have to do the burials. The Town could sell plots if they chose to. The Town could sell off unused acreage. Supervisor Scozzafava stated that the Town should not be running the cemetery. The care and maintenance of a cemetery is not high on the Town's priority list. The Town already deals with 8 abandoned cemeteries. Mr. Buske asked if these were private and the Supervisor said yes. Mr. Scozzafava stated that this is not a financial issue and Mr. Buske said no, they need members.

Financially they could exist for another 125 years even if they don't sell anymore plots. The Supervisor stated that many people have contacted him regarding serving on the Board that have family members buried there. Dave Mandy stated you don't have to own a plot if your parents have plots there. Mr. Mandy stated that key members are retiring; Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; existing Board members don't want the positions. They need 4 key positions and 5 regular board members. Mr. Buske suggested it would help if all the terms didn't expire at the same time. Mr. Mandy stated that they don't. The Supervisor asked if someone was interested in serving on the Board who would they contact. Mr. Mandy stated they can contact him. Debbie Henry reiterated that it is the key positions that need to be filled but they need voting members in order to fill them. Councilman Salerno asked if there was a time frame for the positions to be filled and Mr. Mandy stated ASAP. Councilwoman Carpenter suggested putting a plea on the Public Access Channel. Mr. Buske also suggested putting something in the local paper. Gail Pilger asked what the total number of members is and how many times do they meet and Mr. Mandy said 9 and once a year. Ms. Pilger asked if there was any special training and Mr. Mandy said no. Mr. Buske stated that the Treasurer needs to file an annual report and they would have to be able to write checks, etc.. Mr. Mandy stated he has been the Treasurer for 35 years and he is getting done. The Supervisor stated that the Town will work with the cemetery as much as we can. They need to start recruiting right away. Mr. Mandy stated they have been slowly losing money. The interest rate on their assets keeps going down but the price of everything else keeps going up. He stated that they have gotten grants over the years for repairs; like the stone wall. He feels they are barely treading water. Curt Gregory asked who was doing the mowing now and how much were they getting paid. Mr. Mandy stated that Zach Desimone currently does it and it is roughly \$1,000 each time he mows. Gail Pilger asked if there was available space and Mr. Mandy said yes, roughly 4 acres. Carol Cogswell stated her family is buried there and she doubts there are any open plots left. Mr. Mandy stated it is hard because some of the older graves did not have head stones. The cemetery paid to have a new map done a few years ago and Harland's Funeral Home has a copy of that map. They also got a grant for \$19,000 to fix the bases. Wind storms over the years have done a lot of damage to stones. They have a lot of trees that need to be taken down. The Supervisor stated that the Town can work with the cemetery to get the trees cut down. Mr. Buske stated that the cemetery can do fundraising also and maybe even a newsletter. The cemetery can help save on their expenses by changing the percentage that is allotted to maintenance from 20% to 10%. Ann Turek stated she has been the secretary for 12 years and it is a lot of work. She is willing to help the new person get acclimated. The Supervisor stated it is a lot of up keep and the Town will continue to try and help out. Jeff Farnsworth stated he is willing to stay on as President if he gets some help. The Supervisor stated they need new members. Mr. Buske stated if they amend their bylaws they would only need 3 members.

Supervisor Scozzafava would like to clarify a situation regarding the building that the Port Henry Fire Department is housed in. He has always supported the Port Henry Fire Department. During the dissolution when the fire company became a new district he and Councilman Brassard did a lot of work to make it happen. Mr. Scozzafava stated he was very upset when he read on social media that "Scozzafava" is trying to derail the Port Henry Fire Department. He tried very hard to save the Port Henry Fire Department. He stated it is not the Port Henry Fire Department; it is the building. Years ago the Port Henry Fire Department had a study done and the study showed the building should be condemned. The building is owned by everyone in the Town of Moriah. The building is now insured. The Supervisor stated he had a company that was interested in leasing it but the Town didn't do it because of the Port Henry Fire Department needed a place to store their equipment. He also heard that people are saying he wants to consolidate Fire Departments; he never said that. What he would like to see is a town wide fire district which would spread the tax base out throughout the Town. He wanted to surplus the building because there was interest in the building by Pre Tech Plastics; they wanted it for storage. This has not been a secret. He also stated again, that if the Town Board decides to sell the building it would be subject to permissive referendum. He also stated that the Town does not need 3 different fire districts. He stated that the Town cannot subsidize a fire district and that is what the Town is doing with the Port Henry Fire Department; the Town is giving them a break on the lease and we are not supposed to be doing that. The Supervisor stated that the Port Henry Fire Department needs to find space or start paying all the expenses on the building. They have been offered property and a building. There is grant money available. He stated that the Fire District is separate from the Town. The Supervisor asked if anybody had any questions. He is tired of the BS shots at him on Facebook.

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

Gail Pilger stated she is concerned about vandalism at the Pickle ball Court. One of the neighbors chased away a bunch of kids around 11:30pm. She has to do a lot of pick up to get the court ready and one net is already destroyed. She would like to get a sign that states the hours the court is open or maybe get a game cam to catch who is doing the vandalism. The Supervisor is afraid a game cam would get stolen. Dave Mandy stated he has one they can have for free if they want it. It has to be put in a discreet spot. The Supervisor thinks we should post some hours. Councilman Anderson asked what the hours would be. Ms. Pilger stated maybe 8am-8pm. Councilman Salerno asked what about winter hours. Councilman Brassard that if a game cam is put up he is pretty sure we need to post a "under surveillance" sign. Councilman Anderson stated that alone might deter some vandalism. Ms. Pilger also asked if they could get a porta potty also and the Supervisor stated he does not support that because then we would have to put one everywhere. Councilman Salerno stated the Board needs to be consistent, if we do it for one we have to do it for all.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to purchase two (2) signs for the pickle ball court; (1) under surveillance and (1) posting the hours.

Linda Smyth read a thank you note for the banner brackets, especially Jamie Wilson. Thank you to Ed Roberts, John Hickey and Lance for putting up the Chamber banners and directing traffic. Thank you to the Chamber for paying for the brackets and for their continued support. The Supervisor thanked the Chamber –the community looks great.

Carol Cogswell asked about the bathrooms at the Boat Launch. The Supervisor stated that the old bathroom will be renovated this year and next year we will move forward with the new bathrooms. There are two (2) "shanties" down there that are bathrooms. The Town is working with the DEC on the new bathrooms.

Deb Henry would like to thank Tom and Becky for all their help with the beautification. Also, Decker's Flats, Ed Roberts, Art Morgan, the Chamber and all the volunteers. The Supervisor thanked Ms. Henry for all that she does.

Kevin Brace asked what the status was on the culvert on his property. Jamie Wilson stated that the Town was turned down for the grant. He has not heard back from the State. Mr. Brace stated he spoke to the NYS Comptroller and they told him the Town is responsible for the Assessor's. The Supervisor told Mr. Brace that the Town cannot fire the Assessor's. Mr. Wilson wanted to lightly ditch down by Mr. Brace's property and put some rock in. Mr. Wilson stated that they cannot remove the culvert. The Supervisor told Mr. Wilson that he needs to get with Mr. Brace and get this problem resolved. Mr. Wilson stated the Highway Department can contain the problem but they can't relocate the culvert; it has been there forever. The Supervisor stated that legally the Town cannot drain water onto someone's property. He asked if the water has been dyed. Mr. Wilson stated that the pipe dumps right onto the property. The Supervisor stated then the Town needs to fix it. The Supervisor told Mr. Brace that the Town will work with him to get it resolved. The Supervisor stated that Mr. Wilson does a great job; the Town inherited this problem. He reiterated again that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brace need to get together and come up with a solution that works for everyone and is affordable.

## **Department Head Reports:**

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent: Mr. Wilson addressed Mr. Brace and told him that they would work something out. They have been getting a lot of calls from residents. They have been sweeping and mowing. Nine (9) pieces of equipment are down. The docks are in. They have been doing some sidewalk repair, hard to clean up by the burnt building. The Supervisor asked where they were with the parking lot in Port Henry. Mr. Wilson said they have been working on it. The Supervisor would like to see it cleared and lined, then we can look for funding for binder. He feels drainage will be a problem. Mr. Wilson spoke to Marty Nephew-

Mountain Lake Services; they would like to get the gravel down this year. Mr. Wilson stated that the retaining wall needs to be repaired also.

Rich Lapier-Code Enforcement Officer: Issued 6 building permits for the month of May. Issued 2 certificates of occupancy. The Supervisor stated that Frank Slycord-Property Maintenance is almost finished with his inventory on zombie properties. The Supervisor stated the Town will hold landlords responsible if buildings don't meet code, they will be shut down. Eric Wilhelmson asked how many zombie properties the Town had and the Supervisor stated roughly 30.

Ed Roberts-Building & Grounds: Nothing to report.

Art Morgan-Water & Sewer Superintendent: Excused.

Chip Perry-Wastewater Treatment Plant: Excused.

Councilwoman Carpenter read the police report: Handled 153 calls for service. 8-Violations: (2) harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, (2) disorderly conduct, (1) trespass, (1) failure to license a dog, (2) permitting a dog to run at large. 5-Misdemeanors: (3) issuing bad checks, (2) operating with a suspended license. Issued 18 traffic tickets. Handled 8 traffic accidents. Conducted 14 pistol permit background investigations. Eric Wilhelmson asked if the pistol permits were endorsed. The Supervisor stated that all the police department does is the finger prints.

Councilman Salerno asked about the hydrant at the bottom of convent hill. It's going to cost about \$4,000 to fix it. The Supervisor stated that he is working with the company; it has been difficult because they are out of Canada. The Supervisor stated that bids for the Witherbee sewer project will be opened Friday at 10:00am. We will be awarding the slip lining bid for Manhole 13 at the end of the meeting in Resolutions.

### **Town Board Report's:**

Councilman Salerno: Had nothing to report.

Councilman Brassard: Spoke to Calef from Paraglide of New England, they hope to be up and running the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in July. He has been going door to door with the income surveys for First, Second and Third Lane in Port Henry. The Supervisor reminded everyone that these are confidential but it is crucial that we get them back. Councilman Brassard reported he spoke to Cheyenne at the Transfer Station; he would like to suggest that next year for the free dump day that we put on the slip what is accepted. The Supervisor stated that next year we are going back to the old way of doing it.

Councilwoman Carpenter: Jeff Popp started the doors at the Iron Center. We do have a change order at the end of the meeting in Resolutions. The Chamber has been busy with Champ Day and Labor Day, still looking for volunteers. Investors have visited both campsites regarding the Waterfront Development Project. In August they hope to have a decision/proposal. The Supervisor reminded everyone we are not selling the campgrounds we are leasing them.

Councilman Anderson: Interviews for the Summer Program are complete. The program will run from July 9, 2018 – August 9, 2018 for the campers and Counselors will go through August 10, 2018 for cleanup. Training is June 25, 2018 in Moriah from 9:00am – 3:00pm and in Elizabethtown on June 27, 2018 from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to hire Logan VanBuren, Lauren Evans, Sebastian Sprouse, Kenzee Cutting, Samantha Hayes, Dillon Bougor, Hunter Cheney, Myles Madill, Brandon Boyea, Mike Rollins, Maddie Cochran, Dylan Trombley, Alethea Goralczyk, and Leslie Flippo for the 2018 Summer Program.

**Supervisor’s Report:**

The Supervisor reported that the Town is seeking legal action against the owner of the burned out building in Port Henry. The Supervisor read a letter from the Town Attorney regarding this matter. So far this issue has cost the Town roughly \$2,600 in legal fees. If the Town gets the abatement and can take the building down, the County will assist the Town and then the Town will file liens against the property owner to get back the money from the take down. Jennifer Amid asked who the owner was and the Supervisor stated he cannot get into it. There are 2 different individuals, one is the property owner and the other is the mortgage holder. Traffic continues to be an issue near the building. The Supervisor let everyone know that he is doing everything he can. Carol Cogswell asked about a snow storm, that would surely take the building down. The Supervisor stated that the building will be down long before snow is here. The Supervisor reported that the Engineer’s report said that the first floor could be saved, but if the Town has to take it down; the whole thing is coming down. Eric Wilhelmson asked what the hold up was and the Supervisor said he couldn’t say.

The Supervisor feels that we should look into a sole assessor again. It was put on the ballot years ago and was defeated, but he feels it is time to look at it again. The majority of Towns have a sole paid assessor. He thinks we should have some informational meetings and go from there. Councilman Brassard asked about putting it on the ballot, but the Supervisor thinks it is too late for this year. The Supervisor stated that a lot of Counties have taken over the assessor’s job. Councilwoman Carpenter asked what the next step would be and the Supervisor said an informational meeting. Eric Wilhelmson asked why the Supervisor wanted to go to a sole assessor now and the Supervisor stated there are pros and cons to both. The Supervisor stated that two assessors have health issues. He would like to see them move to the old Village Hall. Unfortunately nobody every wants to run for the position of assessor. The Supervisor stated that the Town needs a re-evaluation. Councilwoman Carpenter stated that there are differently levels of training. Eric Wilhelmson asked if the Board was all in agreement to put it on the ballot. The Supervisor said he is all for it. Councilman Salerno asked out of the 17 Counties how many had a sole assessor and the Supervisor stated most of them do. Dave Mandy asked if the Town went with a sole assessor would that mean a pay raise and the Supervisor said yes, the Town would contract with them and it would be per parcel.

The Supervisor reported that Justice William Lahendro from Westport retired and Justice Carpenter will be doing it until the end of the year. The Town has nothing to do with this.

Parking in Port Henry has been an issue. The Town has a no parking ordinance for certain hours during the winter but feels maybe we should look at it for the summer also. Houses are just too close together.

The Supervisor received a letter from the NYS Department of Taxation & Finance regarding the equalization rate; it is % 100.

North Country Community College is interested in purchasing the old Lowe’s Building in Ticonderoga for a Trade School. There will be a public meeting on June 27, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Ticonderoga Campus.

**Resolutions:**

- 111. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  

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

**RESOLVED** to contract with Roberta Aurilio to direct the Summer Food Program at Moriah Central School; \$4,500/yr.

Discussion: This is a funded program. Contract with each employee. Reimbursed by Federal Government. Councilman Anderson stated there are usually 100 campers.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to approve two free nights of camping at Bulwagga Bay; Tom Smith, Lyon Falls, NY: Promotional through tourism department.

Discussion: This is through ROOST, we have had a lot of interest. Excludes Holiday weekends.

- 113. ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** to rescind prior to declare Village Hall surplus property, and to relocate Assessor's Office to that location ASAP.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that the stairs at the Town Hall are the issue. There was some discussion regarding putting a new building up next the Court House. The old Village Hall will need a handicap ramp. The Supervisor still feels this is a better location for the Assessors. The Department of Motor Vehicles will have the left side and the Assessor's will have the right.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to authorize a 10 year pilot agreement with Pre-Teach Plastics project as follows:

Year 1 – 100% exempt  
Year 2 – 100% exempt  
Year 3 – 50% exempt  
Year 4 – 45% exempt  
Year 5 – 40% exempt  
Year 6 – 35% exempt  
Year 7 – 30% exempt  
Year 8 – 20% exempt  
Year 9 – 10% exempt  
Year 10 – 5% exempt  
Year 11 – 0% exempt, PILOT expires

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

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

**RESOLVED** to authorize Judge Venne to attend mandatory training in Potsdam from 7/17/18-7/18/18; hotel cost \$186.00.

- 116. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** to award bid for pipe lining; Manhole 13; to low bidder; Green Mountain Pipeline Service out of Bethel, VT; \$106,106.00.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to authorize change order #1 for Iron Center Contract.

Discussion: The Doors to the Iron Center are back ordered; extend contract.

**118. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

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

**Resolutions too late for the Agenda:**

N/A

**Floor open to the public:**

Sharon O'Connor would like to thank everyone involved in the Veteran's Banners. Ms. O'Connor asked about the burned out building in Witherbee. It is unsafe and it has been like that a long time. The Supervisor asked Mr. Lapier where he was with that situation and Mr. Lapier said the bank is working with the other three (3) owners. Ms. O'Connor expressed her concern because it is right on the Main Street and there is great risk for injury. She also stated that kids are riding their bikes all around it. The Supervisor stated that that fire was a total loss and they should have let it burn. There has been no determination of what started the fire, which is the big problem. He stated there is no easy solution. The Supervisor asked Mr. Lapier to check and make sure it is posted.

Kevin Brace asked how the Hydro Project was coming. The Supervisor stated he spoke to Jim Besha yesterday and they are meeting with the financial people tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

May 15, 2018

General	\$2,786.00	2018/780
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May 24, 2018

Water #3	\$255.86	2018/781-782
Sewer #1	\$166.30	
Sewer #2	\$89.56	

May 25, 2018

General	\$7,801.82	2018/6289-6307
Highway	\$456.26	
Water #1	\$39.18	
Water #2	\$27.07	
Water #3	\$393.12	
Water #4	\$14.21	
Sewer #1	\$186.17	
Sewer #2	\$17.99	

June 5, 2018

General	\$2,000.00	2018/6312-6331
Highway	\$3,600.00	
Water #1	\$336.00	
Water #2	\$228.00	
Water #3	\$600.00	
Water #4	\$36.00	
Sewer #1	\$990.00	
Sewer #2	\$210.00	

June 12, 2018

Water #3	\$13,974.50	2018/6366
Sewer #1	\$9,083.42	
Sewer #2	\$4,891.08	

June 14, 2018

General	\$32,204.63	2018/6332-6498
Highway	\$16,326.58	
Water #1	\$6,105.88	
Water #2	\$5,659.37	
Water #3	\$3,140.03	
Water #4	\$151.14	
Sewer #1	\$16,271.51	
Sewer #2	\$8,729.00	

**Capital Projects:**

Waterfront Development	Michael Crane	\$6,250.00	#9
	Denton Publications	\$17.70	#10
Wetherbee Sewer Project	Denton Publications	\$115.30	#5
	Press Republican	\$128.75	#6
Manhole 13	AES Northeast	\$12,974.85	#4
Main Street Technical Asst. Grant	Clinton Brown Co.	\$8,400.00	#4
Trunk Sewer Pipe Lining (Manhole 13)	Press Republican	\$217.05	#1

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Town Clerk