

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, June 9, 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, Jamie Wilson, Sharon O'Connor, Sue Nephew, Richard Lapier, Christine Wilson, Gail Baker, Patricia Montgomery and Rose French-Town Clerk

**ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, 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.

### **Special Guest-Sue Nephew, Gail Baker and Christine Wilson-Sherman Free Library**

The Supervisor stated that he and Sue Nephew met with Real Property regarding putting the Library on the tax bills. He then introduced Sue Nephew, President, Sherman Free Library.

Ms. Nephew stated she sent a letter to the Town Board. The Library is in financial trouble. The interest rate on the trust fund is very low. They will be out of money in 5 – 6 years. They are dipping in to the principle. If the Town could absorb the cost of the library that would be the easiest solution; if they could increase what they already give the Town. The Supervisor stated that he is concerned about the Trust fund as well. Ms. Nephew stated they are down to \$100,000.00. The Supervisor stated that the Library has different options; it can be supported through the school, line item on ballot or the Town can form a library district; the Supervisor stated he is still researching it. He stated the Town already supports the Library through the yearly appropriation. Ms. Nephew stated their operating budget is \$70,000.00; they do a lot of fund raising. The Supervisor asked if there were areas to cut costs and how many patrons do they get. Ms. Nephew stated a lot of their visitors come to use the computers or the wifi; they do still get people borrowing books. Before COVID they would get 4,500 – 5,000 visitors a year. Ms. Nephew stated the hours that they are open are mandated by the State; based on population; they are open the minimum number of hours. The Supervisor asked if she has been to a school board meeting and Ms. Nephew said no, she was starting with the easiest route possible. The Supervisor stated that the Town starts their budget process in August and September, he asked Ms. Nephew how much they were looking for; possible combination donation between the school and Town; we have the 2% tax cap we have to worry about. Ms. Nephew stated they are looking for \$70,000.00. Councilman Brassard asked if the Town gave the Library \$70,000 what would happen to the rest of the trust fund; Ms. Nephew stated they would have it in case of emergencies; they would still have a board of trustees. The Supervisor stated the Town money would be for hard costs only, cannot be used for investing. The Supervisor stated the Town currently appropriates \$13,000; if we do more there would be strings attached. The Supervisor stated the Town Board would need to see hard numbers; the Town would need to know where all the money is going. Councilman Gilbo asked Ms. Nephew is she could get the Board the number of visitors, internet users, book sharing and people that use the puzzle program. Ms. Nephew stated she can get the board the numbers, they are all on the state report. The Supervisor stated there is a difference between a public library and an association library. School district ballot is an option. The Supervisor stated we need to have more discussion with the school. He stated the Board will consider putting more money in the budget but the School has the largest tax base. The Supervisor stated that hopefully between the Town and the School we can make it work. Councilman Anderson asked about any grants and Ms. Nephew stated they are not for operating expenses. Councilman Brassard would like to see a shared service with the School, he feels it makes the most sense. Councilman Salerno asked if we currently give them \$13,000 and raise it to \$70,000 what would the increase be on a \$100,000 home and the Supervisor stated it would be

\$38.00. The Board was in agreement with looking in to it with the school. Councilman Gilbo stated we need to look at all the options. Councilman Salerno stated we need a break down of the operating expenses. Councilman Anderson asked if changing the heating system would cut down on costs and Ms. Nephew stated they replaced the furnace a couple of years ago and went with propane. The Supervisor would like to look at a 5-year plan with the school. Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked if the Village of Port Henry ever supported the Library and Councilman Brassard stated yes, he thought it was between \$3,000 - \$4,000 a year. The Supervisor stated the Library should look at a financial planner. Patricia Montgomery asked if the Library had anything available for adult education and Ms. Nephew stated they have had programs in the past but not recently due to COVID. The Supervisor thanked Ms. Nephew and all the Library volunteers for all that they do.

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

Patricia Montgomery would like to have a Moriah Music Festival sometime in September and she is looking for local musicians. Councilman Brassard stated this is a great idea. The Supervisor stated Bulwagga Bay, Champ RV Park or the Bandstand could be used. We could possibly use bed tax money for the costs. The Supervisor asked Ms. Montgomery to get the bands lined up and pick a date and get back to the Board. Ms. Montgomery stated she is looking in to some grant money also. The Supervisor stated he appoints Councilman Brassard to work with Ms. Montgomery so they can start coordinating.

### **Department Head/Town Board Reports:**

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 5 building permits for the month of May. He also has a mobile home permit for George & Denise Daly; 143 Furnace Road; he recommends approval. The Supervisor stated that Frank Slycord-Property Maintenance has plaquered 5 buildings. He stated that garbage is very difficult and expensive to deal with; could end up in the Courts hands. Councilman Anderson asked what was being done with the burned out houses in Town. Councilman Brassard stated there is one on Spring Street and Councilman Anderson stated there is one on Elk Inn Road also. The Supervisor stated it is the owner's responsibility to clean it up. Councilman Brassard stated that both owners of the one on Elk Inn Road are deceased. Councilman Salerno asked who gets the property in that case, the County? Councilman Anderson is going to research it. Councilman Salerno stated that the beneficiary of the house on Elk Inn Road just bought a house in Port Henry. The Supervisor stated he will look in to it, he stated that sometimes the people just don't have the resources to clean it up. The Supervisor stated the Town can condemn it and take it down and then we have to deal with asbestos and other issues where as the home owner can just bury it.

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds: He stated he is liking his new job so far; getting very busy.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent: Working on summer projects/sidewalks. The Supervisor stated he has heard only positive comments about the new sidewalk in front of the bank. The Supervisor stated we are using stimulus money for this. Mr. Wilson stated they are trying to repair the worst areas; concentrating on the spots that are handicap accessible; he stated we have some handicap individuals that need to go all the way to the credit union; they will be looking at the sidewalk in front of the pharmacy as well. Mr. Wilson stated they have been working with the County and other departments as well. Councilman Anderson asked how much the concrete was and Mr. Wilson stated it is not as bad as gas and fuel oil. Mr. Wilson stated that the Transfer Station has been busy and is going good. The Supervisor stated that James Sprague is doing a good job. The Supervisor stated that the tandem we ordered has been delivered; ordered it in 2021 and it is a 2023. Mr. Wilson stated it runs great but won't shut off, already back in the shop in Plattsburgh. Mr. Wilson stated that Asplundh tree service is working on every road in the Town of Moriah trimming trees around National Grids high lines. Councilman Salerno stated they left a mess on the sidewalk from the mobile to Stewarts. The Supervisor stated they will ask the homeowner, if they are home, if they want the wood. The Supervisor stated that National Grid has a right of way/easement of the power lines. Mr. Wilson stated if you have a complaint stop at one of their staging areas between 6:30am-7:00am to talk to them before they go out on the road.

Councilman Salerno read Art Morgan's report for the Water & Sewer Department. They have had a lot of trouble on Pilfishire Road, they put in 4-inch line. They had a backed up sewer in a

commercial building in Port Henry; line goes through several buildings before it hits the main line. The Supervisor stated the Chinese Restaurant has a commercial grease trap it is just a poor set up, runs through too many buildings. The Supervisor stated the system is old and runs through several buildings. Councilman Salerno stated the Water & Sewer Department has been really busy; 10 sewer plugs; 4 water breaks, etc. The Supervisor stated they have had numerous problems on Pilfishire Road, hired Zach Desimone to fix the pipe. Councilman Salerno stated there was a water break on College/Broad Street by the old Port Henry Fire Department, the shut off is located on the edge of the road/sidewalk, if the homeowner is responsible for the repair, if they cut through the sidewalk/road are they responsible to fix that and the Supervisor said yes, but he will look in to it. The Supervisor stated that the road needs to be fixed ASAP on College Street where the break was, it is a bad spot with heavy traffic.

Councilman Brassard read the police report: 10 domestics, 5 CPS checks, 3 trespass, 9 criminal mischief, 8 EMS assists, 4 dangerous dog and Officer Brassard assisted the Sheriff and State Police on numerous occasions. The Supervisor stated that Officer Brassard is very busy as is the Sheriff's Department and State Police.

Councilman Brassard stated there was some confusion as to when you have to be out of the pavilion at Bulwagga Bay if you rent it. The Supervisor stated he thought it was 9:00pm and the Town Clerk said yes, it is 9:00pm. Councilman Brassard stated there needs to be a pavilion rental agreement that needs to be signed. The Supervisor stated the beach house at Port Henry beach is available to rent also; same basic rules at the pavilion. The Supervisor stated we will right something up and get it on the Town Facebook page. Councilman Brassard stated the campsites were full over Memorial Day weekend. Councilman Brassard stated that LeeAnn Sprague passed her Senior Account Clerk exam, congratulations to her.

Councilman Anderson stated the summer program is rolling forward. Meals are all set up. Signup sheets for the campers have been sent home and he has a list of Counselors for hire.

**96. 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** to hire Brady Olcott, Jillian Eichen, Lily Fields, Alida Minard, Samantha O'connor, Hannah Slattery, Mackenzie Gonyo, Julia Smith, Jaydon Lafountain, Zackery Garrow, Samuel Langey and Kendra Werber as Counselors for the 2022 Summer Youth Program.

Councilman Anderson stated the school will provide transportation for field trips; driver will vary week to week.

Councilman Gilbo reported the new parts have not been installed at the car charging stations by Apex yet.

Councilman Gilbo reported on the power point cell tower lease agreement; cell phone carriers. Current lease is \$1,200 a month; they are offering a one-time payment of \$258,000.00. The Supervisor asked Councilman Gilbo when the current lease expires and he was not sure. Councilman Brassard stated when the current lease was negotiated, Ruth McDonough-Village of Port Henry Mayor and the Supervisor did well with the 3% escalation clause.

Councilman Gilbo would like to hire a grant consultant to see if we are ready to apply for any grants. He will have a resolution for next month's meeting.

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

The Supervisor stated we were able to get one more lifeguard. Bulwagga Bay Beach will be open 7 days a week for half the summer and then 5 days a week from the middle of August on.

The homeowner tax rebate credit checks have gone out. The Supervisor stated he had no idea this was happening. If you would like more information on this, you can contact the Town Offices at 518-546-3341.

The Supervisor stated we will be advertising for a Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Trainee, it will be in The Sun, Press Republican, Town Facebook Page and the Town website.

The Supervisor stated we were notified by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services that our equalization rate is 94%. Councilman Salerno asked if every house will be reassessed and the Supervisor said they base it on sales. Councilman Salerno asked if they adjust the entire roll equally and the Supervisor said not necessarily. The Supervisor reminded everyone that the Town Board has no control over it. The Supervisor stated that during a reevaluation, some taxes will go up and some will go down.

The Supervisor stated he had a zoom meeting with the Prison Redevelopment Commission. He stated it was a good meeting. They asked the Supervisor what he would like to see there and he said a correctional facility, that is what it was built for. He feels they should make Moriah Shock the shock facility instead of moving everyone. He is thankful they “kept the lights on”. The grounds are not secure with no fence; they need some type of security there. Several ideas were brought up; Training facility, National Guard, will have another meeting in a couple of weeks.

The Supervisor received notice from Elise Stefanik that the Community Project Funding will be @\$180,000.00. The Supervisor has a call in to the State Police. Board needs to decide if they want to put it on the ballot or not. Councilman Brassard and Councilman Anderson were both in agreement with this. The Supervisor stated that when Steve Stahl retired we were paying more than what we would be paying a bond payment for. The Supervisor did say that this money was not ear marked for a certain project. The Supervisor stated we need to do a SEQRE first and then nail the cost of the building down.

The Municipal Shelter Inspection Report was done on 5/17/22 and was satisfactory.

The Supervisor spoke to the Town Attorney regarding property clean up. The first step is the Public Health Officer. The Town can also hire a contractor to clean it up and then the fee can be added on to the property tax bill.

**Resolutions:**

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorization for Cyanobacteria study and survey at Town Beach.

Discussion: Will do both beaches.

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor to request from County Board of Supervisors to grant old Port Henry High School Field and 4 lots to Town of Moriah for baseball field.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated it would be key for the Town of Moriah to have this. We only have one field; Pepper Field and it doesn't belong to the Town. Councilman Brassard stated we need to have an engineer look at the wall. The Supervisor will talk to the County about it. The Board was in agreement with this.

**99. 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 post hours at all Town Parks & Playgrounds; Sunrise to Sunset.

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorizing the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Design and Engineering Services:

Professional engineering for the Sewer District 1 and 2 Upgrades series of projects, to provide field data acquisition and survey, design, permitting, bidding and construction administration.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Moriah has received \$2,500,000 in NYS WQIP funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and is pursuing supplemental funding from NYS environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for the purpose of a sewer main repair and replacement project in sewer district 1 & 2 and

**WHEREAS**, a Request for Qualifications has been prepared to identify the best available consultant to provide professional design, engineering services and construction management, and

**THEREFORE**, Be it Resolved by the Town Supervisor and Town Board of the Town of Moriah, Approves the public Request for Qualifications and its advertisement for solicitation of proposals.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we received this grant a couple of years ago; we need to use it before we lose it. Chip Perry has identified some problem areas. We need to get an Engineer on board. We have enough fund balance to pay for that or we can use the American Recovery Act Funding. We can see what we get for proposals.

101. **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** to eliminate the current \$35.00 fee for water shut off/turn on requests.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the revenue is not worth the headache.

102. **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** authorization to pay Telling & Hillman \$15,000 for required single audit as per federal regulations.

103. **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** authorization to locate Miner's Sculpture in former Village Park and to move information booth to Miner's Park in Witherbee.

Discussion: The Supervisor met with the Committee; should be placed in August; the park is a good spot for it. The information booth will be moved to Witherbee after it is looked at.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to refund Lance Galvin \$325.00 for fee he paid to Geraw's for waste water blockage that after investigation was determined to be in Town's main line.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that Mr. Galvin called Geraw's first and if you think you have an issue you should call the Town first.

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

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

**RESOLVED** for Supervisor to pursue reduction of speed limit in Grover Hills on all roads to 25 mph.

Discussion: Town Attorney Bill Tansey stated the Town can do it but it has to be all the roads in Grover Hills and 25 mph is the lowest we can go. The Town will have to put all the signage up.

- 106. 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** approval of mobile home permit for George & Denise Daly; 143 Furnace Road.

Discussion: The Supervisor asked Rich Lapier if this was replacing one and Mr. Lapier said yes.

- 107. 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** approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

- 108. 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** approval to do adjustments in water and sewer as needed.

- 109. 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** approval of payment of end of month and monthly warrants.

**Floor open to the public:**

Sharon O'Connor asked Councilman Anderson if the Summer Youth Program will do the Arts Trek to Ticonderoga this year and Councilman Anderson stated they are hoping to.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

May 25, 2022

General	\$1,238.12	2022/740-755
Highway	\$1,766.61	
Water #1	\$152.31	
Water #2	\$108.12	
Water #3	\$108.66	
Water #4	\$14.70	
Sewer #1	\$130.98	
Sewer #2	\$71.40	

June 6, 2022

Highway	\$49,987.91	2022/783
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June 9, 2022

General	\$37,995.96	2022/759-887
Highway	\$6,841.90	
Water #1	\$4,070.61	
Water #2	\$2,941.05	
Water #3	\$159.88	
Sewer #1	\$4,583.92	
Sewer #2	\$2,342.96	

**Capital Projects:**

Navistar Financial Corp.	2023 International	\$160,000.00	#1
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**Stimulus:**

Bryant's Lumber	Sidewalks-Main St.	\$2,061.70	#1
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Town Clerk