

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a special Town Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Knights of Columbus, 4253 Main Street, Port Henry, NY.

Present:	Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Tom Anderson	Councilman
	Matt Brassard	Councilman

Excused:	Nathan Gilbo	Councilman
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Others Present: Chuck French, Sharon O'Connor, Tom McDonald, Paul & Nancy Tromblee, Tim Rowland, Rich Lapier, George Clark, Art Brassard, Brianna Sargent, Dave Reynolds, Captain Litardo, Trooper McKeever, Sergeant Maverick, Bill Trybendis, and Rose French-Town Clerk.

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

He reported that Councilman Gilbo has been excused.

The Supervisor read the legal notice calling for the special meeting. He then introduced Captain Litardo, Trooper McKeever, Sergeant Maverick, Sheriff Reynolds and the Town Board.

The Supervisor read a brief statement regarding the history of the Town of Moriah Police Department (see attached).

The Supervisor stated it will be a modular building with a full basement. The NYS Police would lease the building; the Town would own it. The NYS Police would pay all the utilities. Taxes would go up \$0.36 per thousand. The building would cost roughly \$350,000; take out 5-year BAN.

The Supervisor then turned the meeting over to Captain Litardo.

Captain Litardo read a brief statement.

Paul Tromblee asked if the building would have a full basement and Captain Litardo said yes. The Supervisor stated he made the call on the basement; ultimately the Town will end up with the building. Mr. Tromblee asked Captain Litardo if there would be a need for extra protection; special rooms and he said safety issues are a concern because it is a small building. Captain Litardo stated they don't hold people. Paul Tromblee stated the police don't hold people now anyway; they just get released; he then asked about the parking. The Supervisor stated it would be in line with Park Place; parking in the rear of the building; garage to hold one car. Paul Tromblee asked if the parking was for law enforcement only and Captain Litardo said yes. There would be a spot for public parking and a fenced in area for personal vehicles and police equipment. Paul Tromblee asked how many bodies would be there and Captain Litardo stated that Crown Point had 2 troopers and then they went to Schroon Lake; the same number will be here.

Paul Tromblee asked if the building was going to meet the needs of the State Police and Captain Litardo said yes. Mr. Tromblee asked how many troopers, 4 or 5; and Captain Litardo said possibly, Port Henry is where they will report to duty. Paul Tromblee asked if this was strictly for the Town of Moriah. Sergeant Maverick stated it would be 2-12 hour shifts. Paul Tromblee stated he heard the building was already ordered and the Supervisor said no, he would never do that without Town Board approval. The Supervisor also stated that if the tax payer is going to take on this burden the NYS Police need to make more of a presence here than they do now. The Supervisor stated the troopers would report here and Captain Litardo said yes. The Supervisor asked how many hours would the troopers be here in the Town of Moriah and Sergeant Maverick stated it would be 2-12 hour shifts; 24/7; 2 shifts at night; come together to cover larger area; it will be constantly moving bodies-moving shifts. Paul Tromblee asked if the Sheriff's department is all night and Sheriff Reynold's stated their night shift ends at 3am; they have 2 Sheriff's on at night. Paul Tromblee asked if they back one another up and the Sheriff said yes, but their night shift ends at 3am, does not have the coverage for later than that.

The Supervisor stated he wanted this meeting to get ideas from the people; will make a decision in April. We need to get started due to material shortages everywhere. The Supervisor asked Captain Litardo if there was a time frame that they needed to be in by and Captain Litardo said no. Chuck French asked how many years the Police have agreed to be here and the Supervisor said 20 years. The Supervisor asked about staffing; would there be a BCI officer here and Captain Litardo said yes, he stated he was told there would be an office here for one at one time.

Tom McDonald asked if the prison could be used for NYS Police administration. The Supervisor stated he suggested they move Ray Brook and Lewis to the prison already but as of right now he doesn't know what they are going to use the building for. Paul Tromblee stated the building could end up costing \$400,000. The Supervisor stated it has to meet all of the NYS Police specs; the Town will own the building; they do the rest. Chuck French asked about building & grounds maintenance and the impact that will have on the tax payer. Rich Lapier stated we maintain Building & Grounds now. The Supervisor said yes, we will maintain building & grounds. The Supervisor stated if the Town hired 2 more officers that \$300,000 would be gone in one year. He also stated that he fully supports this project; he has been Supervisor over 30 years. Chuck French asked if the building Art Brassard was in now could hold more officers and Art Brassard said it did years ago.

Paul Tromblee stated that nobody is really against this; we just need to know what we are taking on. The Supervisor stated he supports this but we need to make sure we get more coverage. He feels a police station here would be a deterrent. He offered several different locations to the State Police.

The Supervisor asked the Board if they had any questions or comments. Councilman Anderson stated he fully supports this and he also feels it will be a deterrent and he feels we need to act quickly. Paul Tromblee stated if we wait it could end up costing \$600,000. The Supervisor stated that if it was stick built we would have to pay prevailing wages and the cost would be double.

Brianna Sargent stated she is the Court Clerk and she has Art Brassard right next door at her disposal if she has a safety concern; has to wait 30 minutes for a Sheriff to get here; she is here 9am – 5pm; sometimes later, will the State Police be available; Sergeant Maverick stated they could potentially be in the area.

George Clark asked if this Police Station would affect the Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Reynolds said no, they help each other out; currently lose coverage due to travel; they are not opposed to it at all.

The Supervisor stated from 3/1/21-3/1/22 there were 184 calls to Moriah; the Sheriff's department handled 49, Art Brassard handled 34 and the State Police handled 101. Paul Tromblee stated you can get that information right off line-criminal justice site.

Councilman Anderson stated the Moriah PD is being phased out because we can't get anybody; future is bleak.

Paul Salerno asked Captain Litardo will the NYS Police be in the Town of Moriah at all times. Sergeant Maverick stated unless there is a big emergency outside of the Town where several departments are responding, there might not be, that is the way it is now. Councilman Salerno thanked the NYS Police, the Sheriff's Department and Art Brassard; bail reform has made some tough times.

Paul Tromblee stated people are worried that the troopers assigned here will just be sitting at the building. The Supervisor stated our own police still have to go out and patrol. The Town of Moriah will see more State Police presence.

Anthony Harlow asked on Facebook live if there would be any civilian jobs at this sub-station and Captain Litardo said no. He stated the State Police have 3 different types of stations: office of convenience-basically where a trooper can make calls; a satellite station, like what would be here in Port Henry-troopers assigned here and regular police stations; there are no civilians in any of them.

The Supervisor stated that Moriah had a NYS Police station back in the late 1960's then they moved to Westport.

Tim Rowland asked about response time; Sergeant Maverick stated right now it is 30 minutes from Lewis and Councilman Salerno stated it could be 5-7 minutes if they are right here in Town.

The Supervisor gave a closing statement. He thanked the NYS Police and Sheriff Reynolds for coming. He hopes to have a decision in 30 days.

Councilman Salerno asked Captain Litardo if Troop B was currently short staffed and Captain Litardo stated they are always recruiting. The Supervisor had a meeting in Clinton County and they are recruiting; a big problem is once a trooper hits 20 years they leave; they are getting out at 20 years, not staying.

Captain Litardo – thank you for your consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

Town Clerk