

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020 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  
Nate Gilbo Councilman

Others Present: Becky Gilbo, Bill Trybendis, Jamie Wilson, Tim Rowland, Paul Reese, Dianna Stevenson, Rich Lapier and Rose French, Town Clerk

Supervisor Scozzafava called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Budget Resolutions:**

190. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to increase water rates from \$290.00 to \$295.00 per year; effective January 1, 2021; Districts, #1, #2, #3 and #4; operation and maintenance; metered rate: \$6.32 per thousand gallons for first hundred thousand gallons and \$2.50 per thousand for remaining gallons.
191. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to increase wastewater rates from \$420.00 to \$425.00 per year; effective January 1, 2021; Districts #1 and #2; operation & maintenance only from \$236.00 to \$241.00; total \$425.00; debt remains at \$184.00; metered rate: \$3.97 per thousand gallons for first hundred thousand gallons and \$1.92 per thousand for remaining gallons.
192. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to increase Construction & Demolition fees from \$40.00 per cubic yard to \$50.00 per cubic yard; effective January 1, 2021.
193. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to abolish part-time Transfer Station Attendant and create full time position; 40 hours per week; at \$15.24 per hour.
194. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to increase fees for camping at Bulwagga Bay Campsite and Champ RV Park by 2% for 2021 season.
195. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to appropriate \$10,000 to fund balance Water District #2 for 2021 budget.

196. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0

**RESOLVED** to appoint Rose French as Town of Moriah Water & Sewer Clerk (additional duties) at a salary of \$4,686.00 per year.

197. **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 Transfer Station be open from 8:30am – 4:30pm; open during lunch; C & D will be accepted all days when Transfer Station is open.

198. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0

**RESOLVED** Adoption of 2021 Town Budget.

**ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, 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: Truck Bid-Highway Garage**

The Supervisor read the legal notice of bid. One bid was received from Egglefield Bros, Inc. in the amount of \$47,766.

**Camper Bid:** No bids were received.

#### **Floor open to the public:**

N/A

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

Richard Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 5 building permits for the month of October. Has 1 subdivision application for Linda Vance, 651 Tarbell Hill Road; re recommends approval.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Garage: They have been grading dirt roads; cutting brush; they helped put a roof on the old highway garage in Port Henry. They have had a lot of break downs but they are all up and running again. They have been helping the County out and also other Town's. Mr. Wilson stated that one of their modine heaters has a crack in it. They have 3 that don't work now. The Supervisor asked why we didn't replace them. Councilman Salerno thought Ed Roberts was doing it. Mr. Salerno suggested replacing the modine heaters with 250,000 BTU LP gas heaters; installation is so much easier. Mr. Wilson stated they would have 2 different heat sources. Mr. Salerno stated an LP gas heater cost @\$1,900 per unit and a fuel oil modine heater cost @\$3,400. The Supervisor stated we should replace 2 this year ASAP. The Supervisor asked Councilman Salerno to take care of it; pick the best one. Councilman Brassard stated we need to do what needs to be done. Mr. Wilson would like to wait for Ed Roberts; give him a chance to look at the heater. Councilman Salerno stated that Avery Energy would size the lines. The Board was in agreement with this.

199. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0

**RESOLVED** authorization for the Supervisor to award the truck bid after review and ok by Jamie Wilson, Highway Superintendent.

Councilman Brassard asked if we were going to address the traffic circle. The Supervisor stated that the truck company that hit it contacted him today and they will pay to fix it. Councilman Brassard would like to eliminate a parking spot to give more room. The Supervisor stated eliminating 2 spots would be better. He also stated this is exactly why the miner sculpture should not be put there. The Supervisor spoke to the County regarding the traffic circle and if it is ever removed something will have to go there because it is such a big area. Councilman Brassard asked if we eliminate 2 parking spots, whose call is it, the County or ours and the Supervisor said it is the County's call.

Councilman Gilbo would like to thank everyone who got out and voted and supported his campaign. He gave a brief overview of the pilot program for the solar farm and how it effects their tax base. They will be starting in the Spring. The Supervisor stated that the solar farm will be off of Tarbell Hill and Decker's Flats. He also heard that there might be one behind the new cemetery on Decker's Flats. The Supervisor stated that the solar farm will be taxed on the land not the improvements; that is why we are negotiating a pilot program with them; an amount to pay in lieu of taxes based on megawatts produced. Negotiating a fee that is beneficial to the Town and the company. Councilman Anderson asked if there was a standard fee and the Supervisor said not really. Councilman Gilbo stated it is based on market rate. Paul Reese asked if the tax forgiveness was indefinite and the Supervisor said no. Tim Rowland stated it does have a shelf life. The Supervisor stated the Town, School and County will all benefit from this pilot agreement.

Councilman Salerno had nothing to report.

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

The Supervisor gave an update on the Train Station. CP Rail owns the building. The Seniors have an agreement with Amtrak and the Seniors have an agreement with the Town. Amtrak rebuilt the restrooms and parking lot. The roof was leaking. It was a capital improvement project. They did a great job; it looks just like slate. Councilman Anderson asked if CP Rail put the roof on and the Supervisor said yes.

The Supervisor stated that NYS DEC will be doing an ice fishing survey in 2021. They would like to set a creek clerk up at Bulwagga Bay. The Board had no issue with this.

The Supervisor stated that Mountain Lake Services will be purchasing the old Stewart's building. They will use it for office and retail space. They will pay in lieu of taxes just like they do with their other properties. The Supervisor stated he has heard people complaining about Stewart's not selling to the private sector but they will not sell to people who are going to turn around and sell the same things they are.

The Supervisor met with the Architect regarding the renovations at the Town Hall. We will get a ramp, new front entrance and a handicap accessible bathroom.

#### **Resolutions:**

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

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

**RESOLVED** to purchase front end loader from County; 644J John Deere in the amount of \$40,000; \$38,000 to be paid from 2020 Highway Budget and \$2,000 from Highway fund balance.

Discussion: Jamie Wilson Highway Superintendent looked at it. It is a good buy. He feels we can get 5 years out of it. Mr. Wilson stated a new one is \$190,000. \$40,000 is what the County was offered for trade in. We will be replacing one that is 30 years old. Councilman Anderson asked what year the new one was and Mr. Wilson stated it is a 2006.

201. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to pay invoice #8 MJ Engineering Oak/Ridge Lane Project \$1,670.00.

202. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to pay invoice #9 MJ Engineering Oak/Ridge Lane Project \$330.00.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the project is complete. Councilman Gilbo asked if we still need to pay retainage and the Supervisor stated we already paid last month and there is a resolution later on making it retroactive.

203. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to pay MCJ Construction pay application #3 \$76,625.00 for Tarbell Hill Pump Station.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this project is wrapped up.

204. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to pay EDR Engineering Invoice #19016-38695 Tarbell Hill Pump Station \$2,775.00.

205. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to pay Cedarwood Engineering Invoice #17 \$13,572.50.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo asked who Cedarwood Engineering was, he was not familiar with them. The Supervisor stated they are the Engineer's for Phase II of the main replacement in Port Henry for Frist and Second Street.

206. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** to appropriate \$20,000 received from County Bed Tax to campsite appropriations for improvements at Champ RV and Bulwagga Bay.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we did not expect to receive this, this year. It will be used for tourism.

207. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor and Attorney for the Town to transfer Health Center to HHHN.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is not subject to permissive referendum. This is a good thing. The building is almost 15 years old and will need repairs.

208. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays | 0                                              |

**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor/Attorney for the Town to surplus and put out to bid the old fire house. Attorney will advise as to procedures that must be followed.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this will get the ball rolling. He had an interested party in the building, they would like to see it go out to bid. The Supervisor stated there should be a condition in the sale for the Port Henry Fire Department; they should have a realistic time frame to get out. Finding a new place is up to the Commissioners. The Board was in agreement with this.

209. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays | 0                                              |

**RESOLVED** retroactive payment pay application #4 to MCJ Construction Tarbell Hill Pump Station \$12,993.75 (was paid 10/27/20).

210. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays | 0                                              |

**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor to sign agreement with Amtrak for heat the Train Station.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this was previously with the Seniors.

211. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays | 0                                              |

**RESOLVED** to go to bid for Sodium Hypochlorite Solution for 2021; bids to be opened at Regular Town Board meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

212. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays | 0                                              |

**RESOLVED** to set dates for water and sewer bills as follows:

Bill January 1<sup>st</sup> for January, February and March; Due February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bill April 1<sup>st</sup> for April, May and June; Due May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bill July 1<sup>st</sup> for July, August and September; Due August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bill October 1<sup>st</sup> for October, November and December; Due November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the billing system got complicated after our audit. We used to be bill twice a year and now we have to bill quarterly.

213. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays | 0                                              |

**RESOLVED** to approve subdivision for Linda Vance; 651 Tarbell Hill Road.

214. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
- |          |      |                                                |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|----------|------|------------------------------------------------|

Nays 0

**RESOLVED** approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVED** a resolution supporting Solstice Community Solar Campaign

**WHEREAS**, The Town Board of Moriah has reviewed the Solstice Solarize proposal, and

**WHEREAS**, Solarize is a short term, local effort administered by both Solstice and a Moriah liaison with the goal to bring together groups of potential community solar customers through widespread outreach and education, and

**WHEREAS**, this model helps customers choose a community solar company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing, and

**WHEREAS**, community solar typically offers up to 10% savings on residents' electric bills, and

**WHEREAS**, residents and businesses who sign up for community solar by a specific deadline will be able to support local solar energy generation and

**WHEREAS**, Moriah shall also be able to take advantage of community solar and receive up to a 10% discount on eligible municipal electric accounts and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) provides technical assistance and other tools and resources to communities in support of Solarize campaigns.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Moriah supports, endorses, and is committed to participate in a community solar campaign.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Moriah stands ready to assist with community outreach and education in support of a community solar campaign.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo gave a brief presentation on Solstice; a community solar program for the Town of Moriah. The Town Hall, Court House and 10 other properties are eligible. It would save the Town roughly 10% per year in electric bills. Councilman Anderson asked how long the 10% lasts and Councilman Gilbo said it is indefinitely right now. The Town could cancel at any time and go back to National Grid. Councilman Salerno asked if the Town has looked in to the old landfill site for a solar farm and the Supervisor said yes. He spoke to the people putting the solar farm on Tarbell Hill/Decker's Flats and they are going to look at the old landfill site again.

**Floor open to the public:**

Paul Reese asked how the Hydro Project was going. The Supervisor stated that all issues have been resolved. Now the issue is the streams running into the mines. FERK won't approve permit until this is approved.

The Supervisor stated that National Grid has started to replace streets with LED; hopefully the project will be complete by the end of the year. The LED lights will save the Town money.

The Supervisor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

October 23, 2020

General	\$3,271.66	2020/1476-1499
Highway	\$14,589.06	
Water #1	\$59.07	
Water #2	\$40.98	
Water #3	\$386.07	
Water #4	\$6.37	
Sewer #1	\$1,284.70	
Sewer #2	\$1,400.74	

November 12, 2020

General	\$46,671.29	2020/1500-1635
Highway	\$11,181.95	
Water #1	\$6,233.36	
Water #2	\$2,674.81	
Water #3	\$1,844.15	
Water #4	\$249.02	
Sewer #1	\$8,503.32	
Sewer #2	\$2,626.05	

Capital Projects:

CDBG Oak & Ridge Main Replacement	MJ Engineering	\$1,670.00	#15
	MJ Engineering	\$330.00	#16
CDBG First & Second St. Main Replacement	Cedarwood Engineering	\$13,572.50	#1
Tarbell Hill Pump Station	EDR	\$2,775.00	#13
	MCJ Const.	\$76,625.00	#12

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Town Clerk