

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

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

Absent: Luci Carpenter Councilwoman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Paul Reese, Sharon O'Connor, Diana Stevenson, Ronnie Cunningham, Ann Tesar, Ron Mitchell, Ron Nesbitt, Robert Stevenson and Rose French-Town Clerk.

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

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

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

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

Special Guest: Ron Mitchell, Port Henry Fire District #3 Fire Commissioner. Mr. Mitchell asked if he could speak later when the other Commissioner's arrive.

Floor Open to the Public:

Ronnie Cunningham-Moriah Chamber: There will be a duck race on October 20, 2018 starting at 9:00am at Port Henry Beach followed by a children's block party. Councilman Salerno will make sure the gate is unlocked. On October 27, 2018 at 1:00pm there will be a ribbon cutting for new business "Threads" in Port Henry. November 27, 2018 the Holiday Train will be coming; the show will start at 4.45pm. December 9, 2018 at 4:30pm there will be a tree lighting with wagon rides, food, etc. and she isn't sure if the Port Henry Fire Department will be doing their parade of lights or not. Ron Mitchell said he wasn't sure; he will look into it. The Supervisor asked if the Chamber would be decorating the train this year and Ronnie stated she wasn't sure.

Paul Reese stated that the bottom of Edgemont Road where it meets NYS Route 9N is very dangerous. The two angles onto NYS Route 9N are unsafe. He feels the lane closest to Walt's should be one way. Councilman Salerno stated both directions would be used. The Supervisor stated that this is a state road and he will look into it. Councilman Brassard asked if this road has always been like this and the Supervisor said as long as he can remember. Ann Tesar stated it is the same way pulling into the Town Hall.

Department Head Reports:

All excused.

Town Board Report's:

Councilman Anderson read the police report: Handled 142 calls for service. 7 Violations: 4-harassment 2nd degree, 2-disorderly conduct, 1-trespass. 4 Misdemeanors: 1-aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle 3rd, 2-DWI, 1-issuing bad checks. 0 Felonies. Issued 16 traffic tickets. Handled 6 traffic accidents. Conducted 11 pistol permit background investigations. Councilman Anderson had nothing more to report.

Councilman Brassard spoke to Cheyenne at the Transfer Station, everything is running good. He will meet with Nan Stolzenburg regarding consolidating the Town and Village Local Laws. The Supervisor stated there are some Village of Port Henry laws that should be made Town laws.

Councilman Brassard stated he will also meet with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the local laws and then he will meet with the Town Board in a few weeks with an update.

Councilman Salerno reported that the 2018 camping season ended on October 7, 2018, they had a real good year. Workers are in the process of closing down the campsites. Champ RV Park needs a new roof on the bathroom. They are shutting off the water. Hoping to get the inmates to start raking leaves; waiting for them all to fall. Building & Grounds have been busy cleaning boilers. Avery will be delivering propane this year instead of Gordon Oil. Councilman Salerno spoke to the Town Clerk regarding this and Ed Roberts will check to see how much is in each tank. Building Codes issued 5 building permits for the month of September. Paul Reese asked if Gordon Oil will charge to remove the tanks and the Supervisor said no.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor reported that the tentative budget is complete. Within the tax cap for 2019; 1.98%. Last year the NYS Department of State told the Town we needed to claim sewer charges, but they were wrong, we did not have to claim them this year.

The date for the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget has been set for Thursday November 8, 2018 at 5:45pm. We have one budget workshop on October 18, 2018 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

The Supervisor stated that we lost some seasonal campers this year but we still met our revenue that was in the 2018 budget.

Effective January 1, 2019 transfer station stickers will go up to \$3.00 for a 32 gallon garbage bag. The County has increased their tipping fee by \$25.00 per ton. Paul Reese asked if the Town would honor old stickers and the Supervisor said yes. The Supervisor stated that the free day ticket for the transfer station was a nightmare and we will not be doing it again next year, we will go back to a free day for each hamlet.

At the September 24th special board meeting the Town adopted the new Sexual Harassment Policy. Each employee will receive one. Any vendor that the town deals with has to have a sexual harassment policy in place as well and they have to provide proof of it. This is a state law.

The Supervisor read Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent's report. Paving will begin Friday October 12, 2018. There will be minor delays on Edgemont Road, Broad Street, Cheney Road and St. Patrick's Place. They will be paving October 12, 2018 – October 17, 2018. There will be a free brush day on Friday, November 2, 2018 and Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 8:30am-Noon and 1:00pm-4:30pm.

The Supervisor reported there was a house fire on Dugway road; another burnt out house. Under the unsafe building local law owners have 60 days to get a burnt building taken down. Building Codes will notify the owner. The burnt out house on Witherbee Road in Witherbee has finally been taken down.

The Supervisor received the HEAP guidelines from Essex County Office of the Aging and read them aloud. If anyone is interested please contact his office for more information at 518-546-8631.

The Supervisor received a letter from the NYS Department of Transportation regarding the Empire State Biking Trail which will go from Albany to the border. They are interested in the Stevenson Road. They will install signage and then turn over ownership to the Town for maintenance of them. They would like a resolution from the Town in support of this but the Supervisor wants to wait until he can meet with Jamie Wilson; he wants to make sure there are no liability issues. Councilman Salerno asked if this was for all towns and the Supervisor said yes. The Supervisor stated that the rock cuts (NYS Route 9N) is too dangerous to bike through.

The 2018 CP Rail Holiday Train will be in Port Henry on November 27, 2018 at 4:45pm.

The Supervisor asked Ron Mitchell if he was ready to address the board. Mr. Mitchell said yes. He has two issues. 1) the Town has increased their rent by 200% and 2) they want to know if the Town has any interest in space at the old Nu-Way Laundry building next door if the fire department moves in there.

The Supervisor stated that first of all, the Port Henry Fire Department does not rent the building that the fire house is in, it is a lease. Mr. Mitchell said it was \$100.00 a month. The Supervisor stated that it is illegal for a town to subsidize a fire department. He stated that when the lease is drafted, all expenses will be listed and the Port Henry Fire Department will be responsible for those expenses which include, electric, water & sewer, etc.. The Supervisor stated other districts pay to support their own fire departments. Mr. Mitchell asked if it could be less and the Supervisor said it is up to the department; if they conserve oil, lights, etc.. The Highway department has all their stuff out of the basement. Sharon O'Connor asked if they would have to pay land taxes and the Supervisor said no but they would have to pay the water & sewer. He explained that Mineville/Witherbee is an advalorum district and Port Henry is a benefit district. Mr. Mitchell stated they need to budget for these expenses so they want to make sure they budget enough. The Supervisor reiterated, the Town is not charging rent, only that the fire department pay utilities, heat, and water & sewer. He also stated that the Town could lease space on the 2nd floor but the Chief did not want to do that.

Councilman Salerno asked if they had a time frame to be in the building next door and Mr. Mitchell said no. The Supervisor stated the Town provided the Port Henry Fire Department with all the expenses. Councilman Anderson stated that the building next door would have to be refit for the fire department. He asked Mr. Mitchell if that was what he was asking if the Town needed any space. Sharon O'Connor stated she thought during the dissolution it was mentioned that there would be money for a new fire house. The Supervisor stated that is correct, but the Port Henry Fire Department has to have the land first; they have to own something. The Supervisor stated he spoke to Will Deyo and that Mr. Deyo offered the building next door to the Fire Department for nothing. Mr. Mitchell stated they are waiting to see who is going to run with them. Councilman Salerno asked if that meant the Town being over there. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Fire Department has to have room for everything. Councilman Salerno asked if that would help with the grant and Councilman Brassard said it would. The Supervisor stated it is not handicap accessible and the Assessor's need to get off the 2nd floor of the Town Hall, maybe the Police could utilize it. The Supervisor stated the Board is not ready to make that decision. The Supervisor also stated that the grant will depend on what the need of the fire department is. Mr. Mitchell stated that is what the fire department is looking for. The Supervisor stated the district can't bond for that. He also feels that the Port Henry Fire Department will be successful with the grant. He stated that the fire commissioners have a tough job, it's elected but not paid, and it brings a lot of headaches. He stated again that the Town does not rent the building to the fire department, they lease it to them. The Supervisor stated that the town will pay the expenses and then the fire department can reimburse the town. He also mentioned that the town did a lot of work on the furnace last year.

The Supervisor stated that the consolidation study is not to close down the fire company; it is to make one fire district. Mr. Mitchell stated there could be substations. The Supervisor stated the district would be town wide and the Town Board would control the budget, that is why some departments don't want to see a consolidation. He stated there are pros and cons to both. Sharon O'Connor stated it is a study, take the information from the study and see if you can use it. The Supervisor stated that Mineville/Witherbee Fire Department held the line on their budget this year and Sharon O'Connor stated that the guys help out a lot, they do their own fund raising.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the Board for hearing them out. The Supervisor stated that as soon as the lease has been drafted the fire department will have a chance to review it.

Resolutions:

165. ON MOTION by Supervisor Scozzafava, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to enter into a contract with Essex County Department of Social Services to secure space at the former Village Hall; 4303 Main Street as a satellite office at a cost of \$3,600.00 annually.

Discussion: The Supervisor received an email from Mike Mascarenas, Essex County Department of Social Services Commissioner regarding their interest in the building. They would pay all the utilities and the Town would cover janitorial expenses. The Supervisor would still like to see the Assessor's use the other half of the building. Councilman Brassard asked if they would pay for their own internet and the Supervisor said yes.

166. ON MOTION by Supervisor Scozzafava, unanimous second, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED a resolution of appreciation to Wayne and Ruth Plunkett for 14 years of service to the Town of Moriah as Campsite Managers at Bulwagga Bay Campsite.

Discussion: The Supervisor read a letter he received from Wayne & Ruth. Councilman Anderson asked if the Town had started looking for a replacement yet and the Supervisor said he wants to go back and review the campsite study to see if we should be doing things differently. Councilman Salerno asked if the Assistant Managers will be staying on and the Supervisor said yes.

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

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

RESOLVED to authorize the Town Clerk to keep \$100.00 in the Transfer Station drawer to make change as needed.

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

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

RESOLVED to approve payment of the warrant.

Floor open to the public:

Councilman Salerno asked about the Hydro Project. The Supervisor stated he spoke to Jim Besha. They have been in contact with an energy company who will oversee the project. Mr. Besha stated we should see a flurry of activity around the 1st of the year. They are not looking for any government money. The Supervisor stated they are still looking for a piece of property for the Transfer Station and Highway Garage. They are looking at Dalton Dam, the only problem with that is it is quite a drive. The Supervisor stated that not everyone is going to be happy regardless where it is. He stated that if it does end up on Dugway Road you would be able to access it from Switchback Road as well.

Mr. Mitchell asked what the status was of getting internet on Mullen Bay Lane. The Supervisor stated that he has fought with Spectrum and Time Warner over this. Mr. Mitchell asked if the Governor could help. The Supervisor stated that the Town does not apply for the funds, it is up to Spectrum/Time Warner to apply for government monies and they have not done that. Ann Tesar asked about the cell tower and Councilman Brassard stated that is different, that is Verizon. Paul Reese asked if the Town's contract ran out, doesn't it have any leverage against Spectrum. The Supervisor said yes, the Public Service Commission. Councilman Salerno stated that the last time Dan Stec was here he said the Governor had monies set aside for internet on Mullen Bay Lane. Paul Reese said he thinks that is for schools and hospitals, not individuals. The Supervisor stated that the providers were the only ones invited to the table for discussions.

Councilman Salerno asked if Spectrum was in litigation with New York State and the Supervisor said yes; it is in the courts right now. Ann Tesar stated her bill went up about \$15 this month. The Supervisor would like to encourage everyone to call the Betty Little and Dan Stec; they are the only ones who can do anything about this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

September 26, 2018

General	\$8,642.09	2018/6981-6992
Highway	\$1,149.51	
Water #1	\$46.83	
Water #2	\$31.77	
Water #3	\$110.48	
Water #4	\$5.05	
Sewer #1	\$107.10	
Sewer #2	\$86.29	

October 1, 2018

General	\$259.56	2018/6996-6999
Sewer #1	\$51.68	
Sewer #2	\$27.82	

October 11, 2018

General	\$49,519.99	2018/7001-7134
Highway	\$8,383.50	
Water #1	\$2,389.00	
Water #2	\$1,997.21	
Water #3	\$1,743.20	
Water #4	\$122.46	
Sewer #1	\$13,339.88	
Sewer #2	\$7,197.57	

Capital Projects:

Manhole 13 (Trunk Sewer Pipe Lining)	AES Northeast	\$3,612.37	#8
Manhole 13 (Trunk Sewer Pipe Lining)	Green Mtn Pipeline	\$77,474.00	#9
Manhole 13 (Trunk Sewer Pipe Lining)	John M. Silvestri	\$181.25	#10
Witherbee Sewer (Lamos Lane)	Cedarwood Engineer.	\$3,510.00	#8
Waterfront Development	Denton Publications	\$18.10	#14
Waterfront Development	Michael Crane	\$6,250.00	#15

Town Clerk