

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

**Present:** Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor  
Tom Anderson Councilman  
Matt Brassard Councilman

**Absent:** Paul Salerno Councilman  
Luci Carpenter Councilwoman

**Others Present:** Bill Trybendis, Sharon O'Connor, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Diana Stevenson, Rich Lapier, Paul Reese, Eric Wilhelmson, Jamie Wilson, Robert Stevenson and Rose French-Town Clerk.

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

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

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

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

The Supervisor stated that Councilman Salerno and Councilwoman Carpenter have been excused; they are out of town.

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

N/A

#### **Department Head Reports:**

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued 3 building permits for the month of September; responded to one complaint and did one certificate of occupancy inspection.

The Supervisor stated we will have to amend our building permit applications regarding solar farms. He wants to see what other towns are doing first; he will meet with the town board after he gets this information and Frank and Rich will check the code requirements.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent: Reported that all the docks are out. Need parts for the pier; will order and repair this winter. The Highway Department has been working for the County on Pelfishire Road and Barton Hill pits hauling sand. They are getting the sanders ready. Trucks will be serviced. They still need one plow for the pickup that belonged to the Village of Port Henry. The sidewalk plow needs some work. Also the overhead door on the shop in Port Henry needs work. The Supervisor stated that we should get one door this year. Councilman Anderson stated that if we need it we should get it. Mr. Wilson stated we have not heard on the excavator parts yet; 90 day leeway.

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

Councilman Brassard read the Police Report: Handled 156 calls for service. 14 Violations: 6-permitting a dog to run at large, 2-permitting a dog to harass a person, 4-failure to license a dog, 1-disorderly conduct and 1-harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. 1 Misdemeanor-aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. 0 Felonies. Issued 12 traffic tickets. Conducted 12 pistol permit background investigations. Conducted 2 background investigations for employment purposes.

The Supervisor stated that is a lot of calls for two officers.

Councilman Brassard reported he received an email from Candace Palmer. She will be sending out another survey tomorrow on the sewer infrastructure grant. We are currently at 41% which qualifies us for 2 grants, need 50% to get all three. The Supervisor stated this is for the Mineville and Witherbee area.

Councilman Brassard reported that Anna Reynolds will be doing RFP's for a Department of State Grant for the shoreline erosion at Bulwagga Bay. This is the first step in obtaining the grant. The Town will then need a set of plans and an assessment of what is going on down there. Jamie Wilson asked if we could use the old plans. The Supervisor said no, they were for a certain area.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to request RFP's for Department of State Grant in the amount of \$15,000 for a stream bank study of the shoreline at Bulwagga Bay Campsite.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that this will come out of next year's budget.

Eric Wilhelmson asked if the sewer line was a priority over the water lines. He asked if the sewer line was leaking. The Supervisor said yes, it is a priority; storm water is getting into the pipe; it is old clay pipe and some manholes are still brick. The Supervisor stated that the infrastructure is old and crumbling.

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report.

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

The Supervisor stated we had our annual inspections at the Port Henry and Moriah water facilities. They are in good condition. He then read the summary. There are two issues at the Port Henry water plant: Cleaning the reject water basin routinely and the water storage tank should be inspected in 2020. Councilman Anderson stated we have to treat the water that goes into Mill Brook. There are a few issues at the Moriah Plant: There is no sink at the plant for collecting samples or washing hands; the Standard Operating Procedures should be updated and need to document when turbidity spikes on monthly operation report form.

The Supervisor reported he had an exit discussion with the State Comptroller's Office regarding our audit. We had two issues: Cash management because the Town did not invest and time accruals which were mostly mathematical errors. Financially the Town is in good shape. As far as time accruals go, we are using a new program to keep track of time and the Account Clerk is taking care of this. The Supervisor stated it was a good audit; very thorough.

The Supervisor stated that the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office sent a letter to Architect Fred Keil regarding the Town Hall improvement project and they feel the improvements will not impact the historic aspect of the building. We are hoping to get the grant for a handicap ramp, and the front and back entrances.

The Supervisor reported that NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services have set the rates for the Enhanced Star and Basic Star. Enhanced-\$72,860 and Basic-\$31,820. Now when you sign up for the basic star you have to pay the full school tax bill and will receive a check for the rebate.

The Supervisor reported that the United States Department of the Interior will be treating Mill Brook on October 22, 2019 for lamprey. Councilman Anderson asked if this was only for Mill Brook and the Supervisor said yes.

Stewart's has surveyed the Mac's property. They will have to do asbestos abatement with certified people. They would like to get the building demolished this year and start the new store in the spring. They would like to lease the old store to someone who has meat and produce. Councilman Brassard asked how big the new store would be and the Supervisor said it would be larger than 4,000 square feet.

The Supervisor received a letter from Moriah Central School; they are designating themselves as lead agency for the environmental review of the Moriah Central School District Capital Improvements Project.

The Town of Moriah was not successful in securing the 2019 Adirondack Park Community Smart Growth Grant. This was for the entrance to Bulwagga Bay Campsite.

The Supervisor received a letter from the NYS Comptroller's Office regarding our fiscal stress. On a scale of 1 – 10, 1 is the best. In 2016 we were 5; 2017 we were 1.7 and 2018 we were 1.7.

The Supervisor stated we are hoping to go to bid in January for the water and sewer line replacement project in Port Henry.

The Supervisor stated that if the Town chose to sell the campsites we would need prior authorization from the State; this is also the case if we wanted to lease it. Councilman Anderson asked if this is for all Park property and the Supervisor said yes.

The Town received our Municipal Shelter Inspection Report which was completed on 9/13/19. Everything was satisfactory.

The Supervisor received a letter from Verizon Wireless, they will be making modifications to the cell tower on Spring Street. He also stated that he has had several firms that are interested in the cell tower lease; they would like to buy out the lease. The Supervisor said if we did sell it, he would like to put that money into a capital improvement project. He will look into it after the first of the year.

Jamie Wilson stated we are now accepting air conditioners and refrigerators at the Transfer Station. \$21.00 with Freon and \$6.00 without. He stated we are running into a problem where people are just cutting the lines; you can't do that; the appliances have to be tagged in order for the Transfer Station to take them for \$6.00. The Supervisor stated that legally we should be notifying the EPA of this. The Supervisor stated that if the lines are cut, the Town will still take them but you will be charged \$21.00. The Supervisor reminded everyone that if you are a National Grid customer and your refrigerator is working you can call National Grid and they will come pick it up. Paul Reese said they are paying \$100 now; it has to be working and at least 20 cubic feet. Jamie Wilson stated that this weekend is for Moriah Center and Moriah Corners for the household cleanup day. Councilman Anderson asked if the Transfer Station was taking refrigerators any day and Mr. Wilson said yes. The Supervisor stated that C & D is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mr. Wilson said this is working good, Saturdays are just too busy. The Supervisor stated that we will give some leeway if it is your first time bringing C & D and you didn't know.

Danielle Johnson, weight loss coach, sent an email to the Supervisor requesting office space to hold nutrition weight loss classes. The Supervisor stated there is room at the old Village Hall. The Board was in agreement with this.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to allow Danielle Johnson, Herbalife Wellness Coach to use office space at the old Village Hall to hold a Nutrition/Weight loss class; once a week for six weeks.

Discussion: The Supervisor will have her get a hold of the Town Clerk for a key.

**Resolutions:**

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

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

**RESOLVED** to set date for Public Hearing/Special Meeting on the 2020 Preliminary Budget for Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Court House.

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorization to extend water line to property tax map #96.2-2-8.220 in Water District #1-Richard & Diane Redman.

Discussion: This is the lot next to their house where they are building a new home. They need water and they are in Water District #1. The line ends near McKiernan's. Spring time is ok to do this, the Supervisor will have them contact the Water & Sewer Department or himself when they are ready.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to amend lease with Port Henry Fire District #3 and allow them to pay for fuel oil for the fire house (Town currently purchases fuel and is reimbursed by the fire department).

Discussion: Fire Commissioner contacted the Supervisor regarding this. They can piggyback on the Town's contract as long as they use less than 20,000 gallons a year.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to authorize Supervisor to include \$200.00 in budget for life flight donation.

**WHEREAS:** North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc. is a not-for profit, tax-exempt corporation which is responsible for all aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training medical personnel and administering the medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake; and

**WHEREAS:** The New York State Police aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

**WHEREAS:** The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties receive a vital emergency medical service which is free of charge to critically ill and seriously injured patients, and, therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Town Board of the Town of Moriah hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc. for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medevac program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of \$200.00 which represents the Town's share for 2020; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the sum of \$200.00 is hereby appropriated to Account No. 45404.1 for payment to North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc.

Discussion: There are two different helicopters. Life flight and life net. Life net will bill your insurance. Life flight does not bill insurance. The Town cannot donate to life net but we can life flight; life net is private.

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorization for Supervisor to do inter-fund transfers.

Discussion: During the audit, the Comptroller stated this should be done every month.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to approve End of Month Warrant and Monthly Warrant.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to increase campsite fees 2% for 2020 season.

Discussion: Councilman Anderson stated 2%. The Supervisor stated every tax payer goes up 2%. Paul Reese stated he feels it should be 3%. The Supervisor stated he is comfortable with 2%. Councilman Brassard stated 2% is fair, we do upgrades yearly.

**Floor open to the public:**

Eric Wilhelmson stated that 30 acres is a lot of glass for a solar farm. The Supervisor stated that Tarbell Hill and Mineville are good areas because of the high lines. Eric Wilhelmson asked if it was for any solar and the Supervisor said yes. Paul Reese asked if it was for solar structures that are on the ground and Rich Lapier said yes, still tying into the electrical. The Supervisor stated we currently have no regulations. Paul Reese asked about the old landfill; the Supervisor stated the problem with the old landfill is that 18” down there is a membrane.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

September 12, 2019

Sewer #1 \$3,976.44

2019/1438  
(replaced 2019/1429)

September 23, 2019

General \$37.95

2019/1437  
(replaced 2019/1313)

September 30, 2019

General \$6,974.29  
Highway \$3,221.21  
Water #1 \$63.74  
Water #2 \$44.71  
Water #3 \$134.75  
Water #4 \$6.37  
Sewer #1 \$95.89  
Sewer #2 \$93.75

2019/1441-1455

October 10, 2019

General \$44,335.85  
Highway \$66,844.11  
Water #1 \$6,371.32  
Water #2 \$5,362.72  
Water #3 \$5,649.00

2019/1459-1588

Water #4	\$327.39
Sewer #1	\$13,758.12
Sewer #2	\$7,213.24

**Capital Projects:**

Manhole 13 (Trunk sewer pipe lining)	J & J Equipment	#2	\$88,208.00
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Town Clerk