

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Knights of Columbus 4253 Main Street, Port Henry, NY.

Present: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor  
Tom Anderson Councilman  
Matt Brassard Councilman

Absent: Paul Salerno Councilman (excused)  
Nate Gilbo Councilman (excused)

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Jamie Wilson, Diana Stevenson, Ann Tesar, and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

**Bid Opening: Scrap Metal/Junk Cars**

The Supervisor read the legal notice of bid. One bid was received from Ronald Moulton in the amount of \$500.00.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to accept scrap metal/junk car bid from Ronald Moulton in the amount of \$500.00.

Discussion: Jamie Wilson stated he was hoping for more bids. All metal and junk cars need to be removed before winter.

**Floor open to the public:**

N/A

**Department Head/Town Board Reports:**

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Report provided. Issued 3 building permits for the month of September. Had one complaint for sewage which has been resolved.

Jamie Wilson had nothing to report.

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report. There is nothing going on with the Youth Commission.

Councilman Brassard reported that the police car has been at Sleeper's Garage for some repairs; the window is done but are still working on the traction control. He also reported that the Transfer Station is running well. They put new windows in the power building. The free dump day is going well.

Supervisor Scozzafava stated there will be a price increase for C & D at the Transfer Station. We will be collecting C & D every day. Jamie Wilson stated we will need a 2<sup>nd</sup> C & D container. The Supervisor asked if we can get a spare one and Mr. Wilson said if they can supply one. He

also stated that we have not had to turn anyone away for lack of room in the C & D container. The Supervisor stated accepting C & D every day and not closing for lunch will help also. Mr. Wilson stated that the metal container is filling up every 5 – 6 days. Councilman Anderson stated that C & D is busy during the summer. Councilman Brassard stated he had somebody ask him if a dishwasher was free, Mr. Wilson stated yes, it is metal.

**Supervisor’s Report:**

The NYS Police Reform needs to be complete by April 2021. The Sheriff is working on a template. The Supervisor will appoint two Councilman to work on this and we will also need a Citizen’s committee to work on it. Next year we will only have one full time police officer. We will need more than one officer to keep the department running. The Supervisor is not sure if the Sheriff’s Department will be able to offer more patrol or if the NYS Police will have a satellite station here. Councilman Brassard asked if the citizen’s committee will be put in the paper. The Supervisor stated we will wait until we get the template from the Sheriff.

The Supervisor stated he has received some guidance from NYS Department of Health regarding Trick or Treat. The County is also working on some guidelines. He stated the Board does not want to cancel trick or treat. He stated there is a \$10,000 fine for not following COVID 19 orders but we do not have the resources to police it. The Supervisor stated that he and the Board are under pressure daily due to COVID 19. Councilman Anderson asked what our options are for Halloween. The Supervisor stated that the Governor is not stopping trick or treating. The Supervisor has faith in people not to go to someone who doesn’t want to hand out candy this year. He feels people will use some common sense.

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance issued a STAR Delinquency Report. It lists any STAR exemption recipient whose property taxes are more than one year delinquent, will lose their STAR exemption. The Town has nothing to do with this decision.

The Supervisor stated he has an interested buyer in the building the Port Henry Fire Department is in. There will be a clause in the sale that states the department will be allowed a certain length of time to stay until they find a different building. He will have more information at the next meeting.

The Supervisor has had a request from the Women’s League of Voters to put voting signs up at the Town Hall. We have a policy in place there will be no political signs at the Town Hall. He asked the Board if they wanted to allow these signs; they are not political; they just state the three different ways to vote. Councilman Anderson and Councilman Brassard had no problem with it.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to allow the Women’s League of Voters to place “How To” voting signs at the Town Hall.

The Supervisor received a letter from the NYS Comptroller’s Office regarding the Town’s fiscal stress score and it was excellent.

The Supervisor received an email from the Adirondack Park Agency regarding National Grid rebuilding the transmission line in the Town of Moriah.

Canadian Pacific is finally ready to start the roof on the Train Station but are now waiting for the parking lot project to finish up so they can start.

The solar energy project on Decker’s Flats; west side; Zelinski property is ready to start and there are certain things the Supervisor and Town Board have to do. We need a pilot agreement. Councilman Gilbo is working on it. We need this agreement in order for them to pay in lieu of taxes.

The Town needs to adopt a Public Health Emergency Plan. The County is working on a boiler plate for all Town's in Essex County to use.

**Resolutions:**

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

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

**RESOLVED** authorization to go to bid for a one-ton truck, plow and sander to be purchased from 2020 Highway budget.

Discussion: It needs to be delivered in 30 days.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to renew contract with Mountain Medical for drug/alcohol testing for 2021.

The Supervisor believes the rates are the same as last year.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to adopt new rules and camping agreement for Town owned campsites.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is long overdue; they will have to read and sign when they check in.

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

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

**RESOLVED** an award be made to an engineering firm for the Moriah Town Hall project # P-1019-2020 with funds from the Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) # 758PF150-19

Further, the notice of award shall be made only after an acceptable price for these services be agreed upon between the firm ranked first by the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process, and the Town.

The ranking of the firms is as follows:

- |     |                                  |                 |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | Fed Keil Architects –            | 95 / 100 points |
| 2.  | Cedarwood Engineering –          | 93 / 100 points |
| 3.  | Lacey, Thaler, Reilly & Wilson - | 93 / 100 Points |
| 4.  | C2 Design Group –                | 92 / 100 points |
| 5.  | Aubertine & Currier -            | 92 / 100 points |
| 6.  | AES Northeast -                  | 92 / 100 points |
| 7.  | MJ Engineering & Land Survey -   | 85 / 100 points |
| 8.  | A2 Architecture -                | 72 / 100 points |
| 9.  | Architecture Preservation Studio | 71 / 100 points |
| 10. | C&S Engineers -                  | 71 / 100 points |
| 11. | AEDA -                           | 53 / 100 points |

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

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

**RESOLVED** a resolution awarding the bid for the Moriah Town Hall improvements architectural contract to Fred Keil & Associates, Architects and Planners (“Fred Keil”) with the funds thereof to come from the CDBG Grant #758PF150-19 and further authorizing the Town Board to execute a contract for engineering services.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah has reviewed all proposals submitted for the Moriah Town Hall Improvements project Request for Proposals with the assistance from Essex County Community Resources;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that after review and discussion of the proposals submitted to the Town Board at a Regular Board Meeting on this date;

**WHEREAS**, the decision was made to select an engineering firm, that most fist the needs associated with this project and an acceptance price has been agreed upon;

**THEREFORE**, the Town Board of the Town of Moriah will award **Fred Keil** the Architectural contract for said project.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is the \$298,000 grant for the ramp and renovations at the Town Hall.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to renew contract with North Country Life Flight for 2021 in the amount of \$200.00.

**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 2021; 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.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to take possession of RV unit at Bulwagga Bay Campsite; after numerous attempts to reach owner of record and to declare surplus and put out to bid as junk.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we have sent numerous certified letters and they have all been returned. The camper has been at campsite for three years.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to contract with Barb Supernault for an agreement to market and lease beach house for 2021 season.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo will take charge of this. He spoke to Realtors. Free rent for one month. See if we get any interest.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to designate Broad Street as the truck route for traffic heading east as per the findings of the engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice. This route will be established once proper signage and traffic devices are in place.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated after a lot of complaints the Board decided the best way to resolve this issue was to hire an engineer and let them determine which was the best route. The report is public knowledge. If you would like a copy please contact the Supervisor. Two different routes were looked at; Broad Street and Church Street. Broad was the safest and best.

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

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

**RESOLVED** to set date for Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget and to raise water rates in Water District #1, #2, #3 and #4 from \$290.00 to \$295.00 and raise sewer rates in Sewer District #1 and #2 from \$420.00 to \$425.00 for 5:30pm Thursday, November 12, 2020 at the Knights of Columbus prior to regular board meeting.

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

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

**RESOLVED** approval to do transfers in budget as needed (please see attached).

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Floor open to the public:**

N/A

The Supervisor stated that he tried to get the polling places back to the way they used to be but due to COVID 19 it was too late for this year. He state everyone will vote at the Moriah Fire House. He is hoping it will be better organized this year. Councilman Anderson asked if all 4 districts were at the fire house and the Supervisor said yes. Ann Tesar asked the Supervisor if he knew how many absentee ballots have been received so far and the Supervisor said about 4,000, he is not sure if that is Town of Moriah or Essex County.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

September 28, 2020

General	\$551.61	2020/1328-1340
Highway	\$1,138.99	
Water #1	\$90.40	
Water #2	\$62.80	
Water #3	\$128.72	
Water #4	\$9.19	
Sewer #1	\$142.89	
Sewer #2	\$105.53	

October 8, 2020

General	\$41,022.92	2020/1342-1475
Highway	\$208,983.63	
Water #1	\$8,216.43	
Water #2	\$5,434.45	
Water #3	\$5,777.51	
Water #4	\$114.82	
Sewer #1	\$10,741.63	
Sewer #2	\$5,511.77	

Capital Projects:

CDBG Oak & Ridge Main Replacement	Manfred Const.	\$13,341.04	#13
	Manfred Const.	\$15,908.95	#14
Tarbell Hill Pump Station	EDR	\$1,665.00	#10

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Town Clerk