

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

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

Absent: Paul Salerno Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Robert Stevenson, Diana Stevenson, Jamie Wilson, Michael Mackin, Sandra Hertz, David Killary, Sharon O'Connor, Patricia Montgomery, Tom Cowin, and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

Floor Open to the Public:

David Killary asked about the animal control law, he passed out a copy to the Town Board; he would like “animal” defined; does not include cats. He was hooking his dog out and his dog took off after a cat that was on his property. He feels “cats” should be considered an animal in the local law. He is hoping the Board agrees, the Judges agree; he is hoping the Town can send it to Albany to make it a law. He stated there have been numerous cat fights on his deck; he stated we need a law for cats. The Supervisor stated very few Towns have laws for cats; with the feral cat population it is impossible to control; the SPCA won’t take them. The Supervisor stated he is surprised the Judges agreed with him they were on the Board when the law was written. Sandra Hertz stated they are trying to be neighborly. The Supervisor stated it is a slippery slope dealing with cats. Ms. Hertz asked if there could be a stipulation in the law between feral and a pet cat. The Supervisor stated he will talk to the State and the Association of Towns. Mr. Killary stated the cat was on their property. Councilman Anderson asked if the Court still found them liable and Mr. Killary said yes, they had to pay the vet bill. The Supervisor stated the Town has a lot of local laws on the books now that are very hard to enforce. The Supervisor said he and the Town Clerk will look in to it. Ms. Hertz asked if there could be a receptacle for pet waste at the pier and the Supervisor and Tom Cowin both said there used to be, Mr. Cowin will look in to it; he stated there used to be one by the parking area.

Michael Mackin presented a plan to the Town Board for the Witherbee Mansion on Stone Street. He would like to get a restore NY grant but he needs the Towns support. The Supervisor stated he wants to make sure the owner has skin in the game. Mr. Mackin stated he will take care of the legal notices and public hearings. The Supervisor stated there is a match if the grant is successful; we have one shot at this-one building. The Supervisor stated it cannot be used to rehab a building to sell. Mr. Mackin stated he would like to turn it in to a bed and breakfast, it would create jobs and bring visitors in. The Supervisor stated Mr. Mackin has been a great property owner he just ran out of money. Mr. Mackin stated he is not sure of the application deadline; he will provide anything the Town needs; the building is shovel ready; ready to go. The Supervisor asked Mr. Mackin if it was still on the market and Mr. Mackin said yes, unless the Board agrees to go forward. The Supervisor stated if the Board agrees it has to come off the market. The Supervisor asked the Board if they agreed to support the project. Councilman Gilbo asked Mr. Mackin if he had a business plan and Mr. Mackin replied the whole application will be about 5 years. Councilman Anderson asked if the Supervisor was asking if the Board agreed to support the project. Mr. Mackin asked if there was any other interest from the community and the Supervisor and Councilman Gilbo both said no. Mr. Mackin stated he put his letter of interest in back in August. The Board was in agreement with supporting this project. Councilman Brassard said great, go after the money.

Patricia Montgomery asked if the Town could do a town wide clean-up day. The Supervisor stated he deals with garbage issues weekly; he stated we used to do town wide clean up days and the areas that needed it never took advantage of it and it got very costly. Councilman Anderson told Ms. Montgomery she should check with the School and the National Honor Society, they might help. The Supervisor stated they stopped asking the public to do road side clean up because of the needles on the side of the road. He stated that private property is a different story; clean-up is difficult; the Supervisor stated some people are very adamant about their property. Ms. Montgomery asked if we could put up some signs that littering is illegal and there is a fine. The Supervisor stated we have imposed fines and then the court does nothing. Councilman Brassard stated we can come up with something in the Spring. The Supervisor stated the Town Board really does try to deal with garbage.

David Killary asked the Supervisor when he could expect an answer regarding the cat situation and the Supervisor said it would probably be next week; will not happen overnight. Mr. Killary stated his neighbor is now yelling at him regarding his dog.

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds-done mowing and are now working on getting projects done before winter; worked on the Iron Center and Town Hall.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent-stated the Highway Department along with the Building & Grounds crew got all the docks in and Building & Grounds have been picking up the food for the food pantry also. The Highway crew have been helping other Towns out as well. Some of their projects are winding down. The Supervisor stated he received a call from the food distributor in Albany and they are looking at delivering the food to the Highway Garage in Schroon Lake; loading/unloading would be easier. Councilman Anderson asked if they have a fork lift at the Highway Garage in Schroon Lake. The Supervisor stated it is currently being delivered to a Church. Jamie Wilson stated the ball field is wrapped up for the year. Essex County Soil & Water helped with their seeder; it has been hydro seeded. Thank you to Chuck French at Carrara's for the block for the retaining wall; great help. The Supervisor asked if the crack in the wall roadside would be addressed this year and Jamie said no, next year; they are done for the year, will put up a temporary gate. Mr. Wilson stated he worries it is turning in to a dog park; we need to put up signs. Sandra Hertz asked what field they were talking about and Mr. Wilson and the Supervisor both explained where it was. Mr. Wilson stated road projects are completed for the year. The Supervisor asked about sidewalks and Mr. Wilson stated they are done for this year, didn't get a chance to do all they wanted to. Mr. Wilson stated the County is wrapping up also; Broad Street is just a band aid. Mr. Wilson thanked the fire departments for burning the brush at the transfer station; only way we are able to accept brush.

Councilman Brassard reported the campsites are closed for the season; had a great year. He is hoping both Managers come back next year. BOCES is working on the bathroom at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. He encouraged people to stop and look at the Miner statue, it is beautiful.

Councilman Gilbo stated he has been working on the budget, restore NY grants and surplusing the loader. The Supervisor asked what else is going on the auction and Mr. Wilson stated he might have one more item; Water & Sewer Department may have some and Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds has some scrap stuff.

Councilman Anderson stated the Ski Club will be starting up; signups will be in December; Club will start in January. The Supervisor asked if it would be run same as last year and Councilman Anderson said yes, but the checks will go directly to Whiteface this year. The Supervisor asked if the school will be ready for the Summer Program next year and Councilman Anderson said yes, the only problem will be the gym floor but they can still use the small gym.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor reported the Board met with the Fire District #3 Commissioners on Tuesday, regarding the building. Their vote for \$4.2 million was defeated. The Town Board offered the Fire Department the building again. The Supervisor received a phone call from 2 commissioners today, they are interested in the building; will pursue that; the Town can give it to them by a

simple Board resolution. Councilman Anderson asked if it had to be public referendum and the Supervisor said no. The Supervisor stated the Town has no use for the building.

The Supervisor received a proposal for the Court House roof from Titan Roofing, Inc., in the amount of \$106,000. The first proposal was \$68,000. Tim Harland fixed the roof the last time. Jamie Wilson stated he might know one more person who can fix a slate roof, he will try to get a hold of him.

The Supervisor stated that record storage has always been a problem; the majority of records have to be kept 6 years. We are going to have some work done on the vault in the basement of the Town Hall so we can utilize this space for payroll records. We received a quote from Middlebury Lock Co. in the amount of \$760.00 to get the doors/lock working on it, this is informational only. Councilman Gilbo asked if we thought about storing them electronically and the Town Clerk stated renting a scanner is a good idea, just need one that will accommodate the size of the pages we would need; old payroll books are large and odd shaped.

The lighting of the Town Memory Christmas Tree will be Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 5:00pm; Small Business Saturday is the same day from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The Parade of Lights will be at 6:00pm. The Holiday Train will be Monday, November 28, 2022 at 4:30pm.

The Supervisor showed a copy of “unsafe building” notices that have gone out to people regarding property cleanup. Garbage cleanup is roughly 90% tenants due to absentee landlords. The Board should do a local law regarding rental properties that make the landlords responsible for making garbage receptacles available to the tenants.

HUD has not done any housing assistance inspections on their rentals for the last 3 years; they will be starting again.

The Supervisor reminded Jamie Wilson that we will need the light plant for the Holiday Train. Councilman Anderson stated we will collect food again for the food pantry.

The Supervisor reported that the food pantry gets @ 4,000 pounds of food monthly and they are hurting for food right now; please donate; the food pantry sure could use it.

The Supervisor received a letter from NYS DOT; the Highway Department needs their permission before they remove snow from Main Street.

To date we have received \$458,567.72 from the State and \$53,704.96 from the County in Stimulus money. We have spent \$52,213.25 of it. The Board is open to suggestions on how to spend the remainder of it. David Killary stated the Miner Statue could be beautiful if they put some flowers around it. The Supervisor stated the committee worked very hard and there is more to be done. Sandra Hertz stated it is a beautiful spot. The Supervisor stated we can’t use the stimulus money for debt or to reduce taxes. David Killary said spend some of it on flowers. The Supervisor said no, that is a one-time thing, want to put the money in to something that will last. Patricia Montgomery suggested affordable housing. The Supervisor stated we can’t spend it on private property. Sharon O’Connor suggested perennials not annuals, they come back every year. Jamie Wilson stated the committee does have plans for the statue.

The Supervisor stated the Chamber needs help; looking at becoming affiliated with Ticonderoga’s Chamber, they have so much to offer; would still be the Moriah Chamber.

Resolutions:

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

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

RESOLVED to set date for Public Hearing for 2023 Town Budget for Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 5:45pm at the Town of Moriah Court House.

151. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, unanimous second, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED a resolution of appreciation to Martin Chapuk for donating his time and equipment for improvements to Port Henry High School Field.

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

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

RESOLVED authorizing Moriah Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2022-2023 grant cycle up to \$11,286.00.

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

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

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 private fixed-wing aviation resources; 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 for 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 authorized 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 2023; and be it

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

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

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

RESOLVED to renew contract with Mountain Medical for drug/alcohol screening as per contractual agreement for 2023.

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

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

RESOLVED to set date for Trick or Treat for Monday, October 31, 2022 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

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

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

RESOLVED a resolution of appreciation to John Aurilio for his years of service to the Town of Moriah Building & Grounds Department.

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

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

RESOLVED a resolution of appreciation to Larry Cutting for his years of service at the Town of Moriah Highway Department.

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

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

161. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, unanimous second, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED a resolution of condolence to the Bryant family on the passing of Colleen Bryant.

Floor open to the public:

The Supervisor stated we have a drug issue in our community. He met with the State Police, the DA and the Sheriff's department. They want the Town to install cameras in public areas; we could use the stimulus money for this. There has been some case law; could put in public intersections. The Supervisor asked the Board if this was something they wanted him to pursue, they said yes.

Councilman Brassard asked if you trick or treat in Grover Hills to park at Linney Field.

Robert Stevenson stated Linney Field is a bad spot; drug haven. The Supervisor stated it is due to bail reform. Sharon O'Connor suggested contacting the school about all the 4-wheelers; it is their property. Ms. O'Connor thanked the Town for all their hard work on the new field and around Town; looks good.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

September 26, 2022

General	\$850.92	2022/1438-1457
Highway	\$4,190.97	
Water #1	\$77.34	
Water #2	\$53.97	
Water #3	\$117.04	
Water #4	\$7.77	
Sewer #1	\$118.72	
Sewer #2	\$76.02	

October 13, 2022

General	\$40,558.13	2022/1458-1603
Highway	\$178,309.18	
Water #1	\$7,125.06	
Water #2	\$2,816.29	
Water #3	\$1,89.74	
Water #4	\$214.18	
Sewer #1	\$10,312.25	
Sewer #2	\$4,357.31	

Stimulus:

Cedarwood Engineering	Water Plant Reservoir	\$2,159.00	#4
Pat Armstrong Inc.	College St. Field	\$810.00	#3
Taylor Rental	College St. Field	\$2,275.00	#4
Pat Armstrong Inc.	College St. Field	\$72.00	#5

Town Clerk