

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 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

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Sharon O'Connor, Jamie Wilson, Tom Cowin, Paul Reese, James Sprague and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

Floor Open to the Public:

N/A

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent reported they have been helping out with the culvert project on Viking Lane, it is going good. They will be 2 weeks waiting on inlet pipe. The Supervisor stated he is very pleased with the progress. Mr. Wilson stated J Hutchins is down to 1 man and 1 operator right now until the pipe comes in. They will be paving 3 days next week; hand work is done. Working on road repairs and will be hauling winter sand soon. The Supervisor asked where they will be paving and Mr. Wilson said Titus Road, Harry Allen Road, end of Fairy Lake Road and the Town Hall. He doesn't think they will get to the Elk Inn Road this year. The Supervisor asked how the price of salt was and Mr. Wilson stated it was holding. Councilman Anderson asked if they would leave Viking Lane one lane and Mr. Wilson said yes, there is some slope failure and they are waiting on pipe. The Supervisor stated for safety reasons they will keep it closed. Mr. Wilson stated it might help with FEMA funding that we had to "close a lane". FEMA will be coming to look at the site. The Supervisor stated the culvert itself looks good. The pipe under the old road bed has some issues; keeping the beavers out will help. The Supervisor stated this is a private road but the Town owns a 16-inch sewer main that runs right under the rail road bed. Councilman Salerno asked about beavers in the future. The Supervisor stated Town employees have been getting rid of them; they are huge; beavers are a huge problem everywhere. Councilman Salerno asked if there was a season on them and the Supervisor stated as long as you have nuisance permit you can get rid of them and the Town does.

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds Superintendent reported they have been helping out the campsites in closing up for the season. They are getting ready for Winter. They fixed the roof on Buzzy Wright Park. The Supervisor stated the truck that was in the budget for Building & Grounds the Board decided to take out; keep current truck for another year.

Councilman Gilbo reported he is still researching the Economic Development Consultant; not ready to bring anything to the Board yet; been busy with budget workshops.

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report.

Councilman Brassard reported the campsites have closed for the season; workers will stay on another 2 weeks to finish up work. He has been working with the Supervisor going over the day in and day out roles. He and the Supervisor met with the Chamber regarding their financials and their plan for 2024; it went well.

Councilman Salerno had nothing to report.

Supervisor’s Report:

Trick or Treat will be on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 5pm – 7pm.

Residents did not want a State Police sub-station here in Moriah; the Supervisor received a call from Elise Stefanik’s Office today, the Town was awarded @\$122,000 to renovate the police station to make it accessible for Town Police, State Police and the Sheriff’s Department to use. The Town is down to 1 Police Officer. The Supervisor will donate his time to do the electrical; looking for other volunteers for construction.

The New York State Water & Sewer Assistance Program has ended on August 31, 2023; several residents utilized it.

The Supervisor received a project summary from Housing Visions regarding Town owned property on Hospital Road. He would like them to come to a Board meeting to discuss their plans. The Board would have to surplus the land and then sell it. The old hospital is privately owned and is being renovated for housing.

The Supervisor was notified by NYS Empire State Development that the Witherbee Mansion Renovation Project was not selected for further consideration, again. The Supervisor stated there are other buildings in Town that qualify.

The Supervisor stated the Right of Entry License Agreement with D & H Railroad is pretty much null and void, can’t go on private property to cut brush; this will be an on-going issue. A homeowner could hire someone to do it and CP Rail could ok it.

The Supervisor stated there is roughly \$415,000 stimulus money left. Will use some to pave the roadway in to the Town Hall and the parking area. Mr. Wilson stated that should be around \$10,000. The Board was in agreement with using General Fund funds for this.

Councilman Salerno asked if there was an update on Rice Street; the Supervisor stated there is a resolution at the end of the meeting regarding it. The Supervisor stated the Town will pay to have it taken down and then it will get put on the warrant and the Town will get the money back from the County that way; will get quotes from contractors for the work.

Resolutions:

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

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

RESOLVED a resolution Authorizing the Demolition of an Unsafe Building Situate on Property Owned by Dustin J. Thompson and Abigail Smith Designated by Town of Moriah Tax Map No. 97.72-3-11.000 and as Described in a Deed Recorded in the Office of the Essex County Clerk at Book 1927 Page 251

WHEREAS, to Resolution dated February 9, 2023, proceedings pursuant to the Unsafe Buildings Law of the Town of Moriah being Local Law No. 7 for the year 2019, were begun against the above-captioned premises; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Unsafe Buildings dated February 10, 2023, was personally served upon Dustin J. Thompson on February 18, 2023, and upon Abigail Smith on February 18, 2023 at said time and a certified copy of the same having been mailed to Dustin J. Thompson and Abigail Smith by certified and regular mail on February 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a second Notice of Unsafe Buildings dated May 11, 2023, was personally served upon Dustin J. Thompson on May 19, 2023, and upon Abigail Smith

on May 19, 2023 at said time and a certified copy of the same having been mailed to Dustin J. Thompson and Abigail Smith by certified and regular mail on May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Moriah set the Hearing date for all interested parties to appear on June 8, 2023, and a neighbor appeared to testify about the damage sustained to her property because of the fire at 19 Rice Lane; and a perspective buyer appeared to say that he would remove the structure when he acquired ownership of the property; and the public hearing was adjourned based upon the perspective sale and testimony by the perspective buyer; and such sale was subsequently cancelled;

WHEREAS, the Town board at its regularly scheduled meeting held on September 21, 2023 voted to reopen the public hearing on October 19, 2023 and another Notice of Unsafe Buildings dated September 26, 2023, was personally served upon Dustin J. Thompson on September 29, 2023, and upon Abigail Smith on September 29, 2023 at said time and a certified copy of the same having been mailed to Dustin J. Thompson and Abigail Smith by certified and regular mail on September 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Moriah set the another Hearing date for all interested parties to appear on October 19, 2023, and no one having appeared to contest these Unsafe Building proceedings.

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Moriah has determined that the structure is uninhabitable by virtue of its being partially collapsed, unsecure, unsafe and unsanitary and further finds that the structural members are partially collapsed, the foundation has collapsed, the foundation walls are exposed and cracked and the exterior walls are partially collapsed and some are missing. The Town further finds that the roof is collapsed, dangling and unsafe and there are no windows or doors in the dwelling and is wide open and unsecured, making it unsafe and dangerous to the general public and unfit for purposes for which it may be lawfully used and, by virtue of no response and no appearance by any necessary parties to the Unsafe Building proceeding, the Town of Moriah does hereby order that the building be demolished and removed by the Town of Moriah Highway Department and that any costs associated therewith including legal costs be levied against the real property taxes by special proceeding or otherwise.

THIS RESOLUTION shall take effect immediately.

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

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

RESOLVED to renew 2024 Agreement for dog pound/shelter services with the North Country SPCA in the amount of \$6,500.

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

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

RESOLVED to renew 2024 agreement for dogs deemed dangerous with the North Country SPCA in the amount of \$250.00.

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

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

RESOLVED to refund Walt & Janelle Jurkiewicz for wastewater cost, sewer district #2 in the amount of \$448.20 for payment to Geraw's Septic Service on September 18, 2023.

Discussion: The issue ended up being in the Town's main line.

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

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

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to sign Easement Agreement to discharge storm water on Edgemont Road and Lakeview Avenue on to Fred Perea's property; tax map #107.6-1-26.110.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated he met with Fred Perea, Ben Tromblee and Jamie Wilson regarding this issue, discussions went back and forth; the Town Clerk found in the minutes from 1990 where Fred's father went to a board meeting requesting the Town take care of the road and the Board agreed. There are 8 culverts are Edgemont Road that drain on to Mr. Perea's property; the Town Attorney stated to get the water off Mr. Perea's property it would be a long and costly fight.

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

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

RESOLVED to award the Service Line Inventory for Lead to MJ Engineering after review of Request for Qualifications.

Discussion: The Supervisor met with Chip Perry and Rob Wick; received 2 proposals; negotiating price now.

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

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

RESOLVED to advertise for 3 Board of Assessment Review members.

Discussion: We currently have 2 vacancies; Gary Olcott will get done at the end of the year. Currently do not have a quorum, grievances would have to be heard at Essex County Real Property. It pays \$300 a year, one or two meetings per year; if anybody is interested please contact the Town Hall. The Town Clerk will put an ad in the paper. The Supervisor asked the Town Board to reach out to anybody who might be interested.

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

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

RESOLVED authorization to purchase a sewer pump for the WWTP not to exceed \$30,000.

Discussion: This will come out of 2024 budget.

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

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

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

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

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

Absent 0

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

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

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

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

Councilman Brassard stated the Holiday Train will be in Port Henry on Saturday November 25, 2023 at 4:30pm. Please bring a canned good to donate to the food pantry. Port Henry is their only stop in Essex County.

Floor Open to the Public:

N/A

The meeting adjourned at 6:29pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

September 28, 2023

General	\$1,050.66
Highway	\$750.38
Water District #1	\$13.17
Water District #2	\$8.94
Water District #4	\$1.41
Sewer District #1	\$59.21
Sewer District #2	\$19.21

2023/1480-1486

October 19, 2023

General	\$70,077.25
Highway	\$38,365.37
Water District #1	\$23,873.27
Water District #2	\$16,036.14
Water District #3	\$7,705.80
Water District #4	\$143.66
Sewer District #1	\$15,694.06
Sewer District #2	\$9,019.71

2023/1487-1632

Stimulus:

Court House Roof Replacement	RWS Construction	\$58,520.00	#1
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Town Clerk