

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Board Meeting Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present:

Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
Paul Salerno	Councilman
Timothy Garrison	Councilman
Thomas Anderson	Councilman

Others

Present: Diana Stevenson; Sandra Lovell; Ed Roberts, Building & Grounds; Paul Mazzotte, Assessor; Richard LaPier, Building & Codes; John Viestenz; Paul & Nancy Tromblee; Elaine Adkins, Town Clerk.

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:00pm by saluting the flag.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Garrison, Scozzafava
	Nays	0
	Absent	Salerno

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

Floor Open to the Public: No one spoke

Department Head Reports:

Richard LaPier, Building Codes, gave the following report. Building Codes issued nine building permits in September, along with regular inspections.

Ed Roberts, Building & Grounds, reported that they have been busy along with the prisoners, cleaning up the Sherman Cemetery on Crowfoot Road. Mr. Scozzafava stated that when a cemetery is abandoned the Town has to clean it up once a year.

Councilman Anderson gave the following Highway report as Mr. Wilson was excused. Over the past few weeks they have been working with the County hauling material for the Moriah Road project. Paving will take place next week there. His department has been cutting trees & brush behind the Town Hall and Court House. They replace two culverts on Silver Hill Road and tore up a bad section of that road and repaired it. They have also worked on Teft Lane. Paving on both sides of Silver Hill and Teft will be done by the end of the month. We are using the remainder or the CHIPS money for these roads. Bartlett Pond Dam has been completed and everything seems to be good.

Paul Mazzotte, Assessor, gave an up-date on the 2013 Star registration. The Basic Star Registration is being conducted by the State Department of Taxation and Finance. There is no local review. Any new applicants that file this year will have to go through the state next year. If you give false statements you can be disqualified for six years along with penalties. They set an initial deadline of December 31st, but those that don't meet the deadline will be sent a reminder. The Department of Taxation and Finance will notify the assessors of anyone that needs to be removed and the only way to appeal it is to go through the state. The appeals process could last up to a year. Mr. Viestenz stated that the library will be set up on Saturdays from 10-2 and the Chamber on Thursdays, beginning the 17th from 10-2, to help anyone that needs help going on line to register. Mr. Scozzafava stated that we have also helped people out at the Town Hall.

Councilman Garrison gave the Police Report as Officer Stahl was excused. The Police Department handled 170 calls for service of which 11 were violation arrests, 13 misdemeanor arrests, issued 13 traffic tickets and handled six traffic accidents.

Mr. Scozzafava stated that the other Department Heads have been excused from attending.

Town Board Committee Reports:

Councilman Anderson reported that the Youth Commission is working on the ski program, getting information; Whiteface does not require them to be in until January 3rd. If there is enough interest they will move forward; they are not sure on the transportation issue yet.

Councilman Garrison reported that the McEdge meeting went well. Mike Mascarenas came and went over the grants that we have received. We will be working with the County Resource Department and move forward. It is eye opening on what they have done and what we received.

Supervisor's Report:

- George Moore Trucking received the scrap metal bid and sent an e-mail stating that there is a lot of buried scrap metal at the transfer station and they are interested in getting it out of there. They sent a proposal to bring a magnet in to retrieve the metal at a \$400.00 cost to cover the charge of getting it here; this will be deducted from the amount they retrieve at the same rate they bid. Spoke with Jamie and agreed we should get it out of there.

This is the first outfit that got the bid that has offered to clean it up the way it should be.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Garrison, Anderson, Scozzafava
	Absent	Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorized the signing of the contract with George Moore Trucking to retrieve the buried metal at the transfer station on condition that there are no out of pocket expenses if there turns out to be little metal buried there.

- Received a letter from Todd Malbon asking the Board to consider putting another street light on Mineville Road. The Board discussed the options and the possibility of moving a light from another location. Mr. Scozzafava stated that he thinks Grover Hills could use another light due to all the break ins there.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Garrison, Scozzafava
	Nays	0
	Absent	Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the installation of a street light on Mineville Road providing they find one to move out of an area to install there.

- Had an e-mail regarding the electronics at the transfer station; as of November 1st the electronic recycling company will no longer accept the old TVs with tubes. The Board discussed what their options are to get rid of them and decided they would have to charge, but not so much that people will be dumping them along the road sided.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Garrison, Anderson, Scozzafava
	Nays	0
	Absent	Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve charging a flat fee of \$10.00 to accept the old style TVs at the transfer station.

- The DEC is not allowing any communities to burn brush; they are working on getting chippers for the counties.
- Met with the campground managers and went over the rules and regulations; will condense down to about 15 rules from about 50.
- The annual audit needs to be done and in order to do that we need to hire an actuary due to GASB (federal law). They have to estimate what we have to pay out over the next 50 years. We received one proposal for \$4,800 for the first year then \$1,000 for 2014 and \$1,000 for 2015. Checking on another and are waiting to hear. Something we have to do; another unfunded mandate.
- State contract price for gas was \$3.19; we paid \$3.11 through Citgo.
- Had calls from senior citizens asking that the aged exemption amount be raised. We've discussed before, been awhile since we raised it, have until March 1st to do. Will have more info coming on what the max is. Problem is when exemption is granted someone else has to pick it up. Mr. Mazzotte stated that the schools have to opt in, but can offer

the Vets exemption. Mr. Tromblee asked how many seniors it would impact raising the senior exemption; he didn't know, but will check into it.

- Unofficially the Christmas Train comes on Thanksgiving this year; not sure of the time yet.

Resolutions:

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Supervisor Scozzafava, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Garrison, Scozzafava, Anderson
Nays 0
Absent Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Agreement with the North Country SPCA for shelter service for 2014 in the amount of \$4,798.00 with a 30 day clause for actual expenses if the animal is held for legal issues.

2. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Garrison, Anderson
Nays 0
Absent Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board change the hours of the Water & Sewer Department from 7-3 to 6-2 Monday through Friday, September 30th through May 1st. There will be a trial period of 60 days with final hours to be set by the Town Board.

3. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Anderson, Garrison, Scozzafava
Nays 0
Absent Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to renew the contract with Life Flight for 2014 at \$200.00.

4. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Anderson, Garrison, Scozzafava
Nays 0
Absent Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorizes to renew the contract with the Campsite Managers for 2014-2015 with Wayne and Ruth Plunkett at \$17,300 per season.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that we had received one other application, but felt the current managers have been doing a good job. There was no need for interviews.

5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Garrison, Anderson, Scozzafava
Nays 0
Absent Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorizes to renew the Assistant Managers contract for the 2014 season in the amount of \$1,200 and a campsite.

6. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

APPROVED Ayes Garrison, Anderson, Scozzafava
Nays 0
Absent Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board set the Budget Hearing 2014 Preliminary Budget for November 7th at 6:30 PM at the Court House.

7. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Garrison, Anderson, Scozzafava
	Nays	0
	Absent	Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the payment of the warrants.

8. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Supervisor Scozzafava, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Garrison, Scozzafava, Anderson
	Nays	0
	Absent	Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorizes the payment to CT Male Associates for engineering services for work done on the Bartlett Pond Dam project in the amounts of \$4,041.71 and \$397.00.

9. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Anderson, Garrison, Scozzafava
	Nays	0
	Absent	Salerno

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approves the payment to AES for engineering services in the amount of \$2,714.36 for the Bulwagga Bay Shoreline Erosion Project.

Floor Open to the Public:

Mr. Tromblee wanted to know the protocol for the Police Department. He takes care of Rhodia's property and there were trespassers there on Labor Day. He called for the police and was told they were holding traffic for the parade; he wanted to know if this takes precedence over a criminal complaint. Mr. Scozzafava stated he backs the police department one hundred percent. They couldn't take off and let traffic go with a parade coming. Discussion incurred.

Mr. Tromblee stated the next issue he wanted to bring up was the consolidation of fire districts which Mr. Scozzafava is in favor of. No one has said what the advantage would be. We have mutual aid now which is a wonderful thing. Discussion incurred.

Next Mr. Tromblee stated that if we want to be fiscally responsible then water should be metered. Mr. Scozzafava agreed stating we have had discussions and hearings on this before and the majority of those that didn't want them show up and the ones for them don't come. The Supervisor stated that we can address the issue again

Mr. Tromblee asked why we can't establish one voting district instead of the four we have. The Supervisor stated that the Essex County Board of Elections establishes the districts and that you can only have so many people in a district. He stated that it would save tax payers money if they housed all four voting districts under one roof, but that is up to the Board of Elections.

Mr. Tromblee asked if the Board could address the water meter issue again and was told yes. The Supervisor stated that he is 100 percent in support of meters. Mr. Garrison stated that the problem is that meters are expensive, about \$1,500 each, but the longer we wait the more expensive they'll be. Mrs. Tromblee asked if the water rates are different for apartments. Mr. Scozzafava told her they pay by unit; if there are four apartments they are charged for each one.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Abstract Distributions:

September 25, 2013

General	\$10,359.60
Highway	1,276.04
Water #1	633.72
Water #2	452.18
Water #4	60.52
Sewer	445.08

Claim Nos.:
2602-2621

October 10, 2013

General	28,192.47
Highway	4,971.54
Water #1	1,900.89
Water #2	1,395.45
Water #4	178.57
Sewer	1,256.77

Claim Nos.:

2628-2706

Town Clerk