

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

Present: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor
Lucille Carpenter Councilwoman
Paul Salerno Councilman
Thomas Anderson Councilman

Absent: Timothy Garrison Councilman

Others Present: William Trybendis; Assemblyman Dan Stec; Diana Stevenson; Mark Lashway; John & Jackie Viestnez; Margaret Parah; Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt.; Richard LaPier, Code Officer; Jeff Kelly; Linda Smythe; Sandra Lovell; Cathy Sprague; Bill & Christy Petro; 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 Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

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

Mr. Scozzafava introduced Assemblyman Dan Stec, former Supervisor of Queensbury, who would like to say a few words. Assemblyman Stec stated that now that they are not in session he is going around the district to talk with his constituents. He is happy that the Petros could make it to the meeting as he has good news about funding on their dam. He set up a conference call with Tom (Scozzafava), the Essex County, DEC and other state agencies and himself to get the ball rolling on taking Petro's dam down. The County did the grant application and they got approved for funding for engineering and getting it out to bid. The work is to be done before winter. Of all the issues surrounding Irene, this is the only one that landed on the Assemblyman's desk asking for help. It has been a complicated issue because it's a dam.

The Assemblyman stated that they made it through session without acting on the ethics reform. He has been very strong on the Pension Forfeiture Bill where public officials being guilty of corruption and still drawing a pension. This was supposed to go to vote; the Assembly passed it, but the Senate never voted on it. The leadership in Albany is not in favor of true ethics reform.

The state has half a million in funding for broadband; it's now September and we still don't have details on this. They haven't figured out how they are going to do this. He discussed parents driving their kids miles to a place that has Wi-Fi access, such as a library parking lot, so they can get on the internet to do their homework assignments. Also, businesses are at a disadvantage not having access to the internet. It's a competitive issue and also a public safety issue. The state made a pledge to do it over the next three years, but they are not working on it.

Mr. Scozzafava stated that at one time Petro dam was deeded to the Town of Moriah and we sold it to the Petros. The dam cost millions in infrastructure damage during Irene. The main issue is because it's a private dam. Dan Stec got behind this and organized the conference calls with all the people and got the stated departments involved. The County prepared the grant application; it was a bad situation, but thanks to Dan things are working out.

Councilman Salerno asked about the tax cap being two percent. He was told that the cap actually goes by the cost of living which is .08 percent. The tax cap is popular in Albany because of the state land. A lot of the schools have fluff in the budget and a lot in fund balances. The tax cap was imposed to make those bigger urban areas trim their spending and use some of the fund balances; it has hurt the smaller areas that have been keeping their spending within their means and not keeping large fund balances, they have nowhere else to cut. Mr. Scozzafava stated that it has hurt the Adirondacks due to the limited area of development; there isn't much room to grow. Property tax is supporting services never meant to be supported through real property. The state needs to recognize the difference between counties like Essex and Westchester; exemptions are another issue.

There was concern on the minimum wage going to \$15/per hour state wide. The Assemblyman stated that he's sure it will pass in the Assembly as NY City dominates. The Supervisor and Board thanked Assemblyman Stec for coming and for all the help he has been.

Bid Opening: Fuel Oil, Diesel, Kerosene

- Avery Energy bid \$0.098 per gallon over rack price on Fuel Oil, Diesel and Kerosene
- Superior Energy bid \$.1080 per gallon over rack price on Fuel Oil; \$.1180 per gallon over rack price on Diesel and \$.1350 per gallon over rack price on Kerosene

Floor Open to the Public:

Jackie Viestenz reported that they are currently working on the budget for flowers for Port Henry and this includes bridges. If the voters keep the Village they will come to the Town for \$100.00 to pay for the flowers for the John Podres sign and Welcome to Moriah signs.

Linda Smythe stated that the John Podres mural was taken down at the old Wheelock garage due to the sale of the property. She would like to give the mural a new home and suggested putting it in the Park in Witherbee as this was John's hometown. They would need the Town's help putting it up and constructing something over the top to keep the weather off it. Another place to erect it would be the side of the Mineville/Witherbee fire house. The Supervisor said that he agrees that it should be in John's hometown. The Supervisor and Mr. Wilson will get together and check out the different areas and get back to her.

Cathy Sprague wanted everyone to know that the Chamber has hired someone and the office is open Thursday and Friday from 10:00am – 3:00pm and also their membership has increased. The Chamber had a ribbon cutting ceremony for Heather Curran's new bake shop. She thanked everyone that helped make the parade come together. This year there was a Bass Tournament, Sail Boat, Corn Hulling Contest; the children were involved which gets the parents involved. The Supervisor stated that the beautification is funded through the Chamber.

Department Head Reports:

Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt., suggested the Board put the metal at the transfer station out to bid with a bid opening at the next meeting.

Mr. Wilson stated that most of our County highways received paving. The Supervisor stated that he spoke with the consultants regarding Broad the expense to maintain it in the winter. If the Village dissolves this road would become a County Highway and we'd be paid to take care of it. This is just one of the things he is learning if the dissolution takes place.

Mr. Wilson stated the fence is up at the pickle ball court. We are about to start the other fence at the cemetery.

The supervisor stated that the Cold Spot Open Pit will be owned by the County soon and maybe will be part of the hydro project.

Richard LaPier, Code Enforcement Officer, gave the following report. Codes issued three building permits in August, did three fire/safety inspection notices and issued one notice of complaint. Mr. Scozzafava stated that getting property owners to clean up is problematic; some of these properties are in the process of foreclosure, but not yet foreclosed so no one maintains them.

Councilman Anderson gave the following police report. The Police Department handled 172 calls for service in the month of August of which three were violations, five were misdemeanor arrests, issued 16 traffic tickets and handled five traffic accidents.

Town Board Reports:

Councilman Anderson reported that the Youth Board has a meeting on Monday the 14th to wrap things up. He will have more information on it next month. The summer program went very well and the kids did a great job.

Councilwoman Carpenter reported that the meetings are running on cable, YouTube, and Face Book. The cable contract is coming up for renewal. Time Warner is committed to running cable

on 9N &22 to all the areas we don't have service at; we are just waiting for the money to be released by the state.

Councilman Salerno reported that the free cleanup days for the Town have been advertised. Witherbee, Mineville and Grover Hills free days will be September 11th and 12th; the rest of the areas will be September 18th and 19th.

Business at the campsite over Labor Day was moderate; mostly paddle boards were rented out. October 11th will be the last day the campsite will be open.

Building & Grounds has been busy mowing, maintaining the buildings and starting the furnace cleanings.

Mr. Salerno thanked all the volunteer services that helped put out the fire on Crow Foot recently.

Supervisor's Report:

- Received a grant from HAPECO in the amount of \$150 for the flowers for the bridges.
- Receive a letter from Lou Anne Jaquish regarding the sidewalks in Moriah on Center Road being in disrepair. Jamie is aware of it; they just need to find the time to fix them.
- The rules & regulations for the campsite need to be re-worded. The transient sites state that water & sewer and refuse are included; this is not the case, garbage is not included.
- McConley Spring came back with a bad report, Coliform was present; the second test came back fine. New signs were made per DOH stating you are drinking from an untreated water source. The signs will stay up; we are liable; we have to have the signs there.
- There were personnel related issues between some campers and managers and campers against campers; things needed to be resolved. Being a manager at the campsite is a tough job; it's like running a little community. The issues were resolved for the most part. We'll know the status next year for the campground managers.

Resolutions:

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board award the Fuel Oil, Diesel and Kerosene bids to Avery Energy per their bid of \$.098 per gallon over rack price.

2. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board renew the contract with Orkin Pest Control in the amount of \$309.35 for the Town Hall.

3. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board award the RFP for installation & Purchase of a 4 (four) foot chain link fence at the Mineville cemetery for \$2,500 to Cedar Ledge Fence Company.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board accept and pay Cedar Ledge Fence Company \$5,000 for the 10 foot high chain link fence at Moriah Corners Court.

5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board reimburse Alex Wojewodzic for 16 days at Bulwagga Bay Campsite in the amount of \$252.00 due to personal reasons.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board reappoint Patsy McCaughin to the Board of Assessment and Review for the period of September 30, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

7. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

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

8. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board put the scrap metal at the transfer station out to bid with the bid opening at the October 8, 2015 board meeting. The bid notice shall state a "November 30th cleanup deadline".

9. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board set the date for the Tentative Budget meeting for Monday, October 5, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall for the Town Clerk to present the Board with the Tentative Budget.

Floor Open to the Public:

Ms. Lovell asked if anything is happening on the hydro project. Mr. Scozzafava stated that everyday things are happening. The Feds have the application and have been on site with the APA and DEC a few weeks ago. Things are progressing.

The Supervisor thanked Assemblyman Stec for making the trip here today. He has worked with four others over the years and Dan is the best; he is doing a great job. We appreciate all he does.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Abstract Distributions:

8/14/2015
Sewer \$1,000.00

8/27/2015
General Fund A \$4,482.45
General Fund B 31.43

Claim Nos.:

2015-908

2015-909 – 2015-921

Highway DA	\$661.71
Water #1	159.38
Water #2	114.58
Water #4	14.93
Sewer	49.06

9/10/2015

2015-926 – 2015-1000

General Fund A	\$26,878.76
General Fund B	71.88
Highway DA	2,041.24
Highway DB	65,820.58
Water #1	6,629.94
Water #2	4,832.01
Water #4	606.69
Sewer	548.87

Capital Projects:

Claim Nos.:

Mt. Spring Road	\$367.47
Sewer Pump St.	23.00
Titus Road	

5
4

Town Clerk