

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Board Meeting Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present:

Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
Richard Carpenter	Councilman
Paul Salerno	Councilman
Thomas Anderson	Councilman

Absent: Timothy Garrison Councilman

Others

Present: John Easter; Diana Stevenson; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Parah; Linda Smythe; John Viestenz; Sandra Lovell; Larry Wintle; Richard LaPier, Code Enforcement; Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt.; Elaine Adkins, Town Clerk.

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

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

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

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

Bid Opening: Fuel

Avery Energy: Fuel: \$0.149 mark-up; Kerosene: \$ 0.149 mark-up;
On Road Diesel: \$0.149 mark-up
Griffith Energy: #2 Fuel: \$.1380 mark-up; Ultra Low Diesel: \$.1630 markup;
Kerosene: \$.1630 mark-up

Floor Open to the Public:

Ms. Lovell, after having discussion with Councilman Garrison, stated that in her opinion she didn't think that the Town or Village need to hire a planner; just hire a good P-R person to sell as we are. The only cost would be the salary for the P-R person. Mr. Scozzafava stated that through the years we had a Director of Economic Development that was paid for by a grant. A lot was done then such as the Iron Center and rehab of the Town Hall. As a municipality we are limited as to what we can spend. Essex County has a bed tax and the money from that is used to promote tourism throughout the county. The problem in the Town of Moriah is the taxes; the tax rate is derived from taxable value, which in our town about 60 percent of that is residential. In reality, every town and village in the Adirondack Park has a difficult time; the economy is horrible.

Mr. Anderson agrees that we don't need a planner; we need development from outside money. A good example is Rick Dolliver who owns Pre-Tech in Mineville and Velez Marina which he is currently reconstructing.

Mr. Scozzafava stated that the best P-R we have is the new website which Mr. Viestenz has set up. Since the Adirondack Park was formed not many businesses have moved into the 60 million acres. The board discussed tourism; Mr. Scozzafava stated we can't afford a P-R person as we are promoted through the Essex County Tourism office.

Ms. Lovell stated that a big problem is the landowners that are not here and rent out their apartments. Mr. Scozzafava stated that this is a big problem.

Ms. Lovell asked if the PH7 could sell T-shirts through the Chamber so they don't have to go through the process of a board etc. Mr. Scozzafava stated that we have no control over the Chamber, we contract with them; they would have to go to them and find out.

Department Head Reports:

Richard LaPier, Building Codes Officer gave the following report: he issued five building permits in July, one violation for property maintenance codes, four safety inspections on area businesses and issued one trailer permit

Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt., thanked the kids from the YCC; the highway department took two of the kids to work with them and they did a lot of work and an excellent job; Billy Petro and Austin McKiernan.

The bridge in Moriah Center will be closed for repairs starting Monday. We've had calls on traffic issues; the county is working with us getting the roads ready for the truck route. This bridge is the busiest bridge in the county with between 3 and 5,000 cars going over it daily. Hopefully they can repair this by the end of the week and when it re-opens it will be two lanes. In the spring they will start work on a new bridge while maintaining one lane.

The department has been working on trucks and working on building the pad for salt shed; the building itself is being purchased. The County has been striping the roads.

Mr. Scozzafava stated that the YCC kids Mr. Wilson referred to have been working on a walking trail at spring which takes about 20 minutes to walk. This is a good program teaches the kids responsibility by having to show up for a job and earning some money.

Mr. Scozzafava stated that at the last meeting we discussed bonding for the Grover Hills road repair. Had some numbers run and the debt service would be too high, there would be a substantial increase in taxes for just the bonding. This would not be affordable and would be subject to permissive referendum. We will see what we have left from the EFX from Elk Inn and Switchback and check into the possibility of using the leftover money to do some work in Grover Hills. There was discussion and the Board decided we can't afford the bonding. Mr. Wilson stated that we will have to add money to the budget to do Grover Hills over the years as there are 40 miles of Town roads and they will also need work done.

Councilman Salerno gave the Water & Sewer Dept. report as Mr. Maye had been excused. Bartlett Pond is extremely low but Mr. Maye does not want to put a water ban on yet; he asked that everyone conserve.

On August 15th the Water Dept. will be working on pressure reducing valves from Moriah Corners down to the top of Port Henry hill; letters were sent to those affected by this.

Water District #4 has been completed except for a punch list the contractor is working on.

Met with CT Male Assoc. regarding Bartlett Pond Dam.

Councilman Carpenter gave the following Police Report as Officer Stahl had been excused. The Police Department handled 194 calls for service in July of which 10 violation arrests were mad, seven misdemeanor arrests, 11 traffic tickets issued and five traffic accidents were investigated.

Town Board Committee Reports:

Councilman Carpenter reported that junk day went well. We filled one and half containers the first weekend and two the following weekend Mr. Scozzafava stated that about 90 percent of what was brought in could have gone for free anytime. We need to get something up there stating what is free.

Councilman Anderson stated the summer program ended today and was a success. They averaged 93 kids per day, a big increase from the last few years. He thanked the employees for the successful program; they did a great job. Mr. Scozzafava stopped in a few times and stated how organized it was. They will come in under budget again this year.

Councilman Salerno had nothing else for the Board.

Supervisor's Report:

- Have pictures for the Board of the recycling center built by Mr. LaPier at the campsite; nice job.
- Received post cards from Lakes to Locks sponsored by national Geographic and new brochures on the Lake Champlain Bridge.
- We talked earlier on cleaning up property. The highway crew cleaned up a house that had been foreclosed on; we billed the bank for the time and labor. We can hire a contractor to clean up and bill the owners should this happen again.
- Received letter from Time Warner with the franchise fee in the amount of \$8,830.19.
- Have a punch list of items for Water District #4; hopefully this will be completed and signed off by the end of the month.
- Received letter from NYS ORPS stating our equalization rate is at 100 percent.
- Met with Becky and Insurance Broker for 2013 budget and new health care laws. Beginning in 2014 municipalities can't bill employees more than nine percent of their gross income for health insurance. Next year we are looking at a 16 percent increase in what we pay in retirement; retirement contribution will go to 20 percent.
- Ha a couple of comments from campers upset that the beach was moved to the new site. DOH inspected the area and asked if we will keep it there. The answer was no, too many issues; there are no bathrooms or parking close by.
- Had no news on the application for the breakwater.
- The cost for the salt shed building through Tech Supply was \$10,043; they are the only manufacturers that Mr. Wilson could find for this building. We have about \$12,500 in it so far.
- Received \$557,411 from FEMA, but we don't want to pay off the BAN yet, we'll pay off later, but won't carry it into next year.

Resolutions:

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Carpenter with a Unanimous second, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Carpenter, Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson
Absent Garrison
Nays 0
RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board offered a resolution of condolence to the family of Dominick Ida, former Town Supervisor from 1956 through 1967.
2. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Scozzafava, with a Unanimous second, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter
Absent Garrison
Nays 0
RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board offered a resolution of condolence to the family of William (Pete) Tromblee, Town employee for over 30 years.
3. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Carpenter with a Unanimous second, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Carpenter, Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson
Absent Garrison
Nays 0
RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board offered a resolution of Congratulations and Appreciation to Jack Armstrong on his retirement with over 30 years as Postmaster of the Mineville/Witherbee post office.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approved to change the date of the September Board meeting from the 13th to September 20th due to the primary election.

5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Carpenter with a Unanimous second, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board offered a resolution of Thanks and Appreciation to Rick and Teresa Maye for donating a large screen TV to the Youth Commission.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approved renewing the contract with Orkin Pest Control for the transfer station in the amount of \$784.17.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorized the Supervisor after reviewing bids, to award the fuel, diesel and kerosene bid to the lowest bidder.

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the Assessors to attend the conference in Lake Placid in September for three days and two overnights.

Discussion: The Supervisor won't support them staying Sunday night and is not sure how many of the assessors will be attending.

10. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Richard Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the renewal of the maintenance contract with Televue for the video equipment at the school in the amount of \$557.82.

11. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Richard Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize the payment to Riznick Construction in the amount of \$210,010.87.

12. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Richard Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorized the payment to Greenough Paving Co. in the amount of \$112,218.00 for the black top as per the warrant.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve Arnold McMurtry's request to name the new private drive entering at 69 Wall Street McMurtry Way as per Emergency Services request.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the Municipal Agreement with Essex County for the storm clean up on McKenzie Brook and Millbrook.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Phone Review, a company that will review our phone bills and utility bills to giving us a 50 percent return on any money owed us for overpayment..

16. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Supervisor Scozzafava, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize National Grid to move the light at pole 3-1, located at 190 Raymond Wright Road to pole 66, to 2907 Plank Road (the lower end of Plank Road).

Floor Open to the Public:

Mr. Viestenz stated that there will be a "meet the candidate's night" on Monday, August 28th here at the Courthouse at 7:00pm. The three candidates running for the Town Justice position will be here.

The Supervisor stated that at the last meeting we had a discussion on consolidating services. He will meet with the Mayor and the Mayor's appointee along with Councilman Garrison to look at ways to save without the dissolution of the Village. Councilman Salerno stated the on Champ Day was also Johnny Podres Day. He thanked Pat Salerno for all his work there along with the PH7, Boni's Bistro and the Iron Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Abstract Distributions:		Claim Nos.:
July 13, 2012 General	\$3,976.25 USDA Workers	828 -833
July 24, 2012 General	\$3,460.00	836
July 27, 2012 General	\$5,765.00	838 – 844
July 30, 2012 General	\$5,371.07	855 – 856
Highway	1,804.55	
Water #1	77.45	
Water #2	51.58	
Sewer	184.54	
August 9, 2012 Highway	\$121,106.88	863 – 947
General	41,572.66	
Water #1	4,023.04	
Water #2	2,705.16	
Sewer	1,103.54	
Capital Projects:		Claim Nos.:
Water Dist. #4	\$496,990.78	14 - 17

Town Clerk