

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Board Meeting Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present:

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

**Others**

**Present:** John Easter; Diana Stevenson; Joe Lashway; Dale Dowdle, Project Hope; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Parah; Linda Smythe; John Viestenz; Rose French, Deputy Town Clerk; 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 Garrison, the following resolution was

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

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

**Special Guest:**

Mr. Scozzafava introduced Dale Dowdle of Project Hope. Mr. Dowdle explained that his group is funded by FEMA through mental health. They are a door to door outreach program that offers emotional support after a national disaster. They make a lot of referrals and everything is confidential and they don't take names. They will be in the area gearing up for the first anniversary of the Irene disaster. If anyone would like to reach him his phone number is 518-524-9616. Mr. Scozzafava thanked him for coming.

Mr. Boula from Elizabethtown Hospital never showed.

**Floor Open to the Public:** No one spoke

**Department Head Reports:**

Richard LaPierre, Building Code Officer, gave the following report: he issued four building permits in June, issued two violation notices for property maintenance codes, did three fire safety inspections on area businesses. He has one mobile home permit application for Allison Rand; it is 2004 14' x 70' going on the property next to them on Curtis Lane. They are leasing the property from their relative and Mr. LaPierre has a signed affidavit of approval from the land owner. Mr. LaPierre recommends approval of the permit; there was a mobile home on the lot previously,

**ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board approve the mobile home application for Allison Rand for Curtis Lane.

Discussion: Mr. Garrison asked if there restrictions as to how big the lot has to be to put a mobile home on it; he was told there is, but that he doesn't have the information as to the size the lot has to be with him. Mr. Scozzafava stated that you cannot discriminate against mobile homes.

Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt., reported that his department has been working at the Water District #4 area the last couple of weeks. He stated that it looks nice and the paving is completed. They will have to put speed signs up and the road will be striped.

Jamie stated that he had spoke with residents and the pressure is good; they just need to get used to chlorinated water.

The department has been mowing, painting trucks and equipment along with trucking for the Town of Crown Point. The County paved some of the spots damaged by the floods on the Witherbee Road.

The Supervisor stated that the salt shed needs to be replaced. We received money from FEMA and our insurance company. Mr. Wilson has one quote (\$10,043.27) and will need to get two more for a freestanding salt shed; we can't build one for the cost of one of these. The highway department will try to do everything including the pad or blocks whichever way they decide to go.

**ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize Mr. Wilson and the Supervisor to purchase a freestanding salt shed after reviewing the three quotes Mr. Wilson will get.

The Supervisor stated that the other Department Heads had been excused.

Councilman Carpenter gave the following Police Report. The police handled 176 calls of service in June of which nine were violation arrests, three misdemeanor arrests, issued 15 traffic tickets and investigated five traffic accidents.

Councilman Salerno gave the Water & Sewer Dept. report. District #4 is up and running with 95 pounds of pressure to houses; the project went well. YCC is working with the Water Dept. at McConley Spring and painting fire hydrants.

Councilman Carpenter stated that Building & Grounds got the mower back and the motor was under warranty. There is a two year warranty on the new motor. Ed is mowing the old landfill.

Councilman Salerno stated that where the new trail marker is at Cheney Mt., they will probably have to build a foot bridge to get across the brook. He will speak to Chris Maron regarding this to see what they can do.

#### **Town Board General Discussion:**

Councilman Garrison has been approached by a few people to look into a sole assessor. He stated that if they did this it should be put out to a vote. Mr. Scozzafava stated that we had put this out to vote (for sole elected assessor) in 2006 and if memory serves him right it was defeated two to one; we talked about it again in 2009. The Board discussed having a meeting on the topic to hear what the people have to say.

Councilman Garrison added that at some point he would like the Board to look forward for the Town of Moriah; look at what we need to do in the future to help our status. We need to attract investment in the community and look at other ways of doing things without money. If we have an informational meeting with the community maybe we can get some new ideas. Councilman Anderson stated that we should have discussions on the lake as it is our greatest asset. Mr. Garrison stated that we need to rethink how we do business; should we provide all the services we now provide i.e. three assessors and a police department which is duplicated by the Sherriff's and the State Troopers. Supervisor Scozzafava asked how you get people interested; government is entirely different than private business. The community has to decide what services they want provided.

Councilman Salerno stated that Mr. Scozzafava started the destination plan years ago and that it is inexcusable that we are lacking and that no one wants to participate. The Board discussed the lake as an asset and the need to control taxes. We need to raise taxes, share services or eliminate services. The Supervisor stated that the last thing we should do is raise assessments when someone comes in and buys a run down piece of property and fixes it up. This is a huge problem here.

## **Town Board Committee Reports:**

Mr. Garrison had nothing else to bring up.

Councilman Salerno stated that the campsite had a good Fourth of July weekend before and after. We have 19 people on the waiting list. The new dock is in and things are looking good. Mr. Anderson asked how long after the last meeting did the Dock Doctors put the docks in; Mr. Salerno stated it was a couple of weeks.

Mr. Scozzafava stated that the Department of Health (DOH) closed the beach (also the Village beach) due to blue-green algae. They allowed us to temporarily move the beach to the point; this area doesn't get the algae for whatever reason. This is temporary as the beach doesn't meet the requirements to be a permanent beach due to the water being so deep and the bathrooms being too far away. Mr. Salerno stated that boats are also a problem; pulling them too close to the new beach and putting stakes in the ground.

Councilman Salerno and Mr. Wilson met with Kubricky Construction and NYS DOT regarding the bridge on 9N by Vic's. Kubricky Construction will be designing the bridge and traffic will be down to a single lane with a traffic light from July 30<sup>th</sup> through the middle of November.

Councilman Carpenter stated that the free junk day will be July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> for Mineville, Witherbee and Grover Hills and July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for Moriah and Port Henry.

Councilman Anderson reported that the summer program is up and running with 100-150 kids per day at MCS. They will have field trips paid for with Honeybee Grant money that the director, Megan Smith applied for when she was hired. They will use the Village Beach once a week because it is safer due to the depth of water at the Town beach. Stayed within budget (under actually) again this year; it is a great for the kids and a great summer job.

## **Supervisor's Report:**

- Anyone having trouble making or are behind in their mortgage payments and contact the Attorney General's office or the supervisor's office for more information.
- Hearst Television chose to black out their signal from Time Warner Cable customers than to continue negotiations. They made arrangements to bring their customers WBRE from Wilkes-Barre, PA so customers can still view their favorite NBC programs. You can still get WPTZX from satellite carriers and antennas.
- There will be a rabies clinic at the Town Hall on July 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00pm (also at other locations, lists at Town Hall).

The Supervisor asked Mr. Garrison if he had any updates on the internet at the campground and was told the place from Vermont is no longer an option and they are still looking into other options.

## **Resolutions:**

1. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Carpenter, the following resolution was  
APPROVED Ayes Salerno, Carpenter, Scozzafava, Anderson, Garrison  
Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board give authorization to Judge Venne and the Court Clerk to attend the mandatory training in Potsdam for two nights with a cost of \$77.00 per night per room plus mileage; July 30 and 31, 2012.

2. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Carpenter, the following resolution was  
     APPROVED Ayes Garrison, Carpenter, Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson  
                   Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize the approval by the Supervisor to approve payment to Riznick Construction when he receives the payment request for the Water District #4 Project as per the contract.
  
3. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was  
     APPROVED Ayes Garrison, Salerno, Scozzafava, Carpenter, Anderson  
                   Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize Thomas Scozzafava, Supervisor of the Town of Moriah, to submit an application for funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in accordance with the provisions of Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993, in the amount not to exceed \$500,000, and upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the Town of Moriah for the Bulwagga Bay Shoreline Stabilization Project and, if appropriate, a conservation easement/preservation covenant to the deed of the assisted property.
  
4. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was  
     APPROVED Ayes Carpenter, Garrison, Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson  
                   Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize to go to bid for fuel for the period of September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013 with the bid opening at the next Regular Board Meeting.
  
5. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Garrison, the following resolution was  
     APPROVED Ayes Salerno, Garrison, Scozzafava, Anderson, Carpenter  
                   Nays 0  
**RESOLVED** that the Town of Moriah Town Board approves payment of the warrants.

The Supervisor updated the public on the cleanup of the Railroad yard coming into Town. CP Rail is giving the Town \$700.00 to rent a chipper for the brush after it is cleaned up which will be done in the fall. Mrs. Parah remarked that it should be done now and the Supervisor said that it made more sense to clean it up in the fall after the foliage is off. Mrs. Parah remarked that she was not happy about this, but the Supervisor stated that it should be the railroad cleaning it up and the town does it for the community and reminded her that the Village doesn't help them.

**Floor Open to the Public:**

Mr. Viestenz stated that he would like to see more cooperation between the Town and Village such as a representative from the Village Board at Town meetings and a rep from the Town Board at Village Meetings. Mr. Scozzafava stated that he is right, but when he attended a Village meetings (as a resident in the Village) he feels the Village Board feels threatened that he is there. There has always been friction between the Village and Town that goes back years. We need to look at the issue and look into more cooperation and shared services between the two.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Nos.:**

End of Month Billing June 28, 2012

General \$5,174.43

732-745

Water #1	110.01
Water #2	73.30
Sewer	132.79

Warrant for July 12, 2012

General	\$49,639.28	753-826
Highway	9,098.72	
Water #1	3,602.29	
Water #2	2,420.71	
Sewer	38,225.10	

**Capital Projects:**

**Claim Nos.:**

Court House	\$2,135.80	7
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Town Clerk