

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Board Meeting Thursday, September 21, 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
Timothy Garrison	Councilman

Others

Present: John Easter; Diana Stevenson; John Viestenz; Lou Paris, Moriah Ambulance Squad Captain; Paul Mazzotte, Assessor; Eric Wilhelmson; Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt.; Rose French, Deputy Town Clerk; Dwayne Maye, Water & Sewer Supt.; Richard LaPier, Code Enforcement; Bernard Beebe; Steve Stahl, OIC Police Dept.; Sandra Lovell; Norm & Shirley Monette; Star Monette; Paula Monette and son; Marcia Chapuk; Margaret Parah; Iyles Moore; 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 Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

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

Special Guests:

Supervisor Scozzafava stated that we are having a special presentation tonight honoring Shirley and Norm Monette for all they do for the Fitzpatrick Cancer Center at CVPH in Plattsburgh. Norm was recognized in Muscle Magazine for all the money they raised; all the money they make putting on the car show is donated to the CVPH. The Supervisor presented the Monettes with a resolution from the County Board of Supervisor's and a plaque from the Town of Moriah in appreciation and recognition for all they have done for the cancer center; we are very proud for all that they do. Mr. Monette thanked everyone; they really appreciate the honor. The car show will be in two weeks and hopes for a good turn out.

Lou Paris, Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad Captain, understands that everyone is strapped in the current economy thus their contributions are down. He is asking the Board for a \$5,000 increase in what the Town gives them for operations. Mr. Scozzafava stated that the Town now gives them \$15,000/year and pays their diesel and workers comp; the total of all is about \$33,000/year. He stated that they will put it in the tentative budget, but that does not mean that the squad will get the increase; this is just the beginning of the budget process. They are trying to buy a new ambulance which will cost around \$130,000. They are in the process of applying for a 5013C status so they can bill Medicare and Medicaid for runs and to be able to apply for grants. The paperwork had been started years ago, but never completed and they are trying to find in their archives anything that will help to move the process along quicker. Mr. Scozzafava asked if it would be worthwhile to re-chassis one of the current ambulances. Mr. Paris stated that it would not be cost effective; it costs about \$100,000 to do this and the ambulances are a 1996 and 1997 both with high mileage. Councilman Salerno asked how many active members are on the squad and was told there are 18 with about ten that do more than one or two runs a month. Mr. Paris stated that applications are available for any interested.

Floor Open to the Public:

Iyles Moore asked about any progress regarding the water situation. She was told that she is in the Village and needs to speak to the Village Board; we don't control their rates.

Bernard Beebe asked what the status is on a public hearing regarding the police department; he understood there would be one after reading the article in the paper. The Supervisor explained that they are trying to get the public's input and have an informational meeting to see who is in favor and those against having a police department. Councilman Garrison stated that his whole point for the article in the paper was because budget time is coming and residents are asking where we can save money. His point was to get the conversation started to get the community's input; this pertains to the article about the assessors also. Mr. Beebe asked if Mr. Garrison supports the police department. Mr. Garrison stated that he doesn't support an 80hour department, but he supports the people in it. He's in favor of increasing or decreasing the department to make it run more efficiently. The Supervisor stated that for clarification, the Town Board couldn't dissolve the police department it would have to be put out to vote. Mr. Scozzafava further stated that he is in favor of keeping the department and that most people he has spoken to is in favor of keeping the department. It is up to the Town Board to get the public's input. as to what they want. Councilman Anderson stated that he supports the police department and people that have spoken to him are in support of it. The supervisor stated that we received letters of support from the Village Board and Moriah Central School. We are going to try to get something on the website so the community knows just what the police department does. Ms. Moore asked Officer Stahl what the largest number of incidences the police are called to and he replied that burglary, larceny and domestic violence are the most. The investigations into these take a lot of time. Mr. Wilhelmson asked about the alternatives to the police department, Sheriffs and State Police. The Supervisor stated that the Sheriffs don't do road patrols, but they assist in investigations. The State Police have a lot of other communities to patrol as well as Moriah and have told the Supervisor that they need the department; they couldn't handle it all. Captain Tibbitts of the NYS Police believe we need the department; the State Police cannot enforce Town ordinances or local laws. Councilman Salerno stated that Ticonderoga has a 1.2 million dollar police budget and we have a \$100,000 budget. Councilman Garrison explained that he did not have a problem with the department's performance; he was looking at it from a money stand point. Ms. Lovell stated that you can't take people out of the equation. Mr. Anderson stated that having the department also acts as a deterrent also. Mr. Paris stated that listening to his emergency radio, there have been numerous times the Town's department has been backup because the State Police are coming from Schroon Lake. The Supervisor stated that he appreciates the comments and that we should have a public forum.

Department Head Reports:

Steve Stahl, OIC Police Department, gave the following report for the month of August: Handled 181 calls of service of which seven were violation arrests, made ten misdemeanor arrests, issued 17 traffic tickets and investigated five traffic accidents.

Dwayne Maye, Water & Sewer Supt., reported that his department has started cleaning the sewer lines in Witherbee and the storage tank at the water plant; they will be flushing the hydrants in a few weeks and the schedule will be in the Times of Ti.

Councilman Salerno asked about the specs for the dam at Bartlett and was told we are working on the final contract and are working on the permits. The Supervisor explained that the money for this came from FEMA funding.

Jamie Wilson, Highway Supt., reported that the salt shed has been completed. He thanked Richard LaPier for his help on it. They took pictures of it and sent them in for the warranty (because we constructed it ourselves, the company needed to be sure it was erected correctly); we now have the warranty. We came well under budget by doing the work ourselves. The insurance claim on the old shed paid \$33,000 when it was destroyed by Irene.

Mr. Wilson stated that his department has been working with the County and they are helping Ticonderoga as per our Inter municipal Agreement; also worked on equipment when not in use. The County will be paving Deckers Flats and part of Plank Road (where the water line settled).

Richard LaPier, Building Code Officer, gave the following report: issued six building permits in August, issued two violation notices for property maintenance codes and did two fire safety inspections on area businesses.

Paul Mazzotte, Chairman Assessors, stated that in regards to the assessors, they are the lowest paid in Essex County. He passed out a hand out showing price per parcel what it costs for other towns. He stated that with a sole assessor you don't have the representation. The Supervisor stated that this came up on the ballot a few years ago and the majority wanted the three elected assessors; once you go to a sole assessor you can never go back.

Town Board Committee Reports:

Councilman Salerno stated that regarding building & grounds, Ed Roberts has been cleaning furnaces.

The campground had another great summer; they will close September 30th for the season. There are 34 people on the waiting list for next year and will have prisoners and building and grounds cleaning up for the year.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize to advertise for bid the sale of the scrap metal at the transfer station with a clean up date of December 7th; the bid opening will be at the October Board meeting.

Councilman Salerno read the schedule for the hydrant flushing and said it will be in the paper and also on the website.

Cheney Mt. Trail is open and early bear season is in session; suggests wearing red or blaze orange.

Councilman Salerno has been questioned about getting a sign for the Raymond Wright Park. Possibly the VFW can hold a fundraiser to raise money for a sign and have a ceremony next Memorial Day.

Councilman Garrison had nothing to report.

Councilman Carpenter asked that if anyone has street lights out to contact the Town Hall so it can be reported; we will need the pole number and location. Also, the police can get information when they are on night patrol.

Councilman Anderson stated that the things at present with the Youth Commission have been quiet.

ON MOTION by Councilman Anderson with a Unanimous second, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board offer a resolution of appreciation and thank you to Ronnie Cunningham for all her years of service on the Youth Commission.

Supervisor's Report:

- Bill Petro and Bill Petro Jr. are opening a campsite on Forge Hollow next year. Permits are in place; another huge asset to the community.
- Will be having a prescription drug take back day on September 29th from 10:00am thru 2:00pm at the police station. Any old scripts you need to get rid of bring there and the DEA will dispose of them.
- Received a letter from Joan Daby stating the Historical Society will be installing a chair lift to the second floor at the Iron Center at no cost to the Town. They sent letter because the Town owns the building.

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 approve the installation of a chair lift at the Iron Center.

- Received a letter from Joan Daby stating that the doors at the Iron Center are rotting out and something needs to be done. Mr. LaPier looked at the doors and said they can be repaired; we will do what we can.
- Have been contacted by a few residents regarding the property tax exemption going higher than the \$25,000 max income than it is now at; it has been at this level for a number of years now. An option for the Board to look at is to exclude Veteran Disability payments and/or the prescription medication costs. No other towns do this and if we decided to do it we would have to hold a public hearing and adopted by March 1st. Something to think about.
- The new website has had quite a number of visitors; there is information that is helpful to those moving in and those that live here. Thanked Mr. Viestenz for setting up the website and keeping it up to date.
- Accepting electronic recyclables at the Transfer Station
- Talking about getting some type of police (and possibly court, not sure how much we can put out there) report on the website.
- Sent letter to NYS regarding condition of the road, Rte. 9 & 22; met with the DOT and they plan on repairs in 2013.
- Received letter from Ti Chamber, they've had numerous calls regarding Champ T-Shirts. It would benefit the Town and Village if someone or a business started selling Champ souvenirs.
- Gas price Town paid for gas in August was \$3.16 gal.; state contract price \$3.30 gal.
- Received notification from Lake Champlain Basin Program is in support of the lakeshore stabilization project at the campsite and want to award us \$9,888, but it is subject to the finalization of their own federal contract.
- Received letter from Village requesting the police department make their presence known by walking along Main and Broad Streets periodically.
- Received notice from NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance that they will not be providing financial assistance as they have in the past (\$2.00/parcel). This is \$15,000 we had in this year's budget as revenue that we will not be getting.
- There have been confirmed cases of rabies in Essex County; you can go to the Public Health website for clinic and other information.
- Brought to our attention Sr. Citizens are getting letters to purchase insurance on their water lines. This is a scam; the Town takes care of the mains. There are a lot of scams going on; don't give out your bank account or social security information to anyone. Ask them for something in writing if they are selling something.
- We need to replace the 2004 4-wheel drive vehicle. We are allocated \$6,500/yr. (in reserve) from the Stop DWI Program to purchase a vehicle. We can look at state contract prices and go to bid for better prices; vehicle has to be new, but not necessarily a 2012 or 2013, can get older models that are new.
- Did figures on bonding for the roads in Grover Hills and if we take a one million bond for 20 years the tax rate for a \$100,000 home would be about \$43/yr. or \$52/yr. for 1.5 million. In his opinion it won't get done; we will do a section each year as we can afford to.
- Had a request to get more speed signs in Grover Hills.

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 set the date for the presentation of the 2013 Tentative Budget for Wednesday, October 3rd at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board set the date for the Preliminary Budget for 6:00pm Thursday, November 8th at the Courthouse with the Regular Board meeting to follow.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board offer a proclamation declaring October as “Bullying Awareness Week”.

4. **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 renew the contract with Wayne and Ruth Plunkett as Campsite Managers for the 2013 season.

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

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

RESOLVED that the Town of Moriah Town Board authorize to renew the contract with Jay and Connie Stoddard as Assistant Campsite Managers for the 2013 season. (The managers and assistant managers are hired under contract, they are not Town employees.)

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

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

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

Floor Open to the Public: No one spoke

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Nos.:

August 10, 2012

General \$5,698.16

948 – 955

August 21, 2012

General \$10,048.56

957 - 970

Highway 1,675.87

Water #1 74.95

Water #2 49.93

Sewer 167.55

September 20, 2012

981 - 1085

General	\$60,571.84
Highway	15,583.77
Water #1	5,835.12
Water #2	6,867.87
Sewer	38,899.29

Capital Project:

WD #4

17

Town Clerk