

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

Present:	Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Tom Anderson	Councilman
	Luci Carpenter	Councilwoman
	Matt Brassard	Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Sharon O'Connor, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Diana Stevenson, Rich Lapier, Paul Reese, Ed Roberts, Eric Wilhelmson, Tim Rowland, Mark Lashway, Georgianna Scott, Phyllis Rounds, John Easter, Jamie Wilson, Lohrer McKinstry, Donna Jerdo, Carol Genier, Muriel Currier & Daughter, Lois Feith, Rene & Robert Tromblee, Ricka Maye, Richard Maye, Robert Stevenson and Rose French-Town Clerk.

Supervisor Scozzafava called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

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

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

Special Guest:

The Supervisor introduced Tricia Bhatia and John Davis from the Eddy Foundation. They are here tonight to talk about the acquisition of Parch Pond Preserve by the State of New York. They gave a power point presentation and gave handouts to the Town Board. They are looking for approval from the Town Board of this acquisition so they can move forward.

At the conclusion of the presentation Councilman Anderson asked about the trails at Poke-O-Moonshine; they are closed starting in April until when. Dominic Eisinger from Adirondack Climbers Coalition stated until about July; 100 yards on each side. He stated that Poke-O-Moonshine is about 80% climbable. Councilman Anderson asked where the CAT trails lead to at Parch Pond and Mr. Eisinger said the trails would lead to the pond and the cliffs. Councilman Salerno stated that Tub Mill Pond was assessed for over \$1,000,000. The Supervisor stated that Tub Mill is now owned by Open Space until the sale to NYS goes through. He stated once NYS owns Parch Pond the 480a exemption goes away. The Supervisor stated that it is a myth that the state does not pay taxes, they do. John Davis from the Eddy Foundation stated they want to pay taxes. Paul Reese asked what the Eddy Foundation is asking of the Town. The Supervisor stated that the State wants approval from the Town first. Paul Reese asked if the prior owner of Parch Pond was 480a exempt and Mr. Davis said yes, the Eddy Foundation is paying what the previous owner was paying. Paul Reese asked what would happen if the state decided not to buy it. The Supervisor stated that the Eddy Foundation would file for full exemption. Mr. Davis said they would try to get the taxes lowered. Paul Reese stated he owns 25 acres of forest; can't get taxes reduced; owns other property. The Supervisor stated entitled to 501c exemption; would be a hearing. Paul Reese stated he is concerned about his taxes. The Supervisor stated that if the State owned this land what they would be paying in taxes would double. Paul Reese asked if the State has committed to the sale and the Supervisor stated they are waiting for approval from the Town. Sharon O'Connor asked if the trails are clearly marked. Mr. Davis said not yet, but it is a woods road and is very easy to see. Donna Jerdo asked how far it was to the pond and Mr. Davis said about one mile. Paul Reese asked if this presentation would be on line and Ms. Bahtia said yes, they could make that happen. Councilwoman Carpenter said if they send her the link she can put it on the Facebook page also. Phyllis Rounds asked if it was a hiking Trail. Councilman Anderson asked if there was anybody climbing it now. Mr. Eisinger said no; he feels there will be an increase in foot traffic. Councilman Salerno asked if you have to go through private property first to get to the trail and Mr. Eisinger said no, it is all Eddy Foundation land. Councilman Brassard stated it is kind of a no brainer. The Supervisor asked the Board if they were in agreement with this proposal.

174. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Supervisor Scozzafava, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to accept Eddy Foundation proposal to sell Parch Pond Preserve to New York State.

Bid Opening:

Supervisor Scozzafava read the legal notice of bid for Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Diesel and Propane. Two bids were received:

Griffith Energy: .38 over rack price for fuel oil, diesel and kerosene and .40 over rack price for Propane.

Avery Energy: .12 ½ over rack price for fuel oil, diesel, kerosene and propane.

Floor Open to the Public:

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked about the rabies bait drop, is Moriah included in that. Ed Roberts said yes it is and it is going to be in the beginning of October.

Georgianna Scott asked when weigh station would be installed at the Transfer Station. The Supervisor stated that has not been determined yet. Drive on scales have been discussed. He stated that with the volume of garbage at the Transfer Station it would be impossible to weigh every bag. The Supervisor stated he is hoping we will be moving the Transfer Station as soon as the Hydro project goes through. Ms. Scott stated the Methodist Church has a thrift store in Moriah Corners and people just drop garbage off (nothing they can sell in the shop) and they have to pay to get rid of it. She asked if Churches were exempt from paying for garbage and the Supervisor said unfortunately no. Councilman Salerno asked if they have a sign up asking not to drop anything off and Ms. Scott said yes, they do. Renee Tromblee suggested getting a camera.

Paul Reese stated he watched some of the Campsite meeting and suggested the Town do a small annual increase at the campsites to help with improvements. The Supervisor stated that sounds reasonable. Phyllis Rounds asked if the Town did that, then what would the improvements be; her water is brown at the campsite. The Supervisor stated he was unaware about the water issue. Councilman Brassard said when the water isn't used all week and just sits in the line you will get that; it is an old galvanized pipe. He suggested just letting the water run for a little bit.

Department Head Reports:

Ed Roberts-Building & Grounds: Mr. Roberts stated that the dog issue is getting out of hand. He issued 12 complaints just last week; with 2 dangerous dogs in Port Henry. He has issued 24 tickets so far this year. The Supervisor reminded everyone that the Animal Control Officer is a Part Time position. Mr. Roberts cannot be there immediately. He asked the community to please be patient. He stated Mr. Roberts does a good job; he goes above and beyond. The Supervisor stated he does write tickets; it then ends up in Court and out of the Towns hands. Councilman Brassard if people could call the Sherriff's department if they can't get a hold of Mr. Roberts and he said yes. Mr. Roberts stated that if you have a wild animal issue you need to call the DEC in Ray Brook

Mr. Roberts reported that they will be taking banners down the first week in October.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent: Mr. Wilson stated we need to schedule free clean up days. The Supervisor said he talked to Cheyenne at the Transfer Station and he would like to really clean up the Town, not complicate what we take and not take. The Transfer Station will not accept electronics, C & D and tires. The Supervisor stated it should be the first three (3) Saturdays in October. Mr. Wilson stated we finally found a company that is willing to come and take the Freon out of refrigerators and air conditioners. We need to set the rates. The Supervisor stated that finally after a year we found someone. National Grid will take them but they have to be running. Councilman Anderson asked how it would work. Mr. Wilson stated you pay a fee

when you drop the unit off at the transfer station; what you would pay would be based on if there is Freon in the unit or not. The Board was in agreement with this.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Highway Department has been working with the County a lot.

Supervisor Scozzafava reported that the chain at the transfer station has been moved towards the compactor so now you can throw bags in. We have not gotten the written warning from the Department of Labor yet, they are the ones who made the Town put the chain up.

The Supervisor asked Mr. Wilson if they were going to do sidewalks this year. Mr. Wilson stated the excavator probably wouldn't be fixed until November.

Phyllis Rounds asked if the new black top at Port Henry Beach could be "feathered"; there is quite a bump and the Supervisor told her no. Mr. Wilson told her he would look at it.

Rich Lapier-Building Codes: Issued three (3) building permits for the month of August. Responded to one (1) complaint and did one (1) certificate of occupancy inspection.

Town Board Report's:

Councilwoman Carpenter: Read the Police Report: Handled 142 calls for service. 4 Violations- 1 permitting a dog to run at large, 2 harassment 2nd degree, 1 failure to control a dog. 6 Misdemeanors-2 aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle 3rd degree, 3 petit larceny, 1 bad check. 0 Felonies. Issued 14 traffic tickets. Handled 4 traffic accidents. Conducted 4 pistol permit background investigations. Conducted 4 background investigations for employment purposes.

Phyllis Rounds asked if the Town was going to do anything about the drug problem. She stated vehicles are always at the pier flashing their lights. The Supervisor stated he has had many discussions with the State Police; they are working on it and have made some progress. He feels it has gotten better in the past two (2) years; and the problem is just not here.

Councilman Salerno: Reported that over the Labor Day weekend both campsites were full. He stated there were complaints on Facebook about a band playing late into the night on Labor Day weekend at Champ RV Park. The Supervisor stated you have to love social media; its easy to get beat up on there; he stated you can't respond, if you do it just opens up the door further. Councilwoman Carpenter reminded everyone that the Town Facebook page is for informational purposes only. Phyllis Rounds stated that the band at Champ RV Park played later in the night because they started later due to a death in the family. Councilman Salerno stated they will start updating the bathroom at Bulwagga Bay Campsite. Rich Lapier stated that the outside will have an Adirondack look to it. He has drawn a new design for the bathroom. Councilman Salerno asked when the work on it would start and Rich Lapier said it would be right after the campsite closes this year.

Supervisor Scozzafava stated the Crab Shack has two (2) mobile units (cabins). Councilman Salerno stated they are 400 square feet.

The Supervisor stated we need a professionally done webpage to advertise for the campgrounds. The Waterfront Committee is moving forward with that.

Councilman Salerno stated the jet vac that the Water & Sewer department ordered will be here tomorrow.

Councilman Brassard had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Carpenter reported that the Chamber would like to thank Ed Roberts for all his help over the Labor Day Weekend. The Supervisor said hats off to the Chamber; they did a great job on the Labor Day celebration.

Councilwoman Carpenter stated the Waterfront Committee would like to expand to 8 members. The Board was in agreement with this. Councilman Salerno asked when we would have another

public meeting with the committee and Councilwoman Carpenter said after the committee meets again.

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report.

Supervisor's Report:

The Supervisor received a petition for a Dog Park. Lohrer McKinstry spoke; he stated they have a Facebook page, members and offers for land. They would like a resolution of support from the Town. The Supervisor stated the Town does not have the resources to maintain a dog park. Insurance would be just one issue if one dog attacks another dog. The Supervisor stated the Town has a hard enough time taking care of what we have now. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. McKinstry if the 1-3 acres would have neighbors, and he said no; there would be some separation. The Supervisor asked the Town Board what their thoughts were. Councilman Anderson stated the liability scares him. The Supervisor asked Mr. McKinstry if they are looking for the Board to support the "concept" of a dog park and he said yes. Councilman Salerno asked Mr. McKinstry if Board approval was their first step and he said yes.

175. ON MOTION by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to support the concept of a dog park in the Town of Moriah.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated the Town Board does not support a Town owned and operated dog park. Councilman Anderson asked if certain dogs would be banned if they were bad; Mr. McKinstry said yes.

The Supervisor reported the appraisal was done on Pepper Field, it came back at \$28,500. The Pepper's have offered it to the Town for \$25,000. The Supervisor asked what the Board wanted to do. Councilman Salerno said no, Councilwoman Carpenter said no. Councilman Anderson stated he would like to find another field to use and the Supervisor said yes.

The Supervisor stated that Stewart's will be expanding after losing Mac's. The Supervisor stated he contacted many chains and they won't come here; we don't meet the demographics. He feels Stewart's is committed to the Adirondacks. He said he would rather see Stewart's in there than an empty building. Councilwoman Carpenter stated there are other Stewart's stores that have produce and meats; the Supervisor stated those stores are down south. Paul Reese commented that the Dollar General is a disaster. The Supervisor stated he should file a complaint on their website. Councilman Salerno asked if Stewart's will consult with the Town regarding the design of the outside of the new store. The Supervisor stated that the Town Board is the Planning Board and Stewart's will work with the Town on it.

The Supervisor stated that the left over grant money we were going to use to expand water on Forge Hollow Road; we can't, it will be going back to the State. Councilman Brassard asked if we could purchase fire hydrants and the Supervisor said no. The Town will be looking to consolidate water districts in the future.

The Supervisor stated he has a schematic of the new bathrooms at Bulwagga Bay that Rich Lapier did and it looks good.

The phone number for National Grid to pick up refrigerators is 1-888-740-8122. You have to be a customer and they have to be working.

The Supervisor stated that RSVP of Essex County is looking for bill payer volunteers to help with Elder Financial Abuse.

The Supervisor stated beginning in January 2020 there will be a new Justice Reform Act. When a person is arrested, they will not be arraigned right away.

Resolutions:

- 176. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED authorization to refund Thomas Cowin \$578.60 for water and sewer charges for period of 9/1/17 – 8/31/18 (excludes debt service charges).

Discussion: Mr. Cowin purchased the property three (3) years ago and when he bought it he discovered there were no pipes in the house whatsoever, he never notified the Town and we can only back one year.

- 177. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED to set dates for Free Transfer Station days for each hamlet; 1st, 2nd, and 4th Saturdays in October.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated we will get a list made up of what you cannot bring. Councilman Salerno stated we always do Friday and Saturday and the Town Clerk said that is for brush.

- 178. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED to set date for Tentative 2020 Budget Presentation to Town Board for October 3, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated this is so the Town Clerk can present the tentative budget to the Town Board.

- 179. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED to award bid for fuel oil, kerosene, diesel and propane to Avery Energy.

- 180. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED approval of payment of End of Month Warrant and Monthly Warrant.

- 181. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to make transfers every month or as needed.

- 182. ON MOTION** by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Carpenter, Brassard
Nays 0
RESOLVED to expand Waterfront Committee to 8 members.

Discussion: Councilwoman Carpenter would only vote if there was a tie.

Floor open to the public:

Phyllis Rounds wanted to thank the Supervisor for reaching out to the owner of the laundromat.

John Easter asked when the water valve at the bottom of Convent Hill would be fixed.
Councilman Salerno will reach out to Art Morgan first thing in the morning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

August 15, 2019

General \$2,500.00

2019/1266

August 15, 2019

General \$15,156.00

2019/1265

August 26, 2019

General \$4,385.53

2019/1269-1280

Highway \$719.54

Water #1 \$74.13

Water #2 \$51.78

Water #3 \$436.23

Water #4 \$7.50

Sewer #1 \$1,751.01

Sewer #2 \$1,344.61

August 29, 2019

General \$241.23

2019/1283-1286

Water #1 \$18.29

Water #2 \$12.41

Water #3 \$19.49

Water #4 \$1.97

Sewer #1 \$45.32

Sewer #2 \$36.56

September 12, 2019

General \$96,424.08

2019/1287-1434

Highway \$89,242.16

Water #1 \$2,073.25

Water #2 \$1,777.30

Water #3 \$2,507.29

Water #4 \$106.16

Sewer #1 \$11,927.23

Sewer #2 \$6,973.50

Capital Projects:

Water & Sewer Main Replacement MJ Engineering #5 \$16,685.00
(1st, Oak and Ridge Lane)

Town Clerk