

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present:	Thomas Scozzafava	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Tom Anderson	Councilman
	Matt Brassard	Councilman
	Nathan Gilbo	Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Robert Stevenson, Diana Stevenson, Robert Stevenson, Paul Reese, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Tom Cowin, Saleem Hayat and Mary, and Rose French-Town Clerk

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

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

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

**Special Guest-Vicki Trudeau:** Cancelled; will call to reschedule.

**Bid Opening-Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Propane & Diesel:**

The Supervisor read the legal notice. Two bids were received.

Avery Energy: \$0.195 mark up over daily average for Fuel Oil, Diesel, Kerosene and Propane

MX Petroleum: \$0.28 mark up over daily average for Fuel Oil  
\$0.28 mark up over daily average for Kerosene  
\$0.28 mark up over daily average for 87 Gasoline  
\$0.28 mark up over daily average for 91 Gasoline  
\$0.35 mark up over daily average for Diesel  
\$0.38 mark up over daily average for Propane

**Floor Open to the Public:**

N/A

**Department Head/Town Board Reports:**

Most department heads excused. Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds Superintendent stated they have been taking down the banners and getting the bandstand ready for the concert this weekend. The Supervisor stated we are early taking the banners down because the County only has one bucket truck for the whole County and we had to schedule it.

Councilman Salerno stated he has had several residents ask if a flashing electronic 35 mph sign could be placed on Plank Road from Moriah Shock to Larrows Garage. The Supervisor stated the signs that we have by the school and on Center Road were bought through grants. Councilman Salerno stated he will look in to it.

Councilman Salerno would still like to see the beach house at Port Henry Beach utilized. The Supervisor stated we have offered it out for parties etc. Councilman Brassard asked Councilman Salerno if he wanted to rent it out and Councilman Salerno said yes. Councilman Salerno asked if some of the work could be done in house and the Supervisor said yes, some of it.

Councilman Salerno also suggested doing movie night at the new field on College Street when the field is up and running and the Supervisor and Councilman Brassard stated that is a great idea.

The Supervisor stated Saleem Hayat just arrived and he asked him if he wanted to speak and Saleem said yes. Saleem approached the Board with plans for a motel where Boni's Bistro sits now. The Front of the building would remain the same and the back would be hotel rooms. The Supervisor asked Saleem if the rooms would be for transients and Saleem said yes. The Supervisor asked Saleem if he has spoken to Rich Lapier-Code Officer and Saleem said yes. The Supervisor stated Moriah does not have zoning but Saleem needs to check building & fire codes. Councilman Brassard stated the Board would be concerned with traffic flow and lighting. The Supervisor asked Saleem when he planned on starting this project and Saleem stated if not before winter then early next summer. The Supervisor stated he needs to look in to electrical, water and sewer also. Councilman Salerno asked what the outside of the building would look like and Saleem stated he wants it to have an Adirondack style. Councilman Anderson asked if it would be for tourists and Saleem said yes. Councilman Salerno asked if it would be like the Villa in Keeseville; long term housing and Saleem said no, daily and weekly rentals. The Supervisor stated his concern is with garbage and brush; he stated we do need the rooms here but he told Saleem his track record was not that good with the properties he owns. He told Saleem his next step is to sit down with Rich Lapier, his Engineer/Architect. Councilman Salerno asked Saleem how many rooms it would be and Saleem said 22. The Supervisor stated we don't want another "Villa" here and Saleem said no, it wouldn't be like that. Councilman Brassard told Saleem to get with Building Codes and his Engineer. Councilman Salerno told Saleem the building will have to have a sprinkler system also. The Supervisor asked Saleem if he was interested in building a grocery store instead and Saleem said yes if he could hire about 5 people from his home country to work it; can't get anybody to work right now. The Supervisor stated he will speak to Rich Lapier regarding detailed plans for the motel.

Councilman Brassard stated Port Henry Field is coming along good. Highway Garage has pulled out for the winter; basketball court will be blacktopped; grass seed will be put down. He would like to thank Marty Chapuk for coming down and helping out. He encouraged the community to go look at it. Councilman Anderson stated we need to have some discussion regarding it; he wants to see a softball field as well. Councilman Brassard stated he doesn't think there is room. The Supervisor stated the Town did not purchase this property; Essex County gave it to the Town; it has sat there for years and nothing has been done with it. Mineville has Linney Field and a playground and Moriah has the pickle ball/basketball court. The Supervisor stated this is one community. He also stated the money we are using to fix up the field is coming from the recovery act money. Councilman Anderson stated there needs to be a softball field there also; Councilman Brassard is going to look in to it.

Councilman Brassard reminded everyone that this Saturday at the bandstand from 5pm – 8pm we will have Moriah Music Fest; 3 bands playing. Councilman Salerno asked if there will be porta potty's and Councilman Brassard said yes. Councilman Salerno stated that Don Tesar will be there with his food truck and there will be a few other vendors. The Supervisor stated that this is the first year; will be paid for out of bed tax money. Councilman Brassard stated handicap parking will be near the Court House, other parking is available at the old Nuway Laundry building and the K of C.

The Supervisor stated that he has heard some concern regarding the wall at the field on College Street. He spoke to Charlie Manfred and Jamie Wilson and they think it can be formed up and poured to stabilize it.

Councilman Gilbo stated he finally got a quote for the fence around the water tower on Spring Street. C & E Fencing out of Plattsburgh, NY can do it for \$10,993; 40' X 40'; 6' high; foot of barbed wire; they are 2 months out.

**140. ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo
	Nays	0
	Absent	0

**RESOLVED** to accept quote from C & E Fencing for 40' X 40' X 6' galvanized chain link fence enclosure for water tower on Spring Street in the amount of \$10,993.00.

Councilman Anderson stated the Youth Commission will do the ski program again this year; will have more info as it gets closer; he believes it will be bigger than last year. Supervisor

Scozzafava stated they should start having conversations with Whiteface now and Councilman Anderson said they are. He stated it will be shared with MCS again this year. Transportation will be vans with parents driving. The Supervisor stated he doesn't want a child left out due to transportation or supervision and Councilman Anderson stated that won't happen.

**Supervisor's Report:**

The Supervisor stated he has been asked if the Board would donate a weekend at one of the campsites for a fundraiser for Pete Lozo who has throat cancer. The Supervisor stated we have done this in the past.

**141. ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo
	Nays	0
	Absent	0

**RESOLVED** to donate one weekend camping at either Bulwagga Bay Campsite or Champ RV Park (excluding Holiday weekends) for Pete Lozo fundraiser on October 2, 2022.

The Supervisor stated he needed to give Peter Yolles an answer regarding his house on Barton Hill. He has offered it to the Town. The only benefit the Supervisor can see of obtaining the property is it would be easier to turn around. The Town cannot tear it down and bury it due to the possibility of asbestos in it. The Board was not interested in the house/property; could get costly to tear it down.

The Supervisor stated the roof on the Port Henry Fire House is leaking right at the elevator shaft; due to the location we cannot fix it in house. Titan roofing will look at it and give us an estimate. They will also look at the Court House. Bill Ball met with the Supervisor today; the Fire Commissioners need to have a meeting with the Town Board; the Town has had interested parties in the building. Town residents cannot do work on the building; it is in Fire District #3. The Supervisor stated it is time to think about consolidating the 3 fire departments. He would like to set up a meeting with the fire commissioners; the Board was in agreement with this.

The Supervisor stated that we are doing some work on the vault in the basement of the Town Hall. All payroll records need to be in a fireproof location. It is very damp in the basement; he would like to order a dehumidifier for it; approximately \$600; the Board was in agreement with this.

The Supervisor has asked Councilman Brassard to sit it on the budget process with him and Becky Gilbo. The Supervisor reported that from January – June 2021 to January – June 2022 we have had an increase of \$62,000 in Fuel oil, gas, diesel, propane, electricity and kerosene. Councilman Salerno asked how you appropriate for that this year. The Supervisor stated financially we are in good shape; we should be fine; revenues are good this year.

The Supervisor stated the NYS Police Division of Criminal Justice Services has a handout on frequently asked questions regarding the new fire arms law. There is a copy at the Town Hall and it can also be found on line.

The Supervisor received an email from Prashanth Prakash regarding the solar farm on Decker's Flats; they are interested in putting one on the old landfill also; they would like to do a community solar project for Moriah. The Supervisor stated this is public property; will have to get RFQ's. Councilman Salerno stated we need to make sure we get the best deal possible; like the Verizon tower on Spring Street. The Supervisor stated we will need to get RFP's or RFQ's to move forward. Councilman Brassard stated we need to make sure that Cheney Mountain Trail remains open. The Supervisor stated the problem has always been getting power to the property. He asked the Board if this was something they wanted to pursue and the Board said yes. Councilman Salerno asked if the Town could do their own solar project and Councilman Gilbo said he would look in to it. Councilman Anderson asked if the solar project on Tarbell Hill is delayed because of the bats and Councilman Gilbo said yes, they will be able to start up again in October.

The Supervisor stated that the Town currently offers a Senior Citizen exemption on property tax if their gross income is below \$28,000. The Assessors have stated they have a lot of people that just miss it. The Supervisor stated we have until March 1, 2023 to decide if we want to raise it. The Supervisor stated that this exemption does not apply to special districts. Councilman Salerno asked what the impact would be if we raised it and the Supervisor stated it is impossible to tell. He stated we have to remember when you give an exemption somebody always has to pay for it. The Supervisor stated more research needs to be done.

The Supervisor received a letter from Fred Perea regarding an agreement his grandfather had with the Highway Department to repair his driveway because the Town diverts water off of Edgemont on to his property. The Supervisor stated the Highway Department cannot go on private property. The Town Clerk is still looking through old minute books to see if she can find where it was discussed years ago. Mr. Perea does not have a copy of the agreement. The Supervisor spoke to old Highway Superintendents and they do remember helping out, but we have been unable to find anything in writing. The Supervisor stated the only thing we have been able to find is the agreement for Water District #3. The Supervisor has turned it over to the Town Attorney.

**Resolutions:**

**142. ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo
	Nays	0
	Absent	0

**RESOLVED** to accept bid from Avery Energy for \$0.195 over rack price for Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Propane and Diesel for 10/1/22-9/30/23.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo
	Nays	0
	Absent	0

**RESOLVED** retroactive authoring Supervisor to pay Santore Fireworks \$4,000 for Labor Day Celebration Fireworks.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated that the Chamber is in financial trouble; it was already in the fireworks contract. Paid for out of bed tax money.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo
	Nays	0
	Absent	0

**RESOLVED** a resolution to surplus property located at 2814 Plank Road, Moriah and authorize Supervisor to proceed with sale in accordance with NYS General Municipal Law and Town Law.

Discussion: This is property surrounding the old ambulance building in Moriah Center; appraisal came in at \$10,000; will have to do a public legal notice, may be subject to permissive referendum if the Town is petitioned. The Town has to get \$10,000 for it. Councilman Salerno asked if a Board member or a Board members wife could bid on it and the Supervisor said no. The Supervisor asked the Board if they were in agreement with selling it and the Board said yes.

**145. ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo
	Nays	0
	Absent	0

**RESOLVED** to sell property located at 2814 Plank Road in Moriah Center; tax map #96.51-2-3.200 for \$10,000.

146. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
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| APPROVED | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0  |
|          | Absent | 0  |
- RESOLVED** to set date for presentation of the tentative budget by the Town Clerk for Tuesday October 4, at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.
147. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
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|----------|--------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0  |
|          | Absent | 0  |
- RESOLVED** approval to do transfers in budget as needed.
148. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
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|----------|--------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0  |
|          | Absent | 0  |
- RESOLVED** approval to do adjustments in water & sewer as needed.
149. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Gilbo, seconded by Councilman Brassard, the following resolution was
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|----------|--------|--|
| APPROVED | Ayes   | Scozzafava, Salerno, Anderson, Brassard, Gilbo |
|          | Nays   | 0  |
|          | Absent | 0  |
- RESOLVED** approval of payment of end of month and monthly warrants.

**Floor open to the public:**

Councilman Salerno would like to recognize Lynx Burlingame and the Golden Eagles for all the years they marched and played in the Labor Day Celebration. The Supervisor stated there were a lot more people involved in the drum and bugle corps; he suggested putting up something at the new field. Councilman Anderson stated a plaque at the new field would be nice.

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked the Supervisor if the NYS State Police substation had been dropped and the Supervisor said yes; he stated the people of the Town of Moriah do not want to spend the money to build it and the Board was in agreement with it. The Supervisor stated he feels we absolutely need it. He stated the Governor can build football stadiums, why can't she give us the money to build a substation. The Supervisor stated if you want the substation here you need to put pressure on Dan Stec and Matt Simpson.

Robert Stevenson asked if we were ever going to get the traffic circle back in Port Henry and the Supervisor said no, it was a hazard; we had 3 accidents there in the last 5 years. Councilman Brassard stated he thought we were going to put a raised circle there; something you could drive over and the Supervisor stated not one person has complained about it.

Paul Reese stated there is a broad band map and it shows you can get broadband from Port Henry to Westport through Westelcom and that is not correct, you can't get broadband. He has sent a letter to the Attorney General but has not heard anything back. The Supervisor stated this is another frustration with NYS.

Robert Stevenson stated the new parking in Port Henry was the best thing to do, now you can see when you pull out of St. Patrick's Place or Stewarts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

**Abstract Distributions:**

**Claim Numbers:**

August 24, 2022

General	\$7,290.52	2022/1251-1266
Highway	\$2,971.06	
Water #1	\$85.56	
Water #2	\$59.49	
Water #3	\$114.23	
Water #4	\$8.66	
Sewer #1	\$190.78	
Sewer #2	\$18.66	

August 30, 2022

General	\$4,000.00	2022/1267
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September 8, 2022

General	\$72,022.06	2022/1268-1415
Highway	\$121,017.59	
Water #1	\$10,701.37	
Water #2	\$7,527.36	
Water #3	\$2,801.29	
Water #4	\$274.77	
Sewer #1	\$13,782.74	
Sewer #2	\$5,239.36	

**Stimulus:**

Bryant's Lumber	Town Hall Generator	\$102.24	#5
Cedarwood Engineering	Water Plant Reservoir	\$4,027.50	#3
Taylor Rental	Sidewalks	\$50.00	#20
Pat Armstrong Inc.	College St. Field	\$696.00	#1
Tractor Supply	College St. Field	\$189.99	#2

**Capital Project:**

Press Republican	Sewer #1 Improvements	\$41.96	#1
Denton Publications	Sewer #1 Improvements	\$44.57	
Denton Publications	Sewer #1 Improvements	\$51.05	

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Town Clerk