

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Special Meeting on October 3, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, New York, for the Town Clerk to present the 2018 Tentative Budget to the Town Board.

Present: Thomas Scozzafava Supervisor
Paul Salerno Councilman
Lucille Carpenter Councilwoman
Thomas Anderson Councilman

Absent: Timothy Garrison Councilman

Others Present: Becky Gilbo and Rose French, Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the special meeting by reading the notice calling for the special meeting; for the purpose of the Town Clerk to present the 2018 Tentative Budget to the Town Board.

The Supervisor reported that he and Becky Gilbo-Account Clerk, worked on the budget and it is a very "tentative" budget, we have no tax cap yet. We already have a public hearing scheduled for October 12, 2017 to override it. The Supervisor stated that Becky will meet with the Comptroller on Thursday to figure out the Village Books and where the money should be deposited into the Town Accounts. Becky stated she has had to try and recreate the Village Books for March to see where they are at so she can then transfer to the Town Books. She gave an example of the Highway Accounts, there used to be General Town Wide and General Town Outside Village, we no longer have the General Town Outside Village. The last meeting with the Comptrollers was not very helpful. Councilman Anderson asked where the Village money was and Becky stated it is all lumped together. The Supervisor stated he is not being critical of the Village, their laws were different then the Towns. Councilman Salerno asked if Janel was able to give Becky anything and Becky said no. The Supervisor stated that Janel was trying to play catch up after the turnover of account clerks at the Village. Councilman Salerno asked if there was a surplus of funds at the Village and the Supervisor said yes, they had money in their accounts, now we are trying to figure out where to put it. He stated everything is still in the Village Accounts. Becky reported that she has not been using those accounts to pay for anything. Councilman Salerno asked after the transfer of funds, how the Town would be looking and Becky stated that the Village overspent in the General Fund, and that the Water & Sewer Account was carrying the General Fund. Becky stated she will have a better idea of where we are at after she meets with the Comptroller Thursday.

The Supervisor reported that the Town received their Empowerment Check for the dissolution in the amount of \$350,609.00. The Town will be using 100% of this check to reduce taxes. Councilman Salerno asked if this would be a yearly check and the Supervisor said yes. He also stated the check is slightly more than what Laberge Group had projected.

Becky stated that this budget is for a whole year, not just nine (9) months like last years budget due to the Village dissolving effective April 1, 2017. There is a 3% raise across the board, excluding the Justices, Town Board Members and the Assessors. The Health Insurance will be an issue with the Union Negotiations. Becky stated to put the budget together she used the amount of the 2018 health insurance plan.

Councilman Salerno stated it looks like we have some budget workshops a head of us.

The Supervisor stated the Water & Sewer Billing is a big issue with commercial accounts. We will not be reading meters for them; they will stay at a flat rate for this next billing cycle. Water District #3 will be going up to be even with Water District #1, #2, and #4. Sewer District #2 will be going up due to the Manhole 13 Project. The Supervisor reminded everyone that Water District #3 pays a debt fee because they are a benefit district, Water District #1, #2, and #4 pay an advalorem tax on the Town & County Tax Bill for water debt in their districts.

The Supervisor stated we have a truck BAN that is due. Also, the Highway Department will be getting a new tandem this year. He feels there will be a tax increase overall. He stated that people in Port Henry may see an increase in their Town Tax Bill in January, but he also wanted to remind them that they will not see a Village Tax Bill in June.

Budget workshops are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, October 19, 2017 6:00pm Town Hall

Thursday, October 26, 2017 6:00pm Town Hall

There will be a public hearing on Thursday, November 9, 2017 on the Preliminary Budget at 5:45PM at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY, prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

Becky Gilbo was excused at this time.

The Supervisor reported that Michael Crane is insistent that the Town sign the contract with him for all of the \$75,000.00 to set up the Development Corporation. The Supervisor would like to have John Silvestri, Town Attorney read the contract before we sign it. Councilman Salerno asked if the contract states in detail the scope of work to be covered for the \$75,000 and Councilwoman Carpenter stated that is the issue, she has been asking Mr. Crane questions and not getting any answers. The Supervisor stated that first he would like to see cabins at Port Henry Beach. Councilwoman Carpenter stated it is all done by public meetings. The Supervisor stated he would like to see the Town sell their cell tower lease and use that money to put cabins up at Port Henry Beach. Councilwoman Carpenter stated that the contract states the work has to be done in a year and it started in August. The Supervisor would like to wait and see how long it takes the money to flow back to the Town. He also stated he feels the Town should be doing RFP's. Councilwoman Carpenter stated Mr. Crane made the comment that if we did that, we don't get the plan, and the Supervisor said yes we do, we paid for it. The Supervisor will speak to Anna in Planning and see where we need to go from here.

Town Clerk, Rose French gave the Town Board and the Supervisor a letter requesting a raise. She was under the assumption from the Supervisor that it was not put in the budget for her to receive a raise in 2018 and apparently it was. Councilman Anderson how many hours she works and she stated 30 hours per week, 9:00am-4:00pm, more during tax time.

Councilman Salerno asked how much Ed Roberts gets for doing Animal Control and the Supervisor stated that the Town lets him do it while he is doing his Building & Grounds work and he always has Officer Brassard with him.

The Supervisor stated that during the budget workshops, the Town Clerk, Becky-Senior Account Clerk and Art Morgan's salaries need to be discussed. He would like to bring Julie Ida up to what the Clerks are making at the County and he has asked Denise Daly to take the Account Clerk Exam to help Becky out with payroll and if she passes it she will get a promotion and a raise. He also reported that Rich Lapier's salary will be cut to \$10,000.00 because Frank Slycord is now doing Property Maintenance and he will get the other half of the salary. Councilman Salerno asked if John Hickey-Building & Grounds will be going to the Highway Department because he has a CDL and the Supervisor stated he was offered and turned it down. He will be getting CDL pay when he is driving a truck and regular pay when he is not.

The special meeting closed at 7:10pm.

Town Clerk