

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 9:00am at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, New York.

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

Others Present: Steve Stahl-Officer in Charge and Rose French-Town Clerk

Supervisor Scozzafava opened the meeting at 9:00am by reading the notice calling for the Special Meeting.

Supervisor Scozzafava reported that on August 25, 2017 Officer Stahl was on vacation and chose to come in because we had no coverage, which resulted in over time. This should have been authorized by the Town Supervisor or the Police Committee and was not. The Supervisor made the decision not to pay Officer Stahl overtime for this because coming in to work was never approved. Officer Stahl was paid straight time for this. Supervisor Scozzafava reported that Officer Stahl is an hourly employee. The Supervisor stated he has a fiscal responsibility to the Town, he can't allow an employee to "write his/her own paycheck" in this manner. Officer Stahl can grieve not being paid overtime. Councilman Salerno asked if it was in the Union Contract that overtime had to be authorized and the Supervisor said yes it is; employees have to follow protocol. Officer Stahl said he came in because Board members were complaining that we had no coverage on the weekends. The Supervisor stated the bottom line is Officer Stahl should have called. Councilman Garrison asked why there was no coverage on a weekend and Officer Stahl said he was on vacation and Officer Brassard took the day off. The Supervisor did say it is hard with only two (2) officers. The Court also would like an officer during DA court days; this is two (2) days a month. Councilman Garrison said the Court needs to contact the Sheriff's department and request a deputy on those days. Councilman Salerno asked what a difference that would make in the scheduling, and Officer Stahl stated Officer Brassard would work 9-5am, not 3-11pm. The Supervisor stated that Officer Stahl does the schedule and the Police Committee should be approving it. The Supervisor also stated that in all fairness to Officer Stahl he does do several 3-11pm shifts per month. Councilman Anderson feels that there should definitely be somebody on the schedule Friday and Saturday night. Councilman Salerno asked Officer Stahl if he sends the schedule to the NYS Police and he said yes, he does. Officer Stahl reported that right now, the NYS Police have a lot of new recruits in the area. Councilman Salerno feels there should definitely be patrols on the weekends. The Supervisor said Friday and Saturday for sure. Councilman Anderson stated we are always going to have a problem with coverage with only two (2) officers. The Supervisor told Officer Stahl when he is doing the schedule to come over and go over it with him or Councilwoman Carpenter or Councilman Garrison. Officer Stahl asked what would change if he did that, and Supervisor Scozzafava stated that the communication would be there and he and the Police Committee would understand the coverage. The Supervisor said he always hears from people why Officer Stahl always works days. Councilman Salerno thought during the summer time it would be a good idea to hire a PT Officer. Councilman Anderson agrees with this. Officer Stahl stated that we could try, but it is going to be very hard to find one. After an officer retires, they don't want to have to deal with it anymore and then the pay is not great. The Supervisor stated that last weekend there was a complaint regarding Pepper Field and the State Police had to get involved because Officer Stahl clocked out at 9pm. He was scheduled to work 3-11pm, but he ended up working 1-9pm. Councilwoman Carpenter stated she had a complaint that a resident on Rice Street has left several messages on the answering machine and nobody has called her back yet from the Police Department. Officer Stahl stated that Officer Brassard is very capable of checking the messages and he doesn't feel he needs to tell him to do it. The Supervisor asked Officer Stahl to make sure that Officer Brassard is checking the answering machine. Councilwoman Carpenter asked if there was ever any lapse in coverage and Officer Stahl said yes, sometimes, she thought it might be a good idea to do a few times a month so Officer Stahl and Officer Brassard can talk about what is going on and what needs to be done. Officer Stahl also stated that if Officer Brassard has any questions, he will call him. Supervisor Scozzafava stated there is no more dual coverage. Councilman Salerno asked if coverage was all set for Labor Day weekend and Officer Stahl said yes. There is no coverage on Saturday because there is a football game Friday night and then the parade is on Sunday. Councilman Salerno asked

Officer Stahl if he thought it was worth a try to get a PT Police Officer and he said yes. Councilwoman Carpenter feels if the Town is going to keep the Police Department we might want to think about adding a full time police officer and Councilman Anderson said he has spoken to several people in the community and they want to keep the Police Department. Councilman Salerno stated that he has had compliments from the NYS Police on our Police Department, that they feel our department does a good job. Supervisor Scozzafava stated the bottom line is we need to work together. Councilman Salerno asked if we were going to pay Officer Stahl the overtime and Supervisor Scozzafava stated that if Councilman Salerno feels the Town should, he needs to put a motion on the floor. Councilman Salerno asked if it was in the Union Contract. Councilman Anderson stated let Officer Stahl file a grievance. Councilman Salerno stated going forward all employees need to get overtime approved and Supervisor Scozzafava said yes, from their immediate Supervisor.

The Supervisor stated that he and Becky will be working on the 2018 budget. It is going to be difficult because of the Village Books. What money is left in the Village accounts has to be used in Port Henry. Supervisor Scozzafava said he has no idea where we are for next year's budget. Councilman Salerno stated that the budget is due October 1, and the Supervisor stated the *tentative* budget is due October 1. Supervisor Scozzafava stated we might have to do a hearing and a resolution to override the tax cap again; it is less than 1%. Councilman Salerno asked if there were any benefits this year and Supervisor Scozzafava said no, nothing like rebate checks. Supervisor Scozzafava stated that we will be putting in the budget new software for accounting and water sewer.

Supervisor Scozzafava reported that Tom Slattery resigned from the Highway Department and that Mark Maye is interested in taking his place, which means we will have to advertise for Mark's position at the Water Treatment Plant and also at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Supervisor stated that NYS requires us to fill this position and the person has to have an operator's license.

- 1. ON MOTION** by Councilman Garrison, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was
APPROVED Ayes Scozzafava, Carpenter, Salerno, Anderson, Garrison
Nays 0
RESOLVED to advertise for a Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant Assistant Operator.

The Supervisor and the Town Clerk met with Todd Clarke from Bridge Point Communication regarding their telephone/internet proposal. There are six (6) lines that they cannot service so we will have to see if Cornerstone will still do it and for how much. This will be discussed at the next regular town board meeting.

The Supervisor stated he has been approached by two (2) different companies that want to take over the Verizon cell tower lease at the end of Spring Street. We currently receive roughly \$1,100 a month for this, and every year there is a 3% escalation cost. Tower Point wants to pay \$178,000.00, lump sum, up front; if we go to the end of the lease it would be roughly \$220,000.00. If we go forward with this, the Supervisor would like to see the Town use the money for a capital investment, maybe for the campgrounds, but not for the budget. This would have to be put out to bid or leave the lease alone.

The Supervisor stated that the Town received the \$75,000.00 grant for the revitalization of the campsites.

Union negotiations will be starting for next year. Health Insurance will be a big topic of discussion. The issue is coverage for retirees. The Supervisor stated he feels the employees will want to go with the Teamsters Plan. Both plans have pros and cons. Officer Stahl stated you have to give the insurance a year notice when you are going to retire. The Supervisor reported that health insurance costs the town roughly \$700,000.00. Councilman Garrison stated that is 25% of the budget.

The Supervisor said the bottom line is there needs to be communication between Officer Stahl and himself and the Police Committee regarding the schedule. The Supervisor asked if the Board thought it was necessary for an Officer to be at Court and Councilwoman Carpenter said

no, absolutely not. Councilman Anderson feels the Justices have a legitimate fear. Councilman Garrison feels they can request coverage from the Sheriff's Department. Councilman Salerno asked if the State Police would be a better presence. Officer Stahl said you won't see a State Trooper do it. The Supervisor asked Officer Stahl to look into this with the Sheriff's Department and he said he would. The Supervisor also stated that when Officer Brassard works at Court during DA days, he should be getting paid out of the Justice's budget not the police budget. Officer Stahl asked when the Supervisor wanted him to look into this, for now or in January. He also stated that DA Michael Langey expressed an interest in police coverage on DA days also. Councilwoman Carpenter stated the priority should be on patrol not court. Officer Stahl said the Justices want everybody who comes into Court to be wand. The Supervisor expressed concern as a member of the Board of Supervisor's that other Towns are getting this benefit from the Sheriff's Department and we are not.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46am.

Town Clerk