

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a special Town Board Meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

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

Absent: Tom Anderson Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Patricia Montgomery, Jeanne Taylor, Tod Hicks, John Harrington, Charles Kolodzey, Bob Leveille, Joanne Mazzotte, Michelle Costello, Walter Cheney, Heather Cogswell, Bill Cogswell, Carol Cogswell, Ron Mitchell, Meg Wendel, Jackie Viestenz, John Viestenz, Ronnie Cunningham, Jim Curran, Carol Chiarella, Joe Chiarella, Gail & George Pilger, Deb Craigie & Dave Stepno, Alana Gaddor, Saleem Hayat and Rose French-Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag. He then read the legal notice calling for the special meeting.

Resolutions:

91. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
- | | | |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Brassard, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | Anderson |

RESOLVED authorize payment to Playground Boss for playground equipment-Bulwagga Bay Campsite, cost includes installation, to be paid from unappropriated funds balance; \$64,574.00.

92. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was
- | | | |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Brassard, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | Anderson |

RESOLVED authorization to purchase a computer for Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant from Dell Technologies; \$859.13.

93. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was
- | | | |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Approved | Ayes | Scozzafava, Salerno, Brassard, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | Anderson |

RESOLVED authorization for Supervisor to join “Buy Board”; a national consortium of vendors for purchase of items for Municipalities, Schools and Counties.

The Supervisor stated the purpose of the meeting was to get ideas from the community on what to spend the stimulus money on. He stated we are the only town to hold such a public meeting and he is proud of it; it benefits the community. He stated the money can be used on anything except to reduce taxes or pay-off debt. It has to be used by 2026. He stated the Board is here tonight to listen to ideas; listen only. After suggestions the Board will look at cost of ideas. He stated the final decisions will be made by the Town Board.

The Supervisor stated he received 2 letters:

John Harrington-would like to see a zoning plan for the Town of Moriah, master plan to clean up “eye sores”, signage for services the Town has to offer.

Tammy Kreckel-fund a museum, poorly kept properties, use old Bistro for park or welcome center, have baseball days, small businesses and jobs, zoning, truck stop, repair infrastructure, police, Millbrook chasm and fishing derby on Lake Champlain.

Floor open to the public:

Patricia Montgomery-would like to see eradication of slum landlords. The Supervisor stated it is time consuming and expensive. The Town cannot go on private property. Can get a court order to clean up garbage. He stated what usually happens the property taxes don't get paid, County gets property, it goes to Court and that's the end of it. The Supervisor stated the Town Board does everything in their power.

Ms. Montgomery stated she would like to see a tourism center/walk through town. Some type of workforce development/GED. The Supervisor stated there is a jobs program in Elizabethtown.

Carol Chiarella would like to see the Library get additional funding so it doesn't get added on to the school tax bill, set up some type of trust. The Supervisor reminded her that it cannot be used to reduce taxes. He also stated that the Library appropriation was increased this year. The Town is already helping them, we do maintenance on the building; cannot do a trust, has to be used by 2026.

Ronnie Cunningham would like to see better equipment at Bulwagga Bay playground. The Supervisor stated we are using revenue from the campsite for more equipment. She would like to see a covered pavilion at Port Henry Beach; upgrade sand at both beaches; take down the current building at Port Henry Beach and build a pavilion or put cabins in. Fix road between Church Street and Main Street; very rough. The Supervisor stated we brought sand in about 25 years ago and it all washed out.

Jim Curran would like to see more cabins at the beach with bathrooms. Also he would like a mountain bike trail on Cheney Mountain-the old landfill.

Walt Cheney would like to see the Town invest in some electric vehicle super chargers. There are programs and rebates available; would help with tourism, some people plan their vacations around where they can charge their vehicles. The Supervisor stated he agrees, its coming; same with the LED lights, we are starting to see revenues from the charging stations we have. A company has reached out to the Supervisor, they would like to put charging stations by the Train Station and rent cars there.

Carol Cogswell wants a new bandstand in the traffic circle; the Supervisor agrees with a bandstand but it cannot be in the traffic circle.

Bill Cogswell would like to see the waterfront developed; the Supervisor asked like a walk way and Mr. Cogswell said yes. The Supervisor stated we have a plan right now for one from Bulwagga Bay Campsite to Champ RV Park but Canadian Pacific says it is too close to the tracks. Maybe we should approach them again about it. Mr. Cogswell would like to see parades like we used to have.

Chuck Kolodzey stated the Port Henry Fire Department would like the Town's help financially taking down the old Nuway Laundry building where they want to build a new fire house. They would like to demolish it. The Supervisor stated the Town of Moriah does not own the fire district, he doesn't think so, would not be fair to the other departments. The Supervisor stated we need one fire department but he will look in to it.

George Pilger would like to beautify Main Street. Sidewalks in front of the Lee House and put up the antique lights that were talked about. Also other sidewalks, the Supervisor stated he would like to do sidewalks in house.

Meg Wendel likes the idea of a forum for suggestions. She would like to see buildings removed that are "eye sores". She stated that it is very difficult for the Port Henry Fire Department to raise money. She stated that the Nuway laundry building is an eye sore and it is dangerous. She stated that the Church Street building is in major need of repair, the parking lot is full of pot holes and it is a historic building.

Alana Gaddor would like to see the Town get a grant writer to do an analysis; get more funds; tackle all areas.

Joanne Mazzotte would like to see sidewalks.

Michelle Costello would like to see a boardwalk next to the lake; also a bike lane; coordinate with other Towns. She went to Bulwagga Bay beach and it was full of zebra mussels, can't we dredge them out? She stated we have gorgeous beaches and we can't use them. She would also like to see a dog park.

Debra Craigue would like to see the Town get with owners and do some painting; would look more pleasing. The Supervisor stated the Town did get a grant from Pride; 75% was paid and 25% was the owner's responsibility and nobody wanted to do it.

Tod Hicks thanked the Board for having this meeting. He stated the waterfront is the greatest asset we have. He would like to see more services on the waterfront; not up in Port Henry; he would like to see it enjoyable for people who live here year round also. The Supervisor stated the canal authority is in charge of the pier and they told the Town they could use it for whatever they wanted; it is definitely an asset; need more vendors. Mr. Hicks stated he would like to see some synergy between lake front owners and non-lake front owners; private and public lands. The Supervisor stated the money could be used for broadband and cable.

Bill Cogswell would like to see the brush cut on the south end of Town as you are entering. The Supervisor stated CP Rail has given the Town permission to cut it down only twice before; we no longer have the inmates to help out; need volunteers to do it; the Supervisor is working with CP Rail currently.

Carol Chiarella asked the Board if they had any pressing issues they would like to see done and the Supervisor stated the Town Hall foundation, train station needs to be painted, infrastructure. The Supervisor stated that the Henry building that the Port Henry Fire Department is in needs a lot of work, the Town owns it; could sell it tomorrow, but won't put the fire department out on the street.

Debra Craigue asked if the Champ sign was going to be moved. The Supervisor stated we will use bed tax money to get it redone, in front of Mountain Lake Services would be a good spot for it; overlooking the lake.

Alana Gaddor asked if the Town could use the bed tax money to get a grant writer for tourism; Councilman Gilbo stated there is already money in the budget for this; he will have more information on a consultant at next month's meeting. The Supervisor stated there is the 485B tax break for new businesses but a lot of business owners don't want it because of the regulations.

Jeanne Taylor stated these are all good suggestions; we live in paradise; beautiful piece of heaven; hats off to the Supervisor and Town Board; they are doing all they can.

George Pilger asked the Board if they had any ideas for use of the stimulus money. Councilman Salerno stated WATERFRONT! Also, there are 5 hamlets in the Town of Moriah; would like to see improvements at Powerhouse Park; should benefit all hamlets; he would like to see sidewalks in Witherbee.

Alana Gaddor stated she is part of the Chamber; they have made some changes; serve businesses more; they are all volunteers and they need more people; need economic development.

Councilman Brassard stated he would like to see something in every hamlet, also waterfront; College Street Park, beautify Main Street.

Walt Cheney stated there is no cell service in our area; the Supervisor stated the APA is the problem; they make it very difficult. He also stated that the Town should have more meetings like this; we are the 6th largest town in the APA; we have a Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2 water plants; other Towns are having the same problems we are.

Councilman Anderson suggested hiring a consultant to help us get a grocery store.

Councilman Gilbo stated he would like to spend the money on something that we will get a return on; waterfront, business incentives.

The Supervisor stated we have \$415,323.71 left in stimulus money; have spent \$96,943.97 so far.

Councilman Gilbo thanked everyone for coming out tonight and for all their suggestions.

Alana Gaddor asked what the next step was, the Supervisor stated he and the Board will discuss all ideas via email; will have a better idea around July or August; he stated that some ideas brought up here tonight will definitely be done.

Gail Pilger asked when the community will know results of the meeting and the Supervisor stated when there is a Board resolution.

Saleem Hayat stated if the Town would help he would be willing to put up a grocery store; the Supervisor stated he will look in to it.

Patricia Montgomery would like a stage for the M3 Music Festival.

Bill Cogswell stated the Highway Garage crew is top notch; good road crew. The Supervisor stated yes, we have a great Town crew; very fortunate. The Supervisor stated that police will be our next issue; still trying to get an office of convenience for the Sheriff's Department and the State Police to use.

Debra Craigue asked about the park on College Street-the old High School. The Supervisor gave her a brief history on how the Town ended up with the property; it will be an athletic field. Tri State in Port Henry just donated 2 basketball hoops for the field; \$2,500 each. Ms. Craigue asked what was going to happen to the land where the old school was and the Supervisor stated maybe parking.

Carol Cogswell asked if there was going to be another Dollar General in Mineville; the Supervisor stated the only thing the Town has received is a building permit; have no idea what is going in there.

The Supervisor stated Switchback has been idle for 50 years; it is owned by a private company; the company has to take the buildings down; they are a hazard. He stated the Town cannot afford to make a museum out of it. He believes the site will be used again for rare earths. He stated that Solvay has donated \$12,500 to the Library and \$12,500 to the Museum.

The Supervisor thanked everyone for coming and thinks the Town should do more community meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Town Clerk