

The Town of Moriah Town Board held their Regular Town Board Meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Court House, 42 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

| | | |
|----------|------------------|------------|
| Present: | Matthew Brassard | Supervisor |
| | Paul Salerno | Councilman |
| | Tom Anderson | Councilman |
| | Nathan Gilbo | Councilman |

Others Present: Bill Trybendis, Thomas Cowin, Mark Lashway, George Clark, Jim Curran, Rich Lapier, Jamie Wilson, Paul & Nancy Tromblee, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz and Rose French-Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag.

ON MOTION by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was APPROVED

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| Nays | 0 |
| Absent | 0 |

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

Bid Opening-Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Diesel and Propane:

Supervisor Brassard read the legal notice.

1. Superior Plus Propane: Propane bid only: \$1.499 (fixed mark up \$0.499)
2. Avery Energy:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Fuel Oil: \$2.3459 | (fixed mark up \$0.2375 over OPIS daily average) |
| Kerosene: \$3.0072 | (fixed mark up \$0.2375 over OPIS daily average) |
| Diesel: \$2.3830 | (fixed mark up \$0.2375 over OPIS daily average) |
| Propane: \$1.1045 | (fixed mark up \$0.2375 over OPIS daily average) |
3. MS Petroleum Corp.:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Fuel Oil: \$2.4635 | (did not provide what their fixed mark up price would be) |
| Kerosene: \$2.8573 | (did not provide what their fixed mark up price would be) |
| Diesel: \$2.4679 | (did not provide what their fixed mark up price would be) |
| Propane: \$1.2758 | (did not provide what their fixed mark up price would be) |

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

RESOLVED to award the fuel oil, kerosene, propane and diesel bid to Avery Energy for 10/1/24-9/30/25.

Floor Open to the Public:

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz stated she sees a lot of spending going on in the minutes. She is concerned about taxes going up. We have had a lot of flooding/road damage. FEMA won't pay for all of it. People have had damage to their homes; assessments are going up that's an added

expense. She saw the Town is seeking proposals for projects at the Campgrounds; spend spend spend! She stated she thought the campsites were used to offset taxes. We are already down to \$350,000 in recovery funds. She stated she is worried and concerned for the townspeople. The Highway needs things; Water & Sewer also. She stated the Board needs to consider everyone in the Town and keep the taxes down. She stated we need to hang on to the campsites to offset taxes. Supervisor Brassard stated the recovery money has to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and the Town can't use it to reduce taxes. Councilman Salerno stated he wants to see the recovery money used in all the hamlets. Councilman Salerno also stated the Town made a profit of \$246,000 off the campsites in 2023. He stated the \$8,000 in lumber from Bryant's Lumber was for the new maintenance shed at Bulwagga Bay, which saved the Town money because we did the work in house. Councilman Anderson stated the profit from the campsites goes back in to the budget.

Councilman Salerno stated in order to keep the tax cap under 2% last year we borrowed from the fund balance. He also stated that we are only at 68% of our assessment; we need to raise another 32%; if we were at 100% theoretically that would mean lower rates and taxes would go down; this is not the Town Board's fault; it is NYS Office of Real Property assessment.

Paul Tromblee stated a lot of properties in Town are tax exempt. Councilman Salerno stated there are only 2200 parcels that are taxed. Supervisor Brassard stated if one person is exempt somebody else has to pick it up.

Councilman Anderson stated we will get money back from FEMA for all the storm damage. Supervisor Brassard stated we will get 75% from the Federal Government and 12 ½% from the State.

Councilman Salerno stated Kubricky and J Hutchins; they all have to get paid and we won't get the FEMA money in time; we will have to borrow from fund balance.

Councilman Anderson stated the Town relies on the campsite and we will continue to do so.

Department Head/Town Board Reports:

Tom Cowin-Building & Grounds; reported that all the banners are down except for one; that one is on South Moriah Road where they are working on the road/culvert. Supervisor Brassard thanked Tom and crew and thanked the Town of Minerva also for letting us use their bucket truck.

Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent stated the bills are coming in from all the storms; slowed things down a bit waiting on FEMA money. He stated FEMA is doing things differently this time. Supervisor Brassard stated FEMA said they are broke; only paying for emergency repairs. Mr. Wilson reported Chipmunk Street, Crowfoot Road, Breed Hill Road, Military Lane, College Street, Stone Street, Mountain Spring Road, Cookshaft Road, Bigalow Road and Dock Lane are done.

In mitigation regarding Riddle Road; culvert is gone; FEMA will pay as long as we fix it the way NYS DEC wants.

Councilman Salerno asked Mr. Wilson if he doesn't use all the CHIPS money will it roll over to next year and Mr. Wilson said yes. Councilman Salerno also stated that we need to quit putting band aids on equipment; have to trust department heads when they say what they need; very hard right now to get a work force.

Rich Lapier issued 4 building permits for the month of August; had regular inspections and did one fire/safety inspection. Mr. Lapier reported on Bulwagga Bay Campground; beach is closed and equipment put away; had a couple of water breaks, they are on leaf detail now.

Councilman Salerno read the police report: investigated 3 traffic accidents, issued 9 traffic tickets, 1 harassment 2nd arrest, issued 1 dog ticket, 43 calls of service for the month, assisted ambulance 4 times, assisted the Sheriff's Department and State Police six times and assisted ACO Ed Roberts 5 times with animal complaints.

Councilman Salerno reported that Art Brassard may retire next year; he would possible stay on if he could work his 5 days in the day time; Councilman Salerno stated it is something to think about. Paul Trombee stated let Art Brassard work days and let the State Police and the Sheriff's Department patrol at night. Councilman Salerno stated the Supervisor has talked to Sheriff Reynolds multiple times requesting their presence in the Town of Moriah; the State Police and Sheriff's Department think Officer Brassard should not be going out alone in the middle of the night.

Paul Trombee stated the Sheriff's Department has hired plenty of Sheriff's; let them do it; they only work until 10pm anyway; the Supervisor stated he thinks it is later than that.

Cecelia Wojciukiewicz asked what happened to the State Police substation and Councilman Salerno stated the Town offered and the State Police could not guarantee the Town any coverage.

Councilman Salerno reported that Bulwagga Bay Campsite was full the month of August; \$296,000.00 in revenue so far, 162 seasonals. He stated the campsite workers usually stay on a couple of weeks after the campsites close; will look into removing the stumps at Bulwagga Bay; will do a walk thru at Champ RV Park to see if we can make more seasonal sites there.

Supervisor's Report:

Mike Mackin was denied the restore NY grant for a 2nd time.

Whistlepig has come to an agreement with the NYS DEC, if you feel you have fungus on your home please email them at community@moriah-ventures.com.

Councilman Gilbo stated he is working with the new grant writer; working on 5-10 grants which include an economic plan and a plan for Port Henry Beach. Councilman Salerno stated if we don't take the grant money somebody else will. The Supervisor stated he and Councilman Gilbo are receiving information on 2-3 grants a week from her.

Resolutions:

160. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to accept quote from National Business Technologies for a new HP LaserJet Copier for the Town Offices in the amount of \$6,966.85.

Discussion: The Town Clerk stated the one we have now we got in 2018 and it is starting to have a lot of issues.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to start charging \$2.00 per signature for Notary Public services effective September 20, 2024.

162. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to refund Francis Monroe from Champ RV Park at a prorated amount of \$1,033.20.

Discussion: Did not camp at all this year; daughter paid in full; notified in June he would not be returning; the site was rented out immediately.

163. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Salerno, the following resolution was

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED a resolution of appreciation to Superior Plus Propane for their donation of \$500.00 towards the M3 Music Festival.

164. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Salerno, seconded by Councilman Anderson, the following resolution was

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED the Town of Moriah (hereinafter “local government”) believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being;

WHEREAS, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;

WHEREAS, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town of Moriah, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.

Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.

Increasing development capacity for residential uses.

Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated in order to move forward for grant money like Ticonderoga got we need to pass this resolution to be eligible.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to award bid for the event space final design at Champ RV Park to AES Northeast in the amount of \$112,500; to be paid from COVID funds.

Discussion: Councilman Gilbo addressed Cecelia Wojciukiewicz and told her that he understands her concerns; this money is an opportunity for the Town; it fell in to the Town's lap because of COVID. Councilman Gilbo stated if we don't use it we will be losing the possible gains, the local traffic it could bring would be beneficial; the opportunity is greater than the risk. The site has to be shovel ready in order to go after any grant money. Jamie Wilson asked what they are designing and Councilman Gilbo stated an outdoor event space at Port Henry Beach which could be used for weddings, bands, etc. Councilman Gilbo stated he feels our lake front is underutilized. Councilman Salerno stated it could be used for fishing tournaments also; we need to take this chance to get some grant money. Supervisor Brassard stated our chances are much better now that we have a grant writer. Jamie Wilson asked are we out the \$112,500 if we don't get any grant money and Councilman Gilbo said yes.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to go to bid for 3 pickup trucks; Highway, WWTP and Building & Grounds.

Discussion: The Supervisor stated it is logical to do this now so it is in the budget; state contract price. Councilman Salerno asked if we would appropriate for these in the budget and the Supervisor said yes; mini bids.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED approval to do transfers in budget as needed.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED approval to do adjustments in water and sewer as needed.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED approval of payment of end of month and monthly warrants.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to set date for tentative budget meeting for Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 11:45AM at the Town Hall.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | 0 |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to appoint Vicki Sargent as Deputy Town Clerk effective 9/19/24-12/31/24.

Discussion: The Town Clerk stated this is so she can learn now and take over for LeeAnn Sprague January 1, 2025.

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

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------------------------|
| APPROVED | Ayes | Brassard, Anderson, Gilbo |
| | Nays | Salerno |
| | Absent | 0 |

RESOLVED to go to bid on all Town heating systems.

Discussion: Paul Tromblee stated it could be an on call bid; per diem. Councilman Gilbo stated there needs to be some level of detail in the bid. Councilman Salerno agreed; boilers, furnaces, LP, campsites etc.

Floor Open to the Public:

Councilman Salerno stated he, the Supervisor, Becky Gilbo, LeeAnn Sprague, Mike Mascarenas and Mike Moran met regarding the ambulance squad and they have made great progress; waiting on a letter from the squad.

Jim Curran asked about the BBQ pit at the College Street field. Gary Olcott will do the pad and Pat Salerno will do the brick work; how do they get paid, do they submit their bills to the Chamber. Councilman Salerno stated depending on the value it would have to go out to bid. Supervisor Brassard said to get prices first. Councilman Salerno thanks the Chamber.

Paul Tromblee stated he saw the copies of the proposal from the Ambulance Squad. Supervisor Brassard stated it is too late this year to form a district; the Town is not signing the original proposal from the Ambulance Squad. The Supervisor stated they did meet and they did make some real progress; he stated we 100% will form a district in the future; will have a public hearing on it. Councilman Salerno stated the volunteers are out there; compensated through the County. The Supervisor stated the County does pay people per diem.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Supervisor Brassard, Councilman Salerno and Paul Tromblee regarding the Ambulance Squad.

Paul Tromblee asked Jamie Wilson if their equipment was ready for the winter and Mr. Wilson stated we will find out.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Abstract Distributions:

Claim Numbers:

August 26, 2024

2024/1304-1340

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| General | \$4,962.32 |
| Highway | \$3,144.18 |
| Water District #1 | \$1,317.74 |
| Water District #2 | \$980.05 |
| Water District #3 | \$338.25 |
| Water District #4 | \$120.28 |
| Sewer District #1 | \$2,502.00 |
| Sewer District #2 | \$1,998.21 |

September 5, 2024

2024/1450

| | |
|---------|----------|
| General | \$900.00 |
|---------|----------|

September 19, 2024

2024/1341-1532

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| General | \$69,630.56 |
| Highway | \$168,970.21 |
| Water District #1 | \$10,250.61 |
| Water District #2 | \$7,122.65 |
| Water District #3 | \$9,019.50 |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Water District #4 | \$279.41 |
| Sewer District #1 | \$11,483.90 |
| Sewer District #2 | \$6,285.83 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----|
| Sewer District #1 Improvements: | MJ Engineering | \$14,640.00 | #6 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----|

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|----|
| Youth Sports Grant: | Amazon (soccer goals) | \$279.98 | #3 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|----|

(not capital project-will be cutting a regular check to pay for this)

Town Clerk