

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Special Meeting on the 2025 Budget on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 11:45am at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present: Matthew Brassard Supervisor
Paul Salerno Councilman
Tom Anderson Councilman

Absent: Nathan Gilbo Councilman

Others Present: Becky Gilbo, LeeAnn Sprague and Rose French-Town Clerk

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 11:45pm by saluting the flag. He thanked everyone for coming on such short notice. He stated this meeting is to decide on how much fund balance we are going to use.

The Supervisor stated when we raised the price of trash stickers last week, we didn't take in to consideration the cost of furniture, tires and bathroom appliances.

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

APPROVED	Ayes	Brassard, Salerno, Anderson
	Nays	0
	Absent	Gilbo

RESOLVED the new fee schedule at the Town of Moriah Transfer Station is as follows: Box Spring, Mattress, Couch, Stuffed Chairs = \$10.50 each, Couch with frame/bed = \$21.00 each (Twin Mattress = \$7.00, King Size Mattress = \$14.00), Kitchen Table and Chair = \$3.50 each piece, Car Tires up to 18" **ONLY** = \$7.00, Toilet Bowl = \$3.50/Tank = \$3.50, Bathtub = \$10.50 - \$17.50 (depending on size).

The Supervisor stated we are having this meeting to determine if we need to use 1%, 2% or 3% of the fund balance for the budget.

Councilman Salerno asked what we would have left if we used 1% of the fund balance and Becky Gilbo stated it would be below \$2,000,000. The Supervisor stated Councilman Gilbo could not be here but he wants to use 2%. Becky Gilbo stated Water District #4 has fund balance; last year it was \$0.25 per thousand; this year \$0.40 per thousand; use fund balance? The Supervisor stated keep Water District #4 the same. The Supervisor asked the Board what they wanted to use out of General; Councilman Salerno said 1%, \$115,000 that will leave \$2,000,000; he feels it won't be a large impact. Councilman Salerno stated Becky Gilbo has been doing this for 30 years; the difference between 1% and 2% is \$25,000. The Supervisor stated 1% means rate will go up \$0.02 per thousand. Councilman Salerno stated the rates will depend on the Assessor's; Becky stated unless they raise everybody 32% it won't work. Councilman Salerno stated he feels assessments next year will be higher.

Councilman Anderson is fine with using 1%.

Becky Gilbo stated she will make the adjustments and give the Preliminary Budget to the Town Clerk. She stated she may not be at the Public Hearing on November 7th so is everybody good with the budget; Councilman Anderson stated he was good. Becky stated the water and sewer districts need to be combined and the Supervisor stated he has the ball rolling on that.

Councilman Anderson asked about the Union Contract and the Supervisor stated it was voted down; next vote on November 18th. He feels comp time is most important to the Highway employees. Department heads stated they just don't have the manpower. Currently we have a highway employee who has been off a total of 6 weeks this year using comp time. Councilman Salerno stated the Board has no control over the Highway Garage other than salary. He feels the Highway Department should not have done away with the laborer positions; we need them. The Supervisor stated it was brought up in our last audit about comp time. Becky Gilbo stated can only have 60 hours of comp time on the books; she feels a few employees are abusing comp time. She stated the union employees just get get get and give nothing in return. The Supervisor stated we could give them 90 hours of comp time if they give back a week of vacation. He stated he will meet with them again; he feels the outcome will be in the Town's favor. Becky Gilbo stated

they wanted 3 ½%, 4% and 4% raise; that's a pretty good deal. Councilman Salerno stated he was surprised it was voted down; playing hard ball. The Supervisor stated we will see what happens on the 13th. LeeAnn Sprague stated they wanted overtime on Holidays and the Supervisor stated they wanted double time on Holidays. The Supervisor stated that Becky said that was not a crazy amount of money.

Councilman Salerno stated residents are concerned about the \$112,000 we have to spend of COVID money to get \$1.2 million grant money for an event space; that is quite the gamble with nothing set in stone; hope to prove them wrong. Becky stated that is an age difference; younger generation is willing to take the risk. Councilman Salerno stated Mike Crane was made fun of when he tried to do the same thing. He stated this is a real possibility; not out of the question. Becky Gilbo stated the lake is our biggest asset and we have 2 pieces of property on it. The Supervisor stated once the report is done, we can use it continuously to go after several grants. Councilman Salerno asked if it was specifically for an event space and the Supervisor stated it could be for different water front grants.

Becky Gilbo stated we only have 2 months to decide how the stimulus money will be used. Councilman Anderson stated he thought we were looking at cabins and Councilman Salerno stated he started looking at them last night.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.

Town Clerk