

The Town of Moriah Town Board held a budget workshop on the 2026 Budget Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

Present:	Matthew Brassard	Supervisor
	Paul Salerno	Councilman
	Tom Anderson	Councilman
	James Curran	Councilman
	LeeAnn Sprague	Senior Account Clerk
	Jamie Wilson	Highway Superintendent
	Rose French	Town Clerk
Absent:	Nathan Gilbo	Councilman

Others Present: Bill Trybendis and Cecelia Wojciukiewicz

The Supervisor opened the meeting at 6:00pm by saluting the flag. He thanked Ms. Wojciukiewicz for coming.

He then read the legal notice calling for the Budget Workshop.

The Supervisor explained why the meeting was moved to the Town Hall, Justices did not think they would be done with Court by 6:00pm.

The Supervisor stated water district #2 and sewer district #2 are struggling; fund balance in those districts is not healthy.

LeeAnn Sprague stated they made some changes since the last budget workshop. Need to increase each district gradually. She then referred to the Budget Overview. She stated all fund balance was used for water #2 and Sewer #2. The Supervisor stated we will be where we need to be in 3-5 years; hopefully the consolidation goes through; he stated everything will be a benefit district after consolidation. The Supervisor stated the fairest way would be if everybody was metered. Councilman Salerno stated he feels our rates are still far below other towns. Ms. Sprague went over the new rates for each district:

Water District #1	\$365.00 per unit/per year
Water District #2	\$375.00 per unit/per year
Water District #3	\$301.00 per unit/per year
Water District #3 Debt	\$103.00 per unit/per year
Water District #4	\$347.00 per unit/per year
Sewer District #1	\$261.00 per unit/per year
Sewer District #1 Debt	\$184.00 per unit/per year
Sewer District #2	\$296.00 per unit/per year
Sewer District #2 Debt	\$184.00 per unit/per year

Councilman Salerno reminded everyone that the Town Board has no control over the Assessor's. Councilman Anderson was good with the new rates.

The Supervisor thanked Jamie Wilson-Highway Superintendent for coming. He stated the highway tax levy is \$724,174; using \$75,575 out of fund balance. The Supervisor stated the tax levy is \$2,680,630 and it needs to be \$2,602,880; that's to get to 5%. Councilman Salerno asked what we would need to do to get to 1 ½ % and the Supervisor stated we will have to come up with some savings. Ms. Sprague stated we could cut \$22,000 by dropping the alerapay to 75%, dropping brush and weeds to \$5,000, getting rid of service to other governments and dropping snow and ice by \$10,000. Mr. Wilson stated he has \$1,100,000 in projected fund balance. The Supervisor stated Mr. Wilson is very careful about what he spends; we did not have to borrow a dime for all the FEMA projects. Ms. Sprague stated that would still leave \$702,174 to be raised by taxes; \$22,000 difference.

The Supervisor stated we still need to get rid of \$56,000 to get to the cap. Councilman Salerno stated again that he wants to get to 1 ½%. Ms. Sprague stated there is possible more savings in the general fund; get rid of the copier for the Court. Councilman Anderson stated take it out of

their budget, not the general fund. Ms. Sprague stated we could gain \$35,000 by getting rid of the grant writer. The Supervisor stated Councilman Gilbo wanted to try it for a year and we did; the Supervisor is not sold on her effort; she has applied for 30 grants and to date we have only received \$500. Councilman Curran stated he tried to get her to come here to see what she was dealing with. Councilman Salerno and Councilman Curran both want the position taken out of the budget. Councilman Anderson asked if she was contracted through the end of the year and the Supervisor said yes. The Supervisor brought up the part time position for building & grounds; we could get rid of it or decrease it. Councilman Salerno stated he wants to increase it; he feels it's needed during the summer. The Supervisor stated this would be a new position starting in 2026. Councilman Anderson stated he would like to try it for 12 weeks, not 18 weeks. The Supervisor stated it would be for June, July and August. Ms. Sprague stated it would cost \$18,000 for 6 months. Councilman Salerno stated he is confident we can get to 1 ½% with our fund balance and the revenues from the campsites. He stated some residents got hit hard by the new assessments. The Supervisor asked LeeAnn if the part time building & grounds person would be able to collect unemployment and Ms. Sprague was not sure. Jamie Wilson stated they do unemployment by quarters now; you don't want this person to be able to collect unemployment off of the town for that short period of time working. Councilman Anderson wants to table the part time building & grounds employee until we figure out the unemployment. Councilman Salerno asked what the pay rate would be for the part time building & grounds employee and Ms. Sprague stated it would be \$19.58/hr. Councilman Anderson wants to try it for 12 weeks. Councilman Curran was in agreement with this and to look in to the unemployment.

Ms. Sprague brought up health insurance for the part time property maintenance code officer. He gets a family health plan through the Town of Minerva and he works for 5 towns; the other 4 help pay his health insurance. It would cost the Town of Moriah \$6,513. Councilman Salerno asked if there were other employees in that situation and Ms. Sprague was not sure. The Supervisor stated he was afraid if we don't do it he will get done. Ms. Sprague stated the Board could agree to a single rate.

199. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Curran, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Curran
	Nays	0
	Absent	Gilbo

RESOLVED to contribute to the family health insurance plan for Collin Mangan; Property Maintenance Code Officer; payable to the Town of Minerva in the amount of \$6,513 for 2026.

Ms. Sprague stated another area where we could possibly save is the Chamber and the tractor for the campsites. The Supervisor stated if we drop the Chamber to \$40,000 we would still have to use that money for tourism. He stated if we cut \$7,000 we could use the money towards lifeguards. Councilman Salerno asked if the \$42,000 is payable to the Chamber all at once and Councilman Curran stated they get 15,000-20,000 up front; the rest gets spread out through the year for events. The Supervisor asked Councilman Curran if the office is staffed and Councilman Curran said yes, the office is open 3 days a week. The Supervisor asked Councilman Curran what they had for money right now and Councilman Curran stated \$22,000. The Supervisor asked if the Chamber would be ok if they were cut back to \$40,000 and Councilman Curran said yes.

Councilman Salerno wanted to know if the new tractor could be used for other departments and the Supervisor said yes, money will come out of the general fund so campsite and building & grounds could use it; should look for a decent used one.

Ms. Sprague brought up the Transfer Station; C & D container is going up to \$1,200 from \$800. Councilman Salerno stated we will have a \$20,000 deficit right off. He asked if we could charge more for non-resident people. Ms. Sprague stated she has done some checking and SERKIL is the lowest. Jamie Wilson stated C & D rates are high now; he feels the non-resident fee is a good idea. Councilman Anderson stated we will need to raise the rates anyway. Ms. Sprague feels revenues will be an issue at the Transfer Station until it is done by weight. The Supervisor stated Ms. Sprague has gone back 5 years in the C & D. Price per tire needs to be raised also. Councilman Salerno stated again fees should be more for non-resident people.

200. **ON MOTION** by Councilman Anderson, seconded by Councilman Curran, the following resolution was

APPROVED	Ayes	Brassard, Salerno, Anderson, Curran
	Nays	0
	Absent	Gilbo

RESOLVED to raise the price per tire up to 18" to \$10.50 per tire effective immediately.

Ms. Sprague stated with all the changes we are at \$2,604,705; still need to drop \$1,825.

Councilman Salerno asked if the Town funds the ambulance squad \$300,000, will we get \$100,000 from the County and the Supervisor said yes and we will have 24/7 coverage and the Town has full access to their records. Councilman Salerno asked when we would receive the \$100,000 from the County and the Supervisor stated in January.

Councilman Salerno asked how much extra we would need to take out of the fund balance and Ms. Sprague stated \$80,181 to get to 1 ½% on top of the \$181,175 we are already taking out of the general fund, fund balance. Total fund balance used at this time is \$501,053. Councilman Salerno stated again he wants to get to 1 ½%; the Supervisor asked where he wants to take the extra \$80,000 from and Councilman Salerno stated general fund.

Councilman Salerno states NYS goes over the tax cap and the Supervisor stated the tax cap rule strong arms the towns and counties.

The Board agreed on an additional budget workshop to be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 6pm at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Town Clerk