The Town of Moriah Town Board held a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

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

Others Present: Josh Gijanto, Tricia King and Joe Tucker-Moriah Ambulance Squad

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

He then read the legal notice calling for the budget workshop.

The Supervisor stated the tentative budget has all department requests in it.

He stated the health insurance went up 14 ½%. Retirement went up depending on what tier you are in. Salt went up. General Fund had 10% increase and Highway had 7.2% increase. This is without any fund balance used.

LeeAnn Sprague, Senior Account Clerk referred everyone to the Budget Workshop Notes handout. Councilman Gilbo asked what percentage of the 7.2% increase for the Highway Department was for wages. Ms. Sprague stated it is 37%.

The Supervisor stated there is $90,000 in the budget for a new truck for the Highway Garage. Councilman Gilbo asked if we would take out a BAN, we just paid one off, how much do we have to come up with and Ms. Sprague stated $40,000. $70,000 was used to get to the 7.2%.

Councilman Anderson asked if the fund balance would be applied and the Supervisor stated we can go up to $50,000 to stay under the cap as a whole. Councilman Anderson asked how we would pay for the truck and the Supervisor stated Mr. Wilson can buy it out of this year's budget. The Supervisor stated the $90,000 is state contract price. Ms. Sprague stated she would like to leave $40,000 in the highway budget for equipment. Councilman Salerno stated if we have to borrow $275,000 to get to the tax cap we should buy the truck now. Councilman Anderson stated yes, buy it this year. The Supervisor asked Mr. Wilson if he could drop the equipment down to $30,000 and Mr. Wilson stated he doesn't like to use it. The Board was fine with the new truck for the Highway Department. The Supervisor stated he will reach out the dealer and get it ordered. Councilman Gilbo asked if it had a plow and sander and the Supervisor said yes. Councilman Salerno encouraged all the Board members to go around to each department and look at all the equipment to see with their own eyes the condition of it.

Mr. Wilson stated he has 4 tandems and 4 pickup trucks for plowing, 3 of which stay in Port Henry. Councilman Gilbo asked what percentage we went up for salt and Ms. Sprague stated 10%. $799,822 to be raised by taxes without any fund balance; 2.16 per thousand, last year highway was 1.89 per thousand. The Supervisor stated we can take another $75,000 out of fund balance. Would drop the rate to 1.95 per thousand, the Board was in agreement with this. Councilman Gilbo asked Mr. Wilson if he still needed one more employee and Mr. Wilson said yes.

The Supervisor stated under General Fund the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad is partially funded through the Town and insurance reimbursement. The Ambulance Squad; Josh Gijanto, Tricia King and Joe Tucker are here tonight because they are almost out of money. They have billed out $150,000 in insurance but there is no guarantee they will get it; which has created a cash flow issue due to no fund balance in the department. They need another loan from the Town. Josh Gijanto, Captain stated they have not had an increase in billing in 2 years. Tricia King stated they will be short on money to make payroll. Councilman Salerno asked how much payroll is a pay period and Ms. King stated it is $8,500 a week. Ms. Sprague asked how many

payrolls can they cover and Ms. King stated they need money now to cover payroll. Councilman Salerno stated they are $80,000 short. He then asked Ms. Sprague how much is budgeted for the Ambulance Squad in 2027 and she said $366,500. Councilman Salerno asked about the $1,500 they get to transport for other Towns and Mr. Gijanto stated they lost the ability to do that because they don't have a Certificate of Need. It is $10,000 just for the application. Lamoille has it. Councilman Salerno asked the Board where they wanted to go with this. The Supervisor stated they need to get through 2026. Councilman Gilbo stated he fully supports helping them get the Certificate of Need. Councilman Curran stated it would cut the budget from the Town. Councilman Salerno asked how much money they need now. Councilman Anderson asked if they were looking for a loan. Councilman Salerno stated a contract needs to be drawn up and they have to pay so much a month. He asked what happens if they don't pay and the Supervisor stated they would go belly up; Town gets equipment. Councilman Gilbo asked how long it takes to get a Certificate of Need and Mr. Gijanto stated it can take quite a while. Councilman Gilbo stated give them the $10,000 tonight.

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

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

RESOLVED to give the Town of Moriah Ambulance Squad $90,000 ($80,000 short October, November & December and $10,000 for Certificate of Need Application) reduce 2027 appropriation by $80,000.

Ms. Sprague referred the Board to the Budget Workshop Notes. Any grants will need to be added to the budget going forward. Salaries increased by 4%. Deputy Supervisor requested $3,000 for Deputy Supervisor duties; the Board was in agreement with this. Judge Carpenter is requesting the Town pay him a stipend of $35 for his cell phone bill; the Board said no. The Supervisor has requested an increase in his salary by $5,000; the board said no, 4% like everybody else. Need to increase Independent Auditing to $25,800, this amount was quoted by CPA; we were over budget this year. The Supervisor stated instead of splitting the budget officer salary with Ms. Sprague, she should get $6,756 and he will get $1,000; she does 90% of the work; the Board was in agreement with this.

Ms. Sprague stated Building & Grounds has requested a bucket truck to be split between Building & Grounds, Highway and the Campsites, a new pickup and a bigger trailer. Mr. Wilson stated he wants to be involved in the decision making on a bucket truck. Councilman Salerno wants Building & Grounds to present something to the Board of what they are looking for. Councilman Curran stated we could split a bucket truck with Crown Point and Westport. The Supervisor stated it is called shared services. Mr. Wilson stated we have tried that before and nobody ever wants to fix anything and they start pointing fingers regarding maintenance. Councilman Gilbo stated the Town needs to look at a tow behind manlift. He would never support a bucket truck; you have to have special certificates to operate one. Councilman Salerno stated if we bought one we could rent it out to make money. The Board agreed to leave $10,000 in the budget to rent a bucket truck.

The Supervisor stated Building & Grounds wants a trailer for $3,000 and a new truck for Tim Breeyear. County is currently working on his truck right now; it is in rough shape; they will get it up and running then it will go to the campsite. The Board was in agreement with getting a new pickup for Building & Grounds.

The Supervisor stated the Town received a sales tax check from the County for $90,000; can't be used to reduce taxes; he asked the Board what they wanted to do with it and Councilman Anderson stated buy a truck and Councilman Gilbo stated we should look at playground equipment. Councilman Salerno asked when the train was going to be painted and the Supervisor stated in the Spring. Ms. Sprague will add $5,000 in the budget for the train under beautification.

239. **ON MOTION** by Supervisor Brassard, seconded by Councilman Gilbo, the following resolution was

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

RESOLVED to hold a Budget Workshop on the 2027 Budget on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 6:00pm ***AND*** Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Town of Moriah Town Hall, 38 Park Place, Port Henry, NY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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Town Clerk