

VILLAGE OF MORRICE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MORRICE VILLAGE HALL

This Meeting was held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of Executive Order No. 2020-75 of the Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan.

Tuesday, September 08, 2020

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 09/22/20)

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Harold Dickerson.

Council Members Present: Belinda Markell, Philip Hruska, Cathy Mulholland, Robert Peterson, Todd Scott, Phyllis Dickerson, and Harold Dickerson.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Attorney: John Gormley, Police Chief: Matt Balsley, and Clerk: Karen McGuire.

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.3 Halloween

11.4 Employee Health Insurance

11.5 Offer on Lagoon Sprayer

11.6 Pump for Lagoons

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, T. Scott, R. Peterson, C. Mulholland, P. Hruska, B. Markell, H. Dickerson.  
Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to approve the July 28, 2020 minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, C. Mulholland, T. Scott, R. Peterson, B. Markell, H. Dickerson.  
Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

No Report.

### 9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

### 9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

1. Hruska announced that Jeff Philips will be starting on the sidewalks sometime next week.
1. Dickerson asked if the road project is done or not. P. Hruska said there is quite a bit of work to do before they are done. He is staying in contact with Marty at Wolverine. The substantial completion deadline is coming up soon and if the work is not completed by then the contractor will be required to pay the Village for each day it is not done.

### 9.4 Sewer / Codes

800. Dickerson reported that the flow meter has been installed and is operating but the readings seem kind of low. The lagoon operator is thinking the pump might not have enough pressure to release the water as efficiently as it might. Having talked to Michigan Valley Irrigation a new pump will cost around \$7,800.00. Add new pump to the agenda.

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MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P Hruska to amend the approved agenda by adding 11.6 Pump for Lagoons.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, B. Markell, P. Hruska, R. Peterson, C. Mulholland, T. Scott, H. Dickerson.  
Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

1. Dickerson would like to look into using the lagoon building for storage for some of the Village files.

#### 9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

#### 9.6 SSES

No Report.

#### 9.7 Homecoming

No Report.

#### 9.8 Budget

No Report. The Budget Committee needs to set a meeting soon.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 10.1 Work Share Program / Reduced Hours

1. Hruska said that the Budget Committee will probably want to stick to the January 2nd end date. So far there have been no concrete numbers from the State regarding unemployment or the Cares Act reimbursement. M. Balsley brought up the fact that the employees have been working reduced hours for 13 weeks now and according to the numbers B. Swett had presented the saving should be a substantial amount by now. The Budget Committee will review and bring a recommendation back to the Board. Everyone understands that each employees' financial circumstance is different. Clerk will talk to Swett about getting a meeting scheduled.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 11.1 Transfer Station – Tires and Used Oil

1. Dickerson talked to the Transfer Station operator and he recommends no longer taking used oil. We used to get paid to recycle the oil but now we must pay to have it tested before it can be hauled away and are then charged 25¢ per gallon. The Transfer Station charges 50¢ a gallon to take the oil. It is a big liability if it should get contaminated.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by B. Markell to stop taking in used oil at the Transfer Station.

Roll Call: Ayes: B. Markell, R. Peterson, T. Scott, C. Mulholland, P. Dickerson, H. Dickerson.

Nays: P. Hruska. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Clerk will get a notice on the website and social media.

2. Dickerson explained that we are charged \$2.50 per passenger tire and \$3.00 or more for larger tires when they are hauled away. The Transfer Station operator suggested that we raise our charge to \$5.00 per tire.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to raise the price for tires received at the Transfer Station to \$5.00 per tire.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, C. Mulholland, T. Scott, R. Peterson, B. Markell, H. Dickerson.

Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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There was discussion about the need to keep the signs at the Transfer Station current with the price changes. H. Dickerson will make a sign about the oil.

#### 11.2 ORV Ordinance

Chief Balsley explained that residents of Jewel Estates are riding dirt bikes on their own private property in a fenced in yard. They are noisy and dusty, and the houses are very close together. There have been several complaints from other residents. Chief has been in discussion with our attorneys and found that our current ordinances do not meet this particular situation, so we need a new ordinance or need to amend what we have. To amend the noise ordinance the Village would have to set a decibel level for what is acceptable and what is not. There was discussion about buying a machine to measure the noise and needing to measure various common noise makers; mowers, chain saws, etc. to set the level. Chief Balsley will check into the cost for a meter and see about borrowing a machine to get the initial required measurements.

#### 11.3 Halloween

1. Mulholland asked about plans for Halloween in the Village. Chief Balsley would like to set the hours at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on October 31st. Parents will be responsible to ensure the use of masks and social distancing.

There will be no costume contest or cider and donuts at the Fire Hall this year. Will get information posted on the website and social media.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to set the Halloween hours at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31.

Roll Call: Ayes: B. Markell, R. Peterson, T. Scott, C. Mulholland, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, H. Dickerson.

Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

#### 11.4 Employee Health Insurance

17. Hruska explained that an employee must be removed from the Village's current HSA health insurance plan due to the age restrictions. Section 17.1 of the Personnel Manual says that the Village can approve and pay for a substitute plan for a regular full-time employee. The substitute plan would be a substantial savings for the Village. The employee would no longer be eligible for the quarterly contributions to employees' HSA accounts made by the Village. The State and the Village budget limit the amount that can be spent on employee health insurance. P. Hruska recommended up to \$525.00 per month, reimbursement only, for the employee's substitute plan. Gormley reviewed the Personnel Manual and advised that the action can be made by either a motion or a resolution.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to reimburse employee, K. McGuire, up to \$525.00 per month for the substitute health insurance plan.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, C. Mulholland, T. Scott, R. Peterson, B. Markell, H. Dickerson.

Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

#### 11.5 Offer on Lagoon Sprayer

500. Dickerson reported that the lagoon property farmer is interested in the old irrigation rig. He offered \$3,500.00. It is larger than what he needs. Valley Irrigation thought it could be sold for \$10,000.00 – \$15,000.00 but so far, no other offers have been received. P. Hruska suggested a counteroffer of \$5,000.00. H. Dickerson will talk to the farmer. No further action was taken.

#### 11.6 Pump for Lagoons

Considering what was discussed in Committee Reports regarding the new lagoon pump it was decided to move forward with the purchase approval.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to authorize up to \$12,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a new pump for the lagoon sprayer.

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Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Review Financial Statements / Pay Bills

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to pay the bills as presented. (List Attached.)

Roll Call: Ayes: B. Markell, R. Peterson, T. Scott, C. Mulholland, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, H. Dickerson.

Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments: Krista Latham, who lives in Jewel Estates, explained the noise issue with the dirt bikes and trying to work from home. Most lots are about 90' x 150' and they are close together. She has tried talking to the property owners. She said she appreciated the discussion and comments. Six – eight other neighbors are banding together to try to get something resolved. Several of the neighbors spoke too.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by C. Mulholland to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, C. Mulholland, T. Scott, R. Peterson, B. Markell, H. Dickerson.

Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President

Karen McGuire, Clerk