

VILLAGE OF MORRICE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
VILLAGE HALL

Meeting was held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic,  
under the authority of Senate Bill 1108.

January 19, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
(Approved 02/09/21)

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Harold Dickerson.

Council Members Present Virtually: Belinda Markell (from a residence in Morrice), Todd Scott (from a residence in Morrice), Phyllis Dickerson (from Village Hall), Robert Peterson (from a residence in Morrice), Philip Hruska (from Village Hall), Harold Dickerson (from Village Hall), and Cathy Mulholland (from Burcham Hills in East Lansing).

Absent: None.

Also Present Virtually: Attorney: Chris Johnson (from office in Fowlerville), Police Chief: Matt Balsley (from a residence in Owosso), Treasurer: Brian Swett (from a residence in Morrice), and Clerk: Karen McGuire (from Village Hall).

Guest Comments on Agenda Items: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the agenda.

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

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 5.1 DPW Employee

H. Dickerson explained that the Personnel Committee did 4 or 5 interviews and had one person that they wanted to hire. During the interviews they gave a wage range that would depend on experience. When they called to offer the candidate the job, he decided that the wage offered was not enough. Some of the interviewees are already working and making more than we could offer. There was discussion about reviewing the wage range and possibly offering a more experienced candidate a higher wage irrespective of what other employees are currently earning. It was decided to advertise the position again.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 6.1 Work Share Program

B. Swett explained that the Federal government has extended additional unemployment funding of \$300.00 per week through March 14th. This would be paid, in addition to the State unemployment, with participation in the Work Share Program. The Village full-time employees returned to regular hours on January 3rd, but the Village's Work Share account is still valid if it is decided to take advantage of this funding and reduce employee hours again. There are four pay periods in this time frame and the eight-hour reduction in hours would save the Village 20% of wages. With the additional Federal funding full-time employees won't be harmed by working four days rather than five days per week. The Budget Committee recommends extending participation in the Work Share Program beginning this week and continuing through March 14th.

H. Dickerson explained a recent meeting with the City of Perry Mayor and Police Chief regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement. Perry officers came here more times than Village officers went there. He wondered what effect reducing employee hours will have on the agreement going forward. Chief Balsley explained the breakdown of the responses. He will talk to the Perry Mayor and Police Chief to explain the calls and to let them know that we are reducing hours again. If they are totally against the reduction of

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hours, he won't reduce his hours. He feels maintaining the agreement is important for both municipalities. P. Hruska explained that this is not an all or nothing program. Some employees can work reduced hours while others may not. T. Scott asked if we are at the point with the budget that we need to reduce hours and services. Scott questioned reducing hours and then providing hazard pay compensation. B. Swett replied that in this current-year budget the Village is coming out ahead but going forward will have to look for cuts. The State is talking about needing to reduce Revenue Sharing in the future. There is no way to know what is going to happen in the future, but he suggested that it would not be a good idea to not take these funds now.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by C. Mulholland to have the full-time employees participate in the Work Share Program from now through March 14th.

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

Guest Comments: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President  
Karen McGuire, Clerk