

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Meeting was held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of Senate Bill 1108 executed by the Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 03/09/21)

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

Council Members Present: Phyllis Dickerson (from Village Hall), Todd Scott (from a residence in Morrice), Belinda Markell (from a residence in Morrice), Philip Hruska (from Morrice Police Department), Robert Peterson (from a residence in Morrice), and Harold Dickerson (from Village Hall).

Absent: None.

Also Present: 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).

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 12.5 Raises
12.6 Cathy's Position
12.7 Road Funding

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

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

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

Special Guests: Our Morrice Bar – Sewer Late Fees

Robert Opsommer explained the situation with the bar and asked the Board to consider waiving the late fees due to the pandemic. He also asked about zoning requirements to add on to the building. He was notified that AGS will have to be consulted for zoning information. No action was taken regarding late fees.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Property Tax Millage to Support Budget – 2021 - 2022

President Dickerson opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public regarding property tax millage. There were no comments. President Dickerson closed the Public Hearing.

9.2 2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget

President Dickerson opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public regarding the 2021 – 2022 proposed budget. Treasurer Swett explained the main changes to the upcoming budget. The General Fund property tax revenue and the web site expense were both increased. In the Sewer Fund the loan payments from the Street Funds were added. In the Major Street Fund the transfer from Municipal Street was increased. There were no other significant changes to any of the other Funds. With no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed at 6:14 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reported that with the huge amount of snow and extreme cold he didn't give any snow removal notices. Today he will post them at the vacant houses that are always an issue.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

10.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report.

10.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report.

10.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

10.6 SESA

No Report.

10.7 Homecoming

No Report.

10.8 Budget

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 Security

Chief Balsley reported that he did some more research but needs direction from the Board as there are so many options available and varying costs. He advises at least motion lights and locking the gate at the lagoon building. He suggested lights and cameras at the DPW building and Village Hall and possibly adding lights and siren at the Transfer Station. Chief Balsley and President Dickerson will look into possibilities and costs.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 2020 – 2021 Budget Amendments

Treasurer Swett explained that he compared the actual income and expenses for the fiscal year to the 2020-2021 budget and made adjustments to cover increases in expenses. He used this information to create the revised budget presented.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the 2020 – 2021 Budget Amendments as presented.

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

12.2 Set Property Tax Millage Rate for 2021 – 2022

There will be no changes to the current property tax millage rate.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the Property Tax Millage Rate for 2021 – 2022.

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

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12.3 Adopt 2021 – 2022 Budget

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the 2021 – 2022 Budgets for all Funds, as presented.

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

12.4 Check Signer

With C. Mulholland's passing the Village needs to appoint a new alternative check signer.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to approve Robert Peterson as a check signer for the Village.

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

12.5 Raises

R. Peterson explained the Police wages request that was in Council packets. There was discussion. Treasurer Swett advised that wage increases are included in the new budget but need to be approved individually. H. Dickerson explained that wage increases should go through the Personnel Committee before being presented to the Board. It was decided to bring this back to the next meeting before action is taken.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to TABLE and send to the Personnel Committee for recommendations. Treasurer Swett will work with the Committee to get something ready to bring back to the next meeting.

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

12.6 Cathy's Position

C. Mulholland's term on the Board was for four years, she was just re-elected in November 2020, and she was also the Pro-Tem. She served on the Budget Committee and the SSES Board too. B. Markell asked for information regarding Trustee requirements to serve.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by H. Dickerson to appoint T. Scott to the Pro-Tem position.

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

Clerk will put an ad in the paper for the vacant position.

12.7 Road Funding

P. Hruska reported that he just received information from Don Heck, at Wolverine Engineering, regarding MDOT Grants available for 2022. He would like to go to the DDA to start the process and would like the Road Committee to meet to see about projects for this year. He is asking for approval to move forward with the process. All agreed that he should pursue the funding and projects.

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments:

Attorney Johnson gave information regarding the sewer late fees and Resolutions in effect. There was discussion but no changes made at this time.

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MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk