

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, March 09, 2021

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 04/13/21)

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 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: John Gormley (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: 12.4 Amend Resolution No. 20-08

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

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

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by H. Dickerson to approve the February 23, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

Special Guests: Troy Parmalee – Perry Township Treasurer

T. Parmalee will explain the Special Assessment process and answer questions.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Special Assessment District and Costs – Ambulance Service

President Dickerson turned the floor over to T. Parmalee and opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public.

T. Parmalee explained that each municipality must figure out how to pay for ambulance services. When there was talk about the ambulance fees being raised the Village began considering the process for special assessing to cover the costs. The cost has been \$45.00 per unit for about 20 years but is going to increase to \$65.00 per unit. The first step was to put the question on the ballot. The Village put the question on the ballot in November and it passed. Notices went out and were published in the newspaper announcing this hearing and the intent to establish a special assessment district as well as the costs and length of term involved. With 432 units assessed \$65.00 annually \$28,080.00 will be collected each year. He suggested if the Village decides to extend the term in the future even years should be used to avoid paying for a special election. If the rate continues to increase and the Village needs to increase the assessment amount if it is not over a 10% increase it can be done by Resolution but if it is over a 10% increase there would have to be one Public Hearing held before enacting the increase. The assessed funds will be due at Village tax time, which go out in June and are due in September. The money is paid to SSES in monthly payments. SSES goes by the calendar year for finances. This summer's Village tax payments will be for

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the start of 2022 yearly payments to SSESAs.

There were no public comments. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:14 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reported that the received calls report for last month was in the packets. He reminded everyone that the no parking on streets snow ordinance is still in effect until April 1st. School is virtual until March 15th.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

H. Dickerson reported that R. Tribley is working Mondays and Tuesdays. The new employee is doing well.

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 SSESAs

H. Dickerson explained that with C. Mulholland's passing the Village needs a new representative on the SSESAs Board. R. Peterson is interested and would like to serve on the Board. Clerk will let SSESAs know.

10.7 Homecoming

No Report.

10.8 Budget

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 Security

Chief Balsley and H. Dickerson met to discuss options for the Village. They are still working toward what will work out best. Their suggestions so far are changing outside lights to LEDs to brighten up the areas, installing cameras at the Village Hall and the Lagoons, and locking the gates at the Transfer Station and the Lagoons.

11.2 Raises and HSA Contributions

P. Dickerson explained that the Personnel Committee met to consider wage increases. They recommend a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for the Police Chief, the Police Sergeant, the Clerk, and the Transfer Station Operator. They also recommend increasing the Treasurer's salary to \$390.00 per month.

Treasurer Swett explained that the increases for the Treasurer, Clerk, and Transfer Station Operator are not in the new budget. The Police Department and the DPW wage increases are already worked into the new budget.

T. Scott questioned the wage increases in addition to the recent bonuses. B. Swett explained that the Work Share program has saved the Village payroll dollars.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by B. Markell to approve a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for the Police Chief and the Police Sergeant effective 03/15/21.

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

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for the Clerk effective 03/01/21.

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

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by B. Markell to amend the previous Motion regarding the Police wages to approve the Police Chief's and the Police Sergeant's \$1.00 per hour wage increases be effective 03/01/21.

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

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by H. Dickerson to approve a \$1.00 per hour wage increase for the Transfer Station Operator effective 03/01/21.

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

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to approve a salary increase to \$390.00 per month for the Treasurer effective 03/01/21.

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

The HSA contributions have been included in the new budget. The Budget Committee recommends increasing the quarterly contribution from \$100.00 per quarter to \$125.00 per quarter for the full-time employees as there are less employees currently on the plan.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to raise the HSA employer contributions to \$125.00 per quarter per eligible full-time employee.

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

11.3 Road Funding

P. Hruska explained that the Road Funding information is in two parts – this year's Morrice Road project and the 2022 Grant project.

This year the Road Committee would like to have work done on Morrice Road from Mason Street to Lansing Road. The total cost will be approximately \$99,000.00; engineering costs will be about 15% of the project. The DDA will contribute \$30,000.00, \$20,000.00 will come from the Municipal Street Fund, \$14,000.00 will come from the Transfer Station Fund, and \$35,000.00 will come from the Major Street Fund. The Village will be paying cash for this project as we are still paying on the loan from the last project. This project will be a total rebuild as Morrice Road is 1 – 2 feet short in width in some areas. P. Hruska is asking for authorization to get bids out for this project. There was discussion about opening the bids at the Township Hall to allow for social distancing.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to approve spending up to \$99,000.00, including the \$30,000.00 DDA contribution, this year to repave Morrice Road from Mason Street to Lansing Road.

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

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2022 Road Grant

The Road Committee recommends applying for the MDOT Category B Grant to complete work on Morrice Road as well as work on Davis Street (Morrice Rd. to Main St.), Melladee Lane (Morrice Rd. to Emerald Way), Hickory Street (Melladee Lane to North End), and Third Street (Morrice Road to Main Street). Total cost of this project will be approximately \$393,307.00. The grant is 50/50 matching. The Village will pay one half the costs plus all the engineering costs of \$58,997.00 for a total cost of \$255,651.00. The DDA will contribute \$50,000.00 toward the cost of this project. Road Funds will borrow from the Sewer Fund to pay for the project. It will take about eight years to pay off the loan with the same payment amounts as currently being paid. There will be about two years left on the current Street millage. The Village can back out of the grant process if it's necessary. Should find out about the grant award in September or October with work starting at the beginning of the following year.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve submitting the 2022 Grant application as amended.

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

11.4 Website Redesign

Chief Balsley explained that the new company working with the website took the old design and changed it up a little. They will take input from the Website Committee. J. Gormley share the mock-up via Zoom. P. Hruska asked if the site will be searchable. M. Balsley will check.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Special Assessment District and Costs – Ambulance Service

J. Gormley presented a Resolution for review. There were some typos and grammatical errors that will be corrected.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to approve the Resolution of Village of Morrice Ambulance Special Assessment District as presented, with corrections to be completed.

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

12.2 Work Share Program

Treasurer Swett explained that we need to make sure that employees can get their work done with reduced hours. The DPW has returned to 40-hour weeks beginning March 1st. Chief Balsley reported that the Police Department is ready to go back to full-time but will do whatever the Board wants. The Clerk would like to remain on the reduced hours with the Work Share Program. T. Scott asked if the Police should remain on the Program for a bit longer to help the budget. There was discussion.

MOTION by B. Markell, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the Police Department returning to 40-hour weeks, the DPW remaining on 40-hour weeks, and the Clerk continuing the 32-hour weeks with the Work Share Program beginning March 15th.

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

12.3 March 23rd Meeting

H. Dickerson explained that going forward the Board will be able to meet in person with pandemic protocols in place. If there is no pressing matter the next meeting can be canceled. P. Hruska explained that the road bids may require the second meeting of the month to be rescheduled if it is canceled. There was discussion regarding continuing virtual meetings or meeting in person at the Perry Township Hall.

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Future meetings will be held at the Township Hall.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to cancel the March 23rd Council meeting.

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

12.4 Amend Resolution 20-08

H. Dickerson explained that at the last meeting an error was found in Resolution 20-08. Item #2 reads through August 31, 2021 where it should read through August 31, 2020. The correction needs to be made.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve amending Resolution 20-08 so that item #2 reads through August 31, 2020.

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

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to pay the bills as presented. (List Attached.)

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

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments:

B. Markell asked if the Village had any information about Consumers Power cutting more trees along Morrice Road. H. Dickerson explained that they cut trees for placing the new electric poles and the line cuts through the park, so they probably won't be cutting trees any further along Morrice Road.

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 7:21 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk