

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
PERRY TOWNSHIP HALL

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
6:00 p.m.
(Approved 05/25/21)

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Harold Dickerson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: None.

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the April 13, 2021 minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: Greater Laingsburg Recyclers – Todd Brewer and David Draggoo

Mr. Brewer and Mr. Draggoo explained that there has been drop off recycling in Laingsburg for 32 years. This organization is working toward building a permanent recycling center in Laingsburg that would serve Shiawassee and Clinton counties. They have partnered with Laingsburg Schools and the City of Laingsburg. They have applied for and received an EGLE grant and a Cook Family Foundation grant. They have a GoFundMe Campaign and are seeking other options to meet their financial goals. To date they are still about \$30,000.00 short. They are asking the Village to consider pledging \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 toward completion of the building phase and a similar amount for the operating fund annually.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley presented the Complaints Response Report for April. He said with the spring weather he has received noisy roosters and tall grass complaints. There are five more weeks of school.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

9.6 SSES

P. Dickerson gave the March run report.

9.7 Homecoming

No Report.

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9.8 Budget
No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 ORV Ordinance
TABLED.

10.2 Main Street Lots

J. Gormley presented an Ordinance to approve the sale of Village owned property. T. Scott asked if we could get “dance” studio clarified a little further. J. Gormley explained only certain uses are allowed in the Village and anything other than that would not be approved for building through AGS. One typo was pointed out.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the Ordinance, as presented, with the one correction to be made.

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

10.3 Police Officer

Chief Balsley reiterated that Sgt. Hruska was done with full-time employment on May 2nd and will no longer be employed by the Village at the end of the month. He has had the position posted for over a month with no qualified applicants responding. There are over 100 departments looking for officers including many in the surrounding areas. Chief would like to consider hiring one or two part-timers at \$18.00 per hour to get some shifts covered. Part-time employees don't get any employment benefits. He will update the ad but also leave the full-time position open. B. Markell asked about a possible neighborhood watch.

10.4 Sealing the Transfer Station Cement Pad

T. Scott has contacted the contractor, D. Hulett, who will be able to seal the pad within the month. They will give advance notice as the pad will need to be power washed before they can start.

10.5 Homecoming Festival

H. Dickerson explained the need to cancel the Festival again this year. With the ongoing pandemic and no fundraising done last year it is just not feasible for this year.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to cancel the Homecoming Festival for 2021.

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

There was discussion about Park activities going forward. There is usually some activity for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. The Park Committee has dwindled down to only Sandy Michalek. Belinda Markell, Phil Hruska, and Brandy Gutting volunteered to sit on the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Amend Lagoon Property Rental Contract

The contract will be amended to include tilling no more than 12 inches. J. Gormley will bring a draft to the next meeting.

11.2 Morrice Meadows' Water System

Clerk explained that Joelle McGinnis from Morrice Meadows had contacted her. As part of the park's annual licensing procedures they need documentation that the Village does not want to own or operate their water system. They need to be able to show that there was discussion at a Council meeting or will Village of Morrice

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accept a letter from the Village president stating that there is no desire to own or operate the water system.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the Village President sending a letter stating that the Village has no desire to own or operate the Morrice Meadows water system.

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

Absent: None. Motion carried.

11.3 Sale of Roto-Mill

H. Dickerson explained that there are a lot of millings left from road projects. He explained some ideas of how to distribute it to Village residents. P. Hruska explained his issues will selling it before taking care of Village projects through the next two years. It should be applied to the road shoulders every year and there was previously talk about building a parking lot at the Park. He suggested the DPW look for equipment to use to spread the millings. G. Gutting offered \$5.00 per yard for all he can get. No action was taken.

11.4 Morrice Bar Proposal

The Morrice Bar presented a proposal for permission to hold an outside event. They would like to have a classic rock band perform outside at the Bar on Saturday, May 15th from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. They will use the same pandemic safety precautions they used at their last special event back in October. The Police Department didn't have any problems then and there were no citizens complaints.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to approve the May 15th outside venue proposal presented by The Morrice Bar.

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

Absent: None. Motion carried.

11.5 Consider Planning Commission Recommendation – Zoning Text Amendment

At it's April 28th meeting the Planning Commission considered the Petition for a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance submitted by Glen and Brandy Gutting in February 2021. The Petition was to permit "Self Storage, AKA, Mini Storage within M-1 Industrial District." The Commission recommends to the Village Council that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to allow Self-Storage Units as a Use by Right in both the M-1 Industrial Zone and the B-2 Highway Services Zone. There was much discussion about allowing the storage units as a Use by Right or by Special Use Permit. J. Gormley suggested that Guttings submit a Special Use Permit so that both Use by Right and Special Use could be considered at the Public Hearing. As a Public Hearing requires a 15-day notice to surrounding properties and newspaper publication the Hearing will take place during the regular Council meeting on June 6th at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to waive the Special Use Permit application fee for Guttings as they have already paid for the Text Amendment application and the Zoning Ordinance needs updated.

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

Absent: None. Motion carried.

11.6 Approve new DDA/PC Members

The DDA sent a letter recommending that to fill Board vacancies the Village Council appoint the following Morrice community members to their Board: Dan Munro, Bob Opsommer, Glen Gutting.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to appoint Dan Munro, Bob Opsommer, and

Glen Gutting to the DDA/PC Board.

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

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11.7 Adopt DDA Rules and Procedures

At their April 28th meeting the DDA officially adopted The Morrice Downtown Development Authority Rules of Procedure and asked that Council do the same. A copy was included in the Council packets for review.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to adopt The Morrice Downtown Development Authority Rules of Procedure as presented.

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

11.8 Bank

There has been talk, but nothing official, that the Morrice branch of TCF Bank is closing at the end of summer or early fall. The Village needs to decide how and where future banking will be done. It was suggested that we find out from the bank what their intension is for the building and that we check with Justin Horvath of SEDP about finding a replacement business for the building.

11.9 May 25th Meeting

The meeting will be held at Perry Township Hall as scheduled.

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments:

It was mentioned that the property for the condos is back up for sale. They apparently didn't pre-sell any units. It has been listed to buy an individual condo or to buy all of the project. Building costs going up and not being readily available may be a hinderance to the project.

R. Peterson reported that as part of the Street Committee he attended the recent GLV Region V Rural Task Force meeting held via Zoom. The meeting was to discuss the MDOT announcement that FY 2021 Highway Infrastructure Program Covid Relief funding is available. Shiawassee County will be receiving \$251,542.00 and Lapeer County is receiving \$359,121.00. The meeting was to discuss what type of projects will be funded, how to distribute the funds, how to prioritize projects, and the process for agencies that have boundaries in both counties. There were 23 agencies present. If the funds are divided equally each agency would get about \$26,550.00. The larger entities, road commissions and mass transits, did not like that idea. The equally divided amount is not enough for them to do anything. For small agencies the equally divided amount would be a big boost to their budgets. The decision was TABLED, and it was decided that another meeting will be scheduled to make the decisions.

B. Markell commented that Morrice Road looks good.

Beth Andrus commented that for the next road project they need to mark the detour and have better signage for the project.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk