

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 12/14/21)

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Todd Scott.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: Harold Dickerson.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.9 MTF Funds

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the October 12, 2021, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reported that the radar speed sign is up and running. T. Scott explained that the Transfer Station pad has still not been sealed.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report. P. Hruska mentioned that the Road Committee needs to set a meeting to discuss sidewalks.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report. The DDA/Planning Commission is meeting tomorrow.

9.6 SESA

No Report.

9.7 Homecoming

No Report.

9.8 Budget

The Committee met on October 19th. All the Funds are below budget at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 Zoning Ordinance

Board members will continue to look for ideas for revising the Zoning Ordinance and bring them back to

Council for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Employee Christmas Bonuses

The Budget Committee presented a proposal for 2021 employee Christmas bonuses which T. Scott read aloud to Council. The bonuses ranged from \$50.00 to \$250.00, totaled \$1,400.00, and will be paid with the last payroll in November.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the bonuses as recommended.

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

Abstain: P. Dickerson. Absent: H. Dickerson. Motion carried.

11.2 Approve Annual Financial Report – Fiscal Year Ending 02/28/21

Treasurer, B. Swett, briefly reviewed the report from Gabridge & Company. Fund balances are up from the previous year. The Village received an unqualified opinion – a clean report.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to accept the financial report as presented.

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

Absent: H. Dickerson. Motion carried.

11.3 Treasurer Position

B. Swett explained that he talked to H. Dickerson after the last meeting to let him know that he intends to resign at the end of the year. The treasurer duties involve working about 15-20 hours per month. A replacement will need, at least, bookkeeping experience and be computer savvy. B. Swett is willing to work with the new hire and will sit in on interviews. Clerk will place an ad, and someone will call other municipalities regarding their treasurers. Police will run a background check on prospective new hire.

11.4 Lagoon Liner

T. Scott explained that an animal has damage one of the lagoon liners. S. Hughes, the lagoon operator, has contacted someone to make the repairs. An estimate of \$26,000.00 for repairs from Scott Morehouse of Lansing was presented. Hughes also would like someone to hunt or trap the animals, he believes are muskrats, to prevent further damage. J. Gormley suggested Board members do some research to see who might be available to get rid of the animals and bring the information back to the next meeting.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to authorize the President to sign the agreement and approve spending up to \$30,000.00 to repair the liner.

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

Absent: H. Dickerson. Motion carried.

11.5 Replace Flail Mower

The DPW's flail mower is old and needs to be replaced. They submitted a quote for a new John Deere flail mower from Hutson, Inc. for \$3,850.00 (\$5,350.00 minus \$1,500.00 for the trade in of two non-working mowers). Cost would be paid out of the Motor Pool Fund.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the quote and trade in of the old equipment.

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

Absent: H. Dickerson. Motion carried.

11.6 Police Position

Chief Balsley explained that P. Hruska is interested in coming back to the Department. Balsley met and discussed the situation with the Personnel Committee and requested that J. Gormley prepare a draft of a

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Resolution to re-hire P. Hruska. With the approval of this Resolution no adjustments are needed to the Personnel Manual. This will be a one-time exception to the manual. There was discussion. It was decided that P. Hruska will be re-hired November 15th at the same position, wages, and benefits as when he left employment in May 2021.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the Resolution as written.

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

11.7 Patrol Vehicle

Chief Balsley explained that the Dodge is on its last legs. It has low mileage but is thirteen years old. Right now, they need to spend about \$1,000.00 for struts and front-end work. It is not unsafe to drive but is noisy. Cost is approximately \$43,000.00 for a new vehicle. There is about \$10,000.00 in the police budget for a down payment, but the remaining balance would have to be financed. There may be a grant available for 10-12% funding. Would also be able to sell the Dodge and apply that money to the cost of a replacement vehicle. Currently there is an 18-20 week waiting period for new orders. Chief Balsley will bring more information to Council. No need to act now but he wanted the Board to know it will need replacing before too long.

11.8 November 23rd Meeting

No pressing matters for the next scheduled meeting.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to cancel the November 23rd meeting.

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

11.9 MTF Funds

P. Hruska explained that he and R. Peterson attended the Shiawassee County Rural Task Force Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) meeting for COVID Relief Funding. There is \$251,542.00 available for Shiawassee County with about \$99,000.00 of that available for small towns and villages. This money is 100% federal, no local match is required. They asked for \$15,000.00 for Morrice Road work. P. Hruska said however, that after discussing with the engineer, it would be easier and less costly to ask for the \$8,441.23 in MTF funds not received. Final authorization will be in December. The Village will need to submit for revenue lost or amend the Morrice Road MDOT application before then.

MOTION by B. Markell, seconded by P. Dickerson to apply for the lost MTF revenue of \$8,441.23.

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

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence:

Set Budget Committee meeting for December 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Guest Comments: Nancy Peterson asked about the maintenance around the outside of Village Hall. There was discussion. There are many weeds, and the sign needs to be scraped and painted. There was some confusion about the message currently on the board.

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MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by P. Hruska to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President Pro-Tem
Karen McGuire, Clerk