

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 01/11/22)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: Andy Flynn.

Also Present: Attorney: John Gormley, Police Chief: Matt Balsley, Treasurer: Brian Swett, DPW: Andrew Wiseley, Hayden Bradberry, and Clerk: Karen McGuire.

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.4 Mailer

Guest Comments on the Agenda: Beth Andrus, representing the Planning Commission, commented on item 10.1 the Zoning Ordinance. They adamantly believe the Ordinance needs to be rewritten. There are many sections that are not relevant to the Village, and they have issues every time they try to review and/or approve anything.

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

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to approve the November 9, 2021, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: Scott Truman, Granger

Mr. Truman presented an overview of the Granger company and the services they can provide. The Village contract expires at the end of February. He inquired about whether the Village will put the service out for bid or will just negotiate with Granger to renew the contract. The end of the contract is about 75 days out so it would be a tight window for the bid process, but Granger could work out a month-to-month billing if necessary. The Village has had two five-year contracts with Granger. Granger would consider working out a ten-year contract. New prices will be higher than current contract prices. It was suggested that a committee meet with Mr. Truman to work out the next contract terms and bring them back to Council for approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley provided printouts with the radar speed stats, both with and without the speed displayed. The display did slow drivers down. He suggested getting another sign sometime in the future. He also presented the November Complaints Response Report

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report. H. Dickerson introduced the DPW employees: A. Wiseley and H. Bradberry. T. Scott thanked them for their hard work.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

H. Dickerson reported that the lagoon liner repair is completed.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA
No Report.

9.6 SSES
P. Dickerson gave the October run report. The ambulance employees have voted to join a union.

9.7 Homecoming
No Report.

9.8 Budget
B. Swett explained that the Committee met last week. They got quite a lot done on the budget for next fiscal year but have more work to do before presenting it to the Board. The next Budget Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 4th at 6:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 Zoning Ordinance
No action taken at this time.

10.2 Treasurer Position
H. Dickerson reported that there have been two applications received for the position. The Personnel Committee **will** (correction) interview them next week and B. Swett will sit in on the interviews. P. Dickerson asked about wages because interviewees usually want to know the pay scale before committing to an interview. B. Swett currently is paid \$390.00 per month plus \$20.00 per Council meeting attended. There was discussion.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by B. Markell to start new hire out at \$400.00 per month.

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

10.3 Patrol Vehicle
Chief Balsley explained that the 2009 Dodge Charger is 13 years old and has 95,000 miles on it. There are things that can be repaired on it, but it **is** (correction) beginning to get costly to keep making the repairs. It is time for it to be replaced. New vehicle prices are: \$33,244 for a Ford Explorer, \$37,500 for a Dodge truck, and \$38,000 for a Ford truck. He would like to go with the Ford Explorer. Delivery right now is about four months out from receipt of purchase order. He would like to order it soon. The new equipment will be about \$10,000 but they may be able to re-use some of what's on the Charger to reduce that cost. There will also be the sale price of the Charger to reduce the total vehicle cost. They will also look into grants. B. Swett said there are funds in the budget to pay a good part of the cost as a down payment.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to grant permission to order the Ford Explorer not to exceed \$45,000.

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

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Quarterly Sewer Rate – COLA Adjustment
Clerk explained that according to the Sewer Ordinance the quarterly sewer rate is supposed to be adjusted according to the cost-of-living adjustment each year. The current sewer rate per REU is \$102.62 per quarter. The 2022 proposed COLA increase is 5.9% which would be equal to an increase of \$6.05 per REU per quarter. With this increase the sewer rate for bills due March 1, 2022, would be \$108.67 per quarter per REU. ($\$102.62 + 6.05 = \108.67). This COLA increase will equal \$24.20 per REU for the

year (03/01/22 – 02/28/23). The last increase was with bills due on 03/01/20 – that rate went from 2019 amount of \$101.00 to current rate of \$102.62 per quarter. There was no rate increase last year. There was discussion but no Board action is required for this rate adjustment.

11.2 Re-Zoning Recommendation – 114 W. Third Street – Andrus

B. Andrus petitioned to re-zone 114 W. Third Street from low density residential (R-1A) to general business (B-1) to allow for the same zoning and use as that of her adjacent property. AGS has reviewed the petition and sent their recommendations to the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission reviewed the petition and held a Public Hearing. They sent a recommendation to approve the re-zoning to the Council for review.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation to re-zone 114 W. Third Street from low density residential (R-1A) to general business (B-1) to allow for continuity with adjacent properties.

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

11.3 Site Plan Recommendation – 321 Main Street – Feige

Ashlynn Feige applied for a Site Plan Review for Inspire Music and Dance LLC at 321 Main Street. AGS has reviewed that plan and the Planning Commission has reviewed their comments. AGS found that there were five provisions of the Zoning Ordinance with which the Site Plan did not comply. The Planning Commission found that the requirements for each of the five provisions could be waived without consequences. They recommend that Council approve the Site Plan application as presented.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation to approve the Site Plan Application for Ashlynn Feige for property at 321 Main Street.

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

11.4 Mailer

R. Peterson presented a copy of a past mailer. Several of the businesses have changed so he will need to talk to each of them before proceeding. He will also need to know if the Homecoming Festival is going to take place in 2022 as that information was displayed in the center of the mailer copy. There was discussion about Festival funding. B. Andrus will talk to local farmers to see if they would be willing to sponsor the fireworks again next year. The Transfer Station and the DDA will pay for the mailers. R. Peterson will get the number of addresses from the post office. They would like to send mailers out at the end of January and again the first part of May.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve moving forward with gathering mailer information.

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

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to pay the bills as presented. (List Attached.)

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

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Village of Morrice
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2021

Guest Comments: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk