

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 03/08/22)

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by President Harold Dickerson.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 12.6 Grant

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, 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 February 8, 2022, minutes, as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Property Tax Millage to Support Budget – 2022 - 2023

President Dickerson opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public regarding property tax millage. There will be no changes to the Tax Millage rate. There were no comments. President Dickerson closed the Public Hearing.

9.2 2022 – 2023 Proposed Budget

President Dickerson opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public regarding the 2022 – 2023 proposed budget. With no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

No Report. T. Scott asked if the Council could return to work on the signage for the Transfer Station. He will investigate and bring information back to the Board.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report. Chief Balsley commented that the DPW did a phenomenal job clearing the roads after the last snow fall.

10.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report.

10.4 Sewer / Codes

P. Hruska reported that he had a meeting with T. Parmalee from Perry Township, to work on adjustments to the sewer contract. They will continue to work on it and will be needing information from the lagoon operator to complete the work.

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

10.6 SSES

P. Dickerson explained that the Board voted again and T. DeLau was voted in as Chairman. Things seem to be going well. There have been many changes to the meeting agendas and the meeting format.

10.7 Homecoming

B. Markell explained that there was only a total of three people, including herself, at the last Homecoming meeting. The cost of the fireworks is expected to be approximately \$9,500.00. There is about \$4,500.00 in the Fund. Many possibilities were discussed at the meeting including: a euchre tournament, a 3 on 3 basketball contest, kid's games, food trucks, a petting zoo, a junk in the trunk/craft show, a beer tent, a corn hole competition, and a parade. Markell will contact Perry Township and Beth Andrus regarding donations. The next meeting will be March 24th at 7:00 p.m. here at Village Hall.

R. Peterson is working on the sponsor letters and wondered about striking the line referring to the stamped/self-addressed return envelopes. This would reduce the cost of sending them out. There are about 60 ready to go out with more to follow. He inquired about how the costs will be covered.

10.8 Budget
No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 Morrice Meadows Expansion

TABLED. Waiting to hear back from Morrice Meadows.

11.2 Resolution – New Trash Rates

J. Gormley presented a Resolution with the new trash rates for year one of the new ten-year contract with Granger. P. Hruska suggested that the Resolution include all of the contract years rather than having to draft a new Resolution each year as we have the rates for each of the contracted years. J. Gormley will draft a new Resolution for the next meeting for years 2 through 10 at no additional cost to the Village.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by H. Dickerson to approve the Resolution setting new trash rates, as presented.

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

11.3 Jewel Estates – Storm Drain

J. Gormley explained the history of the initial subdivision plans. There is a private easement on Lot 15 that was not dedicated to the Village. That easement needs to be granted to the Village in order to make any repairs. The Village will need a legal description of the easement. The DPW will pump water for now and contact excavators to look at the property, devise a plan, and give cost estimates to implement those plans.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the DPW pumping water until spring, and contacting excavators to look at the property, devise a plan, and give cost estimates to implement those plans. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 2021 – 2022 Budget Amendments

Treasurer, B. Swett, presented the proposed budget amendments. The only major adjustment was the Street Funds payments to the Sewer Fund loan.

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MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the 2021 – 2022 Budget Amendments, as presented.

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

12.2 Set Property Tax Millage for 2022 – 2023

No proposed millage changes for the coming year – rates will remain the same as last year.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the 2022 – 2023 Property Tax Millage Rate with no changes from previous year.

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

12.3 Adopt 2022 – 2023 Budget

B. Swett explained the budgeting process. The Committee planned this budget conservatively. Employee wages and H.S.A. employer contributions will be discussed at the next meeting.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the 2022 – 2023 Budget, as presented.

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

12.4 Appoint SSESAs Alternate

During the past few SSESAs meetings it was discovered that an alternate can attend the meetings if one of the two Village representatives is unavailable. T. Scott volunteered and H. Dickerson appointed him to the position.

12.5 Sewer System Damage by Homeowner

H. Bradberry, DPW, explained that there is a resident that is driving over the sewer tank and cover and causing damage to the system. They have been told to avoid that area but continue to drive there. J. Gormley suggested an amendment to the rates Resolution that would include a cost to repair and hold them responsible.

12.6 Grant – Solar Energy

R. Peterson presented information on a pilot program that could offer financial assistance for rural communities to develop renewable energy. This would be solar panels on the west side of the lagoon property. There was discussion including having to re-negotiate the farm contract and checking with the lagoon operator and DEQ. R. Peterson will check on the minimum land requirements and calculate how long it will take to re-coup the investment.

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk