

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, August 09, 2022

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 09/13/22)

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, Belinda Markell, Todd Scott, Andy Flynn, Philip Hruska, and Robert Peterson.

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: None.

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the July 12, 2022, minutes, as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley distributed the Complaints Report for last month. He reminded everyone that school starts next Thursday, August 18th.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

H. Bradberry reported that they should be able to start work on the road edges next week as long as they can get hoses for the new equipment.

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 reported that the Grievance Committee has gotten together to go over some papers. No word back from them yet. They received a quote of \$39,990.61 for repair of Engine #1. P. Dickerson explained that she spoke up at the end of the last SSES meeting and expressed her opinion that things are not getting done or resolved in a timely manner and things, in general, are not going in the right direction. There are staffing issues with some municipalities having periods of no coverage. She feels that the Board needs to listen to both sides of all issues.

9.7 Homecoming

No Report.

9.8 Budget

No Report. The Budget Committee set a meeting for Wednesday, August 17th at 5:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street

J. Gormley explained that on discovery of the death certificate he was able to send a letter to Mr. Phelps's son asking for further information regarding other heirs. To open probate all heirs and lien holders must be notified.

10.2 Sell Old Equipment

Chief Balsley found out that we do not have access to Facebook Marketplace so the items will be listed on the Village website and Facebook page. They will be listed as: best offer for the oil drums, \$1,500. or best offer for the orange truck (with 86,000 original miles), and sealed bids for the generator, which is currently not running. Should be posted within the week.

10.3 Purdy Lane Shoulder

The DPW and R. Peterson talked to the Church and explained the problem with the farmer accessing their property off Purdy Lane. The farmer volunteered to install a culvert and a driveway at his expense. The drive will be moved a ways from where they have been entering the field. DPW will work on repairing the shoulder that has been damaged.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Surrender Sewer Tap – 122 E. Second Street

D. Feig purchased the foreclosed property next to his residence and would like to surrender the sewer tap there. The house was demolished by the bank before the purchase and the sewer tank and pump were pulled at that time. J. Gormley suggested that the owner needs to dig up the connection site so the DPW can inspect the line to make sure it has been capped off correctly. Surrender can be granted once the inspection shows the line was capped correctly.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the surrender of the sewer tap at 122 E. Second Street by D. Feig, once the inspection confirms the line was capped correctly.

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

11.2 Audit Recommendations

Clerk explained that the auditors recommend moving some of the Village funds into other account types and different banks to get the maximum amount of FDIC coverage possible. There was discussion.

L. Hudecek will check with Huntington for further information. P. Hruska asked the Clerk to check with auditors regarding Federal Bonds.

11.3 School Traffic

Chief Balsley explained that for about 20 minutes before school starts and 20 minutes after school ends parents park on Purdy Lane to drop off and pick up students. Since the cars are parked half on and half off the road the road has less open lane width and becomes difficult to navigate especially if cars are traveling in both directions. He is looking for some suggestions on how to resolve the problem. There was discussion. P. Hruska suggested posting "No Stopping, Standing, Parking" signs, Chief Balsley suggested making Mason Street a one-way street all the time or only for a short period before and after school. No decision was reached, and no action was taken.

11.4 321 Main Street Proposal

Ashlynn Feige, who purchased the Main Street lots from the Village, sent a proposal to postpone her

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original plans for the property, even though the site plan has been approved, due to elevated construction costs. She would like to operate a seasonal outdoor coffee and flower cart beginning in the spring 2023. It would be open May – October three days a week. She would also like to explore an outdoor community market involving other local vendors. It was decided that the proposal should go to AGS for zoning compliance before further consideration.

11.5 Alternate Designee to DDA Board

President Dickerson explained that the Board needs to appoint a designee to the DDA Board so that someone can go in his place when he is not available. The Village President is supposed to attend all the meetings.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by B. Markell to appoint Todd Scott as the President's designee to the DDA Board. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.6 Perry Police Merge

H. Dickerson reported that the Perry Mayor contacted him about considering merging the Perry and the Morrice police departments. She provided some materials about consolidating departments from the MSU School of Criminal Justice and the Program on Police Consolidation and Shared Services (PCASS). There is much to consider. There is a union in Perry but not in Morrice. Perry would want their Chief to remain the department chief. Chief Balsley explained that the Village would lose control of this department. He would want a committee to look at the benefits versus the negatives and what Morrice would want out of the combining of the Departments. The consolidation would open up opportunities for grants. T. Scott and Chief Balsley will be the Committee and contacts for this discussion going forward. They will bring information back to the Board.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to let Perry know we are interested in discussing this possibility and will hear their presentation.

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

11.7 August 23rd Meeting

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to cancel the August 23rd meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review Financial Statements / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence:

Per an email from Wolverine Engineers work on Morrice Road is set to begin sometime after September 1st. The contractor has school projects that need to be completed before schools get started for the year. Still waiting on a date for the Pre-Construction meeting. Will have a more concrete start date after that meeting.

Guest Comments: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk