

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, November 08, 2022

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 12/13/22)

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

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the October 11, 2022, minutes, as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: Lauren Wenneman – Gabridge & Company – Annual Financial Report

Ms. Wenneman sent a written synopsis of the report she was going to present via zoom. H. Dickerson read the report to the Board. The Village received an unmodified opinion for the fiscal 21/22 audit. This is the highest opinion that can be received and means that the financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects. The General Fund has a very healthy fund balance, and all the funds ended the fiscal year with a positive balance. There were no questions from the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley dispersed the monthly complaints report. He reported that the new vehicle has had the decals applied and is at Mid Michigan Emergency Equipment for the equipment installation. Should be able to put the old car up for sale soon. Chief Balsley reminded everyone that we are now in the time of year – Nov. 1 to April 1 – when overnight on-street parking is not allowed.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

T. Scott asked about the Transfer Station compactor. H. Bradberry explained that they had Reliable Compactor Service come out to inspect and service the compactor. They replaced a front switch arm and did some preventative maintenance. They recommended that the DPW replace the hydraulic hoses soon. So far it seems to be working ok.

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 September run report. She explained that SSES is in the process of selecting an assistant chief. The committee is meeting tomorrow evening.

9.7 Homecoming

No Report.

9.8 Budget

The Budget Committee is meeting on Saturday, Nov. 12th at noon to start work on next year's budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street

J. Gormley reported that now that he has Village signatures, he will file a petition at the County Probate Court to open the estate for Mr. Phelps. This will start the process to be able to clean up the property.

10.2 Auditor Recommendation – Moving Funds – Huntington Account

The Budget Committee met with Jamie J. Hebebrand, from Huntington Bank, to discuss the liquidity portal. P. Hruska explained that there is no minimum dollar or timeframe requirement. The interest rate is about 2 – 3% right now. There is no loss for the Village – it is a dollar in / a dollar out day-to-day investment. She recommended against CDs right now as the interest rate is so low. B. Swett and L. Hudecek, the Treasurers, will be the agents able to move funds through the portal and K. McGuire, the Clerk, will be able to review the accounts only. Each fund will be covered by FDIC up to \$250,000. Treasurers will get the paperwork from Ms. Hebebrand. The portal website is separate from the regular banking website.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to put the Treasurers, B. Swett and L. Hudecek, on the Huntington liquidity portal as agents able to move funds and K. McGuire, the Clerk, able to view accounts only.

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

10.3 Perry Police Merge

T. Scott reported that the Village Committee and Perry are still having meetings. They are discussing a lot of hypotheticals right now. The two Chiefs will meet soon. There will be a separate authority to oversee the merged departments. The Committee is continuing to talk about the pros and cons and concerns of a merger. Will meet again on December 6th.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to open the agenda back up to add 10.4 Solar Radar Sign. All ayes. Motion carried.

10.4 Solar Radar Sign

Chief Balsley explained that the radar sign seems to be working well to slow drivers down in the Village. He asked at the last meeting that the Board consider purchasing a second one. A solar powered sign, very similar to the first one, would cost about \$3,700. There was discussion about the cost, the budget, and the possibility of hiring another officer.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by R. Peterson to move forward with the purchase of another radar speed sign as discussed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Park Budget

T. Scott explained that at the Budget Committee meeting they discussed being able to start doing some things at the park again. The Park Committee has unofficially dissolved over the past few years. Before the Park Budget can be discussed there needs to be a new Park Committee appointed. Dan Munro will work on finding volunteers. J. Gormley suggested putting something on the Village website. J. Gormley looked up the requirements for the Committee – there must be five members, one must be a Council member or President, two must be Village residents, two must be members of the Morrice area community at large. All members must be appointed by the Village President and approved by the Council. T. Scott said he will volunteer to be on the Committee.

11.2 November 22nd Meeting

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by R. Peterson to cancel the November 22nd meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review Financial Statements / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence

H. Dickerson announced that this will be his last Council meeting as he did not run for re-election. Many people thanked him for his service to the Village.

Guest Comments:

Beth Andrus, as DDA Chair, filled the Board in on what has been going on with the bank building. The DDA toured the building in the summer. It is listed for \$119,000 but needs massive renovations. The upstairs is a wreck. The Post Office is leasing their portion of the building from the bank for \$670 a month through 2024. Justin Horvath from SEDP came to the last DDA meeting. He suggested that the bank may donate the building to the Village in exchange for the goodwill it would generate. The DDA can own the building but cannot hold a mortgage on it. If the DDA does not use it for government business, it will stay on the tax roll. They can buy and renovate and re-sell.

Beth Andrus, as a citizen of the community, commented on how bad the signage for the road work on Morrice Road from South Street to the south Village limits was during the process and after the work was completed. There was much discussion.

Dan Munro thanked those who donated to the Halloween activities. It was a success. They had just about the right amount of cider and donuts for the night. He also thanks H. Dickerson for his work in the Village and commented on the budget being in such good shape under his leadership.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk