

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 05/09/23)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members Present: Phyllis Dickerson, Todd Scott, Andy Flynn, Robert Peterson, and Bridgett Flynn.

Absent: Philip Hruska.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.5 Morrice Road
12.5 Safe Sidewalk Project

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the March 14, 2023, minutes, as presented.
All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Consider Adjustment to the Ambulance Special Assessment

President Scott opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public at 6:05 p.m. With a few residents in attendance, R. Peterson explained that 18 months ago he needed an ambulance and realized at that time that paying the yearly fee is like an insurance policy that you hope you never need to use. The whole household is covered for a reasonable amount. The Board realizes that the increase from \$65.00 per year to \$110.00 per year seems like a big jump but that is the amount needed to cover current costs. They must cover the cost of equipment and staffing to provide the service. It is a 24 hour 365 days a year service. They staff three ambulances every day – one each in the Cities of Perry and Durand, and one in Vernon Township. Residents in participating municipalities do not get a bill for the balance due after their insurance has paid for the ambulance service. SSESAs accept what the insurance pays. SSESAs cover the Cities of Durand and Perry, Perry, Burns, Antrim, and Vernon Townships, the Village of Morrice, and parts of Bennington and Shiawassee Townships. There are approximately 10,000 households served. The SSESAs Board tried to keep the assessments too low for too long and now have to catch up. They kept it at \$45.00 per household from 2004 until the last two years when it was increased to \$65.00 per household. The increase to \$110.00 will be effective in January 2024. Inflation and cost increases are the driving factors for the increase. If the increases had occurred gradually over the years, it would have amounted to about \$2.1 million. Residents did not have to pay higher costs over the years the assessment held steady. T. Parmalee explained that the increase will be assessed on this summer's taxes in order for the funds to be available to pay SSESAs in January 2024. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:30 p.m.

Special Guests: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reported that all the new computer equipment for the vehicles is here and will be installed soon. The winter street parking restrictions have been lifted as of April 1st.

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10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

President Scott explained that after all the recent rain the DPW has been working on drains all week.

A. Wisely explained that the drain on Gale Street is draining very slowly but will need to be jetted.

10.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

The Street Committee will need to set a meeting soon to discuss Category B Grant projects.

The homeowner of 310 E. Diamond asked about repairing a section of sidewalk at his property.

10.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report.

10.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

10.6 SESA

No Report.

10.7 Homecoming

No Report.

10.8 Budget

The Budget Committee needs to set a meeting soon to discuss funding future street projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 131 Main Street

J. Gormley reported that he is waiting for AGS to send a report of their code violation findings and recommendations. Once that is received, he can ask the court for permission to tear down the building.

The process is slowly moving forward. A lien from Medicare or Medicaid has been received, though he is sure they have no idea of the condition of the property.

11.2 Park Grant

TABLE.

11.3 Perry Township Sewer Rate

TABLE. T. Scott and P. Hruska will meet with the lagoon operator and the engineer soon.

11.4 Village Hall Maintenance/ Roof/ Garage Door Frames

T. Scott reiterated that all of the garage door frames and the roof, on either side of the hose dryer, need repairs. He will work on getting estimates.

11.5. Morrice Road

R. Peterson reported that Morrice Road, from Mason to Lansing, which was just done two years ago, has potholes forming, is wavy, and the edges are deteriorating. He is wondering if we have any recourse at this point. T. Scott will contact the engineers.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Consider Adjustment to the Ambulance Special Assessment

T. Parlamee, Perry Township Treasurer, explained that the \$110.00 per household assessment in the Village will raise \$47,190.00 for the ambulance service.

MOTION by R. Peterson, second by P. Dickerson to approve increasing the ambulance service assessment from \$65.00 per year per household to \$110.00 per year per household and to allow J. Gormley to prepare a Resolution adopting the increase. All ayes. Motion carried.

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12.2 Street Bid Recommendation

The bids for the 2023 Street Project came in ranging from \$305,009.00 to \$436,089.90. Five bids were received. Wolverine Engineers has presented a bid tabulation for the Board's reference. The Engineers recommend the Village award the project to the low bidder, TomCo Asphalt, Inc., of Mason. They are a reputable firm that is known to the engineers and have ample experience in this type of work. Their bid was for \$305,009.00. This project will include: Morrice Road from First Street to Mason Street, Third Street from Morrice Road to Main Street, Second Street from Morrice Road to Main Street and Sidewalk east of Main Street, the Alley west of Main Street between Second Street and Third Street, and Main Street Sidewalk across from the DPW.

MOTION by A. Flynn, second by P. Dickerson to award this Street Project to TomCo Asphalt, Inc. for the bid amount of \$305,009.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, B. Flynn, A. Flynn, T. Scott. Nays: R. Peterson. Absent: P. Hruska.
Motion carried.

12.3 Category B Grant

The Category B Grant application must be in by June 15th. The Road Committee and the Budget Committee both need to have meetings to gather the information for the application. T. Scott will check with P. Hruska for possible meeting dates.

12.4 April 25th Meeting

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by R. Peterson to cancel the April 25th meeting. All ayes.
Motion carried.

12.5 Safe Sidewalk Project

R. Peterson explained that the Village schools could be eligible for up to \$900,000 from the Safe Routes to School Grant. On April 19th, the Committee is going to walk the four possible routes they are considering submitting. Everyone is welcome to participate and offer input.

Review Financial Statements / Pay Bills

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve payment of the bills as presented (List attached).

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

Announcements / Correspondence: J. Gormley introduced his new associate, Clint Stevenson.

T. Scott announced that the Easter Egg Hunt was a great success, and he thanks everyone who helped make it possible.

Guest Comments: A resident of Jewel Estates thanked the Board for taking care of the motorbike issue a couple of years ago. That same person is causing different problems now. He asked about Ordinance Violations. There was some discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk