

VILLAGE OF MORRICE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 02/28/23)

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, Bridgett Flynn, and Robert Peterson.

Absent: Philip Hruska, Andy Flynn.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: None.

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the January 24, 2023 minutes, as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

No Report.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

The DPW employees have refurbished the bench that sits outside Police Department.

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 December and the year-end run report. The Fire Chief has posted his office hours. The Building Committee has not met recently. SSES is still discussing what dollar amount to raise the annual ambulance fee to – they are thinking between \$100.00 to \$115.00 per household.

9.7 Homecoming

There is no committee and very little money for a Festival for this year.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by P. Dickerson to cancel the Festival for this year. All ayes.

Motion carried.

9.8 Budget

T. Scott reported that the Budget Committee held a meeting and got pretty far along but need to set another meeting to firm things up and balance all the Fund budgets.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 10.1 131 Main Street

J. Gormley explained that there is a court date for tomorrow to officially appoint the representative. After that they will meet with the Zoning Administrator and look over the property.

### 10.2 Appoint Park Committee

As it is difficult to recruit people for a committee, T. Scott would like to have the Council members appointed as the Park Committee. J. Gormley said that will require a Resolution which he can have ready to the next meeting.

### 10.3 Park Grant

R. Peterson will check with SEDP to see if they can help out.

### 10.4 Perry Township Sewer Rate

T. Scott explained that he and P. Hruska will work with T. Parmalee from the Township but are waiting for the lagoon operator to return from out of state.

### 10.5 Police Vehicle – Dodge

Chief Balsley explained that the struts are making a noise that could be costly to repair. The Department has driven it with the noise for some time.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by B. Flynn to keep the asking price for the Dodge at \$6,500.00 or best offer. The President has the authority to reduce the asking price at \$500.00 increments and decide on the best offer.

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

### 10.6 School Traffic

Chief Balsley asked the Council to look at the traffic congestion problem again. His suggested solution is to make Purdy Lane a one way from the south side of the bus garage to Main Street during the morning and afternoon pick-up and drop off times. Or to make Purdy Lane a one way all the time. No decision was reached.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 11.1 Resolution to Appoint DDA Members

J. Gormley presented a Resolution that will restart the appointments and schedule reappointment of DDA members going forward. The DDA would also like to recommend Troy Binkley for appointment to the Board.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Dickerson to adopt the DDA Resolution as presented.

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

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Dickerson to Appoint Troy Binkley to the DDA Board.

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

### 11.2 B. Swett – Salary to Hourly

T. Scott explained that since B. Swett is no longer working as the Village Treasurer but is working in a training capacity for the new Treasurer, he has not taken his salary since September. The Budget Committee feels that he still should be compensated for the hours he is putting in. The Personnel

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Committee met to discuss and decide on the wage which was recommended by the Budget Committee. They propose paying B. Swett \$20.00 per hour going forward.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve paying B. Swett \$20.00 per hour going forward.

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

### 11.3 Transfer Station Prices

T. Scott presented the list of new prices the Budget Committee is recommending. They will go into effect on 03/01/23. Most of the larger items were increased by \$5.00 and the bag prices were increased by \$1.00 each. (List attached).

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Dickerson to increase the Transfer Station prices as presented.

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

### 11.4 Proposed 2023 Road Projects

T. Scott explained the proposed road projects for 2023. These will be paid for with Village funds. Proposed is: Morrice Road – from First Street to Mason Street, Third Street – from Morrice Road to Main Street, Second Street – from Morrice Road to Main Street, with some additional parking added, and the alley on the west side of Main Street from Second Street to Third Street. There will be some sidewalks on Village properties included in the projects – Main Street at the DPW building and Second Street next to the library, from Main Street to the alley. Total cost, including engineering, will be approximately \$385,000.00. Proposed spending for the projects will be \$270,000.00 for the Major Street project and \$115,000.00 for the Local Street project. For the Major Street project \$100,000.00 will be paid from the Major Street Fund, \$60,000.00 will be from a DDA contribution, \$6,000.00 will come from the Municipal Street Fund, and the General Fund will pay \$104,000.00. For the Local Street project \$90,000.00 will be paid from the Local Street Fund, \$10,000.00 will come from the Municipal Street Fund, and the General Fund will contribute \$15,000.00. (List attached).

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the proposed road projects at a cost of approximately \$347,280.00 plus engineering for a total proposed cost of \$385,000.00 to be paid with Village funds. And to allow the engineers to begin the bid process.

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

### 11.5 Authorization to Submit Grant Application – Roads

T. Scott explained that the RAISE Grant has a project minimum of a million dollars, it is an 80/20 split, and the funds must be used by 2026. Proposed is: to rebuild Lansing Road from Morrice Road to the west Village limits, Britton Road from Morrice Road to the west Village limits, and Morrice Road from South Street to First Street, to resurface E. South Street from Morrice Road to the east Village limits. Included are sidewalks on the west side of Morrice Road from the Consumers Power substation to Britton Road and South Street from Morrice Road to Hidden Ridge. The estimated cost is \$1,425,300.00 plus engineering costs. Wolverine Engineering will complete and submit the grant application for the Village.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the grant application.

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

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11.6 Resolution – Amend Sewer Loan to Street Funds

J. Gormley presented a Resolution approving an addition of \$10,175.00 to the loan to the Major Street Fund and amending the terms of the existing loan from the Sewer Fund to the Major Street and the Local Street Funds. This process was approved at the January 25, 2022 Council meeting but the promissory notes and the amended Resolution were never completed. This amendment will increase the outstanding loan balance from the Major Street Fund to the Sewer Fund, reduce the loan interest for both the Local Street and the Major Street Funds to .5%, increase the amount of each quarterly payment, and reduce the length of the loan period.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded P. Dickerson by to adopt the Resolution for the Sewer Loan Amendment, as presented.

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

Review Financial Statements / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments: None.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by R. Peterson to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President  
Karen McGuire, Clerk