

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 09/26/23)

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Todd Scott.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: 11.3 Video Recording of Office
11.4 Homecoming Parade and Road Closure Permit
11.5 SEDP Blight Elimination Application

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the August 22, 2023, minutes, as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests:

Lauren Chatterton – Gabridge & Co. – Annual Financial Report

Ms. Chatterton reported that the Village received an unmodified opinion this year which is the highest opinion we could receive. All Funds ended the year with positive balances. Assets are higher than liabilities. This year's report shows the implementation of the Lease Standard – GASB 87 – in the Sewer Fund. The only budget exception was how to record the SSESAs Special Assessment funds. Overall, the Village is doing a good job managing the Funds.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the Financial Report as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Susan McGahey – Morrice Sports Boosters

Ms. McGahey explained that the Sports Boosters want to have 50/50 raffles at the school games to raise funding for the sports programs. Right now, their main source of income is the concession stand. To be able to have the raffles they need to apply to the State of Michigan Bureau of State Lottery. As part of that process, they need a resolution from the Village stating that the organization is a recognized nonprofit organization in the community. Ms. McGahey provided a copy of the IRS letter determining that they are a 501(c) entity. There is a downloadable form (BSL-CG-1153) from the Michigan Lottery Charitable Gaming Division that can be used for the resolution.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded R. Peterson to approve recognizing the Morrice Sports Boosters, Inc. of Morrice as a nonprofit organization operating in the community. All ayes. Motion carried.

J. Gormley completed the resolution and gave the original to Ms. McGahey, keeping a copy for the Village records.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reminded everyone that the school Homecoming game is this Friday at 7:00 p.m.

T. Scott reported that Ted, the Transfer Station operator, did well with his surgery and is recovering nicely.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

R. Peterson asked about the drain behind his house as it seems a sink hole is forming. The DPW will check on it.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

R. Peterson commented that the contractors didn't do a good job at the seam connecting new asphalt to old asphalt on Morrice Road near Mason Street.

P. Hruska explained that the parking on Second Street was supposed to be angle and it didn't turn out that way. Can wait until the paint fades and have it redone or leave it the way it is. To remove the paint and do it over now would deteriorate the asphalt.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

H. Bradberry explained that we need to pump a lagoon cell to make repairs. The pumps we have can't do it in a timely manner. To rent pumps to do it faster will cost about \$900 per week for two pumps. Not sure how long it will take. Discussed buying a bigger pump rather than renting one.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to spend up to \$1,000 to buy a pump and hoses.

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

Absent: None. Motion carried.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

9.6 SSES

P. Dickerson explained that there will be a meeting next Monday. Chief Hubbard is still out on paid leave. Others are covering his job duties. SSES is looking for a new attorney as theirs has moved out of the area. The investigation is still on-going. She gave the July run report.

9.7 Homecoming

T. Scott explained that if the event is going forward someone needs to take charge. As there are no volunteers, he requested that it be removed from the agenda and the remaining funds be left where they are in the Homecoming Festival Fund.

9.8 Budget

The Budget Committee scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street

Two bids have been received. One from Esper's Excavating, LLC for \$21,000 for the demo and one from Bolle Contracting, LLC for \$25,800 for the demo plus an additional \$2,000 to test the concrete foundation for asbestos. There was discussion.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to accept Esper's bid.

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

Absent: None. Motion carried.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate

There was discussion. It was decided to send the Sewer Fund 2020 – 2023 books to Don at Wolverine Engineers to figure out what expenses will be eligible to use in the rate formula.

10.3 Lansing Road

TABLED until after the Budget meeting.

10.4 Budget Transfers – Investment Withdrawals

Clerk explained that in order to make the approved budgeted Fund transfers, to cover the road project expenses, some funds are going to need to be transferred from the investment accounts into the checking accounts. Just making the Board aware that we will need to transfer funds from Local Street, Municipal Street, and General Fund investments. The Budget Committee will meet following this meeting to confirm transfer amounts.

10.5 Halloween

T. Scott explained that he has talked to D. Munro about the Halloween celebration at the Fire Hall. Munro is going to try to get the Fire Department to cover the cost of the donuts. We will need some volunteers to help out that night as well as monetary donations to cover the cost of the rest of the needed supplies.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by A. Flynn to set Village Halloween hours as October 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Zoning Ordinance Schedule Setting Limits

AGS has discovered a probable error in the Zoning Ordinance 5.11.1 Schedule Limiting Height, Bulk, Density, and Area by Zoning District. They believe that the column heading “Maximum Zoning Lot Size Per Unit” should be “Minimum Zoning Lot Size Per Unit.” The schedule is referenced that way several times throughout the Ordinance. To correct the error a Public Hearing will need to be scheduled. The Public Hearing will be scheduled for the regular Council meeting on October 10th.

11.2 September 26th Meeting

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to cancel the September 26th meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.3 Video Recording of Office

T. Scott was just made aware that the security camera in the Village entrance records audio as well as video. He does not believe the audio is necessary and requested that it be turned off. There was much discussion. J. Gormely suggested that signs be posted informing people of the recordings.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconds by P. Dickerson to have the cameras record video only.

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

Chief Balsley will try to change the setting so that the audio records only after detecting motion in the entry. He will have more information at the next Council meeting.

11.4 Homecoming Parade and Road Closure Permit

The school Homecoming Parade is scheduled for Friday, September 15th from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. They are requesting a permit and the closure of Main Street from Britton Road to Mason Street during that time.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the requested permit application for the school’s Homecoming parade and road closure. All ayes. Motion carried.

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11.5 Submitting SEDP Blight Elimination Application

R. Peterson provided the Board with information from SEDP regarding the submission requirements and format. NESHAP testing and possible remediation is a requirement of the grant application. There was discussion. It was decided to let Espers know that the Village is required to check for asbestos and may have to ask them for a rebid of the project if any is found.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to move forward with the grant application.

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

P. Hruska noted that Bolle Contracting is a licensed Asbestos Inspector/Supervisor and Abatement Contractor. T. Scott will contact them.

Review Financial Statements / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence

DPW will fence off the 131 Main Street property excluding the shared driveway.

P. Hruska asked about the crack seal machine. It is still not available.

Guest Comments: None.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by A. Flynn to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk