

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 10/10/23)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.2 Christmas Bonuses

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the September 12, 2023, minutes, with one correction. 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

H. Bradberry reported that they are using the new pump on the lagoon pond. They are down about 3 feet with 10 to 12 more to go. The Transfer Station ram is not working correctly. They had a company come to check it out and found some of the wiring may need to be replaced too. DPW will get the work scheduled.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

T. Scott explained that he talked to Marty at Wolverine Engineers, and he thinks that the seam on Morrice Road, between the old and new asphalt, is as good as it can be without cutting that section out and redoing it. There would be costs and two seams to mesh rather than one if it is redone. T. Scott asked about the previous letter sent to residents regarding sidewalk replacement. The Street Committee reported that sidewalks are done for this year.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

9.6 SSES

SSES is waiting for a report from the Personnel Committee regarding the investigation. There is a meeting scheduled for October 3rd.

9.7 Budget

T. Scott reported that the Budget Committee just met and has begun working on the budget for the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process

SEDP has informed us that in order to be eligible for reimbursement, no services should be signed for until the grant is in place. For more clarification on the process R. Peterson will ask someone from SEDP to attend a Council meeting. Even though no paperwork has been signed for the demolition it was suggested that the Village withdraw acceptance of the previous bid.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to withdraw acceptance of the demolition bid received from Esper's Excavating. All ayes. Motion carried.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate

Nothing new to report.

10.3 Lansing Road

The Budget Committee discussed the issue but did not reach a consensus. The County has asked to take over the part of Lansing Road that runs through the Village. The Village receives about \$17,000 a year in Act 51 funding that would be lost if we relinquish this section of the road. The cost to rebuild or repair the road is very expensive. To rebuild this portion of the road would cost about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars. It would take the Village 40 – 45 years to recoup that much money. To repair just the surface of the road would cost about \$250,000. It would take about 15 years of Act 51 funding to cover that cost. If we don't relinquish the road, the maintenance will be the Village's responsibility going forward.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by B. Flynn to approve the release of Act 51 jurisdiction, but not all jurisdiction, over the portion of Lansing Road that is within Village limits.

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

10.4 Audio/Video Recording of Office

T. Scott explained that he is going to try a white noise machine. And the Chief has been able to set the camera to record audio only when there is motion in the entry.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 J. Gormley / SSESAs – Legal Services

SSESAs recently requested Gormley Law Offices provide them with a proposal for legal services. As Gormley is the Village's legal counsel, the proposal was contingent upon the Village waiving any potential conflict of interest with the Law Offices' potential dual representation of the Village and SSESAs. SSESAs has hired the firm for legal representation conditioned on the Village's approval of the dual representation. T. Scott and J. Gormley explained that if there were a legal conflict between SSESAs and the Village Gormley would recuse himself from both SSESAs and the Village for that issue.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve Gormley Law Offices also representing SSESAs and waiving any dual representation conflict pursuant to the letter given to both entities. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.2 Christmas Bonuses for 2023

T. Scott read the list of employees and proposed bonus amounts. The amounts are the same as last year. The total for all bonuses combined will be \$1,400. Bonuses will be paid during the last pay period of November and separate from payroll checks.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to pay the bonuses as presented.

Village of Morrice
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023

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

Announcements / Correspondence

T. Scott explained that Durand has parted ways with SEDP over the mega site / battery factory. SEDP has been working with the State, the City of Durand, and Vernon Township on the project. B. Flynn talked to T. Scott about inviting some of the Durand City Council to a Board meeting to explain the issues. There was discussion about closed meetings without City officials, non-disclosure agreements, and other proposed projects. B. Flynn will invite Durand Council members to a future Council meeting.

Guest Comments: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk