

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 11/14/23)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: Phyllis Dickerson.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: None.

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the September 26, 2023, minutes as presented.
All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Zoning Ordinance Amendment

President Scott opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public regarding the Zoning Ordinance Amendment. T. Scott explained the wording correction. With no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reminded everyone that Halloween hours have been set as October 31st from 6 to 8 p.m. The Winter Parking Ordinance goes into effect on November 1st and remains effective through April 1st.

The DPW is still working on getting someone out to repair the Transfer Station compactor and wiring. Ted will be back at work on the 17th. There is an issue with the heater smelling like propane. The furnace repairman will be out tomorrow to check it out.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

10.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

T. Scott explained that he contacted Chris Cannon at the County regarding Lansing Road. Mr. Cannon is checking with their attorney about the Village wanting to surrender the Act 51 jurisdiction but not any other jurisdiction. Will need a Resolution if the transaction is completed.

T. Scott asked if there has been any progress on the Safe Routes to School grant application. R. Peterson reported that the school is continuing work on the application. There is a virtual meeting scheduled for October 19th and they have requested our engineer take part. No actual work will begin until 2025 if the grant is received.

10.4 Sewer / Codes

H. Bradberry reported that the company repairing the lagoon liners will be out the first week of

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November. The ponds are low enough for the work, but the DPW is continuing to pump them to keep them low until the work is completed.

10.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA
No Report.

10.6 SSES

R. Peterson reported that the Fire Chief has been discharged. There will be a Personnel Committee meeting on Thursday to get things in order to find a new Chief. They need to make some policy changes and have job expectations in place prior to hiring someone. Deputy Chief S. Grinnell is running things for the time being.

Recreational Parks have challenged the new ambulance assessment. They are only open part of the year and instead of paying \$55 per site they want to pay only one assessment for the main office. One park is taking the issue to the tax tribunal. This could have a financial impact on SSES.

Right now, they are down two staff but are still able to provide the coverage required.

10.7 Budget

A Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st at 5:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process

TABLED until we have information about receiving the grant or not.

11.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate

TABLED. The Perry Township meter has not been installed yet. They said it would take about 6 weeks which will be around October 31st. T. Scott will check with them on the progress next week.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Schedule Setting Limits

J. Gormely presented an amendment to change the word from maximum to minimum in the column header for Zoning Lot Size Per Unit of Schedule 5.11.1 of the Zoning Ordinance. This was a typographical error, and the word minimum is used throughout the Ordinance referencing this schedule.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the Ordinance Amendment as presented, changing the wording from maximum to minimum.

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

12.2 October 24th Meeting

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to cancel the October 24th meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence

A. Flynn reported that he has been contacted by Paul LeValley, a historian who has written two booklets

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about the history of Morrice. He is currently writing another booklet and wanted to remind residents that 2026 will be the 150th anniversary of Morrice. L. Hudecek explained that she has added historical pictures and information to the library's website and could add to it if there is more information available.

T. Scott reported that a Morrice alumni, Susan Brit, has volunteered to donate the cider and donuts for the Halloween celebration at the Fire Hall. Will still need donations for candy.

Guest Comments:

C. Rothney asked about how the heights of buildings in the Village are determined, referring to schedule 5.11.1. J. Gormley replied that one consideration is the fire equipment available, and another is esthetics. The numbers on the schedule are the original numbers from 1983.

He asked if the SSES Board will be the ones to hire a new Fire Chief. And that is correct.

C. Rothney also inquired about who the consulting engineer for the sewer is. It is Don Heck with Wolverine Engineering. There is a Lagoon Operator contracted with a company out of Williamston who manages the lagoons. The DPW maintains the individual pumps and tank at businesses and residences.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Budget Committee will meet briefly following this meeting.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk