

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 12/12/23)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members Present: Todd Scott, Phyllis Dickerson, Andy Flynn, Philip Hruska, Bridgett Flynn, and Robert Peterson. (B. Flynn left meeting at 6:35)

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: Add: Special Guest – Caroline Wilson – Shiawassee County Clerk

Guest Comments on the Agenda: Tom Emery, County Commissioner for District 7, mentioned that there has been a great deal of interest in renewable energy. T. Scott asked that this be discussed later in the meeting.

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 October 10, 2023, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests:

Caroline Wilson – Shiawassee County Clerk

Ms. Wilson delivered new County Directories. She reported that they have been able to move back into the courthouse building, following renovations, and there will be an open house soon. She explained CPL fingerprinting is now done in her office and talked about implementing the Red Flag law. Ms. Wilson also talked about the early voting that passed as part of Proposal 2 of 2022 and what that means to the County and voting precincts.

Brent Jones – Blight Elimination Grant Program

Mr. Jones explained that the Blight Elimination Grant Program is in conjunction with SEDP and the County Land Bank under the supervision of the State Land Bank. The village has submitted and been approved for funds for the demolition of the buildings at 131 Main Street. The County Land Bank will actually be the recipient of the grant, on the Village's behalf, and they will select vendors and distribute funds. The State Land Bank must sign off on the process before funds will be released. The Blight Grant Agreement must be signed by the Village and the County Land Bank for submission to the State Land Bank. After the State signs off, environmental and hazardous material testing will be done. Pending the test results the Village is looking at a possible April start date for the demolition process to begin. A budget of \$43,956 has been submitted, of which \$10,000 is allocated for remediation, with a contingency if bids come in higher than anticipated.

MOTION by P. Hruska, second by A. Flynn to accept the Blight Grant Agreement as presented, with one typo to be corrected.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement
No Report. Still waiting for parts to fix the Transfer Station compactor.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park
H. Bradberry reported that the road salt for the year has been delivered. The snowplows are ready to go. They will continue to vacuum leaves until they are done or there is too much snow.

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
Trent Atkins, Acting Chief, reported that they are working on rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. There is currently a waiting list for employees. G. Munro asked for a contact for needed repairs to the building. That contact will be President Scott.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process
Addressed earlier in the meeting.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate
TABLED. The new Township meter has still not been installed.

10.3 Land Division – Morrice United Methodist Church
Move to later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 DDA Re-Appointments
The DDA has recommended the re-appointment of Board members Bob Peterson and Troy Binkley for another term which will be Nov. 2023 – Nov. 2027.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to re-appoint Bob Peterson and Troy Binkley for another term on the DDA Board. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.2 Police – Mutual Aid Agreement
T. Scott reported that the Village received a letter from the City of Perry serving as their 30 days' notice to terminate the Mutual Aid Agreement between the City and the Village. Chief Balsley explained that the City is going to be adding a Special Assessment for their Police funding to their next tax bills. They did not feel right asking City residents for more money while they are covering Morrice calls too. The first officer to respond will hold the situation until the County Sheriff or State Police officers arrive if there is no Morrice officer on duty.

11.3 Zoning Ordinance – Renewable Energy Systems Moratorium
Beth Andrus, DDA President, reported that the State Legislature has just passed two laws empowering the MPSC to determine licensing and locations for commercial size renewable energy projects of

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50-megawatts or greater for solar power and 100-megawatts or greater for wind power. The laws will be effective one year after the Governor signs them. Right now, there are 45 acres in the Village being leased to a solar company. Currently there is nothing in the Village Zoning Ordinance regarding renewable energy. The Planning Commission would like to investigate some proposed additions to the Zoning Ordinance regarding renewable energy. They will look at berms, light diffusion, zoning, bonding, and a reclamation program. There was much discussion with many residents in attendance. Will move the Ordinance to later in the meeting.

10.3 Land Division – Morrice United Methodist Church (addressed out of order)

Gormley presented a Resolution to approve dividing the church property into a parcel for the church and one for the parsonage.

MOTION by P. Hruska, second by A. Flynn to adopt the Resolution approving a land division for the Morrice United Methodist Church, as presented.

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

11.4 Main Street Sidewalk Repair

The new owner of the bank building called to inquire about repairing the sidewalk in front of the building. T. Scott observed that there are about 10 squares of bad concrete. The owner wanted to know if he could make the repair himself or if the Village would need to do it. It was decided that he can make the repair as long as it meets Village specs and has our engineer's approval.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to re-open the agenda to add 11.6 Attorney Fees. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.6 Attorney Fees (addressed out of order)

T. Scott has received a letter from Gormley Law Offices to inform the Village that the attorneys' hourly rates will be increasing from \$150 per hour to \$165 per hour effective January 1, 2024. The monthly retainer will remain at \$550 per month.

Motion by P. Hruska, second by A. Flynn to approve the hourly rate increase providing the retainer amount remains the same and the one typo found in the letter is corrected.

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

11.5 November 28th Meeting (addressed out of order)

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to cancel the November 28th meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.3 Zoning Ordinance – Renewable Energy Systems Moratorium (addressed out of order)

J. Gormley presented an Ordinance to Declare a Moratorium on Solar and Wind Facilities in the Village of Morrice. The moratorium will last until June 1, 2024, unless modified, extended, or terminated by the Village.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to accept the Ordinance to Declare a Moratorium on Solar and Wind Facilities in the Village, as presented.

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk