

VILLAGE OF MORRICE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 01/09/24)

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, and Philip Hruska.

Absent: Bridgett Flynn, Robert Peterson.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.4 Investments

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the November 14, 2023, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### 9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

The Transfer Station compactor has been repaired and is working like before. Still waiting for parts to repair an oil leak.

##### 9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

H. Bradberry reported that after collecting 34 loads of leaves they are done for the season. They have an appointment to have the brakes on the big plow truck worked on.

##### 9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

T. Scott reported that the Safe Routes to School meeting was canceled. It has been rescheduled to a Teams virtual meeting on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. He recently found out that the Village will be required to be the grant recipient which was not the previous understanding. That puts things in a different perspective with much more to be considered budget-wise. P. Hruska asked if there are any outstanding road project payments yet to be made. The retainage of approximately \$15,000 has not been paid yet.

##### 9.4 Sewer / Codes

The liner is still going to be repaired. The contractor says it can be repaired in any weather. Perry Township has the new flow meter and cable ready to be installed soon.

##### 9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

##### 9.6 SSES

P. Dickerson reported that SSES has applied for some grants for training and equipment. Two employees have left for other employment but there have been five new hires. During a joint meeting with the SSES Board and the Perry Township Board it was decided that Perry Township will purchase two firetrucks from SSES to allow them to have funds for operating expenses. SSES will lease the equipment back from the Township with payments going to buy back the equipment. There was a small

gathering for SSESA Board members, employees, and families held at the Senior Center. Everything was donated so there was no cost to SSESA. Two retirees and seven other employees were presented awards for their services.

9.7 Budget

The Budget Committee has the budget almost ready for finalization. The next meeting will be January 2nd at 4:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process

Waiting for State Land Bank approval.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate

TABLED.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Annual Sewer Rate Adjustment

Clerk explained that the Village Resolution requires that the sewer rate be adjusted annually, at the last meeting of the year, according to the upcoming cost-of-living adjustment. For 2024 the adjustment will be 3.2%. Sewer rates will increase from \$113.56 per REU per quarter to \$117.19 per REU per quarter, beginning with bills due on March 1, 2024. For a yearly increase of \$14.52 per REU.

Trash rates will increase per Granger contract. This is the 3rd year of a 10-year contract. Regular service will go from \$45.78 to \$47.64 per quarter and senior rate will go from \$38.40 to \$39.96 per quarter.

11.2 Building for Backhoe Storage

There is a bid in the packets from Wood & Steel Sales & Design Center for \$16,159.53 for a 20'x30'x15' Steel Garage/Workshop. They would use the cement pad at the Transfer Station that was previously used for recycling. With this additional building the DPW will be able to house most of their equipment. There was discussion. It was decided to have the DPW get a bid for a 20'x40' building and to verify the depth of the current cement pad and the cost for additional cement.

11.3 2024/2025 Employee Wage Increases

T. Scott read the list presented by the Budget Committee. It included the current wage and the proposed wage increase for each employee. The Committee wanted to bring this to the Board now for discussion so they can resolve any issues before plugging these numbers into the budget for next year. There were no issues. These wage increases will be included in the budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year to be approved by February 29th.

11.4 Investments

P. Hruska presented a list of investment Fund balances that included the current balance as well as a proposed balance. To meet the proposed balance the funds will be transferred from Fund checking accounts to Fund investment accounts. There was discussion about the Treasurer having the authority to make these transfers at her discretion. Both the Treasurer and the Clerk think it is more proper to have Board approval before the transfers are made. This will provide more substantial information for the auditors. P. Hruska asked for a copy of the Investment Policy and/or Resolution for future reference.

MOTION by P. Hruska, second by P. Dickerson to have the Treasurer transfer funds from the Fund checking accounts to the Fund Investment accounts per the attached list.

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

Village of Morrice  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2023

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the Financial Statements and pay the bills as presented (List Attached).

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

Announcements / Correspondence:

T. Scott explained since this is the last meeting of the year, he wanted to thank everyone for their hard work all year. Some of the things accomplished this year include improving the bathrooms in the Village Hall and the Fire Hall, the street project, the Blight Elimination grant for 131 Main Street, the Village bought a new sewer truck, repairs were made to garage door frames at the Police Department and the Fire Hall, there were sewer lagoon and Transfer Station repairs. B. Flynn joined the Board of Trustees. The Village added two new businesses – one in the old bank building and the Dollar General on Lansing Road. Festivities were held for Easter and Halloween. Investment accounts were opened for Village Funds. Many thanks to all.

Guest Comments: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President  
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk