

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 02/13/24)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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: 11.4 Safe Sidewalks
11.5 January 23rd Meeting
11.6 Police Equipment Upgrades

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. Dickerson to approve the December 12, 2023, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: Safe Routes to School Committee

Only one member of the Committee, Ashley Connelly from Lionbear Ventures grant writing support, was present. T. Scott decided to address this item later in the meeting at 11.4 Safe Sidewalks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reminded everyone that the winter Ordinance for no parking on streets from 3:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. is now in effect. The Ordinance is in effect and enforced from November 1 to April 1 of each year.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

There was a break-in at the park again. The door was messed up and the bathroom was used. The door has been secured. It was decided that there should be more lighting and possibly a camera installed there. The DPW will look at fixing the mercury light. Chief Balsley will look into more security.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

The approaches to the railroad tracks are in bad shape. The Village DPW is not supposed to do anything to the crossings. T. Scott will contact the railroad.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

The liner repair has been started but it is uncertain if it has been completed or if the valves have been replaced. T. Scott will check with the lagoon operator. Perry Township has purchased the new flow meter and cable, but they are not installed yet.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

The DDA is meeting soon and will begin discussion on solar and wind renewable energy projects.

9.6 SSES

P. Dickerson reported that SSES will ask for a ½ mill for ten years on the August ballot. Millage money will be used to replace Engine No. 1 and one of the rescue vehicles. The criminal case has been assigned to an officer, but the cases are very backlogged. Things in general seem to be going very well.

9.7 Budget

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process

Waiting for State Land Bank approval.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate

TABLED.

10.3 Building for Backhoe Storage

Bids of \$27,100.29 from Just Wood & Steel Sales & Design Center, LLC for the building and \$4,400 from Tyler Bennett for the cement work are included in the packets. Will have the cement done in the spring after the frost law is off and before July. Need to see if we can confirm the installation date and lock in the price. The same with the building price and installation date. Check to make sure contractors will work together.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to accept the Bennett bid for the cement work with the \$4,400 being paid from the Transfer Station Fund's 2024/2025 Budget.

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

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to accept the bid of \$27,100.29 from Just Wood & Steel Sales & Design Center, LLC for the building. Funds will be paid out of 2024/2025 budget with \$6,500.29 from the General Fund and \$20,600.00 from the Transfer Station Fund.

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

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 2024/2025 Budget Draft

The Budget Committee presented a draft for the upcoming budget for review. They would like to be able to adopt this budget at the February 13th meeting. They reduced the police salary line item due to not being able to hire another full-time officer. They left funds to cover the salary for a part-time officer should we be able to fill that position. Employee raises and HSA employer contributions are included in this draft. HSA contributions have been increased \$1,200 for the year. The Committee is considering changes to the Deferred Comp company contributions, but they are not included in this draft as more exploration is needed.

11.2 Office Furniture Purchase

L. Hudecek has included in the packets, descriptions and prices of furniture that was approved with last year's budget but has not yet been purchased. She would like the Board to consider the purchase now. It would be nine desk chairs for the trustees, eight folding chairs for the audience, a new cart for the popcorn machine, and two storage cabinets for the Hall. She will order from Amazon. The DPW will put items together. The cost will be from this year's budget.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to spend up to \$2,000.00 to purchase the office furniture as presented.

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

11.3 2024 Street Project

Wolverine Engineers provided cost estimates for the proposed 2024 street project. The cost for Morrice Road from Britton Road to First Street will be \$125,000 – \$128,000 and the cost for First Street from Main Street to Morrice Road will be approximately \$64,000. This project would be on an all-cash basis as we still have four more years to pay on the loan from the Sewer Fund for previous projects. There is currently no grant available. Due to the location this project would not be eligible for help from the DDA. Springtime is when the bid requests usually go out. We could wait for a possible grant or just do it depending on how low we are willing to let Fund balances get. Funding from the road millage is expected to be approximately \$47,000 in total for the year, not enough to cover either portion of the proposed project. It was decided to concentrate on repairs this year and wait for a possible grant for next year.

11.4 Safe Sidewalks

There was much discussion about possible sidewalk projects to submit for the grant. The submission deadline is February 22nd. Ms. Connelly explained that construction costs are covered by the grant, but engineering costs are not. P. Hruska checked with Wolverine Engineers and found out that if we did the same project on our own rather than through the grant process it would be much less costly. The school has not taken this proposal to their Board yet. It was the general consensus that this project is too expensive for the Village but as the school cannot submit the grant application if the Village is not on board the Council will wait to see what happens at the School Board meeting before making a final decision. If we do go forward with the grant application the Village would prefer to do the south section of sidewalk.

11.5 January 23rd Meeting

Will keep this meeting on the schedule until we hear back from the school regarding the Board meeting.

11.6 Police Equipment Upgrades

Chief Balsley presented the Board with information regarding taser and camera upgrades. They are reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. Upgrades are available. The Taser 10 bundle would include a five-year warranty plus training and certification equipment for five years. It is integrated into Axon software. Cost is \$4,657.60 for the bundle for one taser.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to purchase the Taser 10 Bundle as presented for \$4,657.60.

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

Chief Balsley presented costs for body camera upgrades. For two cameras, docking bays, and licenses TAP bundles cost will be \$11,254.80. He explained that the TAP program extends the one-year warranty to five years. It also guarantees a new camera at the end of 2½ years and another new camera at the end of five years. It includes being able to upgrade to the newest model camera at no extra cost.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to spend up to \$6,500 on one camera and the TAP bundle.

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

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

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments: None.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk