

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 03/12/24)

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, Philip Hruska, Andy Flynn, and Bridgett Flynn.

Absent: Robert Peterson.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 12.9 DPW Position
12.10 SSES Account

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

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

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the January 9, 2024, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 9.1 Property Tax Millage to Support Budget
- 9.2 2024 – 2025 Proposed Budget

President Scott opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public regarding the Property Tax Millage and the Proposed Budget. There will be no changes to the Tax Millage rate. With no comments from the public the Public Hearing was closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley explained that some of our Ordinances are outdated, and he would like to work with the attorney to update them. He is currently looking at the Ordinance regarding animal waste. He has received the new body cam but the taser is on backorder. The Department has received an application for a part-time officer.

T. Scott reported that the Transfer Station credit card machine was out of commission for about a week. It was a problem with the TDS telephone lines. The machine is old and may need to be updated. T. Scott would like to see about getting internet out there but not having any luck finding a company that has service there.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

The DPW is working on cold patching the streets. They have also moved all the old records out of the office and fire hall and onto steel shelves at the park building. Orkin will provide pest control and more security has been added to the building.

The clerk will begin closing the office to the public on Fridays. The day will be used to sort, organize, and contain more of the old files. Will post it on the website and office signage.

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The hose tower is down on the fire hall. There is some electrical work that needs attention and one spot outside to check on and then that project will be completed.

P. Hruska mentioned that the DPW has plowed over the curb in some places in Jewel Estates so there will be some sod that needs repaired in the spring. On streets with no curbs peeling the sod back would actually be good for drainage but might need to apply some road millage in the spring.

10.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site
No Report.

10.4 Sewer / Codes
No Report.

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

10.6 SSES
P. Dickerson reported that Shiawassee Township has decided to go with another ambulance service. Durand is going for a second attempt at voter approval on the February 27th ballot. SSES received a \$15,000 grant to send 20 Shiawassee County students to Emergency First Responder Class. SSES would like to adopt cost recovery fees for fire, rescue, hazmat, inspections, and plan reviews. They will need to get burn ordinances from each municipality in the SSES coverage area. The Finance Committee is still discussing the fire equipment millage that will need to be raised. Nomination and election of officers was done.

10.7 Budget
No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process
Brent Jones, from SEDP and the County Land Bank, called to report that the project has been approved by the State Land Bank. They will meet the first week of March to discuss asbestos and environmental testing that will need to take place. They will also begin preparing for the bid process.

11.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate
TABLED.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 2023 – 2024 Budget Amendments
The Budget Amendments were presented.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to adopt the 2023 – 2024 Budget Amendments as presented.

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

12.2 Set Property Tax Millage Rate for 2024 - 2025
The property tax millage rate to support the 2024 – 2025 Budget will remain the same as for the previous year – there will be no changes.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to Set Property Tax Millage Rate for 2024 – 2025 as presented.

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

12.3 H.S.A. Employer Contributions included in 2024 – 2025 Budget Proposal

As part of the new budget the employer contributions are changing from \$300 per quarter to \$400 per quarter for each eligible full-time employee.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the H.S.A. employer contributions included in 2024 – 2025 Budget Proposal.

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

12.4 Employee Wages included in 2024 - 2025 Budget Proposal

A list of the employee wage increases that are included in the 2024 - 2025 Budget Proposal was presented.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the employee wage increases included in the 2024 – 2025 Budget Proposal.

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

12.5 Adopt 2024 – 2025 Budget

The 2024 – 2025 Budget Proposal, including H.S.A. employer contributions and employee wage increases, was presented.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to adopt the 2024 – 2025 Budget as presented.

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

12.6 Easter

T. Scott reported that he would like the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, March 30th at 1:00 p.m. He will ask permission from the school to use the high school football field and concession stand again this year. Need to get contributions and volunteers. Will ask the NHS students for help filling eggs again.

12.7 Zoning Ordinance Changes to Include Renewable Energy Provisions.

Included in the packets for review is a draft of the work completed, to date, by the Planning Commission. They will hold a Special Meeting on March 27th to hopefully complete the process. They would like to be able to present the Ordinance revisions to the Board for approval before the moratorium ends on June 1st.

12.8 February 27th Meeting

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to cancel the February 27th meeting. All ayes.
Motion carried.

12.9 DPW Position

T. Scott announced that A. Wiseley has been offered a job outside of the Village. He has not formally accepted the position, but expectations are that he will. His position will need to be filled as soon as possible. There was discussion about when and where to post the position. Will start with posting that we are accepting applications. When he submits his two-week notice will update to an open position available. May need to consider hiring two part-timers. Starting wage will be \$17.00 per hour with reevaluation after 90 days. Will post on Indeed, the website and Facebook.

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12.10 SSES Account

J. Munro, from SSES, asked if it would be possible to set up an account for SSES with the Transfer Station. They would like to be able to use the drop off site through out the month but pay with a monthly billing. It was decided that they will be billed on the last Friday of the month, payment in full will be due at the Village Hall on the 15th of the following month, and an 8% late fee will be assessed to any unpaid balance.

MOTION by T. Scott, seconded by A Flynn to allow SSES to pay their Transfer Station fees on a monthly basis as described above.

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

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

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

Roll Call: Ayes: A. Flynn, B. Flynn, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, T. Scott. Nays: None. Absent: R. Peterson. 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 7:11 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk