

VILLAGE OF MORRICE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
6:00 p.m.  
(Approved 04/09/24)

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, Philip Hruska, Andy Flynn, Bridgett Flynn, and Robert Peterson.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Attorney: John Gormley, Police Chief: Matt Balsley, DPW: Hayden Bradberry, and Clerk: Karen McGuire.

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 11.8 Park Building

Guest Comments on the Agenda: Joel McGuire of Walker Drive asked about chickens in the Village. Add 11.9 Farm Animal Ordinance to agenda.

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 February 13, 2024, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Electrical repairs at the Transfer Station cost approximately \$2,000. The motor for the ram is leaking oil.

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

A. Wiseley turned in his resignation letter on February 14th. His last day was February 28th.

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

P. Hruska asked about progress on getting a crack seal trailer and if there was any more information about the sidewalk in front of the bank building. The owner is going to make the sidewalk repairs as weather permits. H. Bradberry attended the Rural Task Force meeting in Flint – information is in the packets. P. Hruska commented that this is the time for the Road Committee to be getting projects around, so they are ready when it's time to submit them. Eventually the engineer will need to be involved too.

##### 9.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report. P. Hruska noticed that the first address on the repair list is incorrect. Clerk will check it.

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

No Report.

##### 9.6 SSES

P. Dickerson reported that Shiawassee Township has decided to go with another ambulance service. Durand voters voted no on the millage. SSES is putting a 4th ambulance in service for 12 hours per day to be used for transfers only. The Finance Committee is still discussing the fire equipment millage that will need to be raised. The Board is considering going to two meetings per month.

##### 9.7 Budget

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process

No updated news. The State Land Bank was to meet the first week of March to discuss asbestos and environmental testing that will need to take place. They are also preparing for the bid process. It was suggested that the fence around the property needs to be shored up.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate

The new flow meter has been installed.

10.3 Zoning Ordinance Changes to Include Renewable Energy Provisions

The Planning Commission is holding a Special Meeting on March 27th. They will continue work on the amendment and present it to the Council for approval.

10.4 Easter

T. Scott reported that \$750 in donations has been received along with some candy and prizes. Still need volunteers to help stuff the eggs.

10.5 DPW New Building – Bennett Concrete

There had to be new measurements and estimates due to a misunderstanding with the last bid. Two estimates were received from Bennett Concrete. Both included – form, grade, compact, and finish 20' x 30' pad, 6 inches thick, saw cut. The \$4,740 bid is with fiber mesh. The \$5,409 bid included a floor drain and steel wire mesh reinforcement.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to accept the bid for \$5,409.

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

The cement work can be done as soon as the frost laws are off. Need to get a new building bid as they are only good for a very short time and the previous one has expired. The Board had previously approved \$27,100.29 for the building. That bid included sales tax that will not apply.

NEW BUSINESS

T. Scott announced that items will be taken out of order as Chief Balsley has to leave early.

11.2 Part-Time Police Officer Wage

P. Dickerson reported that the Personnel Committee met and are recommending \$17.50/hour to start, \$18.50/hour during training period, and \$19.50/hour after 90 days. Chief Balsley suggested starting at \$22.00/hour as the candidate has 30 years of experience and knows Shiawassee County. P. Hruska explained that the Budget Committee allotted for up to 16 hours per week at up to \$24.00/hour in the new budget. They considered wages between \$21.00 and \$24.00/hour for a part-time officer. He suggested starting at \$21.00/hour, \$22.00/hour after 90 days, and \$23.00/hour at one year – to be excluded from annual pay raise following this increase.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Hruska to set new part-time officer wages as starting at \$21.00/hour, \$22.00/hour after 90 days, and \$23.00/hour at one year – to be excluded from annual pay raise following this increase. Officer will work up to 16 hours per week, at Chief's discretion, with a minimum of 16 hours per month.

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

### 11.6 Police Vehicle Repair

Chief Balsley's police vehicle is leaking antifreeze. The water pump needs to be replaced. He got quotes from Luft's and Lunghammer's. Both places suggested replacing the timing chain and tensioner at the same time to avoid labor costs in the future. Luft's quote to replace the pump only is \$2,336.17. To replace the pump, the timing chain, and the tensioner the quote is \$3,125.74. Lunghammer's quote for the pump only is \$2,978.62. To replace the pump, the timing chain, and the tensioner the quote is \$4,445.22.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the quote of \$3,125.74 from Luft's for the replacement to the pump, the timing chain, and the tensioner.

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

There was discussion regarding the Village President's discretionary spending approval amount. Will consider at next meeting.

### 11.1 TDS Internet at Transfer Station

T. Scott explained that the quote from TDS to have internet at the Transfer Station is \$57.98 a month, which is just a little over the current cost for the phone alone. We will be able to use the same credit card machine. The machine representative will have to run a hard wire from the back of the machine to the router as this machine does not run very well on Wi-Fi. P. Hruska suggested getting quotes for a new machine and the life expectancy for the one we are using.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve installing TDS internet at the Transfer Station.

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

### 11.3 DPW – Full-Time Employee

T. Scott reported that the Personnel Committee interviewed 4 very capable applicants and would like to recommend Randy Risdon. He previously worked at Ovid DPW so has experience. His references were very good. There was discussion regarding wages and health insurance.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve hiring Randy Risdon to the full-time DPW position. Starting wages will be \$18/hour for the first 90 days, \$19/hour after 90-day review, and \$20/hour at the one-year mark. There will be a deviation from the Personnel Manual to start health insurance at 30 days rather than the 90 days listed. Will look at amending the Manual.

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

### 11.4 Sewer at 114 W. South Street

T. Scott explained that this property was never connected to the Village sewer system. There is a raised, engineered field above ground sewer. They are using Village parts, a pump and control panel, and the DPW is maintaining the pump. There are either 2 or 3 tanks. Owners have paid the sewer fee since the Village system was installed. The DPW provided some pictures for review. It is uncertain how this situation came to be, but it is unsafe for the Village employees to work on. Need to find out the cost to replace this system, start to finish, with one that complies with the Sewer Ordinance.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to authorize spending up to \$10,000 to complete the project, start to finish, prior to getting bids. If bids go over this amount, come back to the Board for discussion.

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

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11.5 DPW – Safety Equipment

The DPW needs some safety equipment for working on the sewer and the Motor Pool equipment. H. Bradberry presented quotes for a confined space tripod and safety harness. From amazon the 2 pieces together will cost \$1,788.36. From USA Bluebook the 2 pieces are sold separately for a total cost of \$5,070.90. He also had a price from amazon for heavy duty aluminum semi-truck riser ramps. These would be used to change the blade on the Freightliner.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to spend up to \$1,800 for the confined space tripod kit from amazon. To be paid out of the Sewer Fund.

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

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to spend up to \$1,000 for the Titan ramps from amazon. To be paid out of the Motor Pool Fund.

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

11.7 March 26th Meeting

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to cancel the March 26th meeting pending the DPW candidate taking the position. If the hiring doesn't work out will have to reschedule the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.8 Park Building

T. Scott explained that the park building is being taken over by squirrels. We have contracted with Orkin Pest Control for rodents and insects, but they do not deal with squirrels. The siding is bad on the building and that is how the squirrels are getting in. If we are storing records there, and occasionally using the restroom, we need to improve the building. It was suggested that H. Bradberry make a list of what needs to be done and get prices for the Board to consider. T. Scott also asked Chief Balsley to look at security cameras and bring prices to the Board.

11.9 Farm Animal Ordinance

J. McGuire asked the Board about the Ordinance regarding no farm animals in the Village. He asked that they consider an amendment to allow a certain number of chickens, but no roosters, in the Village. After discussion it was decided that there will be clarification as to which kind of Ordinance mentions farm animals, a zoning ordinance, a general ordinance, or both. Then the Council can decide the course of action needed to proceed. It may need to go to the Planning Commission for a recommendation to the Board.

Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

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

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

P. Hruska mentioned that the investments have generated \$5,700 in interest in the last month.

Announcements / Correspondence:

There will be a statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 20th at 1:00 p.m.

Guest Comments: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President  
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk