

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 05/14/24)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: Bridgett Flynn.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: None.

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve the March 12, 2024, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: Beth Andrus – Possible November ballot proposal – Commercial Renewable Energy Projects.

Ms. Andrus explained that last fall Public Act 233 was passed. This allows the State to take over the zoning and placement decisions for renewable energy projects. On April 24th, the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider amending the Zoning Ordinance by adding two new Renewable Energy Zoning Districts. The amendment will also establish the Standards and Requirements for these new districts. There will be a Commercial Renewable Energy Small District and a Commercial Renewable Energy Large District.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reminded everyone that the winter parking Ordinance is no longer in effect. May 8th or 9th will be the last day for high school seniors. The patrol vehicle has been repaired and is running fine.

Waiting for the credit card machine to be connected to the internet at the Transfer Station.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

H. Bradberry reported that the new employee is working out well. They are working on coal patching. The mower is back from repair and ready to go.

T. Scott wanted to make the Board aware that the pavilion at the Park is going to need repair before too long. The posts are rotting at the concrete level and the concrete is in bad shape. He presented pictures.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

MDOT Category B Grants are available again. The Village can submit two projects for consideration for 2025 funding. This grant is a 50/50 match. The deadline for the application is June 12, 2024. It was decided to submit all of Walker Drive and Davis Street – from Morrice Road to Main Street as one project and all of Melladee Lane, all of Hickory Street, and First Street – from Morrice Road to Main Street as another project. Hopefully, the Village can cover the cost of completing Morrice Road repair next year.

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The County repaving Lansing Road is still about 3 years out. Gormley will draft an Ordinance to turn Lansing Road over to the County. B. Andrus mentioned that the County is paving all of Morrice Road starting at the north end. Will be here in 2025 so may be able to save funds by doing our last portion of Morrice Road at the same time.

9.4 Sewer / Codes
No Report.

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

9.6 SSES
P. Dickerson reported that things are going well. SSES received a \$40,000 grant from MIOSHA. They are selling the tower truck and have lowered the price to not less than \$70,000. They are looking at setting illegal burn fees. SSES will be raising the ambulance assessment to \$120 per unit per year next year. There will be a fire equipment millage on an upcoming ballot. If the proposal does not pass the founding members of SSES – the Village, Perry Township, and the City of Perry – will have to make up the funds. They are meeting with the Country prosecutor over the criminal matter.

9.7 Budget
No Report. A Budget Committee meeting was set for Saturday, May 4th at 10:00 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process
Nothing new. R. Peterson will check with SEDP tomorrow.

10.2 Perry Township Sewer Rate
No Report. Remove from agenda for now.

10.3 Zoning Ordinance Changes to Include Renewable Energy Provisions
The Planning Commission will need a Resolution to approve the amendment proposals.

10.4 DPW New Building – Revised Bid
T. Scott reported that the bid is still good even though it is over 30 days old. Need to get the tax removed. P. Hruska estimated that would make the cost \$26,631.25. The Board already approved \$27,100.29 for the building and \$5,409 for the concrete.

10.5 Sewer at 114 W. South Street
Received bids from Jerry Gutting, G.A. Hunt Excavating, and Miller Brother Excavating. The bid of \$9,580 from G.A. Hunt seems to be the most complete bid. None of the bids included yard restoration so the DPW will have to do that.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by P. Hruska to accept the bid of \$9,580 from G.A. Hunt Excavating.

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

10.6 Park Building
Received bids from Lucas Siding, KWR Home Services, Hansons, and Mike Grinnell. The bid of \$12,000 from Lucas Siding appears to be the most complete and reasonable.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to accept the bid of \$12,000 from Lucas Siding.

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

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10.7 Part-Time Police Officer

T. Scott reported that he and Chief Balsley interviewed candidate Steven Skrbec for the position. His references are good, he knows the County, has experience, and lives in the area. If he accepts the position he will work a minimum of 16 hours per month. Pay was decided at the last meeting.

MOTION by R. Peterson, seconded by A. Flynn to hire Steven Skrbec as a part-time police officer.

Roll Call: Ayes: R. Peterson, A. Flynn, P. Hruska, T. Scott. Nays: P. Dickerson. Absent: B. Flynn.
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Ordinance Amendment Discussion – Chickens

At the last meeting, a resident asked about changing the Village Ordinance to allow keeping chickens in the Village. Currently they are not allowed per the Zoning Ordinance and a Village Ordinance. There was discussion about chickens and other animals and how to regulate them all.

MOTION by R. Peterson to Table until a later date. Motion received no second and so failed.

MOTION by T. Scott to leave Ordinances as they are. Motion received no second and so failed.

No action was taken. Item will be removed from the agenda.

11.2 President's Discretionary Spending Approval Amount.

The current Resolution, in place since 2003, allows the President to approve up to \$1,000 without getting prior Board approval.

MOTION by R. Peterson, to approve spending up to \$5,000 for Police or DPW vehicle repair and up to \$1,500 for anything else. Motion received no second and so failed.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Hruska to approve spending up to \$4,000 for any Village vehicle repair or related matter and \$1,500 for anything else.

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

11.3 Personnel Manual – Health Insurance

J. Gormley presented a Resolution to Amend the Personnel Manual. The eligibility for health insurance benefits will be changed from after 90 days to after 60 days of full-time employment. The insurance carrier made an exception to their policy to allow R. Risdon to be covered after 30 days of full-time employment as there was confusion over the waiting period. Going forward the waiting period will be after 60 days of full-time employment.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the Resolution as presented.

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

11.4 April 23rd Meeting

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to cancel the April 23rd meeting. All ayes.
Motion carried.

P. Hruska mentioned that we will need to ask the engineer for everything necessary to approve submitting the grant application at the May 14th meeting.

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Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to pay the bills as presented. (List Attached)

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

Announcements / Correspondence:

T. Scott explained the new registration requirement from EGLE for the Transfer Station.

President Scott reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was very successful. It was a little rainy but there were lots of kids, lots of eggs, and many generous donations. He thanked everyone that helped out in any way.

Guest Comments:

B. Andrus commented that if the Planning Commission passes a Resolution at their Public Hearing on the 24th they will make a recommendation to the Council. The Council will then need to pass an Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance but will not need to hold a second Public Hearing.

There was further discussion regarding the Park pavilion and the need to start getting bids for the work. The concrete is 25' x 50' and 4" deep. The beams are approximately 8"x8" but not sure of the number. The beams will need to be replaced before the concrete is completed. T. Scott will check for contractors.

It was also mentioned that the playground mulch is very low and will need to be refilled soon.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk