

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 06/11/24)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 12.5 Randy Risdon
12.6 Methodist Church – 204 and 210 Main Street

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by A. Flynn, 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 May 14, 2024, minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Consider Amendment to Zoning Ordinance – Renewable Energy Zoning Districts

President Scott opened the Public Hearing for comments from the public at 6:05 p.m. He read a letter from resident S. Ball of Melladee Lane. She is opposed to allowing solar energy projects within the Village limits and listed her reasons. T. Brown and K. Kassa also spoke about the concerns they have if a solar project is permitted in the Village. B. Andrus explained the Resolutions recently passed by the Planning Commission and their recommendation to the Council. There was much discussion. President Scott closed the Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reported that school is out for the summer on Friday.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

T. Scott reported that the DPW is presently picking up a crack seal machine in Pennsylvania.

T. Scott asked B. Andrus, President of the DDA, if they could contribute to the repair of the Park pavilion as it is in the DDA district. She will take it to the next DDA meeting. There was discussion about the wood chips at the Park playground. Ten yards were just added but may need to add more.

Chief Balsley asked if the Board is still interested in a surveillance system for the Park. He would suggest one like what is at Village Hall. It would cost about \$299 – is motion activated and can store about nine days of information. It comes with four cameras but can have up to eight cameras – they are about \$60 each. He also recommends a safe or something to store it in so it cannot be stolen. They are available for approximately \$75.

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MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to add 12.7 Cameras for Park to the agenda. All ayes.
Motion carried.

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
No Report.

10.7 Budget
No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 131 Main Street – Bids / Blight Elimination Process
Since there has been a claim made against the property it was decided to go into a Closed meeting during the June 11th Council meeting to discuss the tax sale bidding process.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Renewable Energy Zoning Districts
The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing for consideration of a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to add Renewable Energy Zoning Districts. They approved Resolutions and sent a recommendation to the Board. J. Gormley presented Ordinances based on those recommendations. B. Andrus explained that the Board may have to revisit and amend the Large District Ordinance as the State is continuing to work on their regulations. When the State has them finished, Village and County Ordinances must be compatible with them. Will also need an Ordinance to store the energy created.

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the Ordinance to amend the Village Zoning Ordinance to add Article 5, Section 5.11 Regarding Commercial Renewable Energy Small (CRES) District.

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

MOTION by A. Flynn, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the Ordinance to amend the Village Zoning Ordinance to add Article 5, Section 5.12 Regarding Commercial Renewable Energy Large (CREL) District.

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

12.2 DPW – Part-Time/Summer Help
T. Scott explained that the DPW will need help running the crack seal machine. Would like Council to consider hiring 1 or 2 people.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve hiring a seasonal worker for up to 16 hours per week at \$18.00 per hour – to begin working sometime in June until November 1st.

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

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12.3 Crack Seal Machine

T. Scott found a used crack seal machine and trailer for \$10,000. It is in Pennsylvania and the DPW will need to pick it up. The DPW will need to add an air compressor and there is a spot in the tank that needs to be welded.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve spending \$10,000 to buy the crack seal machine and trailer.

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 A. Flynn to approve spending up to \$3,000 to make repairs and get the crack seal machine up and running.

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

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve spending up to \$4,000 for materials to be able to use the crack seal machine.

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

12.4 Transfer Investment Funds

P. Hruska, as a member of the Budget Committee, made recommendations for funds to be moved between the investment fund accounts and the fund checking accounts. Having funds in the investment accounts is beneficial for the Village but at the same time funds need to be available for daily expenses. P. Hruska suggested that the transfers be added to the meeting agenda on a monthly basis. Amounts will be recommended by the treasurer and approved by Council.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to approve the transfers as recommended (list attached).

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

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to add K. McGuire as an administrator for Investment Fund Accounts and remove B. Swett as same.

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

12.5 Randy Risdon

T. Scott explained that he would like to make R. Risdon eligible for holiday pay and his wage rate increase effective as of May 20, 2024. He would have been eligible on June 14th but as he and H. Bradberry are making the trip to Pennsylvania T. Scott would like him to be eligible earlier than planned. He is working out very well.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to amend the motion approved on March 12, 2024, and make R. Risdon eligible for his 90-day wage rate increase and holiday pay effective May 20, 2024.

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

12.6 Methodist Church

T. Scott explained that the Methodist Church and the parsonage were divided when they split the lot. There is someone interested in purchasing the parsonage, but it is still zoned Public Lands.

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The Church will need to apply to rezone the property before the sale.

It was suggested that when the Public Hearing to rezone is held the Village amend the Zoning Ordinance to make only one Public Hearing necessary going forward. The Planning Commission will hold the Public Hearing.

12.7 Cameras for Park

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve spending up to \$500 for a camera system, camera and safe, for the Park.

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 add 12.8 Business Flyers to the agenda.
All ayes. Motion carried.

12.8 Business Flyers

R. Peterson presented a draft of the flyers. There was discussion about businesses listed and how they will be listed. Printing cost for 6500 copies of 8 1/2 inches x 11 inches flyers will be \$1,939. Printing cost for 6500 copies of 5 1/2 inches x 11 inches flyers will be \$1,228. No mailing costs available at this time. The DDA will pay a portion of the printing and mailing costs. J. Gormely will also share some of the cost for the flyers.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by A. Flynn to spend up to \$1,500 for printing and mailing the flyers.

Roll Call: Ayes: R. Peterson, P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, B. Flynn, A. Flynn, T. Scott. Nays: None.
Absent: None. 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 7:40 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk