

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 09/10/24)

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members Present: Phyllis Dickerson, Todd Scott, Maggie Saint Amour, Robert Peterson, and Philip Hruska.

Absent: None.

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

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: Add: 12.8 Hose for Crack Seal Machine

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by R. Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the July 23, 2024 minutes, as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Consider Proposed 2024 Plan Amendment to the Village of Morrice Downtown Development Authority's (MDDA) Tax increment Finance and Development Plan

T. Scott moved to open the hearing for comments from the public at 6:04 p.m. All ayes. Hearing opened. There were no comments from the public, but P. Hruska brought up two concerns about the amendment text. In section 3.2 the extra letters "walk6ue" need to be removed. In Section 9 the sentence "The estimated cost of the following developments is less than \$15,000.00 including closing costs;" should be removed in its entirety. An all-ayes vote closed the hearing at 6:08 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

Chief Balsley reminded everyone that school is back in session. The first home football game will be on Friday at 5:00 p.m. The new hire has finished the very lengthy MCOLES report. Once that is notarized and back to Chief Balsley he can be put on the schedule.

10.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

10.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report.

10.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report

10.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

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10.6 SSES

P. Dickerson reported that things are going well. They got a State grant for 14 sets of turnout gear at no cost to SSES. They have also applied for another grant for safety vests. Tim DeLau is working on the litigation. He is drafting a summary letter for the prosecutor. They hope to have it by their next meeting. So far, the electric work at the Morrice Fire Hall has not been done.

10.7 Budget

No Report. The Committee set a meeting for Saturday, September 21st at 12:05 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11.1 131 Main Street – Bids Results

T. Scott explained that the Village did get the property through the tax auction and should have the deed soon. The DPW has contacted people to remove the honeybees and the hornets. Clerk will contact Brent Jones at the Land Bank to see where we are in the blight elimination process now that the Village owns the property.

11.2 Morrice Area Schools – Village of Morrice Resource Officer Agreement

T. Scott reported that the School Board has agreed to pay another \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000 yearly. These funds will help with overtime pay for when the Chief is at after school activities. There was discussion regarding the number of hours at the school and the number of games attended. Chief currently spends no more than 3 hours a day at the school during school hours.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by to approve the Morrice Area Schools – Village of Morrice Resource Officer Agreement as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: R. Peterson, M. Saint Amour, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, T. Scott. Nays: None.

Absent: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Appoint DDA Board Member – Shaun Thronson

The DDA Board recommends appointing Shaun Thronson, from Glazing Solutions, to fill the remainder of G. Gutting's 4-year term. G. Gutting resigned 07/18/24. This term will expire in November of 2026.

12.2 Lagoon Fence Repair Bid

The bid from Spartan Fence for \$5,675 with be to remove and haul away 121' of tree damaged chain link fence. And to install 121' of 6' high heavy industrial chain link fence with 3 strands of barbwire atop.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by M. Saint Amour to approve the Spartan Fencing bid as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: R. Peterson, M. Saint Amour, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, T. Scott. Nays: None.

Absent: None. Motion carried.

12.3 Electric Bids – New Steel Building

Two bids were received for electric installation at the new building. This will be pulling power from the salt barn and will include overhead indoor lights, switches, outlets, and outside security lights. The bid from Harris Electric is \$7,408.40 and the bid from Lenon Electric is \$3,700.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the bid from Lenon Electric as presented. To be paid from the Transfer Station Fund.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, M. Saint Amour, R. Peterson, T. Scott. Nays: None.

Absent: None. Motion carried.

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12.4 Approve Amendment to MDDA Plan

The Ordinance to Adopt and Approve a 2024 Amendment to the Village of Morrice Downtown Development Authority's Development Plan Pursuant to the Provisions of Act 57 Public Acts of Michigan of 2018, as Amended was presented. Approval of this Ordinance will approve the changes to the MDDA Plan as requested.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the Ordinance as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: M. Saint Amour, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, R. Peterson, T. Scott. Nays: None.
Absent: None. Motion carried.

12.5 Approve Annual Financial Report – Year Ended 02/29/24

Copies of the annual report were included in Council packets as well as a summary of the report from the auditor. The Village received an unmodified opinion for the FY 2024 audit. This is the highest opinion we could receive and means that the financial statements are correctly stated in all material respects.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by M. Saint Amour to approve the Annual Financial Report – Year Ended 02/29/24 as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, P. Hruska, M. Saint Amour, R. Peterson, T. Scott. Nays: None.
Absent: None. Motion carried.

12.6 Vacant Lot Donation

The owner of the vacant lot next to the library would like to donate it to the Village. J. Gormley suggested we start with a purchase agreement for \$1.00. With that we can order a title search to make sure that the giftor is actually the legal owner. Once ownership is established the giftor can sign a deed that J. Gormely will prepare for the gift. Clerk will ask Gormley to prepare the Purchase Order.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by P. Dickerson to purchase the property for \$1.00 if the title is clean.

Roll Call: Ayes: R. Peterson, M. Saint Amour, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, T. Scott. Nays: None.
Absent: None. Motion carried.

12.7 Halloween

T. Scott would like to get started early this year looking for volunteers and donations for the Halloween cider and doughnuts at the Fire Hall event. He will put something on Facebook and asked P. Dickerson to put something on the Hall sign. Set Halloween hours as 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to set Halloween hours as 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.8 Hose for Crack Seal Machine

The DPW is still learning the workings of the new machine. The hose needs to be replaced. To get a 20' hose from the machine company it will cost \$1,700. They think they can use hydraulic hose, which is pretty much the same thing, and it will cost about \$400.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by M. Saint Amour to purchase the hydraulic hose.

Roll Call: Ayes: M. Saint Amour, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, T. Scott. Nays: R. Peterson.
Absent: None. Motion carried.

After the vote there was discussion about the differences in the two types of hoses.

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Review Financial Statement / Pay Bills / Fund Transfers

P. Hruska questioned why no Fund Transfer List was included. Treasurer had not prepared anything.

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

Roll Call: Ayes: M. Saint Amour, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, R. Peterson, T. Scott. Nays: None.

Absent: None. Motion carried.

Announcements / Correspondence:

Chief Balsley reminded everyone that St. Mary's Festival will be the second weekend in September. September 27th will be the school's homecoming game and possibly a parade.

Guest Comments:

B. Andrus explained that because they have so many projects in the works the DDA is going back to monthly meetings. They will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

On Thursday, September 12th at 9:00 a.m. the DDA will be a meeting with Justin Horvath of the SEDP and some contractors. They are coming to give ideas about building on the vacant lots and will bring possible designs and costs.

B. Andrus asked that the DPW continue to mow and maintain the lots on Main Street. She suggested they set a schedule and payment amount for the DDA to cover. T. Scott will take a proposal to the DDA meeting tomorrow night.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Todd Scott, Village President
Karen McGuire, Village Clerk