

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held January 25, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on January 25, 2022.

The Village President called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll being called, the following answered present: Rojas, Kolling, Pennington, Hopkins, Higley, Stauffer. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye."

Attorney Lesage absent. Press is present.

VISITORS: Dave and Mary Jane Warkins, Sylvia Saunders, Denise Cheek, Carol Reckmeyer, Ryan Fletcher, Salley Wessels.

MINUTES: Trustee Hopkins moved and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to approve the January 11, 2022 minutes as presented. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." Trustee Rojas abstained. President declared said motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

TREASURER'S REPORT: No Report

CURRENT BILLS: Trustee Pennington moved, and Trustee Stauffer seconded the motion to accept the current bills as presented. Upon roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

PETITION & COMMUNICATION: No Report

ADMINISTRATION: Village President Labash came before the Board to give an update on the DLR closure. Attorney Lesage drafted a letter to the school board advising them to hold the required 3 public hearings and revote on the closure. Out of compliance with the statute, the school board will hold the required hearing and vote after the February 22, 2022, meeting. Village President Labash addressed the issue of the Village computers being hacked. Due to this, passwords for administrative emails would be reset the evening of January 25, 2022.

STREET DEPT: Trustee Higley reported that the street department has been busy with snow removal and has heard that the community is happy with the work the street department is putting in to keep up with the snow. Superintendent Fletcher reported that the new cutting edge blade for one of the plows is working out great, and there is a desire to purchase a second cutting edge blade for the other plow in the future.

WATER/SEWER: No Report.

FINANCE: Trustee Rojas reported that there is an appropriation amendment reflecting an increase both in the Police Commission line items and Feral Cat Program. This is needed due to the incurred cost to advertise in the search of a police chief, and conduct interviews for the position. This money will come from Video Gaming. Amendments will be made to increase the water department chemical fund, this money will come out of the reserve fund. This increase is needed due to inflation. Trustee Pennington added that Hawkins absorbed the cost of the inflation last year but will no longer be able to absorb the cost going forward. Trustee Rojas moved to approve the Amendment Trustee Kolling seconded. Upon roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Rojas reminded the board that preliminary budget meetings will start the following week.

PARK & RECREATION: Trustee Hopkins reported that Larry Claussen will be on vacation until May, the department will need to look into filling a second position. The street department is able to help out with mowing and upkeep until Claussen returns. The part time position will be full time hours from roughly

March-October. Village President Labash added that they are looking to hire 1 -2 part time employees for the summer months for the street department, and an additional part time employee to help with building and grounds during the summer.

POLICE DEPT: Trustee Kolling reported that they are continuing to test for a new police officer and the process to hire a new Chief continues as they conduct interviews.

ORDINANCE: No Report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Trustee Stauffer reported that this year marks the 100-year Birthday for the bandshell. Trustee Stauffer has plans for a celebration and is open to suggestions on how to commemorate the event.

CIVIL DEFENSE: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Pennington moved and Trustee Stauffer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

The next regular Village Board Meeting will be held on February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

Brooke Knight, Village Deputy Clerk

Phil Labash, Village President