

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held December 13, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on December 13, 2022.

Village President Labash called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll being called, the following answered present: Rojas, Pennington, Hopkins, Higley, Kolling, Fay. President Labash declared said motion carried.

Attorney Lesage present. Press present. Treasurer - Jordan Sasscer present. Village Engineer – Corey Buck absent.

VISITORS: Derek Humphrey – Midwest Disposal, Rob Urish, Dave & Mary Jane Warkins, Denise Cheek, Jerry Stauffer, Mike Cicchetti, Jeff Bold, Salley Wessels.

MINUTES: Trustee Pennington moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the November 22, 2022, minutes as presented. Upon roll being called all Trustees Rojas, Pennington, Hopkins, Higley voted “Aye.” Trustee Fay abstained. President declared said motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

TREASURER’S REPORT: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to approve the Treasurers report as presented. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

Treasurer Jordan Sasscer reported that the audit report was returned with no findings due to a good internal control. Less than 10% of municipalities receive a “no findings” report at the end of their audit. President Labash questioned the reason behind the results taking so long? A brief discussion was had regarding staffing issues and difficulties with remote offices.

CURRENT BILLS: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling 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: Rob Urish from the Economic Development Board presented findings for the recommendation for the request from the Fire Department for TIF funding. President Labash advised the Board members to review the documents as it would be an agenda item in January for a final vote.

Dave Warkins came before the board to commend those who helped decorate the campus with lights.

Jerry Stauffer addressed the Board regarding the issue of feral cats in his neighborhood. Jerry is concerned that feeding the cats could draw other rodents/critters to the area and create a public health issue. Jerry presented Attorney Lesage with an ordinance from the city of Wheaton regarding feral cats. Attorney Lesage commented that Non-Home Rule Municipalities are bound by legal restrictions but will investigate the ordinance and see if there is any option for the Village.

Jeff Bold came before the Board to commend Village employees with their help over the summer during events, and all their help behind the scenes. Ryan and his crew were easy to work with and communicated well to help things run smoothly.

ADMINISTRATION: President Labash reminded the public of the retirement of Paula Diehl – Village Clerk and invited everyone to attend a party in her honor on December 30th from 4p-6p at the Mount Morris Senior Center. Attendees are asked to wear their favorite flowery attire.

Trustee Rojas moved and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal

of a specific employee at the end of regular session. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye" President declared said motion carried.

After resuming regular session, the Board will handle the appointment of Brooke Duffy to Village Clerk, the appointment of Paula Diehl to Director of Economic Development, the appointment of two Full-Time employees for police - Nick Izer, and Gerald Bennett.

STREET DEPT: Trustee Higley reported that leaf pick up is done for the year with a total of 1,038 miles put on the truck during leaf removal. The street department has prepared the trucks for snow removal.

WATER/SEWER: No Report

FINANCE: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve a one-time employee gift of \$150 for full time employees and \$75 for part time employees for a year end Christmas Bonus. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye" President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to approve the audit for fiscal year ending April 30th, 2022. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye" President declared said motion carried.

Attorney Lesage discussed the Assignment of Accounts and Security Agreement between Pinecrest Village Brethren Home, Pinecrest Grove, Inc., and Midland States Bank. This amendment process creates no liability to the Village, it is considered a "Conduit Bond" payable solely from Pinecrest.

Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to approve the first amendment to bond and loan agreement in respect to the Pinecrest 2013 industrial revenue bond. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye" President declared said motion carried.

PARK & RECREATION: Trustee Hopkins reported that the Green Wall at Dillehay has been removed.

POLICE DEPT: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion to enter Executive session under the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Village of Mt. Morris and its employees for 2022-2025. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye" President declared said motion carried.

ORDINANCE: No Report

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Trustee Fay reported that the plumbing in the men's restroom upstairs is complete, still waiting on the partitions. Waiting on a quote for finishing the women's room downstairs as well as a quote to reseal the basement wall.

CIVIL DEFENSE: No Report.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to end regular session at 7:57 PM to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Hopkins moved, and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to reconvene REGULAR SESSION at 8:40 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

FINANCE: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Brooke Duffy to Village clerk with a salary increase of \$3.00 per hour effective 01/01/2023. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.
The vacant Deputy Clerk position will be a part time position to be appointed at a later Board Meeting.

Trustee Rojas moved, and Trusting Pennington seconded the motion to hire Paula Diehl as Economic Development Director with an annual salary of \$12,000 effective 01/01/2023. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

POLICE: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to hire Nick Izer for the position of Full-Time officer effective 12/05/2022 with a salary as defined under the FOP Contract. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion to hire Gerald Bennett for the position of Full-Time officer with his start date to be determined, salary as defined under the FOP Contract and a credit of 4 years of completed service. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Pennington seconded the motion to approve the FOP contract effective 05/01/2022 as presented. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Pennington moved and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

The next regular Village Board Meeting will be held on January 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

Brooke Knight, Deputy Village Clerk

Phil Labash Village President