

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held May 14, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on May 14, 2024.

The Village President called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Village Treasurer Absent. Press Preset. Village Engineer Absent. Village Attorney Present.

**VISITORS:** Bob & Crete LeFevre, Josh & Robin Keene, Tonya Bocker, Melissa Bauer, Denise Cheek, Jeff Bold.

**MINUTES:** Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the April 23, 2024, minutes as presented. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye". President declared said motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE MINUTES:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Report

**CURRENT BILLS:** Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Rojas 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:** Josh and Robin Keene from 411 E. Lincoln came before the Board to request the removal of a tree on the terrace in front of their property. Trustee Higley spoke about getting an opinion from a local Arborist and would communicate the decision with the Keene's.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve appointing Melissa Bauer to the Planning Commission. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to approve the Annual Kable Concert Band Agreement. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

**STREET DEPT:** Trustee Higley reported to the Board that he and Trustee McConnell met with Fehr Graham regarding future street projects and their recommendation. Trustee McConnell reports that the Engineers with Fehr Graham have proposed a four-year plan and contract to address issues on the Water/Sewer side, and work on grant funding for these projects. Postponing repair of the next block of Sunset was suggested by Fehr Graham, to secure the necessary funding to update the water and sewer lines under it. The grant Fehr Graham is looking to secure would provide funding for Water/Sewer and include funding to repair the Street. Trustee Higley mentioned that the Village Street Department could repair sections of Sunset that have the highest need for repair until the full reconstruction.

**WATER/SEWER:** Trustee McConnell reported that the drinking fountain up town was turned on, but in doing so the valve broke. While repairing this, it was discovered that the lines were in disrepair. A decision was made to cap off the current location and relocate the fountain and plaque across the street to the Campus. Trustee Fay and Trustee McConnell will decide the best location.

Trustee McConnell updated the Board that he and Trustee Rojas met with Fehr Graham to address the concerns about the current water funding and the depletion of those funds. Trustee McConnell along with Trustee Rojas with the help of Fehr Graham will provide detailed information along with proposed changes at a future Board Meeting. There has not been a water rate increase in the Village since 2013. Heavy consideration is going into the processes.

**POLICE DEPT:** Trustee Kolling reported the April stops, violations, and troubled spots. The Press release for the arrest of David Lowtharp and Kenneth Kirk on May 3, 2024, was read.

**FINANCE:** Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 24-07 fixing a time and place of a public hearing and a meeting of the Joint Review Board with respect to amendment No. 1 to Tax Increment Finance Campus Redevelopment Project Area (TIF#2) Redevelopment Project and Plan. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

Attorney Lesage briefly described the next steps in the process.

**PARK & RECREATION:** Trustee Hopkins moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the estimate from Prairie Fence in the amount of \$5,600.00 for the ball field foul lines at Dillehay. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Hopkins reports that the local travel baseball teams that use Dillehay will be hosting tournaments on the weekends at Dillehay, due to this a portable pitching mound is needed. The Recreation Fund will be used for these. There will be increased activity with baseball and softball throughout the summer.

**ORDINANCE:** President Labash reported that the property owner of the blighted property on N. McKendrie has not successfully met the requirements outlined by Village Attorneys. Moving forward, the Village can start with the inventory of the vehicles on the property.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY:** Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to hire American Concrete Care to coat the downstairs flooring and U.S. Waterproofing to do the downspouts and gutters for a cost of \$17,322.00. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Trustee McConnell urged revisiting the conversation with NLC a company to help with water and sewer line insurance coverage for residents.

President Labash spoke about interest and pursuing a mutual aid type agreement for public works that local municipalities can participate in. President Labash will present it to the Board at a later meeting for a vote.

Bob LeFevre inquired about the Memorial Service Program. Trustee Fay answered that there weren’t enough volunteers. President Labash will get with Trustee Fay to come up with a plan to provide volunteers to continue the program.

Bob LeFevre inquired about the Memorial Fountain; President Labash addressed that the Fountain Project continues.

Bob LeFevre inquired about the cleanup process regarding the recent fire uptown. Attorney Lesage answered and spoke about the legal steps necessary.

Trustee McConnell reminded the public that the first Wednesday of the month is Breakfast with the Mayor at The Center.

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 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 May 28, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

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Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk

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Phil Labash, Village President