

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held May 28, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on May 28, 2024.

The Village President called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll being called Trustees Fay, McConnell, Higley, Kolling, and Hopkins voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried. Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to excuse Trustee Rojas. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye". President declared said motion carried.

Village Treasurer Present. Press Absent. Village Attorney Absent.

VISITORS: Denise Cheek, Dave & Mary Jane Warkins, Ryan Fletcher, Mike Chambers, Chad Stauffer, Jeff Bold.

MINUTES: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to accept the May 14, 2024, minutes as presented. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye". President declared said motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES: No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Hopkins moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's Report as presented. Upon Roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye". President declared said motion carried.

CURRENT BILLS: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Fay 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: Mike Chambers with the NLC Service Line Warranty Program presented to the Board and public regarding providing insurance to residents for the coverage of water and sewer lines at a reasonable cost. This agreement would be between residents and NLC, not moderated or funded by the Village.

Mary Jane Warkins inquired about the Memorial Fountain Moving. President Labash responded that the Fountain is not moving, but instead is undergoing restoration over the next 2-4 weeks. There is currently a discussion in Public Works on whether it is feasible to restore the water feature. Mary Jane Warkins commented that the Beautification Committee has done a great job with the flowers and plants around town.

Denise Cheek thanked the Village Board members for their participation in the Memorial Day Program.

ADMINISTRATION: President Labash mentioned to the Board and the public that they might be seeing commercials featuring Mt. Morris on the local stations. This is all part of the rebranding and work that the Village is doing with Ignition.

President Labash also reminded the public and Board Members of Breakfast with the Mayor, on Wednesday, June 3 at Mount Morris Senior and Community Center. Brion Brooks and Jeff Stauter will be attending to help answer any questions the public may have regarding the Hill Street Project.

Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to approve the quote from Entre in the amount of \$21,055.12 to upgrade the Server at Village Hall. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

STREET DEPT: Trustee Higley moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the quote from Wolber & Sons Excavating for the resealing of alleys north of Rt. 64, and Dillehay maintenance shed driveway. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Higley moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab from Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet not to exceed \$50,000.00. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Higley reports that he's met with various people over on Sunset. Pat Drew, the inspector for Willett & Hofmann agrees that the south side of the terrace needs attention. He will contact Porter Brothers to get this taken care of along with a follow-up on the sealing of the street and check into the issue with the curbs. Pat Drew will follow up with Trustee Higley by next Thursday.

WATER/SEWER: Trustee McConnell reported that after speaking with Fehr Graham regarding funding for the Water Department, they have come up with a 5-year plan to target water projects that need to be addressed. This plan includes Water Main replacement, Lead Service Line Replacements, a New Well and Well house, an Emergency Backup Generator, and a New Water Tower. There is concern about where the funding will come from within the Water Budget, as it is currently underfunded. Treasurer Sasscer is working closely with Trustee McConnell on a plan to fund this contract. Fehr Graham will help secure grants to provide funding for the project plan.

Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to approve the Fehr Graham Contract for \$30,000.00 for Water Projects. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee McConnell reported that based on a discussion with Fehr Graham, there is a recommendation to raise the rate for water service by \$10.00 in 2024 and \$5.00 each year thereafter for the next 4 years. A discussion ensued regarding the information relayed to Trustee McConnell from Fehr Graham and how this would affect the water fund.

President Labash spoke about how the surplus that the fund carried in previous years has flipped and is now underfunded due to inflation, aging infrastructure, well repairs, and upgrades to systems.

Trustee McConnell will present a request for a vote at a future Board Meeting.

POLICE DEPT: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to enter into executive session at the end of the Regular session for the Purpose of Considering the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of a Specific Employee Pursuant to Section 2 (c)(1). Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Kolling read the recent press release for the arrest of Darren Barker, and Darlene Thompson.

FINANCE: No Report.

PARK & RECREATION: Trustee Hopkins moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the final design and contract for the OSLAD Grant. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

ORDINANCE: Trustee Fay has no report. President Labash reported that the Village will start the inventory of vehicles at the property located at 211 N McKendrie.

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Trustee Fay reported that US Waterproofing will start next week on the underground lines for the downspouts and gutters for Village Hall.

Trustee Fay reported that Budget Blinds has placed the order for materials and when they come in, they will be installed in the windows on the south side of the building and the new service window in the Clerks office.

END REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to end the regular session at 8:12 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to reconvene the regular session at 8:24 PM. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted “Aye.” President declared said motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS: President Labash will contact Chief Cicchetti and let him know the Board is aligned on the increase that he asked for pending the presentation of the MOU from the FOP.

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Hopkins moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 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 June 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk

Phil Labash, Village President