

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held June 11, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on June 11, 2024.

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

Village Treasurer Absent. Press Absent. Village Attorney Absent.

**VISITORS:** Chris McKenzie, David & Leann Richard, Sylvia Saunders, Dave & Mary Jane Warkins, Charlene Coloumbe, Chad Stauffer, Herb Olujic, Rob Urish, Paula Diehl, Chief Cicchetti, Catherine Higley, Ryan Fletcher, Jeff Bold

**MINUTES:** Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to accept the May 28, 2024, minutes as presented. Upon roll being called Trustees Kolling, McConnell, Hopkins, Higley and Fay voted "Aye". Trustee Rojas abstained. President declared said motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE MINUTES:** Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to accept the May 28, 2024, Executive minutes as presented. Upon roll being called Trustees, Kolling, McConnell, Hopkins, and Fay voted "Aye". Trustee Rojas abstained. President declared said motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Report

**CURRENT BILLS:** Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the current bills as presented with the addition of an invoice in the amount of \$12,708.71 to Edwards Creative for the work in the Museum. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

**PETITION & COMMUNICATION:** Charlene Coloumbe with Ogle County Economic Development Corporation came before the Board to introduce herself to the Board and Residents of Mt. Morris. Charlene has over 35 years in Economic Development and strives to impact communities positively with new jobs, increased property value, growth, and overall quality of life. Charlene presented the Village of Mt. Morris with a Certificate of Appreciation for being a founding partner to the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation. Charlene invited the Board to attend meetings held at the County Courthouse on the third Thursday of each month at 1 PM in room 100.

Leann Richards came before the Board regarding the burn ordinance requesting clarification and a revisit of the ordinance by the Board members. Trustee Fay will follow up with Attorney Lesage to discuss revisiting and updating the ordinance.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the Habitat for Humanity Raffle and to waive the fee associated with it. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

**STREET DEPT:** Trustee Higley moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the 20-year Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Mt Morris and Mt. Morris Township for the maintenance of roads. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Higley reports he received a second opinion on the compression of the blacktop on Sunset. He advised Willett and Hofmann to proceed with the sealing of the street. The terraces should be filled and seeded in the next few weeks.

Trustee Higley reports he is still following up on the issue regarding the landscaping on the south side of Sunset.

**POLICE DEPT:** Trustee Kolling highlighted the stats provided by Chief Cicchetti and read the press release regarding the arrest of David Lowtharp. Trustee Kolling reports the new body cameras have been deployed as a few officers are using them. Training will conclude soon, resulting in all officers utilizing the body cameras.

**FINANCE:** Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the \$500K CD Renewal with Solutions Bank of Forresteron with an interest rate of 4.8%. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

**WATER/SEWER:** Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to approve moving forward with the NLC Service Line Warranty Program Marketing, providing the residents of the Village the opportunity to enroll directly with the program. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee McConnell moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 24-08 an Ordinance Amending Title 8, Chapter 1, Section 8-1-5 of the Mt. Morris Village Code (Minimum Water Service Charge) by \$10.00. This increase would take effect July 1, 2024. There will be a \$5.00 increase each year for the next three consecutive years. A brief discussion ensued regarding the need for the increase as the cost of supplies and maintenance to maintain the water supply have increased, leaving a deficit in the Water Fund. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

**PARK & RECREATION:** Fencing for the foul lines is being installed at Dillehay Park. Avalanche continues to hold tournaments at Dillehay on the weekends.

**ORDINANCE:** No Report.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY:** Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the Estimate for the remodel of the Police Office not to exceed \$11,000. A discussion was had regarding the layout. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion for the replacement of the outer door to the voting area not to exceed \$7,000.00. A discussion was had about the seemingly high cost of replacing the door. Upon roll being called all Trustees present voted "Nay." President declared said motion failed. Trustee Fay will follow up with the door replacement.

**CIVIL DEFENSE:** No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Trustee McConnell reached out to Jennifer from Surfinternet regarding iFiber in town. President Labash addressed that Syndeo along with Aircell will have a presentation at the next Board meeting. A discussion was had about what companies are already in town providing iFiber to residents.

Trustee Fay reminded Board members and residents that Mt. Morris Kable Band Concerts start this Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 7:30 PM through July 31, 2024.

President Labash added that the new Mt. Morris Museum and Student Art Show will be open during the Wednesday and Friday Night Concerts.

Trustee Rojas invited the public and Board members to the Flag Day Ceremony at The Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center on June 14, 2024, at 11:30 followed by a free lunch. Toni McCombie will be present as well.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Trustee Higley shared that the Kable Band Concerts and the Friday Night Concerts will be broadcast live now on FM radio. With a 6-7 block radius, most residents should be able to enjoy the concerts from home. The broadcast station will be 104.1 FM.

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 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 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

---

Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk

---

Phil Labash, Village President