

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held February 11, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on February 11, 2025. The Village President called the meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll being called Trustees Rojas, Kolling, Higley, Fay, Hopkins and McConnell voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Village Treasurer Absent. Press Absent. Village Attorney Absent.

VISITORS: Ryan Fletcher, Chief Cicchetti, Denise Cheek, Ryan Anderson

MINUTES: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the January 28, 2025, Minutes as presented. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

CURRENT BILLS: Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the Current Bills as presented. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

PETITION & COMMUNICATION:

ADMINISTRATION: Ryan Anderson from Cypress Creek Flanagan Solar Project addressed the Board with an update regarding the project located North West of Sunset Golf Course.

Trustee Rojas moved and Trustee Fay seconded the motion for the Village to support the solar project and its special use request with Ogle County, provided it's sited in the north part of the property with the site plan that was presented. Upon the roll being called, Trustees Fay, Higley, Hopkins, Rojas and Kolling voted "Aye." Trustee McConnell "Abstained". The president declared said motion carried.

Trustee Kolling moved and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion authorizing Village President Labash and Attorney Lesage to work on a letter of support that can be shared with the county board regarding the project. Upon the roll being called, Trustee McConnell "Abstained". Trustees Hopkins, Fay, Rojas, Higley, and Kolling voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

President Labash updated the Board that the Sharkey's site 3 N Wesley is scheduled to complete demolition including fill next week. Once 3 N Wesley demo is complete, per Attorney for Sharkey's and Village Attorney the Village will be able to complete demo of 1 N Wesley.

President Labash reports that Constellation New Energy reached out regarding grant opportunities. They would like to award \$15,000 - \$25,000 for Education or Environmental. President Labash discussed the potential to utilize those funds at Zickuhr Park for the Walking Path or ADA Compliant Playground Equipment. President Labash will have a follow up discussion with Monica from Hitchcock and Trustee Hopkins regarding this. President Labash also discussed with Constellation the potential to restore the water feature on the memorial fountain and the continued improvements in the museum, Constellation did not think either of these were viable options to secure the funding. Board members discussed recreational summer program, splash pad, and replacing the equipment at Mounder Park as potential options. President Labash asked Board Members to reach out if they thought of anything that this funding could be used for.

STREET DEPT: Trustee Higley moved and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to purchase a new Zero Turn Mower not to exceed \$18,000.00. Ryan Fletcher discussed that there are excess funds in the Streets New Equipment Line. This mower would be used by all departments and streamline the equipment so that all departments have the same mower thus being able to share blades, parts, etc. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted “Aye.” The president declared said motion carried.

Trustee Higley moved and Trustee Hopkins seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 25-05 authorizing the sale of personal property – Grasshopper Mower. Trustee Higley mentioned that this unit would be listed for sale on Wisconsin Surplus as Birkey’s didn’t want to take the mower on trade. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted “Aye.” The president declared said motion carried.

Superintendent Fletcher reports that the Lagoon has been burned off, it was successful and without incident.

WATER/SEWER: Trustee McConnell reports he is waiting to hear back from Fehr Graham on project updates.

POLICE DEPT: No Report

FINANCE: Trustee Rojas thanked the Trustees for their lists and attendance to the budget meetings.

PARK & RECREATION: Trustee Hopkins reports that in regards to Zickuhr Park OSLAD Grant, costs have gone up, and the bids received were \$84,000 over the original budget. He will meet with Hitchcock Design Group to see if there is a way to reconfigure and trim the costs down. The intention is to put it out for rebid after discussion on how to cut some costs. Discussion was had about the process in the beginning regarding 100% Grant Funding, and the different options since the Village wasn’t on the Distressed Community List and only received 50% Grant Funding. Trustee Hopkins will update the Board as he learns more.

ORDINANCE: No Report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Trustee Fay reports that Rockford Tech was in last week and ran wires for the new key card system. The U-Shaped desk has been removed, and the service window has been put in. New carpet will be installed in a few weeks. The new furniture has started to arrive. Drozd will be in to finish the painting in the office. The poster art from downstairs will be moved up to the hall before the Board Room. Sandra Stengle and Legacy Printing are collaborating on banners for up town. New trash cans have been purchased for the Campus. There was discussion about further updates to Village Hall building in the basement bathrooms.

President Labash commended Trustee Fay on the projects he’s taken on to invest in Village Hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Fay seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 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 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk

Phil Labash, Village President