

Minutes of the Regular Village Board Meeting Held April 22, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Morris met in Regular Session at 7:00 PM on April 22, 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, McConnell, Fay and Hopkins voted "Aye." President declared said motion carried.

Village Treasurer Present. Press Absent. Village Attorney Absent.

VISITORS: Dave & Mary Jane Warkins, Jeff Bold, Paula Diehl, Rob Urish, Ryan Fletcher, Chief Cicchetti, Eve Bennett, Paul Opacak

MINUTES: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to accept the April 8, 2025, Minutes as presented. Upon the roll being called Trustees Kolling, McConnell, Hopkins, Higley, and Rojas voted "Aye." Trustee Fay Abstained. The president declared said motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES: Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to accept the April 8, 2025, Executive Minutes as presented. Upon the roll being called Trustees Kolling, McConnell, Hopkins, Higley, and Rojas voted "Aye." Trustee Fay Abstained. The president declared said motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

CURRENT BILLS: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee Kolling 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: Eve Bennett came before the Board to discuss citations she received from the Police Department regarding keeping chickens within the Village. Chief Cicchetti addressed the concern and will follow up with the Village Attorney to request a court date. Village President Labash implored Ms. Bennett to draft a proposal to present to the Board to request a change to the current Ordinance regarding keeping chickens.

Mary Jane Warkins asked for an update regarding the signs at the edge of town. Trustee Fay responded that they are to be removed, and that there is money in the next budget for new signage.

ADMINISTRATION: Village President Labash read the proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month for the Month of May. Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the Proclamation declaring the month of May Motorcycle Awareness month in the Village of Mt. Morris. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

STREET DEPT: Trustee Higley moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to approve Matt Duffy for the full-time position of public works employee at a rate of \$20.00 per hour with a start date of April 28, 2025. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

Superintendent Fletcher reports that they are starting the work on Zickhur Park.

WATER/SEWER: Trustee McConnell reports that he has a few projects in the works with Fehr Graham and will update the Board when he has more information.

POLICE DEPT: Trustee Kolling discussed a tragic incident that occurred within the Village resulting in the loss of life. Chief Cicchetti commented that the officers handled the call without incident and with great

merit. Ogle County Sheriff's office assisted with the call, and the investigation has been turned over to the Illinois State Police.

Trustee Kolling also mentioned an incident that occurred at the previously known DLR Jr High School where two individuals attempted to enter the building. Chief Cicchetti reported that this is still under investigation as well.

FINANCE: Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the FY25/26 Budget as presented. Upon the roll being called, Trustees Rojas, Kolling, McConnell, Hopkins and Higley voted "Aye." Trustee Fay voted "Nay". The president declared said motion carried.

Economic Development Committee Member Rob Urish talked about the TIF background and process for funding.

Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the TIF recommendation from Economic Development for County Line Design in the amount of a \$20,000 grant to repair and replace their parking lot and concrete support. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

Trustee Rojas moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the TIF recommendation from Economic Development for Ted Gesin in the amount of a \$100,000 grant and \$90,000, 5%, five-year loan. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

Trustee Hopkins moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the motion to approve the TIF recommendation for the Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center pending approval from the Mt. Morris Senior and Community Center Board. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

PARK & RECREATION: Trustee Hopkins reports that work at Zickhur Park will begin. Avalanche girls did a great job with spring cleanup at Dillehay.

ORDINANCE: No Report

PUBLIC PROPERTY: Trustee Fay moved, and Trustee McConnell seconded the Kable Band Contract for the use of the Bandshell on Wednesday evenings. Upon the roll being called, all Trustees present voted "Aye." The president declared said motion carried.

Trustee Fay reports he has ordered a bench in honor of Gerry Knodle sponsored by his family to be added to the benches at the Bandshell.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

There being no further business to come before this Board. Trustee Kolling moved, and Trustee Rojas seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 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 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Village Board Room.

Brooke Duffy, Village Clerk

Phil Labash, Village President