

Morley Village Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES

189 S Cass St (Village Hall)

May 13, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:00 PM by President Petersen

Present: Henry Petersen, President; Linda Kizer, Trustee; Sandra Leal, Trustee; Serine Petersen, Trustee; Austin Korpall, Trustee; Paul Block, Trustee; Steve Weed, Trustee; Terry Stilson, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer; Abbey Kooiman, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk.

Absent: None.

Guests: Ron & Jane Irwin, Michelle Lewis, Ashlee Feliciano, Chad Leal, Dana Myers, and Teresa O’Neil.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC MATTERS AND COMMENTS:

- Ron Irwin asked why the water was down so long in the millpond this spring. H. Petersen replied that it has been done the last few springs to compensate for the spring rains. Irwin responded that weeds get a boost when the water is lowered and we could consult with PLM. Also, there is a lot of debris against the dam.
- Ashlee Feliciano stated there is trash in the pond behind the stores and its been there a long time. H. Petersen replied that he just had the area cleaned but will get to it again.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Korpall added: “Enforcement of ordinances” to Police, Fire & Rescue. Kizer added “COP weekend” to Events & Festivals.

CONSENT AGENDA: Stilson stated that April’s minutes were incorrect as far as the budget adjustment. It should read “Move \$200 from the Dam budget line and add \$100 to the Attorney budget line (total \$1100) and \$100 to Maintenance budget line (total \$11,400). Increase Equipment budget line by \$4280 (total \$14,000).” **S. Petersen motioned to accept the consent agenda with the corrected minutes. Korpall supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
Roll call vote: Yes – H. Petersen, Leal, Korpall, Block, S. Petersen, Weed, Kizer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration & Finance:

- **Video-Electronic Meetings** – Stilson stated that at last month’s meeting it was suggested we meet electronically when fearing we would not have a quorum. She stated that electronic meetings were allowable during the Pandemic but are no longer allowable. Council members must appear in person to vote on things except for some exceptions like active military duty.

Police, Fire & Rescue:

- **Ordinance Officer & Police Positions** – H. Petersen stated that there was a meeting with the county Sheriff Miller and undersheriff. There is a possibility we can contract with the county for police coverage and perhaps eventually get our own police department. He was supposed to get with county personnel and hasn’t gotten back to us yet.
- **Enforcement of ordinances** – Korpall asked whether the board can look into enforcing ordinances. There are a handful of properties that need attention. He stated he talked with the county and fees can be put on their tax bills if we have to go to court. Stilson responded that she had asked the county several years ago and they didn’t know if that could be done. Ron Irwin asked why the Village couldn’t take them to small claims court. S. Petersen reported that, while talking with the county Sheriff, it was stated that we need an ordinance review board where residents can appeal their citations. Kizer stated that the Committee should meet at a separate time to get things rolling.

Streets & Sidewalks:

- S. Petersen stated that there is no map with the shutoffs on the fire hydrant system. She wondered if we could get bids to snake the water main and see where these turnoffs are. Stilson stated that several years ago the Village had the

stormdrains videoed. She will look up who did it and get a bid. It was also suggested to get a bid from Advanced Drain Cleaners in Big Rapids.

Events & Festivals:

- **COP Weekend** – Kizer stated the Community Center will be having an event during the COP. She wondered if the Village would want to have inflatables at the event. She will look into it and report back.

Millpond & Dam: None.

Parks & Recreation:

- **Park Plan Resolution** – Korpala stated the Plan will have to be published and reviewed for 30 more days and hold a public hearing. Stilson replied that she will contact the DNR and see because, if so, this could go on for months. The resolution was tabled.
- **Latimer Park bathrooms** – H. Petersen stated that we’re not construction people and don’t have the time to install the bathrooms at Latimer Park. S. Petersen stated that there also needs to be handicapped accessible doors. Ron Irwin was asked if he still wanted to volunteer to do some of this and work with contractors to do some tasks. Irwin will contact H. Petersen to look at the site. Weed would also like to be present.
- Korpala stated that the sign area needs to be cleaned up at Latimer Park. S. Petersen will look at it.
- Feliciano stated that it would be nice to have a fish cleaning station but it would have to have water. H. Petersen will look into it.

Building, Grounds, Equipment & Employees:

- **Point Broadband METRO Act Right-of-Way Permit Extension** – Kizer motioned to accept the extension with Leal’s support. Motion passed unanimously.

Roll call vote: Yes – H. Petersen, Leal, Korpala, Block, S. Petersen, Weed, Kizer.

Health & Safety: None.

Celebration on the Pond:

- Myers stated that the Village should receive the insurance forms some time in the next week for the June 1 event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Ordinance 03-2002 Amendment** – Kizer motioned to make the following amendments to the ordinance with Korpala’s support:
 - **Remove Section 1.4 (b)**
 - **Remove “wantonly or cruelly” from Section 1.5 (a)**
 - **Add Section 1.8 (a) The Smith Family and Block Family Farms which have resided in the Village of Morley for over one hundred years are the exception to this ordinance as it pertains to the livestock. Should the Families no longer own the property then this ordinance will be applied to that property as well.**
 - **Add: Section 1.9 (a) Amish horses will be tied to designated hitching posts.**
 - **Change Section 1.8 Penalties to Section 2.0**
 - **The ordinance will take effect 45 days after publication like the original ordinance was.**

Motion passed but not unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Weed, Kizer, Korpala, Leal No: H. Petersen, S. Petersen. Abstain: Block

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- Ashlee Feliciano stated she contacted a state person and Petersen’s animals did not meet criteria of the Right to Farm Act. She has concerns that this subject has gone on for five months and has had nothing done. She stated her children’s health is deteriorating because of the water. When asked whether she had had her water tested she replied, no she couldn’t afford the forty dollars. H. Petersen replied that the case has been closed. S. Petersen stated that the state told them they were in compliance with everything. Kizer added that something in writing would be helpful.

- Jane Irwin stated that there should be a maximum number of animals to each residence. She added the Village needs sewer and the Village needs cleaning up.
- Michelle Lewis stated that Stilson was wrong in her statement on electronic meetings. She then read from the law about meetings. She said someone with a medical condition could vote also.
- Lewis furthered that Village workshops should be announced according to the Open Meetings Act and open to the public and the meeting at 6:30 was not published to the public. H. Petersen stated that all Village meetings are open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT: H. Petersen adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Stilson,
Village of Morley Clerk