

Morley Village Regular Council Meeting

**MINUTES**

189 S Cass St (Village Hall)

September 9, 2024

**APPROVED MINUTES**

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

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

**Absent:** Linda Kizer, Trustee.

**Guests:** Gene Lawler, Chase Johnson, Michelle Lewis, Dana Myers, Ron & Jane Irwin, Tiffini Prescott, James Johnson, Ashlee Feliciano, Katrina Harkes, Scott Tutewile, Shawn Skaggs, and Teresa O'Neil.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC MATTERS AND COMMENTS:**

- Ron Irwin reported the Welcome sign coming into Morley from the east is a giant weedbed after the maintenance worker constructed an additional raised bed. He also distributed pictures of code violations in the Village. He also suggested putting tablets in the new toilets at Latimer Park. The pavilion also needs to be blown or swept before renters arrive. The maintenance room by the bathrooms was open the previous Saturday.
  - Everyone thanked Ron for the wonderful job he did on the indoor bathrooms.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Stilson added: "Clarification of Village Donations" under Administration. Korpala added "Ordinance items" under Police, Fire & Rescue.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** S. Petersen motioned to accept the consent agenda, as presented, with Leal's support. Motion Passed unanimously.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration & Finance:**

- **Clarification of Village donations** – Stilson reported that it was stated at the previous COP Committee meeting that it is against the law for the Village to accept donations. She has a printout stating that it is legal for municipalities to accept donations. If anyone wants a copy, let her know.

**Police, Fire & Rescue:**

- **Swearing in of Ordinance Officer** – Chase Johnson was sworn into office by Clerk Stilson.
- **Uniforms** – Stilson reported contacting West Michigan Uniforms and was told, with only one employee, it would not be cost effective to rent uniforms.
- **Ordinance Things** – Korpala reported that people have complained to him about property owners not mowing their grass. **Korpala motioned to send letters to people that need to mow their grass. Motion not seconded. Motion failed.**
  - Ordinance Officer Johnson will talk to residents who have not mowed their yards.
  - Korpala also asked about the brush that was put in front of the burned house on Scott Street and why the Village didn't pick it up. H. Petersen responded that it was placed in the road and not in the right configuration.
- **Fire Department report** – Lawler provided the Council with the August Fire Department report. He spoke of a chassis they may obtain from Morton Township. He asked about the hydrant system not working the previous day. H. Petersen responded that the tank attached to the pump had blown a leak they discovered it when the Fire Department tried to use the hydrant system. He has a company coming the next day to review the situation and give him a bid. The engine still could have been started.

**Streets & Sidewalks:** None.

**Events & Festivals:** None.

**Millpond & Dam:**

- **Dam Inspection Report** – Stilson stated the Village has received the Inspection report and will distribute it to the Council.

**Parks & Recreation:**

- **Latimer Park bathrooms** – Bathrooms are finished and look great.
- **Park Plan** – Stilson reported that she has received some additional information that the DNR needs and she will complete those tasks soon.
- **Clarification on gazebo ownership** – Stilson stated that it was told to the Village at the COP Committee meeting that the COP owned the gazebo at Kinney Park and it was given to them by the Morley Merchant organization. Stilson has reviewed some documents but hasn't had time to do a thorough review. She said everything she has reviewed showed the DNR working with the Village on the project. After the project had been going on for some time, the Morley Merchant organization asked the Village what they could do to contribute to the existing project.
  - Prescott stated that they have looked at some of their files and it showed the Morley Merchants applied for the grant.
- **Girl Scout Group request for library box at Kinney Park** – Stilson reported that the Morley Girl Scouts have asked if they could install a free library box near the gazebo in Kinney Park. **S. Petersen motioned to approve the free library with Weed's support. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

- The Girl Scout Troop needs to get in contact with the Village on the location and the Village will need to call Miss Dig.
- **Covid Monies** – Stilson reported that the Park Committee needs to meet to spend the last of the Covid monies.

**Building, Grounds, Equipment & Employees:**

- H. Petersen reported the backhoe should be ready soon. He has also been working on the tank at the Police station.

**Health & Safety:** None.

**Celebration on the Pond:**

- **COP Committee meeting report** – Leal stated the Committee meeting didn't go as planned. The COP would like a longer-term agreement and a lower fee. The agreement needs to be changed concerning the beer tent also. The Village would like to be able to discuss the agreement since they were not able to at the previous meeting. **Korpak motioned to extend the current COP agreement to October 31 with the first payment due on November 1. Block supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

- **Clarification the 5-year COP agreement** – Stilson spoke of the confusion about the 5-year agreement signed in March 2022. The previous 10-year agreement expired in 2020 and in 2021 there was no agreement except for a motion by the Village to allow the COP to hold their event that year. After much back and forth discussion between the groups and their attorneys, a 5-year agreement was signed in March 2022. The Village then regretted their decision for the 5-year agreement because changes were desired to be made. The COP and Village agreed in September 2022 to sign the agreements on an annual basis so changes could be made if needed.
  - Myers stated that the COP would like to purchase the property but H. Petersen responded that the property is meant for a wastewater treatment plant if the State decides to mandate it.
  - Myers also spoke about COP signs that she would like installed in different locations. She will need to contact MDOT about the locations.
  - Myers also stated that Morley has been named the Trucking Capital of Michigan and would like to see that on the Welcome to Morley signs. Someone volunteered to pay for the addition to the signs. This matter will need to be discussed by the Council.
- **Next COP Committee meeting – will be held on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:00 PM.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

— Lewis stated that Covid monies only need to be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT:** H. Petersen adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Stilson,  
Village of Morley Clerk