

Morley Village Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES

189 S Cass St (Village Hall)

October 14, 2024

**APPROVED MINUTES**

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

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

**Absent:** Austin Korpala, Trustee.

**Guests:** Tim Baker, Clark, Kelly Wawsczyk, Katrina Harkes, Ashlee Feliciano, Dana Myers, Tommy Gunn, Ron & Jane Irwin, Teresa O’Neil, and many more who did not sign in.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC MATTERS AND COMMENTS:**

- Kelly Wawsczyk, Executive Director of Mecosta Co. Development Corp., reported that she met with H. Petersen and Stilson earlier in the month and discussed many topics. Her goal is to provide the county municipalities with free resources in obtaining funding and with other needs. She lives on a White Cloud farm and knows what rural communities need. Wawsczyk will be holding a Developer Day on October 22 which will begin in Morley and move up the Northland Dr. corridor to Big Rapids. She will keep in contact with Stilson about future grant opportunities and events.
- COP Agreement – Myers, COP, stated that there are a few changes their organization wants in the agreement. #8 – they are not comfortable with the wording about the COP obtaining the documents for the beer tent. Stilson replied that the Village does not want to be responsible for obtaining them. Block suggested the rewording to be: “The COP will ensure COP or a third party will obtain a State of Michigan Liquor Liability license...”.
  - o Kizer stated that changes are going to take longer than this meeting will allow and asked for a special meeting to be held.
  - o A special meeting will be held on October 28 at the Village Hall beginning at 6:00 PM.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** H. Petersen added: “Bids for fire tank” under Police, Fire & Rescue.

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration & Finance:**

- **Election update** – Stilson reported that the Village has a very small role in the election process. She learned that the draft ballot was incorrectly printed. The County has reprinted them. There are always three 4-year trustee terms that are up for vote every two years. This year’s trustee positions that are open are Korpala’s, Kizer’s and S. Petersen’s. She reminded people that new candidates do not take office until November 20.

**Police, Fire & Rescue:**

- **Ordinance Officer report** – The report was distributed to Council members. Stilson stated that she questioned Johnson on the Police Facebook page he set up. The Village has had problems with the past Village Police page because it was not set up by the Village office. The consensus of the Council was that Johnson should take down the Facebook page and go through the Clerk and she would post any pertinent information on the Village’s Facebook page. S. Petersen added that the Village should form a social media policy.
- **Fire Pump Tank bids** – H. Petersen reported that he received two bids for the replacement tank for the Fire pump. The tank will be installed in the Police Department garage since removal of the existing tank would cost as much as the new tank costs. S. Petersen motioned to accept Courtright Water Wells’ bid for \$28,000 with Block supporting the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- **Fire Department report** – Gene Lawler, Police Chief, distributed the September 2024 Fire Department report. He stated that the Fire Department is being trained on the Dragon Trail and seeking access points for boats and Aero Med.

**Streets & Sidewalks:** None.

**Events & Festivals:** None.

**Millpond & Dam:** None.

**Parks & Recreation:**

- **Latimer Park bids for cement, paint and fencing** – S. Petersen presented bids she had received on installing cement by the bathrooms, painting the pavilion and fencing around the playground/pavilion area. S. Petersen was asked to get more bids. Since it is so late in the year, work can be done after she makes the calls. The fencing will wait until spring. **S. Petersen motioned to approve the concrete work up to \$3,000 and the painting of the pavilion up to \$1500. Kizer supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

- **Park Plan Update** – Stilson reported that she has all the additions the DNR has asked for.
- **DNR Feedback about Gazebo ownership** – Stilson distributed a “Grant History” form from the DNR Grants Management office stating that the 1998 grant provided for the gazebo, basketball hoops, benches, picnic tables, trees, shrubs and flowers were given to grantee Village of Morley.

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

- **Maintenance Worker license** – After many phone calls and discussions, it was determined by the Michigan Secretary of State and Michigan Commercial Enforcement Division that the Village maintenance worker needs a CDL to drive the blue truck. H. Petersen stated that no one, in the future, will drive the blue truck without a CDL.

**Health & Safety:** None.

**Celebration on the Pond:** Nothing in addition to the earlier discussion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

- A question was posed as whether any citations have been given out. H. Petersen stated that the Ordinance Officer has only been giving out warnings to people. S. Petersen added that the Village residents need to be informed about ordinances since an officer has not been employed in some time. Feliciano stated she has concerns. Discussion ensued.
- Myers reported she is still trying to get the certificate from the State of Michigan declaring Morley as the “Trucking Capital of Michigan” and would like to install slogan bar signs, with that phrase, on signs already in existence. The consensus of the Council was they were okay with the placement.

**ADJOURNMENT:** H. Petersen adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Stilson,  
Village of Morley Clerk