

## *DRAFT MINUTES*

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morrisville held the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2019, at the Town of Eaton Municipal Offices, 35 Cedar Street, Morrisville, there were:

Present:	Mark Shepard	Mayor
	Thomas Lane	Deputy Mayor
	Kathleen Roher	Trustee
	James Stokes	Attorney
	Amy Will	Clerk-Treasurer
Absent:	Judy Scholefield	Trustee
	Michael Higgins	Trustee

Others: Kelly Thomas, Tim Curtis, Jim Scholefield, Tracy Scholefield, Joe Giusti, Jim Harp, residents; James Scholefield, property owner; Bernie St. Onge on behalf of Smithfield-Eaton Ambulance Corp. (SEVAC); Christopher Maroney, Executive Director of Facilities Management, Robert Rodriguez, Associate Facilities Program Coordinator, Graham Garner, Chief Officer for Communications, Marketing & External Relations, Paul Field, Chief of University Police, on behalf of SUNY Morrisville; and Jan Oley, Deputy Clerk.

Minutes of the 9/5/19 and 9/9/19 (special) meetings were reviewed. Trustee Lane made a motion to adopt the minutes as written, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Chief Field was in attendance to discuss questions and concerns. He said they have addressed the concerns regarding speeding vehicles and will continue to give that attention. He said University Police will continue to support the village and we should see more law enforcement taking care of the problems. Tracy Scholefield questioned what exactly University Police can do when they respond. She said they have been told different things. Chief Field said on Union Street they can enforce any NY state law. However, University Police has an agreement with the Madison County Sheriff's Department that they are the primary agency; meaning University Police won't take their calls but they will respond for them if they are closer. Ms. Scholefield said officers have said they can't do anything beyond 300 feet; Chief Field said that is correct. Ms. Scholefield said one of the houses they have been calling on is adjacent to campus; she questioned why they aren't doing anything. Chief Field said they are probably talking about the policy that University Police cannot respond to a call for the Sheriff's Department. He continued that University Police will write tickets, however they cannot just go down to Union Street and start writing tickets because they are overstepping the arrangement with the Sheriff's Department. University Police can respond and contain. Mr. Giusti said it sounds like University Police can't do anything and the Sheriff's Department won't do anything. Chief Field responded that if they call them they come. Mr. Giusti said he hasn't seen that and remarked that only three or four University Police officers responded when there were 300 kids. Mr. Giusti continued that he is going to take this to a public forum and work up the line, exhausting the board of their duties and getting new members as this has been a battle for five years. He said the cops are telling him to go inside or he as a citizen is going to get arrested. Mr. Giusti said there were two girls on the exterior of a vehicle driving up and down Union Street and he was told nothing could be done about that. Chief Field said he can put additional officers on Union Street and will attempt to address these concerns. He said they may be able to push this through the judicial board at the college because students are responsible for their actions to the college as well. Chief Field said he would also work with the Sheriff to see if they can give some attention to these concerns. Mr. Giusti suggested he share with the Sheriff how aggravated he is and noted that he also works for a government agency where his hours are from 1:00 pm to 1:00 am. He said he can't get an officer to come here from 11:00 pm to 2:00 am when the village is upside down, but when he's out risking his life to clear roads he will drive by a Madison County Sheriff car parked at the officer's residence running for five hours.

Robert Rodriguez and Christopher Maroney stated they were present on behalf of SUNY Morrisville to discuss an upcoming project on South Circle Road. Mr. Rodriguez explained that South Circle Road is very narrow and fire and rescue trucks can't get through. This project will widen the road from 12 feet to 26 feet. They will also redo the utilities in this area and resolve safety issues. They will also reduce the number of pedestrian crossings from four to

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two. New warning devices at those crosswalks will also be put up. The existing devices will remain. Sidewalks will also be changed out. The goal with the new pedestrian crossings is to funnel students to one location. Mr. Rodriguez said four new warning lights will be placed on South Street. Mr. Maroney said they are doing an overhaul on the pond quad to include exterior lighting, new parking lots, a double lane road, and LED lighting in parking lots. He noted that in terms of college property the lighting will be vastly improved in this area. This project does not incorporate any lighting changes off their property. They are trying to provide better pedestrian pathways and only cross at two locations. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the plans are highlighted where the project will be touching the village street. The project will begin in late spring and is expected to be complete by the end of 2020.

Graham Garner introduced himself as the Chief Officer for Communications at SUNY Morrisville and advised the board that anyone can contact him with questions or concerns and he will find the right people to address those.

Mayor Shepard addressed Mr. St. Onge and the continued discussions regarding SEVAC. Mayor Shepard said the board will consider funding for the next fiscal year when we begin working on those budgets. The board is still waiting for information from SEVAC however. He continued that there are funds allocated in the current fiscal year but we need a contract before we can disburse those. Attorney Stokes noted that he has a formal contract for one of the other towns that could be used, unless the village wants to get more specific regarding hours and coverage. Mr. St. Onge said SEVAC is looking at next year. He noted that in January this board passed a resolution to schedule a public hearing for an ambulance district. Attorney Stokes clarified that this board never scheduled a public hearing on forming an ambulance district; it was for ambulance service. Mr. St. Onge said he needs the village to be on the same page as the towns, and give the full amount they are asking for. Trustee Lane again asked where the information is that they asked for. Mr. St. Onge said there were 600 calls, 100 to college, 250 to town of Eaton including village, 100 to Smithfield, 90 calls for Eaton's district. Mr. St. Onge noted that the breakdown doesn't matter. Trustee Lane responded that the breakdown matters to this board. Mayor Shepard said Mr. St. Onge needs to understand that the village is one square mile and our pockets are only so deep. He continued that without having the requested information to try to determine what would be a responsible amount to pay, there is no way this village could pay the total amount requested. It's just not possible. Mr. St. Onge said \$0.79 a thousand for the average village property owner is the cost of pizza and wings. He said the other option is what? Do you want ambulance coverage or not? Mayor Shepard responded that you can only go to the stone so many times. He cannot tell residents that we need to jack their taxes a certain amount just for ambulance service. He said it's unfortunate that it has to be said that way, but that's the issue. Mayor Shepard again asked for documentation outlining the number of calls within the village. Mr. St. Onge reminded the board of what occurred in 1996 when the fire department went out and people had to wait 45 minutes for a response. SEVAC has been providing service for all these years and they cannot provide it at the level the district needs without collecting moneys for payroll. Attorney Stokes questioned why this is all or nothing; why can't SEVAC provide the same level of service they are now? He noted that SEVAC isn't currently providing 24/7 coverage, and what they are requesting is three times the service they are currently providing. He asked why it couldn't be something in between. Mr. St. Onge responded that they would like to provide 24/7 coverage as they have for all these years. Mr. Scholefield said he is not willing to pay \$0.79 a thousand for SEVAC to cover calls at the college. Mr. St. Onge responded that we're going to pay someone. He again said the village needs to get with the towns and make a decision on what we're going to do. Trustee Lane said in the back of everyone's mind is the college, and President Rogers had heard nothing of this. Trustee Lane said that needs to be followed up on so we're not picking up the slack for that entity. Mr. Giusti questioned whether SEVAC is getting reimbursement from the college. Mr. St. Onge said they collect some from insurance, which covers operating costs. He said their payroll is \$3,000 every two weeks. Mayor Shepard said he understands the plight of SEVAC but the board has to consider our taxpayers. Mr. James Scholefield asked if SEVAC's pricing is based on equity amongst all. He said it sounds like the board is asking not to pay the burden for someone else. Mr. St. Onge said there are four towns and the village. In the ambulance districts around the cost is spread throughout district.

Mr. James Scholefield said it's clear there is a demand and need for law enforcement support. He questioned why property owners get to rent to students if they can't control them. Mayor Shepard discussed the rooming house law that was implemented in attempt to control issues. He said this has been the first year with significant repeat problems. Mr. James Scholefield asked Ms. Scholefield if the rooming house law has been working; she responded

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no. He said if the legislation has not been effective it's time to change it; the threshold is too high. Trustee Lane noted that one of the reasons he chose to run for office was to control absentee landlords. Mr. Scholefield questioned why landlords can't be charged a high permit fee to run a rooming house. He remarked that when you hit them in pocket that's where it hurts them. Attorney Stokes responded that any fee must be reasonably proportionate to the cost of the village to administer that law.

**Public Hearing to amend Section 169-35 (Parking Prohibited Certain Hours):** Mayor Shepard opened the public hearing at 7:55 p.m. Mayor Shepard said this local law will prohibit overnight parking on all village streets year round. He noted that there are some areas in the village that currently have this restriction in place. This will make it consistent throughout the village. Trustee Roher said we need a permit process to allow residents to park overnight as needed and to publicize this so residents are aware. The board agreed. With no further public comment, Mayor Shepard closed the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Shepard made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 19-27, seconded by Trustee Lane, all ayes. Motion carried.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 19-27 OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE**

#### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 169 (VEHICLES & TRAFFIC) OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE**

**WHEREAS**, upon notice duly published and posted as required, a public hearing on the adoption of a proposed local law No. 4 of the year 2019 of the Village of Morrisville to amend Chapter 169 of the Code of the Village of Morrisville was held by the Board of Trustees on October 3, 2019, and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of this local law is not an action that may have an effect on the environment as defined by the implementing regulations of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, and is therefore not an action subject to SEQRA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** as follows:

After due deliberation, the Board finds it in the best interest of the Village of Morrisville to adopt this local law, and does hereby adopt this local law. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law Book of the Village of Morrisville, and to give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law to the Secretary of State.

Date: October 3, 2019

**Public Hearing to amend Section 169-29 (Stop Intersections):** Mayor Shepard opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m. Mayor Shepard said that creating a four way stop at the intersection of Cambridge Avenue, Williams Street and Amherst Circle is being considered due to the amount of traffic and number of children living in this neighborhood. The yield sign currently at the intersection of Radnor Lane and Williams Street will also be changed to a stop sign. These changes are in an attempt to slow traffic down. Mr. Harp questioned how the village is going to enforce this. Mayor Shepard indicated we will request law enforcement coverage. Mr. Harp asked if the goal was to eliminate the traffic cutting through to avoid the traffic light. Mayor Shepard responded no; stop signs were placed on Mill Street and it has slowed traffic down. Mr. Harp said it seems like the residents on Radnor Lane want a playground there as they have a basketball hoop near the road. He said that's not the purpose of the road. Trustee Lane said the board is trying to make the area safer. Mr. Harp said he wants to see enforcement. Trustee Lane responded that he understood, but the board would like to keep village taxes down. Mr. Harp said he has walked and driven the area from Williams

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Street to Cambridge Avenue to Radnor Lane. The road gets narrow where the duplexes are, especially if there is a vehicle parked on the street. There are also a lot of leaves on the road and it gets wet and slippery. It's not a good situation.

Chief Field asked if the board has given thought to having a part-time police department. Based on the comments made tonight, he thought it might be worth considering. Attorney Stokes said it's been considered, but is too costly. Chief Field said he may have officers who would be interested in working and could help with outfitting a vehicle. Attorney Stokes said the board is willing to look into it. Mayor Shepard agreed, but said they want to keep the village affordable and don't want to drive residents out.

Mrs. Thomas asked about the children at play signs which have not yet been put up. Trustee Lane said they have been ordered and will be put up as soon as they arrive.

Mrs. Will noted that the legal notice for this public hearing did not include signs to be placed at Cambridge Avenue, north, at the intersection of Amherst Circle and Williams Street, and Amherst Circle, east, at the intersection of Cambridge Avenue. As such, Mayor Shepard adjourned the public hearing until November 7, 2019 at 7:45 p.m. so the matter may be re-noticed to include these intersections.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Mr. Sutton submitted a written report for review.

**Department of Public Works:** Trustee Lane made a motion to accept the \$17,000.00 offer from the Town of Smithfield for the 2012 Dodge pickup, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Roher made a motion authorizing the attendance of Dave Commins and Dave Pushlar at the NYS Highway and Public Works Expo in Syracuse on October 30, 2019, seconded by Trustee Lane, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Historic Preservation:** Mayor Shepard advised the board that Charlie Bostic passed away last weekend. He will attend the next meeting of the commission to see what they are going to do with the loss of two members.

**Youth Commission:** Trustee Roher said the board needs to discuss what we want the youth commission to look like so we can solicit someone to run it. She would like to put it out to the faculty at the elementary school to see if there is any interest. Attorney Stokes noted that the youth commission exists because of an agreement between the Towns of Eaton, Smithfield and the village and the function is set forth in that agreement. If we're going to restructure the youth commission the agreement needs to be revisited. Trustee Roher would like to have something together by the first of the year.

**Campus/Community Committee:** Trustee Roher noted the annual Halloween event will be October 26 at the elementary school and requested authorization to purchase candy from BJ's Wholesale Club. The village membership requires payment by village funds; so the treasurer will need to be present and make payment at the time of purchase. Trustee Lane made a motion authorizing the purchase of candy from BJ's Wholesale Club for the Halloween Parade of Costumes at a cost not to exceed \$500.00, with authorization for the Village Treasurer to make payment in advance of audit, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Trustee:** Trustee Roher revisited the crosswalk discussion from last month. None of our crosswalks are well defined. Specifically, those on Eaton Street, Cedar Street and Route 20. She said they need to be repainted and illuminated. Trustee Lane will ask Dave Commins to research who maintains Route 20. Mr. Giusti suggested contacting the pavement marking crew at the Utica DOT office as they would be the ones to do it.

**Clerk-Treasurer Report:** The board was provided financial reports detailing income and expenditures to date by fund.

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Trustee Lane made a motion authorizing the return of unpaid village taxes in the amount of \$10,485.44 to Madison County for collection, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Lane made a motion authorizing the transfer of \$35,253.10 from the street savings account to the General Fund (Appropriation 5110.2) for the purchase of the 2019 Ford F-350, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried.

Each member of the board reviewed all vouchers presented. Trustee Roher made a motion to pay audited vouchers as indicated below, seconded by Trustee Lane, all ayes. Motion carried.

General Fund – Vouchers 107-139  
Water Fund – Vouchers 22-27

Waste Water Operation & Maintenance Fund – Vouchers 19-25

Mayor Shepard made a motion to go into executive session for attorney-client privilege at 8:30 p.m., seconded Trustee Lane, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Shepard made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:28 p.m., seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried. No action was taken during executive session.

With no further business before the board, Mayor Shepard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m., seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Will  
Clerk-Treasurer