

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morrisville held the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019, at the Town of Eaton Municipal Offices, 35 Cedar Street, Morrisville, there were:

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

Absent:	Mark Shepard	Mayor
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Others: Kelly Thomas, Judy Griese, Cindy Edick, Becky Sabin, Jessica Cross, Tim Curtis, Scott Mallett, Michael Bischoff, Rick Gorton, Sylvia McKinnon, Jim Scholefield, Betsy Packard, Sue Bartow, Tracey Akers, residents; Bernie St. Onge on behalf of Smithfield-Eaton Ambulance Corp. (SEVAC); Cliff Moses, Town of Eaton Supervisor; David Craine of NBT-Mang Insurance Agency; and Jan Oley, Deputy Clerk.

Deputy Mayor Lane opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the 6/6/19 (amended) and 8/1/19 meetings were reviewed. Trustee Roher made a motion to adopt the minutes as written, seconded by Trustee Higgins, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Kelly Thomas addressed the board regarding her request at the August meeting for placement of stop signs in her neighborhood, similar to what was done on Mill Street. She is concerned about the safety of children in the area and felt this might be one way to slow traffic down. She was curious what others thought about this. Judy Griese questioned whether there is any way to enforce additional stop signs. Trustee Higgins said unfortunately NY State Police do not patrol village streets but he spoke with the Sheriff's Department and University Police. University Police was helpful in patrolling Mill Street and the signage was effective. Trustee Higgins clarified that the signs were added in in this area based on the concerns of residents. Mrs. Griese said the additional Children At Play signs is a terrific idea, but she is not convinced about the stop signs and asked specifically where they were being considered. Mrs. Thomas said she suggested a four way stop at the intersection of Cambridge Avenue, Williams Street and Amherst Circle, and a three way stop at the intersection of Williams Street and Radnor Lane. Mrs. Thomas noted that she spoke to residents on Mill Street and they said it has slowed traffic down and there is also less traffic cutting through to avoid the traffic light. She doesn't know the number of children who reside on or near Mill Street, but in her neighborhood there are nine children under the age of 10 and six children between the ages of 10 and 16. Mrs. Griese noted that she has lived there for quite some time and there have been many children in the area and they've never had additional stop signs. Mrs. Thomas responded that in her opinion there is more traffic now than there was. Deputy Mayor Lane said the additional stop signs should slow people down and possibly stop some of the vehicles using these streets to avoid the traffic light. Becky Sabine noted that everyone speeds around the corner near where she lives. Sue Bartow remarked that there is a motorcycle that regularly speeds through the area. Mrs. Bartow agreed there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood and more traffic, but she is unsure about the additional stop signs. Betsy Packard noted that traffic is terrible on North Street as well, especially when college is in session. She remarked that someone went by her home at an estimated 60 mph. She is concerned because there are a lot of kids on North Street now as well. Trustee Higgins said he would speak with University Police regarding these concerns. Mrs. Packard offered her driveway as a place for officers to park and observe. Mike Bischoff noted that it's not any better on South Street. He said the worst offenders are college staff, not the students. Trustee Scholefield said she spoke with the clerk in Oriskany Falls regarding the permanent radar speed signs they placed in several locations there. The clerk indicated they have been effective. Mr. Bischoff disagreed and said in his opinion they are used as an arcade game, people use them to see how fast they are going. Bernie St. Onge said that University Police does a decent job on South Street. They are parked in parking lots and areas and they pull students and others over. Scott Mallett questioned why University Police doesn't do something about traffic going into and out of the village. He said they aren't catching them speeding down the hill. Mr. Mallett

suggested the NY State Police start enforcing that since they are right there. Mrs. Griese remarked that she is not convinced we need the number of stop signs being suggested. Mrs. Thomas said she appreciates that Children At Play signs are going to be put up, and maybe the stop signs are overkill, but if it helped on Mill Street perhaps it will be helpful in their neighborhood as well. The board thanked residents for their input.

Bernie St. Onge addressed the board regarding SEVAC's request for funding. He last attended the July meeting where it was noted that the board needed to have additional discussion. In the meantime, the various other towns have moved forward to set up a district by holding a public hearing. The Town of Eaton has gone with a district and needs the Village of Morrisville to go with either a contract or district. Attorney Stokes noted that the Village of Morrisville is in the same position as the Town of Smithfield; we do not need to form a district, there is no reason to. The board has discussed this matter and in principal is in favor of a contract and paying annually for that service, however the question is how much. The board has not come to a conclusion on that. Mr. St. Onge said they used an assessment rate of \$0.79 per thousand which totals \$26,957 for the village. He is pressuring the other towns to move forward so SEVAC can provide 24/7 coverage. Mr. St. Onge continued that everyone dragged their feet on this and in the meantime they are running out of money. Attorney Stokes asked what level of coverage SEVAC is currently providing. Mr. St. Onge indicated they are paying for coverage 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. Attorney Stokes questioned whether SEVAC has prepared an analysis to determine the cost to continue operations as they currently are. Mr. St. Onge responded it would be \$60,000 a year from everyone, opposed to \$186,000. Deputy Mayor Lane said that he asked SUNY Morrisville President Dave Rogers about SEVAC's request for funds from the college and he knew nothing about it. Deputy Mayor Lane did not get the impression that President Rogers was not in favor of this and suggested SEVAC follow up. Supervisor Moses stated that for SUNY Morrisville students to provide funds there is a process whereby SEVAC would send a letter requesting funds from the student activity fee, the request goes to the student government, if they approve it then it moves on to the SUNY Board of Trustees for consideration. If approved, it goes into effect. Mr. St. Onge said a letter was sent six months ago and they have not received any response. Supervisor Moses also suggested SEVAC follow up on this. Mr. St. Onge said that regardless of the college, they need the four towns and village behind them to come up with the funds they need to pay for a paramedic 24/7 to provide adequate coverage. Trustee Roher asked what would happen if we don't have 24 hour coverage. Mr. St. Onge said if they don't have anyone on, they would attempt to get out with BLS (basic life support) and call for ALS (advanced life support) backup from CAVAC, Greater Lennox, etc. He said it would take longer to get ALS coverage. Deputy Mayor Lane questioned whether the other townships have agreed to pay the amount requested. Mr. St. Onge said the Town of Nelson held a public hearing last month and now have to wait 30 days. The Town of Fenner will meet later this month to schedule a public hearing. The Town of Smithfield does not want to become a district so it's a contract. Mr. Bischoff asked what the Town of Eaton is paying and Supervisor Moses responded \$30,000. Mr. Bischoff asked the village board to carefully consider this before making a decision. Mr. St. Onge said he understands the village budgeted some this year but he is looking for a commitment as of January 1. The \$5,000 budgeted by the village only covers their payroll for two weeks; he needs a commitment for next year, if not, if they can't survive they will go to BLS service, and when the money has run out that's it. From that point on SEVAC as private non-profit will close its doors and he doesn't know what we're going to do. Mr. St. Onge said whoever comes in here with an ambulance service is going to charge a lot more than SEVAC is asking for; SEVAC is just asking for the labor costs for paramedics when they can't find others to volunteer. Deputy Mayor Lane said the only question that has been asked is the call volume for the village. He noted that the board needs to come up with a dollar amount that our residents are comfortable with. Mr. St. Onge said SEVAC responded to 600 calls; Deputy Mayor Lane asked what percent of those calls were in the village. Mr. St. Onge responded that it doesn't really matter, you are paying for a service. Mr. Bischoff remarked that it's a great point in knowing what the breakdown is. As a village taxpayer, he doesn't want his tax dollars going to pay for transport of a drunk college student to the hospital. Scott Mallett questioned if SEVAC provides a service to him and bills his insurance company and collects, is he also going to pay for this in his village tax? Mr. St. Onge responded yes. He said that some insurance companies don't pay what they bill, some individuals don't have coverage. What SEVAC bills the insurance company covers operating costs, insurance, replacement cost of the ambulance, fuel, building maintenance, medical supplies, and workers compensation. Payroll costs is all SEVAC is asking for from the towns and village to cover medics that were volunteers and we no longer have. He noted that their payroll is higher than what has been allotted from these towns and is still cutting into their budget. Deputy Mayor Lane said the board

would work an amount into the budget for next year, and requested a breakdown of calls. Mr. St. Onge agreed to provide that.

**Proposed Town of Eaton Park:** Supervisor Moses said the town submitted a grant application to build a community park. He has been working with MECS Superintendent, Greg Molloy regarding this. The park would be located at the elementary school, where the baseball field currently is. The school district will either gift the land to the town or enter into a 99 year lease on the property. The grant application was for \$520,000 and there won't be a decision until November on that. The design was put together hastily in order to submit the grant on time. If they are successful, they will have public hearings to obtain input. Supervisor Moses said the sledding hill will remain. An amphitheater will be created with seating built into the hill. A pavilion, splash pad, walking trail, and public restrooms are just part of what's being considered. They will keep a couple of the ball fields there for use. They are also considering a memorial station to recognize service people. SUNY Morrisville has been approached about using the building trades curriculum to build the pavilion and benches and having the horticulture department involved with the landscaping. The grant requires 25% in kind matching services. Supervisor Moses said they shouldn't have a problem with outlying any local money. Deputy Mayor Lane questioned what type of lighting the park would have. Supervisor Moses said there will be some lighting, mostly for security purposes. The park is intended for dawn to dusk use. He said the town highway department will maintain the park after completion and would probably bring an additional employee on in the spring to fall.

**NBT-Mang Insurance Agency Presentation:** David Craine presented the board with the village insurance policy renewal and reviewed the same.

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

Trustee Roher said she was made aware of an issue on Union Street. Trustee Scholefield explained that her daughter called 911 at 3:30 am due to noise issues. In addition, University Police was on Main Street Saturday night because the Reidy Building was out of control. Deputy Mayor Lane said property owners with a rooming house license should be notified when a police agency responds to their property so they are aware they have one strike against them.

**Department of Public Works:** Deputy Mayor Lane provided an update on recent DPW activities.

Trustee Roher made a motion to declare the 2012 Dodge Ram 2500 and plow surplus with authorization to sell the same, seconded by Trustee Scholefield, all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Roher made a motion to declare the following Department of Public Works equipment surplus: sprayer tank, 2 push mowers, 3 backhoe tires (16.9x28), bobcat plow, water pump, pull behind water wagon, 2 trusses, with authorization to sell the same, seconded by Trustee Higgins, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Will spoke about the addition of electric service to Jones Park for the purpose of placing holiday decorations there. This matter was discussed during budget preparations and an amount was included in this fiscal year's budget to provide for this. The process with NYSEG to add power to the area has been completed and at this point the installation needs to be authorized. The board reviewed the quote from Larry Nelson in the amount of \$2,750.00. Trustee Roher made a motion authorizing the installation of electric service in Jones Park by Larry Nelson, waiving the requirement for a second quote in this instance, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lane, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant:** Mrs. Will advised the board that the annual inspection by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation was conducted on 8/21/19. The facility received a satisfactory rating, the best we could obtain.

**Historic Preservation Commission:** Mrs. Will provided the board with a copy of Carolyn Gerakopoulos' resignation.

**Youth Commission:** Trustee Roher advised the board that the fourth trip to the Morrisville Community Camp that had been considered was unable to take place because she was unable to secure lifeguards. She looked into a trip to New York City on September 21 to watch a baseball game. Mr. Molloy used social media to notify people that this trip was being considered to see if we could obtain the necessary interest. Trustee Roher also reached out to various coaches so they could let their players know. She has 31 kids interested in going and needs a total of 50. She questioned whether the trip could be opened up to anyone interest in going, provided they pay the full cost of travel and the ticket. Deputy Mayor Lane felt this was a bad idea to mix children and adults on a trip like this, especially when alcohol is available at the game. He said it's a great idea for a trip, but the planning should have been done well in advance to make this work. The board took no action on this matter.

**Parking Enforcement:** The board discussed the proposed change to prohibit overnight parking on all village streets year round. Mrs. Will provided a simple map outlining the streets which currently have this regulation in effect. Concerns expressed by residents include that they don't have a driveway large enough to accommodate overnight guests or there may be instances where maintenance to a driveway will require them to park on the street overnight. The board agreed that these situations will arise and noted that there will be a process where residents may request authorization to park overnight as necessary, excluding the winter months due to snow removal. Deputy Mayor Lane made a motion to schedule a public hearing on October 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. to prohibit overnight parking on all village streets year round, seconded by Trustee Scholefield, all ayes. Motion carried.

The board discussed the request for placement of stop signs in the Cambridge Avenue neighborhood. After reviewing a map of the area and further discussion, Trustee Roher made a motion to schedule a public hearing on October 3, 2019 at 7:45 p.m. to add stop signs as follows:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Direction of Travel</u>	<u>At Intersection of</u>
Amherst	East	Cambridge Avenue
Williams Street	West	Cambridge Avenue
Cambridge Avenue	South	Williams Street/Amherst Circle
Radnor Lane	South	Williams Street

Seconded by Trustee Scholefield, all ayes. Motion carried.

**Bicentennial Celebration:** Mrs. Will provided the board with an accounting of the expenditures for the bicentennial celebration. The total budget was \$7,500 and the expenditures were \$7,189.49, after receipt of donations. Trustee Scholefield said residents have questioned why we don't have an annual block party to get everyone together. The board discussed the block party that took place for a period of time by the fire house and thought this might be something to consider in the future.

**Attorney:** Attorney Stokes presented his contract for legal services. Trustee Roher made a motion authorizing the contract for legal services with the Stokes Law Firm with authorization for the Mayor to sign said contract, seconded by Trustee Higgins, all ayes. Motion carried.

Attorney Stokes noted that Mrs. Will inquired whether the Village of Hamilton would contract with us to install and maintain LED streetlights. Attorney Stokes passed this along to the electric superintendent and he was going to come take a look at the poles. Attorney Stokes to follow up.

**Trustee:** Trustee Roher asked who is responsible for maintaining crosswalk markings. She noted those on Route 20, South and Eaton Streets do not look good. Attorney Stokes noted that DOT is responsible for Route 20. Deputy Mayor Lane said this is something to look into.

Deputy Mayor Lane discussed the condition of the village office. He feels that it needs some work. He suggested we look into a service to clean the rugs regularly. The windows are dirty and the hardwood floors need to be

resurfaced. He added that he was in the basement and thinks that after the soccer season the village needs to get the storage building from the Optimist Club, move it to the DPW and relocate the campus/community items to it. Attorney Stokes said he could also remove his files from the basement. Trustee Roher does not want the campus/community items moved into a storage shed as they won't keep.

Deputy Mayor Lane advised the board that Casey Marshall approached him about a grant to look into consolidation of the village and town. Trustee Roher said that she does not support consolidation. Attorney Stokes noted that a lot of work is involved in preparing these consolidation reports. His experience is that they typically find that village residents will lose services and town taxes will increase. He referenced the Town and Village of Cazenovia study as an example of such. Those municipalities did not proceed with consolidation based on these findings.

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

Mrs. Will made contact with Bob Meakin, a licensed nuisance wildlife trapper, regarding the woodchuck issue on the village lot between Union and Eaton Streets. Mr. Meakin said at this point in the season it is not practical to attempt to trap woodchucks. He suggested that the village wait until April when they will be more active. His fee is \$275 for the site evaluation and an additional amount for trapping, which he estimates would only take 2-3 days. He would likely use a lethal control trap rather than relocating them. The board agreed to wait until next year to address this issue.

Mrs. Will spoke to NYS Department of Transportation regarding Trustee Scholefield's concerns relative to Amish buggies and motorcycles not being recognized while at the traffic light. The DOT representative said the sensors are located in the road and will not pick up a wooden buggy because there is no metal for the sensors to recognize. The issue with motorcycles is that the newer models are not made with much metal like they used to be. The representative said they may consider raising the sensors in the road, but it won't do anything for the Amish buggies.

Mrs. Will advised the board that the village recently incurred a \$75.00 late fee on the Wex Bank bill because payment was received four days after the due date. The original bill was approximately \$100.00. Mrs. Will protested the fee and was told that this is the minimum late fee, regardless of the amount of the bill. Due to the timing of the monthly board meeting and the due date of this bill, Mrs. Will requested authorization to pay the Wex Bank bill in advance of the board meeting. Trustee Roher made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 19-26, seconded by Trustee Scholefield, all ayes. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-26  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT IN  
ADVANCE OF AUDIT OF CLAIMS FOR CONTRACTUAL CHARGES  
FROM WEX BANK**

**WHEREAS**, Wex Bank, which is the invoicing agent for Speedway, from whom the Village purchases motor fuels and other products; has a non-waivable minimum \$75.00 penalty for charge account late payments, which may be incurred by the Village from time to time depending on statement dates and Board meeting dates for any given month; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to avoid such late fee charges, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is the best interest of the Village to authorize payment in advance of audit of claims for contractual charges from Wex Bank.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**Section 1.** That the Board of Trustees authorizes payment in advance of audit of claims for contractual charges from Wex Bank. All such claims must be presented at the next regular meeting for audit and the claimant and the officer incurring or approving the claims are jointly and severally liable for any amount the Board of Trustees disallows.

**Section 2.** That this resolution is effective immediately.

Dated: September 5, 2019

Mrs. Will advised the board that the annual financial report for fiscal year ending 5/31/19 was filed with the Comptroller's Office. Each member of the board was provided a copy for review.

Mrs. Will advised the board of Gerald Oliveri's application for a liquor license renewal at 28 East Main Street. The board expressed no concerns regarding this application.

Mrs. Will advised the board that anti-harassment training is required for all employees and board members and must be completed by October 9. She will send information regarding the web based training in the near future. Deputy Mayor Lane made a motion authorizing the following budget transfer A310.41 (Youth Commission Program Expense) \$2,850.06 to A7310.42 (Youth Commission Summer Trips), seconded by Trustee Higgins, all ayes. Motion carried.

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

General Fund – Vouchers 72-106  
Water Fund – Vouchers 14-21

Waste Water Operation & Maintenance Fund – Vouchers 11-18  
Youth Commission – Vouchers 5-6

With no further business before the board, Trustee Higgins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m., seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Will  
Clerk-Treasurer