Regular Session of Village Council

September 15, 2026; 6:30 pm

Call to Order
The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor Mitchell Fisher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call
Roll Call was completed by Solicitor, John Kaspar. The following members were present.

Emmalee Cartwright - A	Richard Hardin
Jim Frederick	Stacey Hubbard - A
Martin Hamlin	Samantha Pitzer

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to adopt the August 18, 2026 Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All yea. Motion to adopt the special meeting minutes for August 6, 2026 made by Frederick; second by Pitzer. All yea.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials
Monthly Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements, Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were provided for Council.

Warren County – Judge Loxley and Judge Fischer
Judges Loxley and Fischer visit the Village of Morrow every other year to update the mayor and council on what they have accomplished. Judge Fischer is over the southern half of the county and Judge Loxley is over the northern half. Judge Fischer updated council that the number of cases grew considerably over the last year, most of this growth is due to patrolling of traffic. Warren County opened their new court building in June of 2025. Judge Fischer's special focus is on the Mental Health Docket which has seen 37 graduates and was established in 2015.
Judge Loxley's special focus is the Veterans Court Docket that was established in 2015. There are currently five enrolled in the docket and 36 graduates. Current issues in the state are Uniform Bond Schedule and the Arraignment Procedure. Loxley will soon take Judge Peeler's seat and will leave his open for the 11th judge in Warren County to be placed.

Formation of Tax Board
Mayor Fisher informed council that according to Ohio Revised Code 718.11 – paragraph 2, the Village of Morrow is required to establish and utilize a Tax Board. Three resumes have been submitted to the administrator and council for the tax board. The Administrator went over what the requirements of the board are and what they would do. A pay structure will be set up by the administrator, she is gathering information from surrounding communities to help with this. Tax Administrator, Christopher Pringle, stated that this needs to happen as soon as possible to be in compliance with the state.
Solicitor Kaspar stated that a provisional appointment can be made for the three candidates reviewed by council. This provisional appointment will be temporary until a specific pay rate can be set. This will be ratified at the next meeting.
The mayor appointed Cassandra Goodpastor. Council appointment Lyndsey Geyer and Jaclyn Downing. Motion was made by Frederick; second by Pitzer. All Yea.

Discussion and Reading of Vacated Alleys on Welch Road
The mayor explained the letter and map provided to residents regarding vacating alleys in the vicinity of Welch Road. The best option to move forward is to have a legal description and survey for every property along each alley. Each alley will be looked at separately. If a resident has an issue with vacating the alley, this meeting and the next meeting will be their opportunity to let council know. The mayor opened the floor only on the discussion of alley vacation. Steve Simmermaker stated that his property on Burton has a garage in the back that he rents and the only access is the alley. Kaspar stated a possible easement is a legal option. Tina Osborne spoke on behalf of her mother, Julia Hayes, who lives in the area. Osborne asked if the Village would be paying for the surveys and legal description. The mayor informed her that the Village is responsible for this cost. Lynette Simmermaker asked if owners to the affected properties could be notified in case some of the properties are

rentals. William Lynch at 109 Pomerene would like to keep access to the alley or have an easement.
The mayor closed the floor.
The mayor asked council if they would like to move forward with ChoiceOne by having them begin with surveys and legal descriptions. Council would like to know the cost before entering into an agreement. The October meeting will be the next opportunity for residents to voice their opinion. Then the resolution will have three readings.

Amending Ordinance 5-13 – Tree Board
The solicitor amended Ordinance 5-13. The updated ordinance must show the original and then what has changed. Council agreed with all of the updates including who makes up the board. Any funds that are to be spent must be brought to council for approval. The tree board will also keep council informed by sending the minutes from their meetings. Kaspar will present the updated ordinance with adjustments at the next council meeting.

Village Officials
The mayor updated council on the ongoing grants. Welch Road is completed, the booster station in Roachester is up and running. The SCADA and panel still need to be finished. The water tank in the Woodlands of Morrow will be cleaned out next week.

Administrator Whitacre informed council that the OPWC Grant was submitted on September 4th, this is to replace approximately 19 fire hydrants in the Village. The grant is for $302,000 the Village's portion will be $64,000.

Sergeant Hawk stated the two part time officers are doing well. One is thru his field training and the other has just started.

Open to the Floor
The mayor opened the floor.

A resident named Joe asked about a personal parking area that was paved on Welch Road. The mayor stated an agreement was made between the two parties privately. Joe also asked who decided where to place the new speed humps on Welch Road. Joe also informed council that the fire hydrant at the end of Burton Avenue is broken.

Penny Hahn thanked the mayor and council for paving the alley behind her home. She also stated that she is looking for the pipe drainage near her home. She would like to have someone in the maintenance department help her find it.

The mayor closed the floor.

Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All yea.

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Tina Powell, Clerk of Council Mitchell Fisher, Mayor