

**BOROUGH OF MORTON**  
**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**JANUARY 6, 2020**

The Re-organization meeting for the Borough of Morton was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Honorable Thomas App, Mayor. The Pledge of allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response: Michelle Miller-present, Michele Roberts-present, Heile Hodnett -present, Robert McGrath-present, John Miller-present, Douglass Eagar-present, Joseph Boylan-present. Also present: Mayor App, Solicitor Ewald, and Fire Marshal Kopp.

Mayor App began by thanking all those present, and explaining that this was the re-organization meeting which is held by all municipalities across the state. He stated he would be presiding over the meeting until a new president and vice president are elected.

Solicitor Ewald then explained the voting process. The nomination process is the Mayor will ask for nominations for president of council. Then names will be given, and taken in order they are given. Mayor app will call for a vote up or down on that person. That person is then given enough votes, they will become president, if not, they will continue until a person is voted to be president. Same process for vice president. The mayor will then hand gavel over to the president.

**Nominations for President of council**

Robert McGrath nominated Michelle Miller. Heile Hodnett nominated John Miller.

There were no other nominations. The nominations were closed.

**Vote: Michelle Miller**

Michelle Miller-abstain – Mr. Ewald explained under the ethics, there is technically a \$300 difference in pay between council and other council, so she is abstaining on her own nomination.

Michele Roberts-no

Heile Hodnett-no

Robert McGrath-yes

John Miller-yes

Douglass Eagar -yes

Joseph Boylan-yes.

4 yes- 2 No –1 Abstain. Michelle Miller is new president. She is congratulated.

**Nominations for Vice President**

Mayor App then opened Nominations for Vice President.

Michele Roberts nominated John Miller. Michelle Miller nominated Robert McGrath.

There were no other nominations. Nominations were then closed. Solicitor Ewald interjected that there was no difference in pay between vice president and council.

**Vote: John Miller**

Michelle Miller-no

Michele Roberts-yes

Hiele Hodnett-yes

Robert McGrath-no

John Miller-abstain

Douglass Eager-no

Joseph Boylan-yes

Tie –3 No – 3 Yes

Mayor App voted for John Miller as Vice President. John Miller is new Vice President.

Mayor App then passed the gavel to Michelle Miller.

Michelle Miller then thanked everyone for their attendance and vote, and stated she hoped to live up to her predecessors; and stated she would not wear a top hat, and is more of a baseball girl. She stated that we all get along well, because we are good people who are in these positions because they wanted to be and have a passion for the community. We will do some good things and have a lot of fun.

Agenda Items:

Appointments - there were a list of names provided for re-appointments, however, – Ms. Miller did not read all of the names on the sheet, and stated that any of the committees that are on the list that was provided. She stated that there are a number of committees that are listed that anyone can join.

*Vacancy Board-Chair*

Ms. Miller stated that we thought we had someone on there, but that is not in the minutes for last year.

Solicitor Ewald stated this is a position that carries over, but the Borough code states that someone should be appointed every year, and we can do so at the January public meeting next week.

*Fire Marshal-Michael Kopp*

Solicitor Ewald explained this is a position that is a 2-year term, makes it easier for council to evaluate or re-appoint someone to the new position. The applicant has accepted the position, we will need a quick vote to appoint, the term will expire at the re-organization meeting in 2022. Ms. Miller made a Motion to appoint Michael Kopp to Morton Borough Fire Marshal for 2020 – Ms. Roberts seconded. All voiced in favor. Motion carried. Michael was congratulated. He was then sworn in by Mayor App.

**CDBG APPLICATION – 2020 – Resolution 2020-01**

Manager Poole reminded council that at last month’s meeting they had decided to apply for the CDBG block grant to obtain project funding for Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance updates. A vote was taken before anyone made a Motion to approve. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes. Motion carried.

**2020 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE - \$175,000 – Resolution 2020-02**

Solicitor Ewald explained the reason for the note. The year begins in January, the tax revenue does not come in until March or April, there is a shortfall. A loan must be approved by Resolution. Ms. Miller asked for a Roll call vote without asking for a Motion. Roll call: Ms. Miller-yes, Ms. Roberts-yes, Ms. Hodnett-yes, Mr. McGrath-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Mr. Eagar-yes, Mr. Boylan-yes. Motion carried.

*Tax Collector Position*

Ms. Roberts questioned if we had anyone interested in the tax collector position. Ms. Miller explained this is a part-time position and stated it is a very nice part-time job for a stay-at-home person, or retired person. She urged those interested to contact Mr. Poole.

Public Comments

Michael Lee – 123 W Sylvan Avenue – questioned when was Mayor App sworn in? He was told it was earlier before the beginning of the meeting by Judge Puppio.

Mr. Lee mentioned that this Wednesday evening, County Council will have a meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. He welcomed the new members of council.

Mr. McGrath announced all new members would be receiving a new email with mortonpa.org.

Ms. Roberts asked Solicitor Ewald to describe the duty of the Vacancy Board. Mr. Ewald described that this is the easiest position of the council as they only are needed when there is a vacancy that cannot be filled by council. They will step in and become an additional member of council for the purpose of nominating someone to that position that is vacant. They become the chairperson and the remaining members are the members of council.

Ms. Miller stated that the Committees would be announced 1-15-20.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Preston, Secretary