

Village Of Alanson

7631 US 31 N Alanson, Mi. 49706

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

1. At 7:00 pm President Greg Babcock called the meeting to order.  
Village Roll Call: President Greg Babcock, Trustee Marv Blumke, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Preston Grobaski and Trustee Dave Stepanovich
2. Trustee Dave Stepanovich requested changes to the August 14th meeting minutes. Trustee Stepanovich stated he felt that Tom Fairbairn Jr's comment at the previous council meeting about threatening to shut down the parking lot and snowmobile trails if the village does not honor the current lease, should be included. A motion was made by Trustee Dave Stepanovich to change the August 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, this motion was seconded by Trustee Preston Grobaski. All in favor? Aye. Motion carried to change minutes to including Mr. Fairbairn's comment.
3. Visitor Comments:
  - Dean Paul, Superintendent of Littlefield Schools presented the board with an enhancement millage that will be on the November ballot. Mr. Paul explained that this millage was district wide and would need approval from all districts to pass. This enhancement millage would stay within each community. And can be used as the district sees fit. To bring back old programs such as band or to create new programs. This money could also help the district hire another special education teacher. Mr. Paul was asked by Trustee Doug Larson what the council could do to help. Mr. Paul stated that the council's support and helping educate the residents about this enhancement village was what was needed, to not hesitate to send residents with question to the school. This millage will be on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot and the school board is hoping to have an open forum before the election. Mr. Paul will notify council when this forum will take place.
4. President Greg Babcock presented the board that the village needed to appoint a street commissioner. This position is required by the State of Michigan. Trustee Marv Blumke has already been filling in on this position and was agreeable to taking on the official title. A motion to accept Trustee Marv Blumke as the street commissioner was made by Trustee Doug Larson and seconded by Trustee Preston Grobaski. A roll call vote was then taken with results:  
Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye  
Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye  
Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye  
Trustee Doug Larson: Aye  
President Greg Babcock: Aye  
All in favor, motion carried to appoint Trustee Marv Blumke to the Street Commissioner position.

5. Driveway washout was discussed as DPW worker Corey Withey had asked how long the village should continue to keep fixing the same driveways. After much discussion, council decided that each case would have to be looked at individually. If it was due to washout from the road itself, it would be village responsibility, if it was evident that washout was due to improper drainage on the homeowners property, the home owner would be responsible. Trustee Doug Larson did state he would like to invite the village residents to a council meeting to discuss further. Trustee Marv Blumke stated that when it was necessary for council to look at a driveway with washout he feels a qualified professional in this specific area should go with said council members.
6. Clerk Chris Adams and Treasurer Jennifer Carson asked council's approval to open up separate bank accounts for each fund: General Fund, Sewer Fund, Local Street Fund and Major Street Fund with the current account becoming the Sewer Account. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Dave Stepanovich and seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. As this pertains to village finance, President Greg Babcock asked for a roll call vote with results as follows:
  - Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye
  - Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye
  - Trustee Doug Larson: Aye
  - Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye
  - President Greg Babcock: AyeAll in favor, motion carried to approve new bank accounts.
7. Clerk Chris Adams advised council the Act 51 and F-65 reports had been timely filed and are in the village office for anyone wishing to review them.
8. HSASDA is requesting approval for a resolution to refinance the current bonds. The refinance would allow for necessary repairs and system upgrade that is needed without increasing current bond payments. The new refinance would also give the advantage of a fixed interest rate of either 2% or 2.5% versus the current variable rate. Trustee Doug Larson asked if there were any negatives to this resolution to which Trustee Marv Blumke stated no drawbacks but lower interest rate and paying less per year are advantages. A motion to accept this resolution was made by Trustee Dave Stepanovich and seconded by Trustee Marv Blumke. President Greg Babcock then asked for a roll call vote with results as follows:
  - Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye
  - Trustee Doug Larson: Aye
  - Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye
  - Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye
  - President Greg Babcock: AyeAll in favor, motion to adopt resolution carried.
9. Committee Reports:
  - Trustee Preston Grobaski (Parks)asked if he would have available storage place inside the DPW building if he stock piled mulch for the spring. Trustee Marv Blumke stated that they should be able to find the room indoors for this purpose. Trustee Blumke stated the he believes we will need quite a bit as the park areas as well. President Babcock staed he did not see a problem storing the mulch either. Trustee Grobaski expressed a big thumbs up to Trustee Doug Larson and President greg Babcock on all their hard work on the resurfacing of the courts in the park.

- Trustee Marv Blumke (Sewer Committee & Street Commissioner) stated that after Thursday's meeting of the HSASDA board, he would have more of an update on the resolution to refinance the current bonds. Trustee Blumke advised council that he had been in contact with Bradley Prause who wishes to tap in to the sewer system. Trustee Blumke advised Mr. Prause of his estimated costs and responsibilities regarding the tap in and that the HSASDA would have final approval. Trustee Blumke did also state that Mr. Prause would need a new drain field installed. Trustee Blumke then asked council if there had been anymore investigation into the bids for the street repair that the village had requested. President Babcock replied that he had not yet contacted the one and only bidder, Payne & Dolan, for a break down of their bid as of the date of this meeting. It should be stated that council had voted at the August meeting to put this process on hold for further investigation as Payne & Dolan's bid was extremely higher than the county engineer who helped the village with the specs for the project had original estimated. Trustee Blumke did ask that all bids be broke down step by step so this cost difference can be determined. Trustee Blumke reported to council that the village had been reprimanded by the DEQ for the burning of brush behind the DPW building. A resident had called them complaining because they are on oxygen and the smoke was coming in their windows. President Babcock stated that the village may be able to rent a chipper in the spring to help with the clean up versus the burning. Trustee Doug Larson stated that he has received numerous complaints on the brush area behind the DPW building being closed off. Trustee Blumke stated this area is full at this time. The DPW workers are trying to get it open. President Babcock stated that 4 out of the 5 people he has spoke with on this issue do not even live in the village limits. Trustee Larson asked if we should have the DPW workers take turns on the weekends to have this area opened up. Nothing was officially decided at this meeting on this matter and it will be discussed at a future date.

-Trustee Doug Larson (Grants) advised council the Administrative letter on the new ordinance book should be here by the end of September and Trustee Larson requested that all council members look it over for any errors or additions that need to be made. Trustee Larson then presented council with the Basketball/Tennis court resurfacing grant. The courts are now all done and there is currently \$1778 left over from this grant. The village must utilize this remaining fund within a set time frame and with certain restrictions in order to be able to apply for this type of grant next year. To which Trustee Larson presented his desire to protect the new courts with fencing. Trustee Larson has aquired a bid from Harbor Fence and has asked Trustee Preston Grobaski to help with this purchase with the parks funds. Trustee Larson explained that Harbor fence is requiring half down with the remainder upon completion. This would mean that only half of the funds would come from the current year budget and the other half would come from next years budget. Trustee Dave Stepanovich asked if this was doable with President babcock stating that the grants fund still has \$3000.00 for the current year and the Parks fund still has \$4100.00. Trustee Stepanovich asked if the height of the fence would bother residents and was advised by Trustee Larson the new fence would be the same height as the current fence. A motion to accept the proposal from Harbor Fence was made by Trustee Preston Grobaski and seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. A roll call vote was then taken with results as follows:

-Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye

Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye

Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye

Trustee Doug Larson: Aye

President Greg Babcock: Aye

All in favor, motion to accept proposal approved.

At this time Trustee Larson advised council of a new grant opportunity he and President Babcock would like to pursue. This new grant would purchase the necessary equipment for the village to show movies in the park. Trustee Stepanovich asked who would actually own the equipment and was advised the village would own the equipment. President Babcock advised council on the cost of licensing the movies. This could be anywhere from \$285-\$385 per movie and that there are restrictions and guidelines that must be followed. The grant would cover costs for a 2 year period. Trustee Stepanovich asked if this would all be grant money to which President Babcock stated yes.

-Trustee Dave Stepanovich(Personnel Committee) asked council about vacation pay for DPW workers, Corey Withey specifically and was advised by President Babcock that the vacation pay guidelines are in the employee handbook and President Babcock will make sure the DPW worker receives a copy. President Babcock also stated the DPW worker Devin Rangel was nearing the date he needs to have his CDL license.

10. Visitor comments: Resident Linda Brant asked if the tennis courts would be kept locked up to which Trustee Doug Larson replied that they would not be locked.
11. A motion to pay bills with the addition of the Harbor Fence retainer was made by Trustee Doug Larson and seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. All in favor, motion carried.
12. At 8:06 a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Preston Grobaski and seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All in favor, motion carried.