

Village Of Alanson

7631 US 31 N Alanson, Mi. 49706

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2018

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 Preston Grobaski made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich, all in favor.
3. Visitor Comments:
 - Jaqueline Pilette with the Emmet County Conservation District was in attendance to discuss her work on invasive species. A study has been ongoing for the last few years regarding the Japanese knotweed. This knotweed has been found within the village limits. One area is behind the DPW building and the other is located behind the post office. This species is illegal to move, possess or spray and it can grow anywhere. It is considered the worst invasive species as it can grow thru concrete, asphalt, etc. There are methods to remove but must be done by licensed professional. One is spraying and can take a few applications and the other is "Milestone" a form of nuclear pesticide that can stay in the ground up to 5 years and will kill other trees and plants around the treated area. President Greg Babcock asked Ms. Pilette if she would be comfortable coming back with a bid if council approves moving forward to which Ms. Pilette stated yes. Trustee Doug Larson made the motion to receive a bid on removing the Japanese knotweed, Trustee Dave Stepanovich seconded this motion with all council in favor. Motion carried.
4. Bridge Tender bids were opened and read aloud:
 - Gary Teatro of Indian River bid \$12.50 per hour
 - Jeff Prater of Alanson bid \$15000.00
 - Paul Davison bid \$16400.00After bids were read, Jeff Prater removed his bid due to personal reasons. Trustee Marv Blumke stated that while Paul Davison had done a good job in prior years, his only concern was Paul making sure the gate does not drop on top of cars as it has in the past. Trustee Dave Stepanovich stated his concern of Paul not hearing the boat horns in need of the bridge opening, Mr. Davison advised council he understood their concerns and does now have hearing aids. A motion to accept Paul Davison's bid of \$16400.00 for the 2018 season was made by Trustee Doug Larson and seconded by Trustee Marv Blumke, a roll call vote was taken with the following results:
 - Trustee Doug Larson: Aye
 - Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye
 - Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye
 - Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye
 - President Greg Babcock: AyeAll in favor, Paul Davison's bid of \$16400.00 accepted and approved.
5. Zoning Administrator position has been posted on and in all social media and President Greg Babcock recommends Allen Bersonette for this position. Mr. Bersonette was in attendance and was

asked by Trustee Doug Larson to tell a little about himself. Mr. Bersonette stated he has been a business owner for over 20 years and has compassion for our community. A motion was made by Trustee Dave Stepanovich to accept Allen Bersonette as the new zoning administrator for the Village of Alanson, this motion was seconded by Trustee Doug Larson with a roll call vote then taken:

- Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye
 - Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye
 - Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye
 - Trustee Doug Larson: Aye
 - President Greg Babcock: Aye
- All in favor, motion carried

6. Ordinance Enforcement Officer position was also posted on and in all social media with President Greg Babcock recommending Allen Bersonette. Trustee Marv Blumke asked Mr. Bersonette how he would handle interaction with rowdy people. Mr. Bersonette stated he would advise that he was only there in the capacity of collecting information and would act on content first. Confrontational is not the way to go. Legal aspect first with fines being assessed. President Babcock stated the ability to fine was already in place in the ordinance book. Trustee Doug Larson then asked how Mr. Bersonette would deal with the enforcement of ordinance's he himself did not agree with to which Mr. Bersonette stated he would enforce all ordinances as they are law. A motion was then made by Trustee Marv Blumke to accept Allen Bersonette as the new Ordinance Enforcement Officer which was seconded by Trustee Preston Grobaski with a roll call vote then taken:

- Trustee Doug Larson: Aye
 - Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye
 - Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye
 - Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye
 - President Greg Babcock: Aye
- All in favor, motion carried.

7. A sewer billing issue for Michael Lambert on River Street was discussed. President Babcock advised council that Mr. Lambert is now in possession of the building and was asking council for forgiveness on some of the sewer bill accumulated while said building was in prior hands and not actually being used. Mr. Lambert does have plans of apartments in the upper level and a restaurant and or ice cream parlor have been discussed for the first floor. The bill is \$3667.04 Trustee Doug Larson raised the question if council approves this will others with past sewer bills all want forgiveness as well? Trustee Marv Blumke stated he approved as Mr. Lambert is trying to improve the building. President Babcock advised Trustee Larson that while he understood his concern, Mr. Lambert did not even use the sewer system, while others with this debt have. President Babcock advised using the rei's billed to the village by the Harbor Springs sewer authority would lower the bill from the \$3667.04 to \$2142.09. Trustee Marv Blumke made the motion to charge \$20.66 per rei just for the back-sewer bill with regular rates apply on current. Trustee Doug Larson seconded this with the addition of a certain time period be place on this offer or the price reverts back to the original fee's. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results:

- Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye
- Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye
- Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye
- Trustee Doug Larson: Aye
- President Greg Babcock: Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

8. Committee Reports:

-Trustee Preston Grobaski reported he had e-mailed 5H about fertilizer and was advised they outsource it to the PC Lawn Care the village does currently use. PC Lawn stated they would not raise the price this year. 2 other companies had not replied as of the date of the meeting.

-Trustee Marv Blumke advised council that DPW worker Corey Withey was still plowing when necessary and was getting all the lawn care equipment ready to go for the start of spring cleanup. Trustee Blumke also advised council DPW worker, Corey Withey was not happy with the performance of the new DPW worker, Richard Gorney. Corey will call Rich to have him come in and is told Richard can't come in. Council agreed that it was up to Corey to call Richard in or not.

President Babcock stated that along with Trustee Dave Stepanovich, he would start looking for a reliable replacement. Trustee Blumke then stated while it was not on the agenda, flyers should be put out for the spring cleanup scheduled for May 5, 2018. President Greg Babcock advised that the hours this year are to be from 8am to 2pm.

-Trustee Doug Larson advised council he was waiting to hear back on the Community Foundation Grant he has applied for, stating he feels reasonably positive on this and was looking into the Revenue Board Grant to help with fencing for the basketball court.

-Trustee Dave Stepanovich stated DPW worker Corey Withey had stated he just was not going to call in Richard Gorney to which Trustee Stepanovich stated he had replied that this was fine with him.

9. A motion to pay the monthly bills was made by Trustee Doug Larson and seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. Roll call vote results:

-Trustee Doug Larson: Aye

-Trustee Preston Grobaski: Aye

-Trustee Dave Stepanovich: Aye

-Trustee Marv Blumke: Aye

-President Greg Babcock: Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

10. Public Comments:

-Art Drayton with the Littlefield/Alanson Fire Department was in attendance to discuss a couple issues, the first being the 4th of July Parade. Did council want a parade and could they approve the usually donation of \$250.00? A motion to approve the parade and donate the \$250.00 was made by President Greg Babcock with Trustee Preston Grobaski seconding. All council in favor, motion carried.

The second issue Mr. Drayton asked council to approve the Fire Departments annual car show scheduled for September 9, 2018. This would require the closing of River Street. A motion to approve this request was made by Trustee Marv Blumke and seconded by Trustee Doug Larson with all council in favor.

-Jim Allen updated council on his project, stating council would need to address the culvert issue to which President Babcock advised the culvert needed to be fixed regardless. Trustee Blumke advised that council had the Island project still not finished and almost out of funds, might not be the time to commit to another project. President Babcock advised Mr. Allen that if council approved his ability to apply for the required permits it was not a guaranteed commitment from council on this project. Trustee Doug Larson then made the motion to approve Jim Allen to apply for said permits with Trustee Dave Stepanovich seconding, all in favor, motion carried.

11. At 8:28 pm a motion was made to adjourn by Trustee Doug Larson, seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Chris Adams-Village Clerk