

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of July 12th, 2021.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Village Trustee Doug Larson at 6:01 pm.

Council Present: Trustee Mark Fairbairn, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Josh Larson, Trustee David Stepanovich.

Council Absent: President Greg Babcock

Staff Present: Craig Wilson, Brooke Milbrandt, Glen Pemberton, Jennifer Murphy, Jason Losey

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the agenda as written for the regular council meeting of July 12th, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of June 14th, 2021. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

Approval of Minutes Closed Session: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the closed session minutes as written for the regular council meeting of June 14th, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0 Clerk Milbrandt requested all copies of the closed session minutes be returned to her.

Public Comment: Harvey Kasuske a village resident stated three Issues of concern. 1. He feels taxes are too high in the village. 2. There is an abandoned house on Cheboygan St that is not maintained and has cats running around it amongst other homes in the area with blight. 3. The Locks mandate the control of water from Crooked Lake down the Crooked River. When there is a weather event, they open the locks, and it floods downstream flooding his property. Kasuske would like the Village to get involved and send a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers trying to resolve this issue.

Trustee Doug Larson introduced Blight Enforcement office Glen Pemberton and requested that Kasuske issue a written complaint and further stated that Pemberton is looking at several properties in the Village concerning blight. Trustee Doug Larson told Kasuske that the council can provide a letter of recommendation to the Army Corps of Engineers and will speak to the Village President on that matter.

Doug Houseworth, a Littlefield Township resident, proposed having music in the park from 7-9pm prior to the movies starting, as a free event to the public. The cost of his band to play would be \$350 a night. Trustee Doug Larson commented that the Village had just resumed the movie nights after taking off last year due to Covid. Larson recommended Houseworth speak to the DDA on the matter.

Charles Rehman asked what is going on the upcoming MDOT project. Trustee David Stepanovich reported that he, and other business owners, recently spoke to MDOT on the parking concerns - MDOT



said the village may lose a couple of parking spots, but they are still having discussions on the matter. MDOT will require bump outs in the village. There will be a September MDOT meeting.

Jim Alan commented that there is a major issue at the M-68/US 31 intersection with traffic congestion. Trustee Douglas Larson commented that the intersection will be changing with the upcoming MDOT project in hopes to reduce backups. Jim Alan also inquired if Herringbone parking has been looked at as a parking option? Trustee Doug Larson replied that the parking is being addressed by MDOT and that they are considering several options.

Charles Rehmann asked if the MDOT project could be put off a year for a year? Trustee Doug Larson replied that according to MDOT the project cannot be put off a year.

Treasurer, Jennifer Murphy, exits meeting.

Visitor Presentation: N/A

Charles Rehmann- Waterfront District PUD: Rehmann proposed a Planned Unit Development (PUD) which would encompass the Alanson DDA area creating a waterfront district. This PUD would focus on the waterfront in the area to bring in new businesses and to generate tax revenue by drawing in visitors. He would like to see a boardwalk put in along the waterfront as well as encourage new construction to replace the boat houses that were once there. Rehmann has spoken to DEQ which does allow for boat houses to be rebuilt from a previous boat house location. Rehmann is hoping for boat houses with architecturally significant designs to be built allowing living space. The PUD would establish a list of rules to include tourist draws to create an experience. Rehmann wants council to adopt a boat house Ordinance. By establishing the PUD, Rehmann believes it would in time increase the tax revenue but not increase taxes. Discussion ensued. Trustee David Stepanovich asked to see the documentation allowing the boat houses to be built and encouraged Rehmann to keep working with the DDA on the project.

Glen Pemberton- DPW- Equipment Replacement Request: Pemberton asked the council to purchase a new mower and two new leaf blowers for the DPW. The existing mower needs repairs estimated to be \$2,000. Pemberton presented a packet with various bids on different mowers and leaf blowers. Discussion ensued. Once the MDOT project is done, the DPW will not be able to plow the sidewalks with the truck. They will need to purchase new equipment. Pemberton recommended a Kubota F2690. *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to table the discussion on the Kubota F2690 until next year. Seconded by Josh Larson. All in favor. 4/0.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to purchase two BR1800 backpack leaf blowers from Maple Bay Marine for \$600 each. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. Roll call vote: Trustee Mark Fairbairn –Yes, Trustee Doug Larson – Yes, Trustee Josh Larson –Yes, Trustee David Stepanovich –Yes, President Greg Babcock –N/A. Motion carried. 4/0.

Motion by Trustee David Stepanovich to purchase the new lawn mower SZ22NC-48 for \$8,580.00 from Ginop Sales. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote: Trustee Mark Fairbairn –Yes, Trustee Doug Larson – Yes, Trustee Josh Larson –Yes, Trustee David Stepanovich –Yes, President Greg Babcock –N/A. Motion carried 4/0.

Pemberton asked the council how to dispose of the existing equipment. Trustee Doug Larson commented that it will need to be offered for public bid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- N/A

Trustee David Stepanovich- MDOT update, already discussed.

Trustee Doug Larson- Moving forward with purchases for holiday lights.

Street Commissioner Glen Pemberton- Reported having reached out to Emmet County Road Commission to get new guard rails. Pemberton mentioned sign pollution in the village and plans to remove old signs and posts with the council's approval. Signs such as children at play and snow priority route signs that are no longer relevant. Pemberton also inquired as to who pays for the bathroom supplies at the boat house. Trustee Larson replied that the Village pays for those items.

Zoning Administrator Glen Pemberton – N/A

Treasurer Jennifer Murphy – N/A

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson – N/A

Clerk Brooke Milbrandt- Reported that the training with the accountant Krista McDougall from Richards & McDougall, is confirmed for Sept 14-15. Milbrandt included in the packets a break down and explanation of the street funds to help the council read the budgets easier. Milbrandt reported having had to rebuild the payroll account into the new QuickBooks and the payroll data is not feeding properly. She will be seeking help with that.

President Greg Babcock- N/A

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote: Trustee Mark Fairbairn –Yes, Trustee Doug Larson – Yes, Trustee Josh Larson –Yes, Trustee David Stepanovich –Yes, President Greg Babcock –N/A . Motion carried 4/0.

Public Comment: Jim Alan- commented that he has been a resident for over 30 years. He has now moved back to Ohio but still working on river projects. Alan suggested looking into leasing the equipment for the DPW vs purchasing.

Charles Rehmann thanked the council members for their time that they invest with the Village.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.