

Minutes
Village of Alanson
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706
Regular Council Meeting of September 13th, 2021.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 6pm.

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

Council Absent: N/A

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

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the agenda as written for the regular council meeting of September 13th, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of August 9th, 2021. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to add the Approval of the Joint Meeting on the Library Minutes from August 9th, 2021 to the agenda as agenda item #6. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Public Comment: Resident Harvey Kasuske asked for an update on the letter he sent in two months ago on various homes in Alanson with blight issues. Ordinance officer Glen Pemberton responded that he had been in contact with the homeowners and is looking at options. They are possibly looking to remove the home on Cheboygan St and clean it up. Discussed doing a possible controlled burn by the fire department. President Greg Babcock responded that he is not in favor of a burn. Kasuske inquired on if there is a time limit. Pemberton will be getting back in contact with the homeowners in 14 days.

Visitor Presentation: - N/A

Resignation Robert Burwell: President Greg Babcock reported that Rob Burwell had given his two-week notice and asked the Council to accept the resignation. Robert Burwell asked to speak. He informed the council that he felt he was not being treated properly including when he had previously asked for the council to approve pay for him to obtain a CDL license. Burwell asked Trustee Doug Larson if he had received the email requesting to rescind his resignation. Larson responded that he had received it. Discussion ensued. Burwell expressed interest in working for the Village again in the future.

Motion made by Trustee Dave Stepanovich, to accept Rob Burwell's resignation now and to consider hiring him again in the future, should he apply. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0



Retaining Glen Pemberton as a full-time Village employee: President Greg Babcock informed the council that Glen Pemberton is asking to become a Full-time DPW employee. Discussion ensued. Trustee Doug Larson asked if the Village is required to post the position first.

Motion made by Trustee Doug Larson, to retain Glen Pemberton as a full time DPW employee for the Village of Alanson. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote: Mark Fairbairn – Yes, Doug Larson- Yes, Josh Larson –Yes, David Stepanovich – Yes, Greg Babcock –Yes. Motion carried 5/0.

Fairbairn Lawsuit to vacate roads: Trustee Mark Fairbairn reclused himself from voting. President Greg Babcock received a letter from the Attorney's office of Klevorn and Klevorn. Mark Fairbairn has filed the necessary paperwork to file a lawsuit removing the abandoned roads. Further discussion ensued.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson for Judge Deegan not to be required to recluse herself from the case. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0.

Motion by Trustee David Stepanovich for the Village to not dispute the lawsuit on abandoning the roads. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

Trustee Doug Larson left the meeting 6:34pm.

Discussion on Part-time DPW employee: President Babcock asked the council if they wanted to fill the vacated DPW position or wait for Littlefield Twp to hire an employee and use as a joint employee. Discussion ensued. Clerk Milbrandt requested notification on when to stop billing the Township for Glen Pemberton as a joint employee.

Motion by Trustee David Stepanovich to table the discussion on hiring a new DPW employee until the next meeting. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

Discussion on how to move forward with the Clerk's position: President Babcock informed the council that Clerk Brooke Milbrandt will be leaving the end of October to take a position with the Township. Babcock asked the council if they should post the position or create a hybrid position with Treasurer Jennifer Murphy taking on the clerk role while keeping Craig Wilson on as the Deputy Clerk? Council will discuss further and consider compensation.

Approval of Joint Meeting on the Library Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the minutes as written for the Joint Meeting regarding the Library, of August 9th, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- N/A.

Trustee David Stepanovich-Reported that a resident of Fairbairn Alley, behind the bakery, requested speed limit signs be put up. Also, a Marine Officer pointed out that there are no "NO WAKE" signs along the stretch of river leading up to the locks. Stepanovich asked the DPW if they can start cutting the grass at the end of East Street near the river. Stepanovich reported he hadn't had a chance to look further into the MDOT streetscape.

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Clerk Brooke Milbrandt- Reported that Treasurer Murphy had asked her to compile a list of the position duties and needs, which she had done and included with the info packets (copy attached hereto).

Milbrandt received a voicemail from Alisa, of Par Plan, offering Human Resources Risk Management resources. President Greg Babcock suggested we get literature. Milbrandt informed the council that two items on the budget need to be amended. We are overbudget on the Equipment purchases and the Municipal underwriters bill came in \$223 over. Babcock requested tabling until next month.

Glen Pemberton- Reported that he is currently working on six properties right now with blight issues. Zoning- nothing new coming in.

The DPW plans to put up a couple signs at the corner of Milton and Chicago streets.

Treasurer Jennifer Murphy reported that mBank has switched over to Nicolet bank which plans on closing the Alanson branch in December. Murphy reported that she is looking at alternative options. Murphy recommends staying with Nicolet for the time being. The Village has three CDS there with different maturity dates. Murphy also mentioned the ACH deposits with the sewer payments we must consider. Murphy also commented that with the upcoming MDOT project, if the Village wanted to apply for funding, we would need to start on that now. Citizens National Bank offered assistance with funding, but we would need to get that application going asap.

Jason Losey DPW- Asked the council when they want the bathrooms shut down. Babcock responded to shut down based on the weather. Shooting for the end of October. Losey also reported that the flowers have been taken down. The DPW is starting to edge the roads with gravel tomorrow.

President Greg Babcock reported that the Township Supervisor Damien Henning sent 3 documents to the council to review and approve next month. The three documents are: 1. Lama Intergovernmental agreement forming Lama. 2. Library lease with Lama. 3. Lease with this building with Lama for \$1.
Sewer Board Report- Babcock mentioned he's had a few Sewer Authority meetings. RFP is looking for a company to lease out land to put up a solar farm which could potentially bring the authority up to \$100,000. The Sewer Authority is looking to hire a new plant manager due to the current manager retiring. Trustee David Stepanovich inquired if we going to get money back for leasing out our sewer taps. Babcock responded by saying the bond payment will be less. We won't get money back.

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

Public Comment: Jason Losey- Littlefield Fire Dept- Reporting on the annual Car Show. Losey said that it was one of the largest shows they've had with 113 cars. Losey thanked the Village on behalf of the Fire Dept.

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 7:04 pm.