

**Minutes**  
Village of Alanson  
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706  
Regular Council Meeting of January 10th, 2022.

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

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

**Council Absent:** President Greg Babcock

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Murphy, Craig Wilson

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the agenda as written for the regular council meeting of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

**Approval of Minutes:** *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Visitor Presentation:**

**A: Jim Weller- Great North; Outdoor Craft Fair Spring 2022**

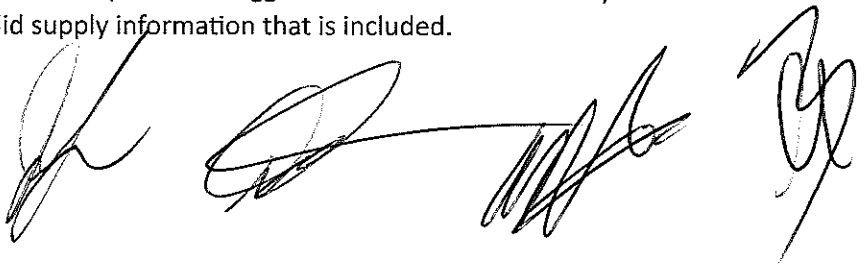
Jim Weller from the Great North Running Company presented to the council his plan for an Arts and Crafts Fair the weekend before Memorial Day; May 2022. Weller plans to hold it on the location south of the Subway restaurant to Powers Rd on the vacant piece of land that is privately owned.

Weller has spoken to the landowner, Emmet County Sheriff's Dept. and EMS on the event and has received positive feedback. Discussion ensued. Weller is anticipating up to 150 vendors and believes there is room for up to 240 vendors. No alcohol will be served at this event. An information packet was included. No action by the council was deemed necessary.

**B: Martha Lancaster- Emmet Transit Update:**

Martha Lancaster presented to the council a plan to institute a countywide transit system for Emmet County. She is asking the council to provide a letter of support to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners. Lancaster represents a group called "Friends Enhancing Emmet Transit (FEET)". Lancaster explained there is a large problem of dependable transportation in the rural areas of the county. Discussion ensued.

Lancaster mentioned that half of the revenue to fund this program would come from Federal and State funds. The other half would be from fares to ride, contracts for service, and on a local millage. Lancaster mentioned a .3 mill would be considered. Trustee Doug Larson commented he would be in favor of writing the letter of support. Trustee David Stepanovich suggested council wait until they can look at the information more closely. Lancaster did supply information that is included.



*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to table the letter of support until the council can look at the proposal further. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Opposed by Doug Larson. Motion carried. 3/1.

**New Business:**

**A: Recycling Renewal:** Trustee David Stepanovich mentioned that he wanted to have a discussion on the Recycling Contract renewal. His understanding is that if you want to cancel the contract you have to do so 9 months in advance. Jennifer Murphy commented that she had spoken to the Emmet County DPW Director Andi Tolzdorf to get a copy of the current contract, which was provided to Council. Murphy commented that Tolzdorf said the village has 9 months to cancel the contract prior to the renewal. However, Tolzdorf also mentioned they would not hold the Village to that. Trustee Doug Larson also spoke with Tolzdorf. She mentioned we would have to let them know prior to September if we want to cancel the renewal. Trustee Stepanovich expressed concern on how many people in the Village are using the service versus the cost. Stepanovich said he would like to see the numbers of how many people are using the service. Tolzdorf had sent numbers over showing there are 3500 stops a year costing less than \$3 a month per household. Jennifer Murphy commented that Andi Tolzdorf would be happy to come in and answer any questions at the next meeting and that she would invite Tolzdorf to attend the February meeting.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to table the discussion until next month's meeting. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

**B: Audit Engagement Letter-** Jennifer Murphy mentioned that President Greg Babcock has been in contact with Dan Smith and Company audit firm. The Council decided to wait until the next meeting to discuss.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Josh Larson-** N/A

**Trustee Mark Fairbairn-** Fairbairn commented that we should be getting ahold of MDOT to see where we stand on the road project. Fairbairn mentioned how nice the streetscapes in Pellston and Indian River are. Fairbairn believes we should be looking at putting in street lamps as those communities have done. Trustee Doug Larson responded by saying he had spoken with President Greg Babcock before he left on vacation. The Village should be hearing from MDOT at the next meeting with their proposal. Trustee Josh Larson had inquired as to if they have a final drawing yet. Trustee David Stepanovich commented that MDOT does not yet have a final drawing.

**Trustee David Stepanovich-** N/A

**Trustee Doug Larson-** Reported that he has finished the grant on the Hillside holiday display. A new grant cycle starts again this year. Larson commented that he has no grant plans as of yet. Jennifer Murphy suggested that the Village needs a new fountain in Memorial Park. Trustee Doug Larson responded that he would work on a grant for a new fountain in the park.

**Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson-** Inquired with the council on how they wanted to proceed with the beaver issue on the river. Wilson had previously contacted the trapper. The trapper would charge \$40 a pelt from the beavers removed. Trustee David Stepanovich mentioned the beavers are causing issues in the area and are taking trees down that are getting close to the power lines. Trustee Doug Larson commented that he agreed to the beaver removal if the beavers are causing issues with the infrastructure.

*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to proceed with having the beavers trapped and removed. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Secondly, Wilson had presented an email to the council from a boat group hoping to come to Alanson in September 2023. In the email, the coordinator Dennis Hansen asked that the council specify that ALL the public boat slips be reserved for their group and be marked. In addition, he would like the tent to be able to be up for two days versus the one day that was previously approved.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to table the discussion until he can look at the zoning ordinances. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**Jennifer Murphy-** In addition to the Treasurer's report, Murphy commented that the council needs to be thinking of how to use the ARPA Funds. A decision needs to be made before April. Murphy mentioned that she will need to report by Spring what we plan to do with the funds.

Trustee Doug Larson suggested possibly teaming up with Tipp of the Mitt watershed council to come up with a solution to the stormwater drainage problem. Trustee Stepanovich inquired if the funds could be applied to the Sewer Bond.

Murphy also mentioned we will need to look at the governmental resolution at the next meeting. We need to update the language.

**Monthly Bills:** *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson.

Roll call vote: Mark Fairbairn –Yes, Doug Larson –Yes, Josh Larson –Yes, David Stepanovich –Yes. Motion carried 4/0.

**Public Comment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

