

**Minutes**  
Village of Alanson  
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706  
Regular Council Meeting of February 14th, 2022.

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

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

**Council Absent:** Trustee Doug Larson

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

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to table new business agenda item A "President Pro Tempore," until the next meeting and to accept the rest of the agenda as written for the regular council meeting of February 14th, 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 January 10th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Visitor Presentation:** N/A

**New Business:**

**A. President Pro Tempore:** Tabled until March's meeting.

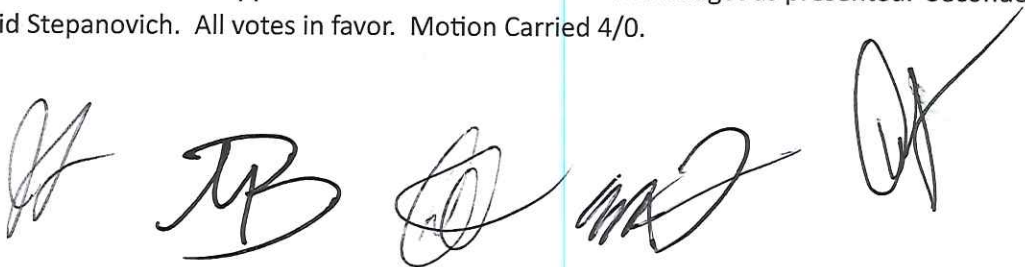
**B. Budget Approval:** Clerk-Treasurer Jennifer Murphy presented the 2022-2023 budget proposals to the council. Discussion ensued.

*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approval the 2022-2023 General Fund budget as presented. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion Carried 4/0.

*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approval the 2022-2023 Local Street Fund budget as presented. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion Carried 4/0.

*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approval the 2022-2023 Major Street Fund budget as presented. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion Carried 4/0.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approval the 2022-2023 Sewer Fund budget as presented. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion Carried 4/0.



**C: Approval of Top O' Michigan Boat Race Request:** President Greg Babcock reported that the Top O' Michigan Boat Club is requesting to have the no-wake zone lifted and the swing bridge to be open for the race in August 2022.

*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the request by the Top O' Michigan Boat Race Club. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**D. Cameras for the Building- Village Cost Share:** President Greg Babcock reported that LAMA is requesting that the Village contribute \$1,500 towards a new security camera system to be installed on the hall and various locations around the park. LAMA and Littlefield Township will be paying the rest of the cost of the system.

*Motion* by Trustee Dave Stepanovich to contribute \$1,500 to LAMA for the new security cameras. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**E. Bathroom & Fountain Repair Grant:** President Babcock reported that he had spoken to Trustee Doug Larson. Larson is going to write the grant for a new Memorial Park fountain. He plans to combine the grant to remodel the park bathroom as well. Larson is asking the Village to contribute \$2,500 towards the grant match. There will be contributions from LAMA and Littlefield Township towards the grant as well.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to direct \$2,500 towards the bathroom and fountain grant project. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**F. Hire New Sewer Clerk:** President Babcock informed the council that Sewer Clerk Heather Armock has requested to step down as Sewer Clerk. Babcock reported that Joy Fidler has expressed interest in the position. Fidler introduced herself and informed the council that she has had previous accounting experience.

*Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to hire Joy Fidler to the Sewer Clerk position. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Roll call vote: Fairbairn – Y, Josh Larson –Y, Stepanovich –Y, Babcock –Y. Motion carried 4/0.

#### **Old Business:**

**A. Emmet County Recycling Contract Renewal:** Andi Tolzdorf from the Emmet County DPW, presented to the council information on the recycling program and its community use. Tolzdorf reported that the Village has been using the service since 2017, and approximately 80% of the Village residents use the program throughout the year. The trucks make 3500 stops a year and keep 3500 pounds of trash out of the landfills. 95% of the recycled products go to Michigan businesses. Tolzdorf reported the service costs less than \$1 per household per week. Discussion ensued. Trustees Stepanovich and Trustee Fairbairn requested an audit be done to get exact numbers on how many households use the service. Trustee David Stepanovich requested his quote "I feel that this is a waste of money and that the money could go towards better things" be included on the public record. Stepanovich asked to put the program to a vote. President Babcock mentioned that we could put out an online survey asking the residents if they use the program. Trustee Stepanovich told Tolzdorf that he wants to be able to cancel the contract with only one

months' notice not 9 months' notice. Andi Tolzdorf responded that they could do that. Trustee Mark Fairbairn inquired as to if the price of the contract is negotiable. Tolzdorf responded that "we can look at the contract terms". Tolzdorf said she would return after two months with the audit numbers. *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to table the discussion until April's meeting. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**B. Audit Engagement Letter:**

*Motion* by Trustee Dave Stepanovich to accept the Dan Smith and Company's audit engagement letter and to authorize President Greg Babcock to sign the letter. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**C. Resolution to abandon property- Mark Fairbairn:** Trustee Mark Fairbairn reported that his attorney had sent him an email mentioning that the court needs something in writing stating the Village is abandoning the alleyways. President Babcock responded that he would contact the Village attorney. Babcock asked Fairbairn to find out exactly what the court needs in writing, and he will ask the attorney to write it up. Babcock mentioned we would put this on the March 2022 agenda.

**D. Governmental Resolution (Form 2207B)** –Clerk-Treasurer Murphy reported that this resolution has been needing to be approved for the last several months. The Village was contacted by Andrew Perketta with MDOT on the need to adopt the revised resolution with language provided by the State of Michigan. Murphy reported that to use the state's right of ways we must have the language in place. *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the governmental resolution as written. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Mark Fairbairn:** - Suggested everyone go to Pellston and Indian River to get ideas on the streetscape project coming up.

**Trustee Josh Larson-** N/A

**Trustee David Stepanovich-** Asked why the public can't comment before the council votes on agenda items. President Greg Babcock responded that the public is not allowed to participate in the council discussions. Babcock told Stepanovich that the public can give their comments at the beginning and the end of the meeting during the Public Comment periods.

**President Greg Babcock-** Reported having not heard back yet from MDOT. He has heard from Fleis & Vandenbrink on the upcoming project. Trustee Fairbairn commented that we need more businesses and people to get involved with the project. Fairbairn said, "We're losing businesses and need to make the Village look good to draw in new businesses." Fairbairn asked if we should raise a milage to cover the costs of the project? Trustee Stepanovich said that MDOT and Fleis & Vandenbrink should show up here in person so they can be asked questions.

**Sewer board update.** Babcock reported that the Sewer Authority has hired a new plant manager to begin February 22, 2022. They have a temporary manager filling in currently. Trustee Stepanovich asked why they didn't hire within. Babcock responded that none of the current employees have the proper endorsements to run the plant. Babcock said things are running well currently other than there is a Force main failing which will cost approximately \$1million to replace. Most of the costs will be from Bear Creek Township which has the most taps.

**DPW Report:** Babcock reported that the DPW's furnace has been failing. They've had it repaired twice so far this winter. They did get a quote to replace the system.

Trustee David Stepanovich inquired as to if Glen Pemberton has gotten or plans to get his CDL license. Babcock commented that as of right now he hasn't gotten it or has a date to which he will obtain the license. Trustee Mark Fairbairn suggested we set a date for which Pemberton must get his CDL. Babcock commented that he will be speaking with Pemberton about getting the license. Trustee David Stepanovich mentioned that he has noticed the DPW employees getting overtime on the payroll. Babcock reported that they have been working on the DPW building when they are not working on the roads. Any hours worked over the weekend they will get paid overtime.

**Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy-** See attached Clerk/Treasurer Report.

**DPW/Zoning/ Street Commissioner Glen Pemberton-** Absent.

**Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson-** Wilson reminded the council that the Antique Boat Society is requesting the docks to be reserved for their group when they come to Alanson in September 2023.

*Motion* by President Greg Babcock to approve the request by the Antique and Classic Boat Society to reserve the docks at the Sanctuary Island Park for the dates they are requesting. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

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

Roll call vote: Fairbairn –Y, Josh Larson – Y, Stepanovich –Y, Babcock – Y. Motion carried 4/0.

**Public Comment:** N/A

**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.