

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of April 11th, 2022.

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, President Greg Babcock.

Council Absent: Trustee David Stepanovich

Staff Present: Jennifer Murphy, Glen Pemberton, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the agenda as written for the regular council meeting of April 11th, 2022. 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 March 14th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 4/0

Public Comment: Resident Brooke Milbrandt spoke in support of the curbside recycling program. Milbrandt said that “there is a great benefit to the program and that it’s not a costly item on the budget. Please don’t get rid of curbside recycling.”

Resident Michael Williams also commented in support of the recycling program and that he would like to see the program continue.

Visitor Presentation:

A. N/A

New Business:

A. **Bridge Tender Bids:** President Greg Babcock presented the only bid submitted for the Bridge Tender Position. The bid was from Edward Pelto for \$40,300.00. Trustee Doug Larson inquired as to what last year’s bid was. President Babcock responded that it was \$24,000.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the bid from Edward Pelto for \$40,300 for the 2022 Bridge Tender Position. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote: Fairbairn –Y, Doug Larson –Y, Josh Larson –Y, Babcock – Y. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

- B. **Spring Clean-Up Day:** President Babcock reported that residents have been asking if the Village is providing the clean-up day this year. Babcock had spoken with Damien Henning with Littlefield Township, and the Township is on board to have it as well.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to hold the spring clean-up day on Saturday, May 7th from 9-2pm and to allow Babcock to make arrangements. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

C. **ARPA Resolution-** Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy explained the resolution. Discussion ensued. *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the ARPA Resolution #3, as written including the language for loss of revenue in the amount of \$80,127.85. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote: Fairbairn –Y, Doug Larson –Y, Josh Larson –Y, Babcock – Y. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Old Business:

- A. **Emmet County Recycling Contract:** As requested by the council, Andi Tolzdorf from the Emmet County DPW presented the recycling audit. Discussion ensued. 340 properties are listed in the village with 185 households (54%) using the service, which makes the cost \$2.93/ household/ month. Tolzdorf said they can do an outreach to the households not using the service to try and get them to start using it. 40 parcels could not be counted as they were not residences. President Babcock presented the online Survey results: 47 residents responded. 43 residents were in favor of the program. 4 were against. Trustee Mark Fairbairn inquired if we should table the issue until the next meeting. He also inquired as to if the 5-year contract was negotiable. Tolzdorf said that she would be happy to discuss the contract terms at a different time. Trustee Doug Larson commented “that we’ve discussed this topic long enough,” and made a motion.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to renew the recycling contract for a 5-year period. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote: Fairbairn – Y, Doug Larson –Y, Josh Larson – Y, Babcock – Y. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn: N/A

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Doug Larson- Asked the council regarding not having individual committees, “who will be taking care of the gardens and the Alanson sign?” Glen Pemberton had commented that Tigerlily’s had been taking care of the parks and sign last year. Pemberton was going to ask the new florist moving into Alanson if they would consider taking care of the parks and sign.

Larson reported that we will be hearing back on the park/fountain grant before the next meeting and would like to approve to pay any expenditures that come in before the next meeting.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson upon receipt, to pay any expenditures as they come in for the grant project in the park. Seconded by President Greg Babcock. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0

Trustee David Stepanovich- Absent

President Greg Babcock- Received a letter from Jane Elbert with Countryside Realty. She plans to list the home at 7661 Bass Ave. (north of Bass Ave. Park). There has been a 99-year lease with the Village in place since 1987. Elbert is asking the council if they would consider selling the piece of property. Discussion ensued. Trustee Doug Larson asked if Elbert had proposed an offer? Babcock responded that no proposed offer had come in. Babcock commented that if no one is opposed he would reach out to Jane Elbert and ask them to make a proposal.

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

Resolution to increase the FY 2022 General Fund Budget for equipment rental to \$60,000.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to increase the FY 2022 General Fund Budget for equipment rental to \$60,000. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Resolution to add ARPA Expense for FY 2023 General Fund for amount of \$80,127.85.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to add an expense line to the budget for the ARPA expense for FY 2023 General Fund for amount of \$80,127.85. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Resolution to add Zoning Enforcement Officer budget of \$3,000 for FY 2023 General Fund.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to add a line item for the Zoning Enforcement Officer budget of \$3,000 for FY 2023 General Fund. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Resolution to add Joint Employee Expense in the amount of \$15,000 for FY 2023 General Fund. *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to add a line item in the budget for the Joint Employee Expense in the amount of \$15,000 for FY 2023 General Fund. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Clerk-Treasurer Murphy reported that the Auditors will be starting the audit around May 10th, 2022.

DPW/Zoning/ Street Commissioner Glen Pemberton

Pemberton reported that a new Culvert is going in on Pine St. He also reported that they've been having issues with the Backhoe. They have it working better now. Pemberton has been looking into repairing the Sanctuary Island raft. They have bought new cables for it. To get it functioning and to prevent future break downs, Pemberton has come up with an idea to install 4 plates that will guide the wires. The cost for these plates is approximately \$2,000. Pemberton is requesting permission to purchase the plates. Babcock commented that with the grant terms there must be access to the island.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the expenditures for the repairs on the Sanctuary Island Raft up to \$2,000. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Pemberton asked the council when the park bathroom remodel would be completed. Trustee Doug Larson reported that LAMA is handling the bathroom remodel. Larson commented that he believes the work should be completed before the movies in the park start in July. They are hoping to hear about the grant by May 1st. 2022. Pemberton suggested getting porta potties in the park in the meantime. Trustee Mark Fairbairn asked Pemberton to get a bid for Porta Potties. Bridge Tender Ed Pelto asked the council if they could put a porta potty in Memorial Park. President Babcock commented that they've had one in the past and people complained about the smell and had it removed.

Pemberton reported they have been working on the Swing Bridge. The hydraulics and arms are working fine. He plans on having Wayne's electric out to replace the conduit and electrical lines that are bad. There are several hoses that need to be replaced. Pemberton said they are trying to coordinate a time when all the work can be done at the same time.

Pemberton asked the council to purchase two power brooms for the DPW. Babcock commented that they have \$5000 in the budget for new equipment.

Pemberton asked the council to consider giving him a raise. Council did not respond to this request.

Zoning- Pemberton reported that they had a Planning & Zoning meeting the previous week. They had 3 members show up. Two members have not come to the last several meetings. The Secretary has not been taking down the minutes and has not submitted the last several copies of the minutes. The Zoning board members are paid when the minutes are submitted and have not been paid for several meetings now. They are looking to bring on new members. Babcock commented that we needed to run another ad to try and get new zoning board members.

Pemberton reported that he had received a request to put up a boathouse on a River St property.

Ordinance Enforcement- Pemberton reported that he is currently looking at 10 properties with blight issues. He has spoken to them several times. Once he receives the ticket book, he's going to start issuing tickets to the violators. Pemberton mentioned that he had spoken with the previous enforcement officer Allen Bersonnet, who is going to give Pemberton the ordinance officer camera.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- N/A

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion Carried. 4/0

Public Comment: Resident Deanna Yockey commented that she had heard the Village was having difficulty getting zoning enforcement tickets. President Babcock responded by saying that the ticket books are ordered. Yockey asked what service the residents are getting for the \$3000 paid to the zoning enforcement officer. Yockey said "there is a severe blight issue in Alanson and would like to see it taken care of." Zoning Enforcement Officer Glen Pemberton commented that he has been going out to speak with several households' multiple times. Without the tickets he cannot do much. President Babcock commented that once Pemberton receives the tickets, he can start issuing them to the violators. The next step would be that the village takes the violators to court. Trustee Fairbairn commented that once

the word is out that the village is enforcing these ordinances, the violators will hopefully start cleaning up their properties.

Approved 2022 Bridge Tender Edward Pelto asked for a second mirror to be installed on the SW corner of the Bridge Tender booth. Street commissioner Glen Pemberton said he would look into it.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 4/0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.