

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of May 9th, 2022.

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

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

Council Absent: Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Josh Larson

Staff Present: 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 May 9th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 3/0

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the minutes with the additional commentary from Trustee Stepanovich for the regular council meeting of April 11th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 3/0

Trustee David Stepanovich's commentary to the April 11th, 2022, minutes. Stepanovich said, "I want it on record that I don't believe that the online survey was put together correctly." He mentioned that there was nothing in the survey citing the cost of recycling and no option to select "never recycle." Stepanovich wants it to be noted that "the survey was not a proper survey." Stepanovich said, "It's not fair to the public how it was put out." Stepanovich also commented that Trustee Fairbairn had wanted to look at the recycling contract further to discuss the price, and there was a motion to enter a 5-year contract approved. Stepanovich felt that it was irresponsible for the council to have passed the motion. President Greg Babcock commented that the council had only approved entering contract negotiations. They have not yet been presented with a contract.

Public Comment: N/A

Visitor Presentation:

A.

New Business:

A. Glen Pemberton DPW wage increase-

President Babcock reported that Glen Pemberton had not received a raise since his hire date of February 17th, 2020. Babcock mentioned the cost-of-living increase for 2020 was 2.8% and the cost-of-living increase for 2021 was 4.8% making it 7.6%. Babcock suggested rounding it up to 8% which equals a \$1.40 raise. Trustee Stepanovich asked if that was in the contract? President

Babcock responded by saying “there is no contract”. Trustee Stepanovich commented that he has “no problem giving Pemberton a raise as long as things are getting done around the village”. Stepanovich mentioned having asked Pemberton to do things in the past that hadn’t been done. Trustee Mark Fairbairn commented that he has gone around town and saw things not being done. Fairbairn said, “I’ve seen the park trash overflowing all over the place.” Stepanovich asked why the roads are not getting graded? Pemberton responded that the equipment we have isn’t going to grade the roads properly. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Fairbairn inquired if Pemberton had received his CDL license yet? Pemberton reported that he had not received a CDL license yet. Trustee Fairbairn expressed concern that if something happens to Jason Losey with the DPW we’ll be in trouble. Trustee Stepanovich told Pemberton “We need you to get your CDL.” Trustee Fairbairn asked if the ticket books had come in yet? Pemberton reported the ticket books came in. President Babcock had told Pemberton to hold off issuing tickets until after the spring cleanup.

Trustee Fairbairn told Pemberton he would like to see things put on a schedule. Fairbairn wants the equipment on a schedule for maintenance as well as the roads on a schedule to be graded. Pemberton commented that the belly blade on the plow truck is not the right equipment to do the job correctly.

Motion by Trustee David Stepanovich to raise Glen Pemberton’s wage \$1.40, or the equivalent of an 8% cost of living increase. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 3/0.

Old Business:

A. Jane Elbert Letter regarding listing on Bass St. property. President Babcock reported that he had contacted Elbert asking for a proposal and has received no word back. Babcock said that the lease transfers with the sale of the house. Trustee Stepanovich asked how much land does the village own there? Babcock was unsure of the amount. The 99-year lease began in 1987.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn: N/A

Trustee Josh Larson- Absent

Trustee Doug Larson- Absent

Trustee David Stepanovich- MDOT- Stepanovich had spoken with David Tallon from MDOT. Tallon had mentioned there was a public meeting coming up on 5/26/22. Babcock commented that he was unaware of the meeting. Babcock said that the only meetings he was aware of have been with MDOT and the county setting up the detour.

Stepanovich mentioned he had spoken with Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer Murphy about the Trustee’s term limits. Trustee Stepanovich, Trustee Doug Larson and President Greg Babcock are up for election this year.

President Greg Babcock- Reported that he had heard from Trustee Doug Larson. Larson mentioned the bathroom /fountain grant had been approved. Babcock said that Larson is meeting with Waterfront Property Management and Construction this week to get the project going.

Babcock reported that the Spring cleanup day was last Saturday. He wanted to give a “big thank you to the Fire Department for their help and volunteers.” Babcock said, “If it were not for them, it would not have happened.” Trustee Stepanovich asked how much the cleanup cost the village. Babcock reported the final bill had not come in. There were 6-8 trucks used this year. The cost was \$185 per hour per truck plus the straight dumping fee and a 6% fuel charge. There is also a tire cost. Babcock reported they had only collected 2 tires. Trustee Stepanovich asked if they were checking IDs. Babcock reported they were checking IDs. Glen Pemberton suggested instead of having a cleanup day, provide taxpayers a voucher to take their own refuse to the transfer station. Trustee Stepanovich asked to look into the voucher system for next year and to discuss it at the next meeting.

Babcock reported that the Sewer meeting had been canceled due to a lack of agenda items. They are still working on the quote for the repair work that needs to be done.

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

DPW/Zoning/ Street Commissioner Glen Pemberton

Pemberton reported they had pulled the hydraulic lines out of the tubes on the swing bridge. There were a lot of air bubbles in the lines. The hydraulic lines and electrical lines have been replaced and it has been overhauled and greased.

Pemberton mentioned he had reached out to Donna McGill with the school. McGill’s class is going to maintain the village flower box.

Pemberton reported that they’ve recently had 2 burials.

Resident Deanna Yockey inquired if Pemberton purchased the power brooms that were mentioned at April’s meeting. Pemberton responded that they are holding off on purchasing them at this point due to cost.

Pemberton reported that a tree came down across the river that has been cut up and removed.

President Babcock commented that Dudley Marvin from the Pickerel Lake Association offered to donate \$500-\$1000 towards the clean-up.

Trustee Stepanovich recommended having the trees trimmed in the future to try and prevent the trees from coming down like the one did across the river. Babcock responded that there are only 3 areas the village owns where this could happen.

Pemberton reported there is now a porta potty in the park.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- Wilson reported that the Craft show has been moved from the Brill property south of the Subway to the Hillside gardens. Wilson also reported that the invoice for the beavers that had been trapped came in. There were four beavers removed. Wilson asked the council what they wanted to do with the photo display Doug Houseworth had donated to the village.

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Motion carried 3/0.

Public Comment: Resident Angela Papi- asked the council if there was a form to fill out for the food truck. President Babcock said it has been 2 months. Babcock mentioned he would reach out to the village attorney to write up the ordinance.

Trustee Fairbairn mentioned he's had calls from people about the zoning permit applications. People are not able to download them online. Trustee Stepanovich said he would be happy to keep them at his store. Glen Pemberton said that he has a pdf copy we can put online and make fillable.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 3/0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.