

Minutes
Village of Alanson
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706
Regular Council Meeting of June 13th, 2022.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 6:01pm.

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

Council Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Jennifer Murphy, Glen Pemberton, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Dave Stepanovich to approve the agenda as written for the regular council meeting of June 13th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Dave Stepanovich to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of May 9th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Approval Special Meeting Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the minutes as written for the special council meeting on May 26th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Public Comment: Resident Jamie Breithaupt from 6180 Bonz St reported having suffered a fire on 1/23/22 and is trying to rebuild. He commented that he has made several attempts to get ahold of the Zoning Administrator. Mr. Breithaupt expressed frustration with the process. He had sent in the wrong application by mistake. Per Breithaupt, he had heard back from Pemberton once and was told Pemberton would stop out to the property. Glen Pemberton responded that he had stopped out at the property and had to look into the setbacks. The previous garage had side rooms/buildings off of it. Mr. Breithaupt expressed that he was very dissatisfied in the process and how he has not promptly been responded back to. President Greg Babcock commented to Breithaupt to get the application turned in and they'd get it approved.

Business owner Charles Rehman mentioned he has been working on an event called Celebrate Alanson with Tom Fairbairn Sr. Its focus is to bring awareness to the community that we need volunteers for all of the various nonprofits. Rehman asked if the Village could advertise the event on the website and Facebook. President Greg Babcock asked Rehman to send him and Jennifer Murphy a digital copy and they would post it online.

Resident Patty Doss from 7031 S US 31- reported that she has also been trying to get ahold of Zoning Administrator Glen Pemberton. She had made several attempts and has not heard back from him. She mentioned that she is wanting to change her zoning from Commercial zoning to Residential. President

The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink, arranged horizontally. From left to right: a stylized signature, the initials 'DL', a signature that appears to be 'DB', a signature that appears to be 'MJ', and a signature that appears to be 'GAB'.

Greg Babcock responded that she would need to go before the Zoning Board. Babcock said they would get Doss a Zoning application.

Visitor Presentation:

- A. **Kim Morgan- Memorial Park-** Morgan reported that her Mother-in-law had recently passed away. She was looking at the Village's recreational plan and had noticed Morgan Park was now called Memorial Park. Kim Morgan told the council that she would like to plant a tree or some type of shrub/plant in honor of her Mother-in-law. Morgan also commented that the park is not looking very nice. Morgan said, "The flower beds are full of weeds and the fence looks bad". Morgan offered if there is a need for help, she'd be happy to try and hire someone to take care of it. President Babcock responded that he doesn't believe anyone would be opposed to her buying a tree/shrub for the park. Glen Pemberton commented that he'd asked the science class at the school previously if they would take care of the park.

- B. **B. Jim Becker- Street Commissioner Position-** Resident of 6185 Warren St has been the Alanson Street Commissioner off and on over the years. Becker asked the council why things are not getting done around the village. Becker commented that the roads are in terrible condition. He reported that the end of his driveway is washed out and he can barely get out. Becker said, "the parks look great, but the roads look like crap". Discussion ensued. Glen Pemberton responded that he has spoken previously with Becker. Pemberton commented that "Trustee Dave Stepanovich has said the roads have been bad for 10 years. They didn't just start falling apart in the last year." Pemberton reported that he has been working with the Emmet County Road commission on spillways and other projects. Pemberton said that "we don't have the correct equipment to get the work done". Trustee Dave Stepanovich asked Becker if he could show the DPW how to grade the roads with the existing equipment. Becker did offer to help the DPW. Becker inquired on what happened to the funds that had been allocated to blacktopping three different roads years ago. Stepanovich commented that when the road crews are out next year for the road project they'd like to try and get bids to do the other three roads.

New Business:

Old Business:

- A. **MDOT – "Bump Out" discussion-** Trustee David Stepanovich has been in contact with MDOT over the road construction plans and the proposed bump outs throughout the Village. Stepanovich said that he has the issue taken care of outside his store with losing parking. Stepanovich would like the council to vote on each proposed bump out. Discussion ensued. Resident Jim Becker commented that the bump outs will "cause a lot of problems in the winter. The village will lose parking and they will have difficulty removing the snow. The curbs will also get broken up". President Greg Babcock responded that many people have brought it to the council's attention that they want the traffic to slow down through the village. The way to do that is by putting

bump outs in. Trustee Stepanovich asked why we don't have a traffic light installed. Trustee Doug Larson mentioned MDOT had done a traffic study and won't approve a traffic light. Trustee Larson suggested having a special meeting to go over the MDOT plans once they came in. Business Owner Tom Fairbairn Jr. commented that every time the plans are redrawn it is costing the taxpayers money. Fairbairn expressed dissatisfaction on how the MDOT meeting was held. Fairbairn said that he felt "it was very unorganized". He suggested installing bump outs at the north and south end of town to slow traffic down. Fairbairn also mentioned concern on MDOT redoing Milton Rd prior to the detour due to the trucks breaking up the newly resurfaced road. Business owner Charles Rehman commented that "the MDOT meeting was a joke". Street Commissioner Glen Pemberton mentioned he has spoken with the City of Petoskey asking what equipment they would suggest Alanson would need after the bump outs are installed. The City of Petoskey told Pemberton that "you will not get all the snow out of there". Discussion ensued further. Tom Fairbairn asked the Council if they could email him a copy of the MDOT plans once they finally came in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn: N/A

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Doug Larson- Reported that we are on the schedule to have the bathroom remodel done by the end of July.

Trustee David Stepanovich- N/A

President Greg Babcock- Reported that he attended the Harbor Springs Sewer Authority meeting. They have been working on the designs for the Hathaway/ Powers Road repair. The repair cost is down to the original figure. The Plant is running smoothly.

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

DPW/Zoning/ Street Commissioner Glen Pemberton reported that the Sanctuary Island ferry is back up and running. He installed a new mechanism along with new cables which came in under budget. The DPW has installed the new fountain at Memorial/ Morgan Park, along with upgrades to the benches. The DPW had 4 gravel trains delivered. The DPW is working with the Emmet County Road Commission on spillways. The new blades came in for the belly truck. They have been filling potholes on Lake St and down near Sanctuary Island.

Zoning- The meeting has been moved to June 30th instead of the July 4th. The change has been posted on the door and Facebook. Pemberton commented that the Zoning board needs two more people to join.

Ordinance- Pemberton reported having Issued 14 citations to residents in violation of zoning ordinances. They received a 14-day notice. Pemberton has had a few calls from homeowners who had received the tickets issued and they are slowing working on cleaning up their properties. Others who had received citations have not contacted him back.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- N/A

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Motion carried 5/0.

Public Comment –Resident Marvin Blumke mentioned having been down to Memorial/ Morgan Park. Blumke mentioned the public boat docks are in bad shape and need attention.

President Babcock asked Glen Pemberton if the railing on the Boat house had been repaired and commented that it needs to be completed before the Celebrate Alanson event on July 9th- Babcock asked Pemberton if we needed to get a contractor. Pemberton reported that he has a police report and has reached out to the people who hit the railing. He has not received a call back from them. President Babcock asked Pemberton to give Jennifer Murphy the police report so Murphy can reach out to the insurance company.

Resident Wayne McPhall inquired if he would be permitted to do the BBQ competition again this 4th of July in the park. *Motion* by President Greg Babcock to approve the BBQ competition on the 4th of July. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.