

**Minutes**  
Village of Alanson  
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706  
Regular Council Meeting of September 12th, 2022.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 6:00pm.

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

**Council Absent:** N/A

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

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to accept the agenda with the removal of Old Business Section B, for the regular council meeting of September 12th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

**Approval of Minutes:** *Motion* by Trustee David Stepanovich to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of August 8th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

**Public Comment:** Resident Kim Morgan spoke regarding the Morgan Park clean up. Morgan spoke with Peggy's Landscaping who is willing to weed and clean up the park. However, they mentioned there is an invasive weed there that will come back immediately if not maintained and that it is too late to do anything this year. Morgan was going to talk to the school to see if they could maintain the park. Morgan mentioned that she had given a \$500 check to the Clerk-Treasurer to help with costs.

Resident Harvey Kususke asked for an update on the blight issue on the property on Cheboygan St. Kususke presented to the council pictures of the property. Kususke mentioned he has voiced concerns for over 4 years. President Greg Babcock mentioned the Ordinance Officer just resigned and is looking at filling the position. Once they have someone to enforce the ordinances the village will get back in contact with the homeowner.

Wayne Blomberg with the Inland Water Route Historical Society requested building a 7 x 16 kayak ramp at the Sanctuary Island property. Blomberg presented pictures to the council as to the proposed location. He mentioned he has volunteers, and the Historical society would provide the materials, there would be no cost to the Village. Trustee Doug Larson recommended making this a grant project in 2023. President Greg Babcock commented that the boat docks are also in need of attention. Trustee Doug Larson said he will plan to work with the IWRHS on writing a grant for the kayak ramp to be submitted through the IWRHS this fall. Trustee David Stepanovich expressed concern for the kayakers on the river in areas that are not "No Wake zones". Stepanovich said he doesn't want to see the river shut down to being no wake the entire way.



**Visitor Presentation:**

- A. **Jane Elbert- Bass Ave Property-** Real Estate agent Gail Greenwell and new resident Randy Bricker reported that Bricker recently purchased 7661 Bass Ave with an adjacent parcel leased for 100 years through the village. Bricker proposed to pay to have the leased land surveyed and expressed that he would like to purchase the land. President Babcock responded that he has no issue with Bricker surveying the property and having a Real Estate agent assign a value to it. Trustee Doug Larson mentioned he was not comfortable selling the section of McPhee Creek. Larson suggested having the survey go to the north side of the creek. The Village will obtain the property's value.

**New Business:**

- A. **Resignation of Glen Pemberton:** President Babcock reported that Glen Pemberton resigned his positions with the Village as of the end of August. Babcock inquired as to how the council wants to move forward in filling the positions. Trustee Doug Larson inquired as to how much it costs to have the Sheriff's Dept. enforce the ordinances. Babcock responded that he would reach out to the Sheriff's Dept. to get more information. Trustee Doug Larson suggested we post the Street Commissioner position and all other vacant positions.
- B. **Christmas Light Show Purchases:** Trustee Doug Larson made the request to purchase additional lights for the holiday display. Larson also mentioned the need to replace some lights and displays. Requesting \$1,500-\$1,700 from the Parks budget.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to make improvements to the holiday light show not to exceed \$1,700. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

- C. **MDOT Request to construct a sidewalk on parcel 500.** President Babcock informed the council that MDOT is requesting to construct a sidewalk on parcel 500 that the Village shares with the Township. There would be a one-time payment of \$300 that is split between the township and village.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve MDOT's request to construct a sidewalk on parcel 500 and have allow President Greg Babcock and Jennifer Murphy sign the letter. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion Carried 5/0.

- D. **MDOT permission for a permanent easement and grade on parcel 521.** President Babcock reported that MDOT has requested to put a permanent easement in on parcel 521 near the park & ride and needs consent to grade this area. MDOT is offering the village a one-time payment of \$2,100.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the MDOT proposal for a permanent easement on parcel 521, and to accept the payment of \$2,100. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion Carried 5/0.

**Old Business:**

- A. TITLE VI Compliance:** President Babcock reported that he has spoken with the Village Attorney who has reviewed the Title VI compliance template.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to move forward using the Title VI Compliance template provided by the state and to hand it off to the Clerk to complete. Seconded by Trustee David Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Mark Fairbairn: NA**

**Trustee Josh Larson: N/A**

**Trustee Doug Larson-** Reported that the park bathroom project should be completed by the end of September.

**Trustee David Stepanovich-** Reported having had a few zoning phone calls.

**President Greg Babcock:** - Babcock reported having spoken with Ryan Bowman with the Emmet County Parks & Rec. Dept. Babcock inquired as to how they staff the locks for the season. Babcock is looking into options for the Swing Bridge next year. Bowman mentioned they are spending \$36,000 for the season for 4 employees. Babcock also reported having had a Sewer Authority meeting last week. They are still working on plans for the Hathaway Rd. line repair. They are expecting the cost to come in lower than expected.

**Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy- See attached Clerk/Treasurer Report-** Murphy reported that the Swing Bridge inspection is due in October. Murphy reached out to the Spicer Group who has done the inspection previously. Murphy asked the council as to how to move forward with the timecards without having a Street Commissioner. President Babcock said that he would provide the timecards to the Clerk's office.

**Jasmine Blumke Sewer Clerk:** Blumke reported that she has had several calls from customers who have rentals in the village with tenants not switching over the sewer service to the tenant's name. Sherrie Bradley of 6238 West Street has an issue where two accounts were created on her property, and subsequently a delinquent assessment was placed on the taxes in an erroneous amount. Blumke commented that we need to close that duplicate account and issue a refund of \$270.68.

*Motion* by President Greg Babcock to close out the duplicate account and to issue a \$270.68 refund to Sherrie Bradley's mortgage company. Seconded by Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

**DPW:** – Jason Losey asked the council when they wanted the porta potty removed from the park. Trustee Doug Larson advised to have it removed by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Losey reported he plans on removing flowers this week. A pine tree in Morgan Park came down. One more is dead and needs to be removed. The tree is near power lines and Losey mentioned he isn't comfortable taking it down. President Babcock mentioned he will call the tree removal company that was here over the summer.

Losey reported having looked at the Sanctuary Island raft. It is now working.

Losey mentioned issues with the Swing Bridge. One gate is still having an ongoing problem. Wayne's Electric has been down to work on it several times. The Bridge lock was replaced twice this summer. It is broken again. Losey suggested getting an engineer out to look at it.

**Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson-** Wilson expressed interest in joining the Zoning Board. President Greg Babcock mentioned to put it in writing and submit to the council.

**Monthly Bills:** *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

**Public Comment:** Resident Kim Morgan mentioned kids sitting under the open bridge during the boat race in August. Morgan said, "it is not safe to be sitting there". Babcock agreed.

Debbie Start asked the council if they could either plant a bush or a tree or place a plaque on a bench in Morgan Park in memory of Ellie Morgan who has passed.

*Motion* by President Greg Babcock to approve a plaque being installed on a bench in Morgan Park. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.