

Minutes
Village of Alanson
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706
Regular Council Meeting of October 10th, 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: Jennifer Murphy

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the agenda as presented, for the regular council meeting of October 10th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. 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 September 12th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried. 5/0

Public Comment:

Charles Rehmann requested that the Village Council allow public comment on each topic as it is discussed by council. Discussion ensued. Trustee Dave Stepanovich spoke in support of this format. President Greg Babcock consulted the council, all in support. Residents Gail Greenwell and Harvey Kasuske also voiced their support for this method.

Rehmann volunteered to be the Zoning Enforcement Officer but does not wish to be the Zoning Administrator. He mentioned that there is a stop sign bent over and a street sign missing. He was waiting to see if anyone said anything. He said the ferry to sanctuary island is a hazard. He believes that the pay for Council members should be an "honorarium". He believes the Village should have office hours. He spoke with Tammy Doernenburg regarding zoning. He was advised that he needs zoning minutes to move forward with a project.

Resident Harvey Kasuske requested an update on the Cheboygan Street property owned by David Lloyd. President Greg Babcock advised that he has reached out to David Lloyd and has not heard back. He advised that the Sheriff's Department is short staffed and is not able to assist the village with Zoning Enforcement. Kasuske was advised that there is no current Zoning Enforcement officer and that the Council is one of the lowest paid in the County. They are working to fill the position.

Visitor Presentation:
A. N/A



New Business:

- A. **2022 Bridge Inspection:** A proposal was submitted and presented to the Council from the Spicer Group for the 2022 bridge inspection not to exceed \$2,200. Trustee Doug Larson made a motion to accept the bid to not exceed \$2,200 and grant President Greg Babcock the ability to execute the agreement. Seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanvoich. All votes in favor. President Greg Babcock advised Clerk - Treasurer Jennifer Murphy to add the \$2,200 to the budget for Major Streets and to schedule this to be added to the budget every other year.

Resident Marvin Blumke stated that emergency vehicles do not use the bridge and that the bridge should be left open on weekends between the 4th of July and Labor Day to reduce wear and tear.

- B. **Zoning Board letters of Interest**
- a. **Craig Wilson Jr.**
 - b. **Deanna Yockey**

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to appoint the nominated members Craig Wilson Jr. and Deanna Yockey. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

Old Business:

A. **TITLE VI Compliance**

Council discussed who will act as the Compliance Officer and agreed that Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy will act as such. They agreed that whoever holds the position of Clerk will also hold the position of Compliance Officer.

B. **Village Trustee and President Salary**

Trustee Doug Larson spoke on this issue. He stated that the salaries were set when the council was established. He stated that the Village of Alanson President position earns about \$10,000 less than other similar municipalities in Emmet County. He stated that the Village Trustees were the second lowest paid in the county. He proposed to raise Trustee salaries by \$500 a year. Trustee Dave Stepanvoich questioned if the Village could afford it. Resident Marvin Blumke questioned what the board did to deserve a raise. Trustee Dave Stepanovich responded that perhaps if the board were paid more, more people would step forward to volunteer for a position on the board.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to increase Village Trustee pay by \$2,000 starting with the next council and to increase the Village President pay to the budgeted amount of \$7,800. Seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn - Y. Trustee Doug Larson - Y. Trustee - Josh Larson - Y. Trustee Dave Stepanovich - Y. President Greg Babcock -Y. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn-

- Stated that Bob Evans from the Hillside Gardens discussed with him the possibility of moving the antique show to River Street. Dave Stepanovich commented that the businesses suffer from having the antique show on the highway due to parking. Mark stated that there would be a Hillside Club meeting on 10/13 at 7pm if anyone wanted to make a complaint.

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Doug Larson-

- Stated that the bathroom project with LAMA was slated for September but Waterfront Property Management stopped returning phone calls. They would start looking for a new contractor unless they received a response within 48 hours of the meeting. They had budgeted extra in case this happened.
- The Christmas Light Show is ready, and will be put up sometime in November between Opening Day and Thanksgiving.

Trustee David Stepanovich- N/A

President Greg Babcock-

- No update on the Sewer Authority.
- Regarding the Zoning Admin/ Enforcement Officer position, Sheriff Wallin advised that they no longer have the manpower to enforce ordinances for other municipalities. Trustee Doug Larson stated that perhaps it was time to reevaluate the pay for the position and reallocate the remaining DPW worker pay to the position. He stated that he would approach someone previously interested and ask at what rate of pay would that person accept, then council could reevaluate at the next meeting.

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

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- Absent

Monthly Bills:

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.

Public Comment:

Charles Rehmann commented that Doug Houseworth's Labor Day Bridge Walk had gone very well.

Adjournment:

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting at 7:03. Seconded by Trustee Dave Stepanovich. All votes in favor. Motion carried 5/0.