

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

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Act

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 Scott Latva, President Greg Babcock.

Council Absent:

Staff Present: Jason Losey, Jennifer Murphy, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the amended agenda for December 12, 2022, with the removal of New Business Section C; "Approval of Resolution in Support of the TAP Grant", and the addition to Old Business Section A; "Grant Supplementation Funding Discussion". Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the minutes as presented for the regular Council meeting of November 14th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Public Comment: Former Trustee Dave Stepanovich congratulated the newly elected board members. Stepanovich also informed the Council that he plans to resign from the Zoning Board. The Council thanked Stepanovich for his years of service.

Visitor Presentation:

- A. **Bob Evans - Chicago Street/ Alanson Beautification-** Evans asked the Council what their plans are for Chicago Street once the road is closed. Evans, with the Hillside Garden Club/ Alanson Beautification, would like to install two "solar trees" and inquired if he could put them on the area where Chicago St. currently is. Discussion ensued. President Babcock asked if there would be any screening for the "solar trees", Evans said he hadn't planned on it. Babcock suggested Evans speak with MDOT. Babcock also mentioned he has no issues with the project if the Hillside Garden wants to pursue applying for a grant. Trustee Doug Larson asked Evans to describe the "solar trees", Evans stated that they move with the sun. Trustee Larson asked Evans if he is requesting a letter of support from the Village. Evans responded yes that they would like a letter. Trustee Mark Fairbairn inquired if the Hillside Garden plans to host more flea markets/craft shows in the future. Fairbairn expressed concern for the local businesses and mentioned the shows hurt the businesses on US 31. Fairbairn suggested they move the shows to another street.
- B. **Tom Fairbairn Sr. -Boat house parking lot.** Fairbairn presented handouts on a proposed parking lot paving project near the Boat house off East St. including an aerial map. Fairbairn stated that he had acquired a quote in 2020 from Rieth-Riley Construction in the amount of \$26,925. Fairbairn mentioned that the Alanson Improvement Group (AIG) has worked on many projects around the village investing thousands of volunteer hours. "The parking lot at the boat house is a muddy mess." Fairbairn mentioned that he currently has \$13,000 in funds that have been

privately donated. He also has support from Littlefield Township to provide \$13,000 in funding. He is asking the Village of Alanson to commit funds to the paving project. Discussion ensued. President Greg Babcock commented that he would reach out to Rieth-Riley Construction and try to get an updated quote. Tom Fairbairn Sr. also mentioned he would like to name the park after the late Village President Dick Weidenhamer. He also stated that Bob Evans from the Hillside Garden Club would beautify the area.

New Business:

A. Open Interviews for Part-Time DPW Position- President Babcock informed the council three applicants had applied for the part time DPW snow plowing position. Justin Hall, Ryan Lutz, and Josh Mallory applied. Josh Mallory did not show up to the Council meeting.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to remove Josh Mallory as a candidate. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued and the council asked the candidates multiple questions.

Motion by President Babcock to go to closed session at 6:39pm. Seconded Trustee Doug Larson. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to return to the regular council meeting at 6:43pm. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor 5/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to hire Justin Hall as the part-time DPW employee. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

B. Commissioner Letter of Interest- President Babcock reported that Jason Losey had submitted a Letter of Interest for the Street Commissioner position. Babcock mentioned that the position has been advertised several times over the last several months with no response. Jason Losey commented that he is doing the job of the Street Commissioner already.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to appoint Jason Losey as the Street Commissioner effective immediately. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- No, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. Votes 4/1. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Resolution in support of the TAP Grant- Removed.

Old Business: -

A. Grant Supplementation Funding Discussion- Larson reported that the bids came back higher on the bathroom project than they had anticipated. Larson is asking the council to increase the Village's commitment \$1000 to make the amount contributed \$3500.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to increase the Village's contribution \$1000 to complete the hall bathroom project. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn-

Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Reported that Doug & Josh Larson did a nice job on the Holiday lights display. Fairbairn commented he was unhappy with the Alanson Open House. He was not made aware of the Open House until the week before. Fairbairn said it took a long time to close off River St. and there were no lights for the Petoskey Steel Drum Band. Fairbairn said the event should have been advertised better. He thought the amount of people were down because of the lack of advertising. Fairbairn also inquired when the engineers were coming back to talk about the road project. President Babcock commented that they are not coming back and that they are ready. Babcock also reported that MDOT informed him that they will not have enough time to do the Streetscape Project. Trustee Doug Larson commented that the village has \$81,000 in ARPA funds we need to use that we were holding for this project. President Babcock said he plans to contact the consultants tomorrow to see where to go from here. Business Owner Charles Rehman commented that the DDA wrote a check to Fleis & Vandenbrink and suggested trying to get the money back. David Stepanovich also asked if we were able to get the money back that was paid for the Streetscape Project.

Trustee Josh Larson: Reported people are liking the Holiday Lightshow.

Trustee Doug Larson: Spoke with Paul Jones with American Legal Publishing about digitizing the Village codes which would allow the ordinances to be posted online. Larson said he expects that proposal will be on next month's agenda.

Trustee Scott Lavta: Mentioned he's taking it all in and getting a feel for it as this is his first meeting.

President Greg Babcock: Babcock attended the most recent Sewer Authority meeting and reported that the Hathaway Road project would be completed within the next couple of weeks. He reported that there had been a grease blockage in the sewer within the Village of Alanson recently, causing a backup. The Village will be receiving a bill for the service by the Sewer Authority. He also stated that the services will be going up 10% across the board and that we will have to budget accordingly for 2023.

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

DPW: Jason Losey reported that the old heating system has been removed from the DPW. W.W. Fairbairn Plumbing & Heating is hoping to have the new system installed this week. All the snow plowing equipment has been in for winter maintenance and is up and running.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- Reported that the Sewer Clerk has a new computer and that she is working on catching up.

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

Public Comment: David Stepanovich commented that the craft shows on the Hillside Garden hurt local businesses. Stepanovich mentioned everyone attending the shows park in front of their businesses causing patrons not to stop due to the lack of available parking. Stepanovich suggested they have the shows in a different location.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.