

Minutes
Village of Alanson
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706
Regular Council Meeting of January 9th, 2023.



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 Scott Latva, President Greg Babcock.

Council Absent:

Staff Present: Jennifer Murphy, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the agenda for January 9th, 2023, as written. 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 written for the regular council meeting of December 12th, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Public Comment.

Village resident David Stepanovich inquired if the council would be discussing the Streetscape Project tonight. Trustee Doug Larson responded that it is on the agenda.

Visitor Presentation: N/A

New Business:

- A. **Resolution for Designation of Street Administrator-** President Greg Babcock reported that the State of Michigan requires a resolution officially appointing Jason Losey as Street Administrator. Babcock asked the council if they would approve the resolution. Discussion ensued.
Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to approve signing the resolution designating Jason Losey as Street Administrator. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- No, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- No, President Greg Babcock- Yes. Votes 3/2 Motion carried.

- B. **Pledge of Allegiance-** Trustee Scott Latva stated that other municipal meetings begin with the pledge of allegiance. Latva commented that he feels it is a sign of respect and is missing at the Village's meetings. President Greg Babcock asked the council if they wanted to put the discussion onto a future meeting agenda.
Motion by Trustee Mark Fairbairn to put the pledge of allegiance discussion onto a future meeting agenda. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. Votes 4/1 Motion carried.

- C. **Office Hours-** Trustee Scott Latva suggested the Council Members have Office Hours on an evening or a Saturday morning allowing the public a chance to interact with the Board Members. President Babcock responded that the Council Members are here at the meeting once a month and

accessible to the public. Babcock also mentioned the Council Members take phone calls and respond to emails throughout the month.

Motion by Trustee Scott Latva to begin offering Office Hours for the Council Members. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes. Trustee Doug Larson- No. Trustee Josh Larson- No. Trustee Scott Latva-Yes. President Greg Babcock- No. Votes 2/3. Motion defeated.

- D. **Approval of the placement of trees and light fixtures along the US 31 corridor.** Attachments L-101, 102, 103 provided. President Babcock reported that Fleis & Vandenbrink submitted their proposal showing the locations for the trees, streetlights and benches for the streetscape project. Babcock mentioned that these can be removed and are not set in stone. MDOT needs to have this plan approved to be able to move forward. Trustee Doug Larson discussed the three attachments on the overhead showing the locations of the trees/streetlights and benches. Matt Radelski with MDOT was present and discussed the phases of the project. Discussion ensued.
- Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the proposal showing the location of the trees, streetlights and benches by Fleis & Vandenbrink. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes. Trustee Doug Larson- Yes. Trustee Josh Larson- Yes. Trustee Scott Latva-Yes. President Greg Babcock- Yes. Votes 5/0. Motion carried.

Matt Radelski from MDOT reported they will be having a Public Meeting in February so the public can look at the plan.

- E. **Approval of F&V proposal for the next phase of the street improvement project.** President Babcock reported Fleis & Vandenbrink came back with their final proposal cost. Babcock mentioned that the next phase cost is \$55,500. Trustee Mark Fairbairn inquired as to why it took so long to get the proposal back. Greg Babcock responded by saying the proposal had been sent back to Fleis & Vandenbrink multiple times for revisions.
- Trustee Doug Larson asked if we plan to use the ARPA funds to cover this expense. President Babcock commented that we cannot use the funds as a grant match and needs to be applied towards the infrastructure project. Discussion ensued.
- Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve Fleis & Vandenbrink's proposal for \$55,500. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva-Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. Votes 5/0. Motion carried.

Old Business: -

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Thanked Jason and Doug for cleaning up the holiday display. Fairbairn also reported the street signs are gone on Spring St. President Babcock responded that the signs were stolen. Fairbairn also mentioned the ditches on Cheboygan St. were not draining and water was at the top of the ditch. Village resident Marvin Blumke commented that the ditches on Cheboygan Street have been bad for a while and need to be cleaned out. Blumke also mentioned the intersection at Lagoon Drive is also bad. President Babcock commented that the owner of Lagoon drive has been contacted and they are waiting for her to respond.

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Doug Larson: Reported the bathroom project is on the calendar. Larson mentioned Jason and Kevin demo-ed the bathroom and they have the supplies in place. The contractor is on track to get started within a couple weeks.

Larson also reported having spoken with American Legal Publishing. The cost of the project is \$1,500 which will give us a completely updated version of the ordinance book that will also be available online and searchable. The book should be completed by March.

Trustee Scott Latva- Asked Matt Radelski with MDOT, what was the completion date on the upcoming road project. Radelski responded that they hope to be finished by the end of October. Radelski reported that they are planning to do the project in four sections. The first section is River St to M-68. The second section is Powers Rd to River St, which Radelski commented they plan to have completed by July 4th. The third section is Powers Rd -South. The fourth section is M-68 -North. Radelski reported MDOT has signed a contract with M&M. In the contract there is language for liquidated damages to the contractor should the work not get done on time.

President Greg Babcock: Reported that the Sewer Authority meets this week. The repair on Hathaway Rd. was completed sooner than expected and should come in under budget.

Babcock also reported that Emmet County is releasing \$1,050,000 in ARPA funds to Villages and Townships. Babcock mentioned the village is eligible for \$50,000. The funds must meet the ARPA criteria for use. Babcock mentioned the funds can be applied to the Street Project. The application must be submitted by July 1st.

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

DPW: See attached report from Jason Losey

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- Reported the DPW furnace has been installed and came in under budget.

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: Village resident David Stepanovich thanked the council for letting the public speak prior to the council members voting. Township resident Doug Houseworth also mentioned he appreciates the public comments.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

