

The Village of Alanson

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of April 10th, 2023.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Josh Larson, Trustee Scott Latva, President Greg Babcock.

Council Absent: Trustee Mark Fairbairn

Staff Present: Jason Losey, Jennifer Murphy, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to amend the agenda for April 10th, 2023, with the removal of New Business Section B. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the minutes as written for the regular council meeting of March 20th, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Public Comment: Resident Brad McPhall commented that he lives on Spring Street. Brad's nephew Wayne McPhall lives on Pine Street. He reported that the road conditions are very bad. McPhall suggested the DPW bring in loads of Afton Stone. McPhall said that he has put gravel down himself. He's willing to donate his time and help with the roads. Discussion ensued. Street Commissioner Jason Losey reported they brought Afton Stone mixed with clay last year. McPhall suggested they bring all Afton Stone in that is not mixed with anything. McPhall said the Afton Stone will eventually get compacted. President Greg Babcock told Losey to put Spring Street and Pine Street on the list to get done. Losey mentioned he will get them graded and start putting stone down.

Resident David Stepanovich expressed concerns on the road project. He said that he came through downtown Alanson at 5:30pm. Stepanovich said, "the whole road was blocked off." Stepanovich said "you cannot block the whole section of the road off. I can't get to my house. People are parked in front of Bob's Place. How are they supposed to get out? They don't know the back way." Stepanovich mentioned he had spoken with someone at MDOT, and they said it was not going to be 100% shut off to the businesses and homeowners. Stepanovich asked President Greg Babcock to make some phone calls to MDOT to see what was going on.

Visitor Presentation: Doug Houseworth- Annual Shortest Swing Bridge Labor Day Walk.

Houseworth presented the council with a handout on the Labor Day event he is putting together. Handout included. He is asking permission for 4 different items. Houseworth read the handout to the Council. He is asking the Council for: 1. Permission to put up banners in the park and on the Swing Bridge. 2. He is asking to use the Village's security fencing. 3. He is asking permission to use the park for the Labor Day



Event. 4. Lastly, he is asking to place roadblocks on West and Woodland Streets for a short period of time.

Discussion ensued. President Greg Babcock asked Houseworth if he had obtained liability insurance. Houseworth responded by asking if he could use the DDA's liability insurance. Babcock responded that it would need to be a DDA Event and he would be unable to use the Village's insurance. Further discussion ensued. Houseworth plans to put up a 30'x 60' tent. Babcock expressed concern for the park's irrigation system. He doesn't want the lines to be damaged.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the request to place banners on Swing Bridge and park, place barricades on West & Woodland St, and to allow using the Village's security fencing. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion Carried.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the use of Morgan/ Memorial Park contingent upon Houseworth's ability to obtain liability insurance, or to use the DDA's liability insurance. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor 4/0. Motion Carried.

New Business:

- A. **Bridge Tender Bid Opening:** President Babcock reported that two bids were submitted for the 2023 season. The first bid by Edward Pelto was opened and presented. Pelto's bid for the 2023 season was \$52,000. The second bid received from Eric Mink was opened and presented. Mink's bid for the 2023 season was \$39,300. Trustee Doug Larson asked Pelto & Mink if either has run a bridge before. Pelto responded that he has operated the bridge for the last two years.

President Babcock asked the Council if they wanted to go to a Closed Session.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to go to Closed Session at 6:31pm. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor 4/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to go back to Regular Session at 6:35pm. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

President Greg Babcock called the Regular Session back to order at 6:36pm.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the Bridge Tender bid by Eric Mink for \$39,300 for the 2023 season. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Absent, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried. Eric Mink accepted position as Bridge Tender.

- B. **Local Road Projects Bid out:** Removed.

- C. **Bounce House- Gaila Vertz-** Trustee Doug Larson received an email from a Gaila Vertz . Vertz is requesting to have a private birthday party on July 10th in the park. Vertz is asking for permission to set up a "bounce house". Discussion ensued. Trustee Scott Latva asked what the liability on that would be? Trustee Doug Larson asked Clerk/Treasurer Murphy to investigate it. Trustee Doug Larson said, "depending on the location they set up in the park, they may have to ask the Township for their permission."

President Babcock suggested Trustee Doug Larson get back with Vertz and ask where she plans on setting up in the park.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the request by Gaila Vertz to set up a “bounce house” in the park on July 10th pending word from the insurance company on the liability. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Old Business: -

- A. **Village of Alanson Clean-up day:** - President Babcock commented that at the last meeting it was decided to cancel the Cleanup Day due to the MDOT construction project. Babcock said he had contacted the Emmet County Transfer Station to see what the cost of a voucher would be. The cost for an individual voucher was \$23.60. Babcock said that If everyone in the Village turned in their voucher it would cost the village \$15,576. Babcock reported that the Village normally pays \$5000-\$6000 for the cleanup day. Trustee Doug Larson commented he would expect 1 in 3 households would turn in their voucher. Trustee Doug Larson said, “the cleanup day is a service the Village offers to the residents; It’s prudent to look at other alternatives to offer them.” Resident Gail Greenwell asked what the cost would be to have curbside pickup? President Babcock said “they can do a per truck rate. The cost would depend on how many trucks they would use.” Babcock said he would call Little Traverse Disposal and get a price per truck.

Motion by Trustee Doug Larson to table this discussion until President Babcock speaks to Little Traverse Disposal on what the cost of a truck would be. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Absent

Trustee Josh Larson- N/A

Trustee Doug Larson: Larson reported that the Village Hall’s bathroom project is finally nearing its end. The contractor was held up waiting to have a commercial inspection completed. The inspection was done last week. Larson said the electrical should be installed this week. Larson mentioned to Jason Losey that they are getting close to where Jason can get in there to paint.

Larson also reported that he should know in the next two weeks if we are eligible to receive the grant for the kayak launch. Larson said it’s a 50/50 chance we will get the grant because the bathroom project took so long. Larson said we should know more by the next meeting. Larson mentioned to Jason Losey they needed to figure out where to put the new bike station in.

Trustee Scott Latva- Latva reported people have been asking him about the detour routes and potential damage that may occur to the roads due to the heavy traffic. President Babcock responded by saying that MDOT will reimburse/ fix any damage to the detour routes.

Latva thanked Jason Losey and the Alanson Littlefield Fire Department for a job well done on the recent fire that occurred at Artesian Springs.

President Greg Babcock: Reported that he has not had a Sewer Meeting since the last meeting. The next meeting is this Thursday, April 13th. Babcock mentioned having received another bill from the Sewer Authority for a repair on pump station #9.

Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy- Report included.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson- Reported that they had the Zoning Board meeting last week. Wilson asked if they could continue to advertise the open positions/ seats within the Village on a regular basis. Trustee Doug Larson mentioned there is someone interested in the Ordinance Enforcement officer position and that they are looking to schedule a time to meet and discuss the job opening.

Street Commissioner: Jason Losey -Losey reported that the missing street signs have been replaced. Losey also mentioned that while he was on vacation, there was a snowstorm. Losey said that Brian Drayton lent a hand helping Justin Hall plow. Losey asked the council if they would consider reimbursing Drayton for the 2 hours that he helped with the cleanup. Losey reported he has spoken with MDOT regarding the “bump” on the Woodland St. side of the swing bridge. They suggested putting hot patch down there. MDOT said they would help with that. Losey also reported that the hot patch machine is now here. Losey also mentioned that Wayne’s Electric stopped at the DPW building and installed the 200 amp service so that MDOT can hook up their job trailer.

Monthly Bills: *Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to pay the current monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Resident David Stepanovich expressed concern a second time on the MDOT projects closure of downtown. He asked President Greg Babcock to meet with him on Tuesday morning at 9am to speak with Brad Swanson with MDOT on their closing off access to the businesses and homes on US 31. President Babcock agreed to meet with Stepanovich the next morning.

Adjournment: *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.