

## Minutes

Village of Alanson  
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706  
Regular Council Meeting of November 13th, 2023

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

**Pledge of Allegiance-** Recited

**Council Present:** Trustee Mark Fairbairn, Trustee Doug Larson, Trustee Josh Larson, Trustee Scott Latva, President Greg Babcock

**Council Absent:** N/A

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

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to accept the agenda as written for November 9th, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. 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 October 9th, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion carried.

### Public Comment:

- Alanson Public Schools student Daniel Osier reported that he and a group of fellow students were working with the SAFE in Northern Michigan program on a community project. The students would like to install a seasonal "Gaga Ball" pit in the Alanson Village Park. The students have a budget of \$2,000. Discussion ensued. The council suggested building a more permanent structure. Osier would like to install the pit between the tennis courts and basketball court.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to approve the SAFE in Northern Michigan group's community project and install a "Gaga Ball" pit in the park. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 5/0 Motion Carried.

- Hillside Gardens (Alanson Beautification) members Kelly Kitchen and Sherry Johnson introduced themselves to Council. They inquired which streetlights were being installed with the Streetscape Project as they would like to select comparable and complimentary lighting. The Hillside Garden members said they would like to coordinate different projects with the Village in the future.
- Resident Joyce Schlehuder of 7365 Cheboygan Street mentioned that she had Street Commissioner Jason Losey and 24/7 Sewer & Drain come out and scope her drain because she had standing water in her yard and in her crawlspace. 24/7 advised that M&M Excavating didn't



tie in the drain and had plugged it up. Schlehuber is asking the council if she can be reimbursed for the \$485 24/7 Sewer & Drain bill. President Babcock asked if M&M Excavating has been contacted. Losey responded no. Babcock told Schlehuber to give the Clerk a copy of the bill and we will contact M&M Excavating and our insurance company to try to get Schlehuber reimbursed.

- Alanson Student Daniel Osier reported that the Alanson Public School students are looking for donations for their upcoming Prom. Osier said that he can email a link to those interested in donating.
- Business owner Charles Rehmann reported that the group from the MSU School of Engineering has begun working on the Sanctuary Island project. They anticipate the project should be done this coming weekend.

#### **Visitor Presentation:**

- A. **Kevin Phillips- Alanson Littlefield Fire Department-** Reported to the council that the Fire Department is working on several community projects. The ALFD wants the community to know they are not just a Fire Dept. and EMS but provide other resources. They plan to offer a free community breakfast at the school on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am- 11am. They will be collecting toys and monetary donations. The ALFD is also feeding 6 families for Thanksgiving in the community. Phillips mentioned the township is donating \$500. Discussion ensued.  
*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to match the township donation of \$500 pending approval by the Auditor. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

- A. **Proposals for the final phase of streetscape:** President Babcock reported that they have received a new proposal from Fleis & Vandenbrink (\$82,300) and a proposal from Wade Trim (\$79,500) for the streetscape project. Babcock reported we are required to have an engineer on-site to review the project. Discussion ensued.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to accept the Wade Trim proposal of \$79,500 as presented and to authorize President Babcock to sign the proposal. Second 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. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion Carried.

- B. **River Street Parking:** Trustee Mark Fairbairn spoke on this topic regarding business owner Charles Rehmann's request for an ordinance to be put in place restricting parking on the street 24 hours a day. President Babcock asked if they were talking about one street or all the streets. Jason Losey commented that beginning November 15<sup>th</sup> parking on the streets is not allowed from 3 am- 6 am for snow plowing. Discussion ensued. Trustee Doug Larson read there is a mechanism in place already for parking restrictions. Stating that parking is restricted to 2 hours 8 am- 5 pm. Further discussion ensued regarding placing signage.

#### **Old Business:**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Mark Fairbairn-** N/A

**Trustee Josh Larson-** N/A

**Trustee Doug Larson-** Grant reports are done and submitted. Larson has closed out the last 2 grant files. Larson advised that the digital & searchable ordinance book had been submitted to American Legal Publishing. He advised we should know more in 6 weeks.

**Trustee Scott Latva –** N/A

**President Greg Babcock-** N/A

**Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy-** Report included.

**Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson –** Advised that the DDA Holiday Open House and Chili Cookoff will take place on December 8th.

**Street Commissioner: Jason Losey-** Reported that the Bathrooms and drinking fountains were winterized.

Losey reported on the new cab/ blower for the mower. Ginops cost for us to install the cab/blower is \$16,900. Total cost for Ginops to install is \$17,000+. Skinners' cost- to install the cab/blower is \$13,000+. Skinners' cost for the Village to install is \$12,700. Losey stated that he would like to install the cab and blower initially, so he knows how to do it. Losey said Brian's Repair will help also with the initial installation. Clerk-Treasurer Murphy advised that there approx. \$8,000 remaining in the new equipment budget. Trustee Doug Larson asked Murphy if there is somewhere else, we can pull funds.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to engage Skinners Garage Inc for the new commercial blower and to have our crew install it. Second by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion Carried.

*Motion* by Trustee Doug Larson to authorize transferring budgeted funds from the Repairs and maintenance budget to the New Equipment budget. Second by Trustee Josh Larson. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 5/0. Motion Carried.

Losey reported that he had a quote for a guardrail for the old Chicago Street by Hillside Gardens. It would cost \$7,300. Losey said, "we need to put something there".

Losey asked the council if he could get rid of the old patch trailer. Losey said he knows of an individual who would take it off our hands at no cost. Losey said it's only worth scrap. Discussion ensued. Trustee Doug Larson asked if we have to offer it up for public sale? President Babcock commented that he

believes we must post it for a week and put it up for bids. Clerk-Treasurer Murphy stated she would look into it.

Losey reported the Swing Bridge maintenance is in progress. NorthWest Hydraulics is making new pins and redoing the seals. They plan to work on the locking mechanism next.

Losey inquired if Trustee Doug Larson changed the date of the Holiday light setup. Larson said he is working on figuring out a new date.

Losey asked the council how they want to track Kevin Phillips's overtime hours when plowing this winter. Clerk-Treasurer Murphy said she would reach out to Damien Henning with the Township and see how they want to work that out.

Losey reported having Tri-County Excavating out to the DPW building who found the existing holding tank. They are looking into how to tap into the sewer line. They are still looking at options. Losey said he is waiting for the new quote to come in.

**Ordinance Officer Jamie Breithaupt-** Report seeing progress with several of the properties he's approached.

6188 Warren Street- has cleaned up over 100 bags of trash and is working on yard cleanup.

7726 Milton Road- wrote the owner a citation. Have followed up and residents are doing a cleanup.

7814 Lake Street -Have cleaned up the yard but the front porch is still a mess.

7847 Lake Street- have reached out several times but no response. Clerk-Treasurer Murphy commented that's going into foreclosure.

Breithaupt commented that he has spoken to several people with health issues who are not able to clean up their property. Breithaupt is reaching out to the court system to see if the community service program workers could help.

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

**Public Comment:** N/A

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:54.