

The Village of  
**Alanson**  
MINUTES

Village of Alanson  
7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706  
Regular Council Meeting of May 13th, 2024



**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 Josh Larson, Trustee Scott Latva, President Greg Babcock.

**Council Absent:** Trustee Doug Larson

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

**Approval of Agenda:** *Motion* by Trustee Mark Fairbairn to accept the agenda with the addition of New Business B- Bank Reconciliation on the agenda for May 13th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the minutes as written for the Regular Council meeting of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Resident Brad McPhall asked when Spring St. is set to be paved. President Greg Babcock stated that Spring St. is on the project list for this year, but no date has been set. McPhall said he is still having drainage problems and would like to tie into the drain. Discussion ensued. President Babcock told Street Commissioner Losey to include in the quote to have a ditch put in on the west side of Spring St. President Babcock reiterated that as of right now McPhall is not allowed to tie into the existing drainage system. McPhall asked when the road would be graded again. He was told that the grading was already done.

Business owner Charles Rehmann stated that the pedestrian platform at Sanctuary Island has rotten wood. That in a discussion with Wayne Blomberg, they would need to remove decking, to get it resolved. President Greg Babcock asked if MSU was done working on the float, Rehmann responded in the affirmative.

**Visitors:**

**A. Great Lakes Center for the Arts- Free Concert (Rachel Sytsma-Reed):** Sytsma- Reed presented information about GLCFA's Summer Music Series. The GLCFA has a 16' box truck that will visit 8 different communities in the area and offering a free 60-minute concert. Sytsma- Reed is asking Alanson to be one of the stops. Sytsma-Reed wants to set the date for August 11th prior to the Top O' Michigan boat race, and is suggesting the concert time to be 10:30am-11:30am. Set up and tear down will be



approximately 30-45 minutes for a max. total of 3 hour time frame that the truck would be parked. The theme is Markets & Marinas. She is asking for co-promotion with the DDA or municipality.

*Motion* by President Babcock to close River Street on Sunday, August 11th from east of the West St. intersection at 9:00 am until 2:00 pm to allow for the concert. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

**B. Community Day in June + Food Truck Approval for One Day Event on Public Property**

**(Meredith Kennedy):** Kennedy, the Executive Director of Miigwech Inc. requested that on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm she be allowed to host a Community Day which would be open to the public in the Village of Alanson park. Kennedy would have a free food truck (Chavez' Taco Truck), ice cream, and games for the children. Discussion ensued. Clerk Treasurer Murphy read aloud Section 2 - Mobile Food Vending Locations of the Food Truck Ordinance: A.) Public Property. Mobile food vending shall only be allowed on public property when part of an approved public or private event.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the free event in the park on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**A. L 4029 - Millage Rate Approval for 2024:** Clerk-Treasurer Jennifer Murphy reported that the tax rate request needs to be determined for the year. Murphy presented the approval document from the Emmet County Equalization Department. President Babcock stated that the tax levy is down from the previous year leaving us less money to do projects.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the Operational Millage rate of 9.2121, and the Street Repair tax levy millage rate of 3.7207. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Absent, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor 4/0. Motion carried.

**B. Bank Reconciliations:** Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy reported that the auditors advised that a separate individual(s) or group should be reviewing the Bank Reconciliations each month. President Babcock asked the council if they wanted to assign 1 or 2 people to review the statements or have them put into the folder for Council to review each month. Trustee Mark Fairbairn asked if Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson could review them. Wilson explained that the auditors wanted an independent person that is not issuing checks to look at the statements each month. Trustee Josh Larson said he would be fine if they were put in the packet. President Babcock asked Murphy if she can email the statements at the first of the month when they come in. She said yes.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to add the Bank Statements (reconciliations) to the monthly packet for the council to review. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**A. Village Grant Match Portion- PHSACF:** Murphy read a request from Trustee Doug Larson. Larson ordered the banners, lights and hardware for the new streetlamps being installed for the streetscape



project. Larson reported that the grant funds we received were less than expected. With the reduced funds, Larson did go over budget by \$623.00. Larson is asking Council to approve to cover the overage. Discussion ensued. President Babcock asked Craig Wilson if he thought the DDA would cover the overage. Wilson responded that he thought there was a good chance the DDA board would approve covering the \$623.00.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to cover the \$623.00 overage expense in case the DDA doesn't agree to cover the cost. Seconded by Scott Latva. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Josh

Larson- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Absent, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor 4/0. Motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Mark Fairbairn:** Fairbairn reported he has had 2-3 people mention to him that the new intersection on Milton is very dangerous. Fairbairn said if there are 2-3 cars parked at the house on the corner you can't see if anyone is coming down the hill. Fairbairn said the stop sign is also set back off the road. Street Commissioner Jason Losey said the sign is set back due to the bike path. President Greg Babcock said he will make some calls to see if they can move the sign. Trustee Fairbairn inquired on what is going on with the Streetscape Project. Babcock responded that they were here last week working on it. The company is waiting on anchor weights for the lights to come in. The deadline is still set for Memorial Day.

**Trustee Josh Larson-** N/A

**Trustee Doug Larson-** Absent

**Trustee Scott Latva –** N/A

**President Greg Babcock –** Babcock reported the Sewer Authority has been here the last couple of weeks working on issues. At the intersection of North St. and Lansing St. a household tied into the manhole system incorrectly and caused a blockage. The Authority has also been working down on River St which has several blockages. The system is full of sand. GFL and K&J were working on a resolution. Babcock said that this work most likely will be very expensive.

**Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy:**

#### **CLERK- TREASURER -SEWER BILLER REPORT**

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- Actively working with Wayne Blomberg on the EGLE Permit for the docks
- Uniforms for new DPW Joint Employee to be split with the Township.
- \$2,500 Grant Par Plan Approved
- Working with Mike Keiser for Emmet County SLFRF fund reporting
- SLFRF fund reporting has been made to Fed. Treasury
- Renewed Major Street Equipment CD at CNB at 5% (originally bought at 4.85%)
- Actively working with Auditors for FY 24 audit.
- Tax bills to be sent out 7/1/24.

**Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson:** Wilson reported that he has been working with the DDA on putting on a Flea Market in town this summer. Wilson is requesting a section of River St be shut down from the corner of US-31 to the Post Office. The dates requested are 6/15, 7/20, 8/17 from 6:00 am until 2:00pm. Discussion ensued.

*Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to close River Street from the Corner of US-31 to the post office from 7:00 am until 2:00 pm on June 15<sup>th</sup> and revisit it again for approval for the July date. Seconded by Scott Latva. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Absent, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor 4/0. Motion carried.

**Street Commissioner Jason Losey:** Losey reported an incident with the tractor that led to the windshield being broken out. The windshield will need replacing. The cost quoted to replace it is \$840 plus shipping. Losey plans to order security cameras for the boat house. President Babcock suggested a system with a hard drive. Losey reported he has gotten most of the patching done and will do more after Memorial weekend. Losey said 11 out of 13 storm drains have been cleaned out. Most were full of sand. Losey reported he is working with Murphy on the permit for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The Fire Dept. will be doing hotdogs in the park afterwards. President Babcock inquired if the bathrooms were open yet. Losey said the Boat House bathroom is not turned on yet. Babcock asked Losey to get ahold of Bee Friendly to come out to Morgan/Memorial Park to get started on the cleanup.

**Public Comment:** N/A

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

**Adjournment:** *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm. Seconded by Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

