

The Village of Alanson

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of June 10th, 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 Josh Larson to accept the agenda as written for June 10th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

A. Regular Meeting May 13th, 2024: *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to approve the minutes as written for the Regular Council meeting of May 13th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

B.

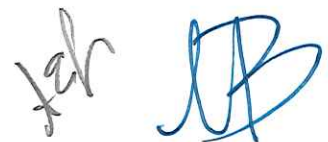
Public Comment:

- Local Business Owner Charles Rehmann updated Council regarding the Sanctuary Island platform. Rehmann reported fencing was up for safety. He stated that over-torqued bolts and wood rot that led to the failure and that the foundation wasn't there for the bolts. He is going to work on the platform and acknowledged that he would complete the volunteer waiver. President Babcock asked if the MSU design was not a fix. Rehmann commented the rot was the issue. Rehmann also reported that he was going to look into a bill received for mechanical engineering.
- Residents Brenda Kloss & Aubrey Phipps live at 6172 Warren St. at the Warren St. and North St. intersection. Phipps reported having several cars run into their yard that were going too fast. One car stuck the telephone pole. Phipps reported that there has been damage to their yard. Kloss & Phipps are asking the Council to do something to prevent further damage. Discussion ensued. Phipps also mentioned snow being plowed into their yard killing the grass. Babcock asked Street Commissioner Losey about his thoughts of putting up a guardrail or speed limit signs. Losey said a guardrail will make it difficult to push snow back in the winter.

Visitor Presentation:

A. N/A

New Business:



A. FY 24 Audit: President Babcock reported that he, Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson and Clerk-Treasurer Jennifer Murphy met with the Auditor last Friday. Babcock reported the Auditor said we are financially sound, and accounts are in good order. Babcock mentioned the Auditor expressed concerns on how many duties Murphy is doing. The Auditor has no issue with Murphy filling these roles if there is oversight. Murphy commented that the budgets and bank accounts are in a good position. Murphy said that we are financially in great shape and that we are now having Council review bank statements. Trustee Mark Fairbairn inquired if we have enough money to do the Spring Street project. Street Commissioner Losey reported he is working on getting quotes. Business Owner Charles Rehmann inquired regarding a crown on the road. President Greg Babcock advised a crown would be built in with runoffs.

B. Probation Persons Helping DPW: Street Commissioner Losey reported that they have an opportunity to have a group of 10-15 work in the Village that are on probation and needing to complete Community Service hours. The persons would be supervised by the County and have their own transportation. Losey proposed that they work in Morgan/Memorial Park with a proposed schedule of working 3-4 hours, lunch, work 3-4 hours. He advised that he would get a volunteer form from their Supervisor. The worker's compensation risk would fall to the supervising agency. Further discussion ensued.

Motion by President Greg Babcock to allow the DPW to use the probation workers. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

C. Mobile Food Truck Permit - Harbor Lights Grille: President Babcock reported that the Harbor Lights Grille applied for a mobile food truck license for use during the upcoming flea market. Babcock said the Food Truck ordinance states food trucks are not allowed to be on a public street. Trustee Mark Fairbairn expressed concerns about the food truck next to Subway taking business away from the other restaurants. Discussion ensued. Trustee Josh Larson said he has no issue with the food truck setting up with the street being closed for the flea market.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to allow Harbor Light Grill food truck to set up for the June 15th Flea Market date. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. 3 votes in favor. 0 votes opposed. Trustee Mark Fairbairn remained silent. 3/0. Motion carried.

D. Citizens National Bank Account Set-up Approvals

President Babcock reminded Council of last month's discussion proposed to switch the tax account from Nicolet Bank to Citizens National Bank allowing citizens to pay their taxes in person at the branch.

- **Allow tax fund to be removed from Nicolet (full balance) and reopened at Citizens National Bank**

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to move the tax account to Citizens National Bank from Nicolet Bank. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

- **Signers to be:**

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to make the signers President Greg Babcock and Clerk-Treasurer Jennifer Murphy. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

- **Allow CNB to do tax collection**

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to allow CNB to do tax collection. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

- **Scanner for home use (Jennifer personal home)**

President Greg Babcock advised that the scanner is not moveable and works from an IP address.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to allow Jennifer Murphy to have the scanner for home use. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

- **Allow digital external transfers (to transfer from CNB tax to Nicolet Accounts)**

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to allow digital external transfers from CNB to Nicolet Bank. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

- **Dollar amount of transfers wanted**

Murphy reported she needs to look into what amounts to set the transfers. Trustee Josh Larson tabled the discussion until next month.

Old Business:

A.

B.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn: Fairbairn commented that he has seen the edges of Milton Road crumbling. Losey reported he has gravel and plans to get to the edges of the road. Fairbairn asked if the Village has been locking up the Ball Field. Babcock responded the Ball Field has not been locked up. Trustee Scott Latva commented that he believes the Ball field will get vandalized whether it's locked up or not. Babcock responded that we haven't started the project yet and have no money into it. Babcock advised that the DNR Trust Fund Grant we have requested requires the Ball Field to allow public access. Discussion ensued. Babcock said we can look into a security system and lock the bathrooms. Trustee Mark Fairbairn also stated that the owner of the Carriage House on Lake Street approached him regarding a neighbor using an "access road", asking what can be done. Fairbairn advised that she will likely have to request that Council abandon the road.

Trustee Josh Larson: Larson inquired if we are going to paint lines on the road at the new Milton and Bonz Street intersection indicating where to stop. Losey responded that he believes we should put in a 3-way stop. Trustee Fairbairn commented that we need to put a 3-way stop in before someone gets killed. Discussion ensued. Losey to look into moving stop sign location.

Trustee Doug Larson: Absent

Trustee Scott Latva: Reported the resident on River Street has been parking his boat on the street.

President Greg Babcock: Reported a Locks Consortium meeting would be held tomorrow (June 11th, 2024) to discuss improvements. There is a Sewer Authority meeting on Thursday (June 13th, 2024). Last

month, during a lateral directional boring by J. Ranck, a sewer line was hit and damaged causing a backup and approximately \$20,000 in repair costs. Jim Woolever from Spanky's Powersports reported a backup costing over \$5,000 in damage. The expense/ claim will be the responsibility of M-DOT who is insured for the project. Babcock reported having received a correspondence from Dutch Oven Bakery owner Rob Kennedy regarding concerns over the location of the planted trees outside his business. Babcock reported he contacted the engineering company and MDOT with Kennedy's concern. The engineering firm responded there is no problem with the location of the tree. Babcock asked Council if they would consider moving the tree. There would be a cost to move it of \$400-\$500. Discussion ensued. The Council agreed if they move one tree, they will be moving all of the trees and believe its best to leave it in its current position.

Ordinance enforcement officer Jamie Breithaupt emailed Babcock a report on his recent activity:

6188 Warren (trailer behind Marathon) Formal notice was sent. Owner is working on selling and getting things out of there. I will be getting regular updates from the owner. She's hoping to have the van out and maybe even getting rid of the house trailer.

7266 Milton (behind subway)

Formal notice was sent. The renters are moving out and the owner has been advised of his compliance date or citations will continue.

7814 Lake st(ducks)

Formal notice was sent. He has complied about 85%. Really good progress

7847 Lake st (email complaint)

(bchind carriage house)

Formal notice was sent. New owner and as of today there is landscaping happening and place looks like it's getting cleaned up.

6073 Lansing st (email complaint) hot tub complaint was resolved after multiple attempts before formal notice was sent.

The properties on Valley have received notices. I spoke to the property with the construction material. He is getting ready to move all the material out and start fixing up the buildings.

The other property owner has not reached out. I will be making rounds next week.

I have not purchased shirts yet. Awaiting prices from the printing place.

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.
- Working with Mike Keiser for Emmet County SLFRF fund reporting - awaiting lights to be completed for submittal.
- Delinquent sewer amounts have been sent to County Treasurer as well as trash voucher approval.
- Tax bills to be sent out 7/1/24.
- DNR grant awaiting final approval.
- Audit meeting took place 7/7/24. Reporting completed or will be completed by auditors: Act 51 and F 65 (primary funding sources of Village).

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson: Reported he has received several calls this month. One being a teen driving recklessly up near the Habitat for Humanity Homes. Wilson told the caller to call the Emmet County Sheriff's office. Wilson received another call mentioning the patrons of the Riverside are going over and using the boat house bathroom. Trustee Mark Fairbairn asked what time the doors are being locked. Losey responded he doesn't lock the door. Discussion ensued. Losey is going to look into getting a timed lock. Losey said the door will need some updates and extra hardware. Losey estimated the cost could be close to \$2,000. Trustee Fairbairn asked if the new bathroom in the park is getting damaged. Losey reported the bathroom has been looking good and has had no issues. Wilson also reported things are coming along with the Flea Market and they have over 33 vendors.

Street Commissioner: Losey reported the streets have been graded and dust control put down. Losey said the new light poles for the Streetscape Project were delivered and are at the DPW building along with the Christmas lights and the banner brackets. Losey said he is looking for security cameras for the Boathouse and employee Calcie Lucier is assisting.

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.

Public Comment: Resident David Stepanovich asked Losey if he needed gravel because the street project workers are pulling out the gravel to pour concrete. Losey responded that he told the workers to put the gravel behind the DPW building. Stepanovich mentioned there is a guardrail behind his house if the village wanted it. Losey said he'd stop by and look at it. Babcock commented to check with the road

commission before putting the guardrail in, he stated he was unsure if the Village would be liable for accidents due to putting up the guardrail.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.