

The Village of Alanson

Minutes

Village of Alanson

7631 US 31 North, Alanson, MI 49706

Regular Council Meeting of August 14th, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Village President Greg Babcock at 6:05pm.

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: Jamie Breithaupt, Jason Losey, Jennifer Murphy, Craig Wilson

Approval of Agenda: *Motion* by Trustee Josh Larson to accept the agenda as written for August 14th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.

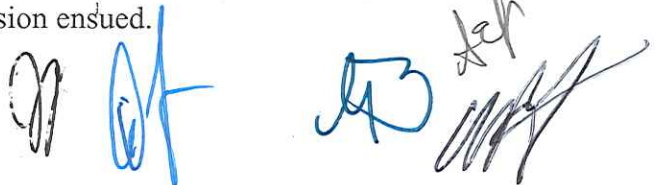
Approval of Minutes:

- A. **Regular Meeting July 8th, 2024:** *Motion* by Trustee Scott Latva to approve the minutes as written for the Regular Council meeting of July 8th, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0 Motion carried.
- B.

Public Comment: N/A

Visitor Presentation:

A. Charles Rehmman- MSU Invoice: Rehmman reported having received an invoice in the amount of \$703.99 from Michigan State University for the pedestrian platform at Sanctuary Island. Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson commented that two prior payments were made to the group. One payment of \$709.08 in November 2023 and a payment of \$1,208.25 in December 2023. Wilson reported the project was approved for up to \$1500. At the direction of Rehmman, payments had been made to student -Hunter. Student Hunter had bought raw materials for the project. President Babcock stated that he will confirm with MSU that there is no overlap in invoices via email. Rehmman also plans to confirm. Council agreed to not pay the invoice without the confirmation. Rehmman mentioned the platform is down again. The cable came off and cut through a shive. Rehmman updated Council on the status repairs to the platform and advised the need to preserve and maintain. Discussion ensued.

The image shows four handwritten signatures in blue ink. From left to right: a stylized signature, a signature that appears to be 'JL', a signature that appears to be 'SL', and a signature that appears to be 'GAB' with a date '8/14' written above it.

B. Charles Rehmann- Solar Trees: Rehmann has been working on a project with Moran Iron works and MSU to build two solar trees. Rehmann included a picture of the proposed project. Rehmann is asking for a sponsorship from the Village to reduce his cost under a non-profit/ Government entity. The Village will have no cost in the project and it isn't guaranteed that the solar trees would be placed in Alanson. Rehmann hoped to have the trees placed in the Hillside Garden area. Without the village's sponsorship the cost would be \$7500. With the sponsorship Rehmann's cost would be \$750. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Trustee Scott Latva to sponsor the Solar Tree Project for Charles Rehmann. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Rehmann also asked about having a food truck at the Labor Day Bridge Walk to provide water/pop and hotdogs. Babcock advised that there would need to be a Special Meeting for approval as the food truck would be on a public street for a public event. Rehmann to let Babcock know if a meeting is needed.

New Business:

A. ARPA funds Emmet County for Street Project: Babcock reported that a second round of American Rescue Plan Act funds of \$50,000 are available from Emmet County. Babcock proposed application for street projects. The application would need to include bid proposals. Street commissioner Jason Losey reported he received one bid for work on Spring Street. The bid from M&M Excavation came in at \$98,500. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Trustee Mark Fairbairn to approve M&M Excavating's quote of \$98,500. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Motion by Josh Larson to apply for the Emmet County ARPA funds. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

C. Property Owner- Brian Mulcahy: President Babcock reported that Mulcahy purchased a boat house at 6365 River Street (2023). Prior to purchase, Mulcahy did his due diligence to inquire if the property was on the Village sewer. After consult with HSASDA it was determined that the property had a grinder pump and presumably was tied into the sewer. A sewer account was set up for Mulcahy and payments were made monthly. After working with HSASDA and a contractor to scope the lines, it was determined Mulcahy is not tied into the system but on a septic. President Babcock requested a motion to reimburse payments in the amount of \$288. There is an outstanding balance of \$136 on the account to be reversed.

Babcock advised Mulcahy that Village Ordinance states that he is required to tie into the sewer system. Babcock read the ordinance on record. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to reimburse Mulcahy \$288. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Absent, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 4/0

Trustee Mark Fairbairn stated that he feels that there needs to be a time limit set for Mulcahy to tie into the sewer system. Fairbairn suggested 3 months. Mulcahy responded that he was told he was tied into the sewer when he bought the property. Mulcahy said that he would need time to finish up other projects and come up with the money to connect to the system. Mulcahy felt the time frame of a few months was excessive. Mulcahy commented that he is improving the property and fixing up the boat house. Mulcahy feels he should not have a time limit to connect to the sewer. Further discussion ensued. President Babcock commented that he felt 3 months was also excessive. Babcock suggested Mulcahy contact the title company he used in the purchase. Trustee Josh Larson asked Mulcahy if he had a time frame in mind. Mulcahy responded that he would like 5 years to tie into the sewer. Trustee Larson also asked Mulcahy what the current condition of the septic system was. Mulcahy responded that he didn't know. The system was only scoped to see if it was connected to the sewer. Babcock suggested Mulcahy come to the next meeting. Babcock suggested we speak with the Sewer Authority and get better measurements, and speak to the county about the existing septic system.

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to table discussion until next month. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Murphy clarified with Council that they would like to stop billing and clear the outstanding balance. Babcock confirmed.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer Jamie Breithaupt asked Mulcahy if they have a 5th wheel on the property. Breithaupt informed Mulcahy that he received a complaint, and that camping is not allowed in the Village. Discussion ensued. Breithaupt told Mulcahy that they can discuss the issue further at a later time, not during Council.

C. River St closing for Car Show 9/8/2024:

Motion by Trustee Josh Larson to close River Street from US 31 to the intersection of West Street from 5am until 3pm on Sunday September 8th. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Resolution # 7 of 2024: State of Michigan Release of Reverter: President Babcock stated that communication with Village Attorney and the State of Michigan has revealed that regarding the leased section of property on Bass Street that Randy Bricker wants to purchase should never have been allowed to enter into a 99-year lease. If the property was not used for public use, it should have reverted back to the State of Michigan. Babcock advised the State does not want the section of land. Babcock advised that Council needs a resolution releasing the Reverter Clause to be sent to the State for approval.

Motion by Trustee Mark Fairbairn to accept Resolution 7 of 2024 for the release of the Reverter Clause on the property on Bass Street. Seconded by Trustee Scott Latva. Roll call vote. Trustee Mark Fairbairn- Yes, Trustee Doug Larson- Absent, Trustee Josh Larson- Yes, Trustee Scott Latva- Yes, President Greg Babcock- Yes. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

B. Par Plan Grant - Fall Cycle Open: President Babcock reported that the Village insurance company offers a grant each year for security purposes. Babcock is asking Council if they want to apply for the grant. Babcock stated they are looking to add security cameras to the Bridge House and possibly the Boat House. The grant can be up to \$5000. Clerk-Treasurer Murphy advised that the grant would only provide \$2500 for security cameras. Discussion ensued. Jason Losey will seek quotes for security cameras for both the Swing Bridge and Boat House. Charles Rehmann asked if the grants funds could be applied towards different types of signage for safety. Murphy responded in the affirmative.

Motion by Trustee Mark Fairbairn to apply for the Par Plan Grant. Seconded by Trustee Josh Larson. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Fairbairn: Fairbairn mentioned we need to put something in the US-31 crosswalks to slow down and stop traffic for pedestrians, mentioning Indian River and Charlevoix having signs in their crosswalks. Resident Gail Greenwell presented a handout with a few crosswalk /pedestrian signs to Council. Babcock commented that any sign put out we would need permission from MDOT. Ordinance officer Jamie Breithaupt asked if they are going to put a "fire light" at the Warren Street and US-31 Intersection. Babcock advised in the negative for now.

Trustee Josh Larson: N/A

Trustee Doug Larson: Absent

Trustee Scott Latva: Latva asked Council what time the Swing Bridge closes. He spoke to a boater who got caught between the Swing Bridge and the Emmet County Locks recently. Babcock responded that the Swing Bridge closes on the same schedule as the Locks.

President Greg Babcock: N/A

Clerk- Treasurer Jennifer Murphy:

CLERK- TREASURER -SEWER BILLER REPORT

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August 14, 2024

- Applications for the Risk Reduction Grant Program will be accepted from qualified members from August 1 – September 15, 2024.
- DNR grant awaiting final approval.
- Submitted for streetscape ARPA funds through Emmet County for the lights. Mike Keiser confirmed receipt and that submitted was passed onto finance for payment.
- Speaking with Andrew Aldrich with MI DNR regarding sewer access to the locks. Easement request will be forthcoming.
- Spoke to Marisa Breithaupt regarding several Village vacancies. She has shown interest in the Zoning Administrator position and/ or board.

Murphy advised that she had also spoke with Breithaupt regarding the Sewer Clerk position. Breithaupt introduced herself to Council and stated that she would like to be more involved in the Village. Fairbairn enthusiastically welcomed Breithaupt to the meeting and stated "we would love to have you,".

Murphy stated intent to resign from the Sewer Clerk Position.

Motion by President Greg Babcock to post the Sewer clerk position until Sept 3rd. Seconded by Trustee Mark Fairbairn. All votes in favor. 4/0. Motion carried.

Babcock advised that the intent will be to hire before the next billing cycle.

Deputy Clerk Craig Wilson: Wilson reported having had a call on jet ski's being left at the municipal docks overnight and for days. They are no longer there. Wilson reported that the Concert Truck from the Great Lakes Center for the Arts played prior to the Boat Races. The Duck Race followed, put on by the DDA. The DDA sold over 400 ducks and brought in over \$600.

Street Commissioner: Losey reported the new banners are up and look good. The old banners and brackets are down. One streetlight on the corner of US-31 and River Street needs to be adjusted as it was installed incorrectly. There has been an issue with the electric in the streetlights. They have now fixed it. Losey reported he has been grading Lake Street and Spring Street regularly.

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

Public Comment: Gail Greenwell asked for an update with the "banner poles". Babcock advised that Miss Dig determined there were utilities under the designated area. Babcock said we will need to find a new location. Losey responded he's working on it. Greenwell also thanked Losey and Trustee Fairbairn for watering the flowers.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.